

3.26.17 MACTE Weekly Legislative Update
Prepared by Cyndy Crist, MACTE Legislative and Policy Liaison

Moving Toward Completion of Omnibus Bills.

Committee work is done on HF 890, the House omnibus E-12 education bill. There are only a few provisions related to teacher preparation and licensure contained in the bill since, as previously reported, the governance and tiered licensure changes are moving in a separate bill (HF 140). Provisions in Article 3, Teachers, of HF 890 include;

- a requirement that certain data in the teacher and administrator preparation and performance data reports be disaggregated by race/ethnicity;
- a number of changes in requirements for alternative preparation programs, including removing the requirement that a college or university be a partner or be consulted, replacing the student teaching requirement with observed classroom experience, changes regarding program approval or disapproval, and changes in some reporting requirements;
- creation of a grant program for alternative teacher preparation programs with a one-year appropriation of \$1 million (FY 2018);
- revisions in the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program, including adding economic development regions to the definition of shortages, expanding eligibility to include teachers of color, expanding reporting requirements, and appropriating \$4 million for one year (FY 2018); and
- appropriating \$2 million (\$1 million each for FY 2018 and FY 2019) for CUE grants in the amount of \$195,000 for the four existing programs plus an additional \$220,000 to be awarded via competitive grant process to any other preparation program, including alternative programs.

Representative Carlos Mariani sought approval of an amendment to reduce the one-year appropriation for the teacher shortage loan forgiveness program to \$1 million in order to provide \$3 million in funding (\$1.5 million each for FY 2018 and FY 2019) for student teacher grants in shortage areas, noting the more immediate impact of such a program on the shortage of teachers of color. Unfortunately, the committee voted down the amendment on a party line vote.

HF 890 will move next to Ways and Means and then to the floor of the House.

In the Senate, the E-12 Finance Committee will give its first hearing to its omnibus bill, SF 218, on Monday, 3.27 at 3:00 p.m. As of this writing (7:15 p.m. on 3.26), the delete all amendment has not yet been posted, so it is not possible to summarize its provisions regarding teacher preparation and licensure. The committee expects to take action on the bill on the morning of 3.28 and then send it on to Finance before it heads to the full Senate.

We are still awaiting word on when the governance/tiered licensure bills (HF 140 and SF 4) will be taken up in the two bodies. At this point in time, given the non-responsiveness of committees in both bodies to many of the issues raised by MACTE, the Coalition, Education Minnesota, BOT, and the Department of Education regarding teacher preparation and licensure, it seems likely that our focus will need to be on the work of conference committees and on the Governor. Please stay tuned for calls to action regarding key provisions.