

2.03.17 MACTE Weekly Legislative Update
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Off to a Slow Start for Teacher Preparation and Licensure.

This will be a short update, as there is little to report at this time about legislative activity focused on teacher preparation and licensure. A few bills are starting to be heard, but most so far address funding matters not connected to issues of specific interest to MACTE and even fewer have been scheduled to be heard in committees. There has been considerable attention to Career and Technical Education and special education, but to date hearings on these topics have focused largely on providing committee members with information, context, and background.

We are still awaiting the introduction of bills designed to respond to the issues addressed in the OLA report on Educator Licensing and the subsequent deliberations of the Legislative Study Group on that same topic. We know that work is underway to draft these bills, and specifically we are aware that on the Senate side, Senator Pratt, who served on the LSGEL and is now chair of the Senate E-12 Policy Committee, has been consulting with his DFL colleagues as he shapes a bill. Pratt's committee is scheduled to hear a report from OLA on the report next Tuesday, February 7, and perhaps at that time we will get some insight into the contents of a senate bill. Representative Sondra Erickson has also offered some insights into the bill she is developing in the House, but so far none has been introduced.

Opportunities for Discussion at MACTE Business Meeting and Congress.

Next week, when we gather together at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth, there will be several opportunities to share information, discuss potential MACTE positions on key issues, and begin planning for a 2017 Day at the Capitol. We plan to shape these discussions based on your own interests and needs. I trust that you will come ready to share ideas and information and to help us collectively prepare to develop a strong MACTE message as well as effective strategies to communicate that message to members of the Minnesota legislature. I look forward to our deliberations on February 9-10.