

2.19.17 MACTE Legislative Update
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The Pace Is Picking Up.

After a slow start for legislation specifically focusing on teacher preparation and licensure, things are now starting to move. On Tuesday morning at 8:15, the House Education Innovation Policy Committee will hear HF 1079, which is Chair Erickson's response to the OLA report on educator licensing. Although there are some positive aspects of this bill, including the consolidation of all teacher licensing activities under a board comprised of a majority of teachers, there are also many problematic aspects of this bill. These range from issues that are relatively small in the great scheme of things (like removing the one higher education member of the Board) to major changes in how licenses are defined and awarded via a new tiered licensure system and the status of teachers holding Tier 1 and 2 licenses compared to Tiers 3 and 4. At the first hearing, those interested in testifying will only be given two minutes each, so I will only be able to focus on a few issues. However, it will be essential that MACTE prepares to respond in greater detail in the weeks ahead. Please take the time to look up this bill on the legislative website (go to [<leg.state.mn.us>](http://leg.state.mn.us) and, under "Bill Search & Status," select "Search House Bills," then in the first box type HF 1079, and select "As Introduced") and share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas with me and other members of MEC.

E-12 Policy Bill Ready to Be Heard.

As you may recall from previous years, the Governor introduces two bills regarding E-12 education. One is the budget bill, which, as previously reported, has already been introduced and heard in the E-12 Finance Committees. The other is a policy bill, which will be heard this week for the first time in the policy committees of both the House (HF 1376) and Senate (SF 1222) on Thursday. From a first review, it doesn't appear that the Governor's bill contains any provisions regarding teacher licensure, so it seems clear that he has decided to let legislators bring forward and work through their own proposals responding to the OLA report and then weigh in on them later. However, there are provisions regarding some important issues regarding the delivery of E-12 education, so you may wish to review these bills as well on-line.

Bills Coming Forward from MSBA and Coalition.

At least three bills are emerging from collaborative work lead by MSBA with many other partners, primarily E-12 and focused on teacher shortages, and from the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers. To my knowledge, none are quite complete and therefore have not been assigned bill numbers, finalized authors, or introduced. Both could have significant implications for teacher preparation and licensure and we are following them closely to assess those aspects which MACTE will wish, as an organization, to support as well as those, if any, about which we might wish to express concerns. I know that some MACTE members have been directly involved in the work on both bills and we hope that they will help move things in positive directions.