

MACTE Weekly Legislative Update, 3.06.18
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Quiet Week for Teacher Preparation and Licensure. During its second week in session, the legislature heard no bills involving the preparation and licensure of teachers, and early indications are that this may continue to be the case throughout the session. Given the amount of time and attention focused on licensure during the 2017 session and the array of other priority issues facing them in 2018, it seems entirely possible that the quiet will continue. We will remain vigilant, however, to be sure we're prepared to respond should this change.

PELSB Finding Its Feet. As you may be aware, the members of the new PELSB chose not to offer a position to any of the three finalists interviewed on February 8 and 9 and have reopened the search for an executive director. It is clear that there are varying priorities among the eleven members of the board and that it will take some time for the group to find a cohesive operating strategy. They have also chosen to re-start the rulemaking process needed to put into operation the tiered licensure structure created by the 2017 legislature. MACTE has been well represented at recent meetings of the board as we seek to ensure that their members are aware of our interest and commitment and to be available to provide input as appropriate.

Day at the Capitol Planning. Although not many MACTE members have yet responded, we will proceed to plan our Day at the Capitol for the afternoon of Tuesday, March 27. We will likely plan to gather around noon to craft common messages and divide up into groups for visits with individual legislators. If the Senate Education Policy and/or House Education Finance committees have hearings on relevant bills that afternoon, we will build those into our schedule as well. I will begin contacting key legislators (committee chairs and minority leads) to get on their calendars. Please let me know at your earliest convenience if you can join us and provide the names of the senator and representative from your own district. As a reminder, students are more than welcome to join us as well, bringing an important voice to our message.