

MACTE Legislative Update, 4.24.18
Prepared by Cyndy Crist, MACTE Legislative and Policy Liaison

Committees Complete Work on Omnibus Bills. In both the House and Senate, work has been completed on omnibus E-12 bills. In the House, **HF 4328** combines the policy and finance bills into a single bill to move forward. As previously reported, there is little involving teacher preparation and licensure in the bill. It is worth noting that Rep. Carlos Mariani continues to attempt to revise the dates by which PELSB must complete rule-making for the new tiered licensure system but with no success. However, at the final committee hearing on the bill, Chair Jenifer Loon noted that she would be willing to revisit this matter before final adoption depending on the status by that time of PELSB efforts to advance new language through the rulemaking process.

In the Senate, two bills are advancing: the **policy bill, SF 3086**, and the **finance bill, SF 3928**. As in the House, efforts to extend the implementation date for tiered licensure were unsuccessful in the policy committee and, since it is a policy issue, similar efforts were not made in the E-12 finance committee.

It seems likely that, as during the 2017 session, a single conference committee will be named to reconcile differences among the three bills. The house bill has been approved by Ways and Means and moves next to the floor, while Senate Finance was scheduled to take up the E-12 bill today.

Call to Action. In light of where things stand in both the Senate and House, we are asking that you contact your state representative and senator ASAP to urge them to support amending the omnibus bills to provide additional time for completion of the rulemaking process. The message can be simple and something like the following:

“Given the importance and complexity of rulemaking to guide implementation of the new tiered teacher licensure system in Minnesota approved in 2017, MACTE respectfully asks you to support an extension of the implementation date in statute when you take up your omnibus E-12 bill. This is necessary so that rulemaking can be completed in a clear, complete, and effective way and so as to allow for a successful transition for teachers and districts into this new tiered licensure system.”

We may call on you in the near future to make a similar contact in Governor Dayton’s office regarding this issue.

PELSB Developments. As you may have heard, at least Friday’s PELSB meeting, three finalists were interviewed for the position of executive director and Alex Liuzzi was selected (although the discussion of candidates was supposed to be done in such a way that the audience wouldn’t know who was being discussed, it was clear from comments made by members that he was the candidate chosen) pending contacts with references. The vote was 8-2 with one board member absent. It was clear that one point in his favor was his deep familiarity with the challenging issues currently facing PELSB.