

**MACTE Legislative Update, 1.20.19**  
**Prepared by Cyndy Crist, MACTE Legislative and Policy Liaison**

**Legislature Off to a Smooth Start.** In its second week, the legislature is operating at a steady pace as lawmakers settle into, for some, new offices and new committee assignments and leadership roles. At the same time, staff are getting up to speed in the key roles they play communicating with the public and supporting committee and constituent work. Although hundreds of bills have already been introduced, the time in education committees to date has been spent hearing from a wide array of interested organizations and state agencies engaged in meeting Minnesota's educational needs.

Because of overlapping schedules in the House and Senate, we provided a hand-out only to be distributed in the Senate E-12 committee accompanied by direct contacts with a few key members and staff, and we are on the agenda to briefly present the same information in the House Education Policy Committee this week. We had hoped to introduce ourselves and present on January 16, with Laura Mogelson, Kevin Mackin, and I all in attendance, but the committee ran out of time to complete its agenda so a handful of organizations will instead testify on Wednesday, 1.23. A hand-out of our legislative priorities will also be distributed in the House Education Funding Division next Wednesday and is included with this update.

**Bill Introductions of Interest.** Several bills have been introduced to date that would have an impact on our programs. These include two with a focus on dyslexia: HF 21, which would require PELSB to survey all approved teacher preparation programs in elementary education, special education, early childhood education, and reading intervention to determine the extent of instruction regarding dyslexia; and SF 116, which would require reading preparation for teachers renewing a Tier 3 or 4 teaching license under 122A.183 and 122A.184 to include preparation in dyslexia (with several elements specified). It would be very helpful if those of you with expertise in this area would review these two bills and share your thoughts with me while MEC also seeks input from members. Bills can be found on the legislative website ([leg.state.mn.us](http://leg.state.mn.us)) under "Bills" (along the top set of options), then choosing "Bill Search and Status" and typing in either HF or SF followed by the number. As a reminder, the fact that a bill is introduced doesn't necessarily mean that it will be heard in committees in one or both bodies, since committee chairs have the discretion to determine what legislation will be taken up.

**MACTE Day at the Capitol.** I am hopeful that we can schedule a Day at the Capitol in 2019, since for a variety of reasons we have not convened one for several years. This will be a topic for discussion at our February MACTE meeting, so please come with ideas about timing, topics, and anything else that you think could make the day one that engages faculty, students, and administrators from our campuses in attending hearings and meeting with key legislators.