

MACTE Legislative Update, 3.17.18
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Still Quiet at the Legislature. Very few bills addressing teacher preparation and licensure have been heard at the legislature. The MDE policy bill (HF 3315/SF 3086) contains a provision eliminating the option for a teacher to gain a Tier 3 license without completing preparation/licensure requirements in Minnesota or another state. When the bill was heard in the House Education Policy Innovation committee, Chair Sondra Erickson made it clear that she does not support that language change. Her “delete all” amendment, offering her preferred version of the bill, will be taken up on Tuesday, March 20 but has not yet been posted.

Several other bills of interest to us have been introduced but not yet scheduled for hearings. These include HF 3668, which would extend by one year the timeline for completion of new tiered licensure rulemaking; HF 3597, which would offer a Basic Skills Test waiver option; and HF 3547, which would provide funding to establish a licensure preparation program for the blind and visually impaired in Minnesota. We will keep you updated if/when any of these bills is given an opportunity to be heard.

Coalition Advancing its Work. As some of you may know, the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota has secured authors for a bill (HF 3594/SF 3263) to increase funding to expand pathways to teaching for diverse candidates and support expanded use of existing funds for the mentoring, hiring, and retention of diverse teachers. At this time, its fate is uncertain because of differences in how the House and Senate have chosen to assign it for possible committee action. We will monitor its progress and hope that it can at least be given a hearing in each body.

Day at the Capitol in Question. Because only four members have responded that they plan to participate in the Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, March 27, we will not proceed unless others can join us. ***Please let me know by Tuesday, March 20 (cyndy.crist@gmail.com) if you are planning to join us.*** We'll send out a quick note on Wednesday, March 21 letting you know whether or not the event will take place.

Complete Legislative Calendar Set. The full calendar for the 2018 session has been set. Committee deadlines include March 22 (action on bills in the house of origin); March 29 (bills, or companions of bills, that met the first deadlines in the other house); and April 20 (action on all major appropriation and finance bills). In addition, the legislature will be on Easter/Passover break from March 30-April 8 and must adjourn by May 21.