

2.12.17 MACTE Weekly Legislative Update
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I enjoyed interacting with many of you at last week's MACTE Winter Meeting and Collaboration. As I reported then, there has been little discussion to date on issues involving teacher preparation and licensure. A handful of bills have been introduced but not yet scheduled for hearings, and there are some modest, though positive, recommendations for funding in the Governor's E-12 and higher education bills.

I learned on Friday morning that Rep. Sondra Erickson and Sen. Eric Pratt will be introducing different, rather than identical companion, bills to respond to the findings of the OLA. Senator Pratt expects his bill to be ready for introduction near the end of February and hopes to hear it for the first time on March 2. It will include provisions regarding governance, tiered licensure, and statutory language cleanup. He anticipates that Rep. Erickson's bill will be introduced and heard before his and it sounds like her bill will also address all of the recommendations in the OLA report, though that is not entirely clear at this time.

At this time, based on informal comments by both bill authors, we anticipate that governance in the House bill will be consolidated under a body similar to the Board of Teaching and in the Senate bill within the Department of Education. It is also likely that options under Tier 1 will be much broader under Pratt's bill than in the BOT proposal. Again, though, much of this is conjecture based on informal conversations rather than official presentations.

I will continue to follow all related bills closely and will hope that, when needed and appropriate, some of you will be able to join me at the legislature on behalf of MACTE to share points of agreement, concern, and/or opposition.

Action Plans.

At our MACTE meeting, a good number of you expressed a general interest in participating in a Day at the Capitol this year. One option discussed was to schedule it on April 5, the Wednesday before the spring MACTE meeting. I would be very grateful if you could individually let me know at cyndy.crist@gmail.com if you are interested in participating and, if so, whether you could do so on April 5. With a small group on Friday, we also discussed the possibility of my working with those who are interested to plan and convene local or regional meetings with legislators during the interim between the 2017 and 2018 sessions. I would hope to attend as well as help with these sessions.

As always, thanks for all you do to help us carry our message to the members of the Minnesota legislature and to the executive branch.