

MACTE Legislative Update, 2.24.19
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Pace Picking Up at Legislature. After a week in mid-February when nothing of specific interest to MACTE happened at the legislature, several key bills were introduced last week that we will be following closely. Specifically, they are:

- HF 824/SF 1012, The Increase Teachers of Color Act, companion bills based on the work and recommendations of the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota;
- HF 1329/SF 1557, companion bills that would modify various aspects of teacher licensure requirements, based on work done by Education Minnesota; and
- HF 1415/SF 1550, companion bills to make various technical changes regarding teacher licensure and PELSB board composition, which are based on recommendations by PELSB.

HF 824 is scheduled to be heard in the House Education Policy Committee on Wednesday, 2.27 at 2:30, and several of us will be in attendance. HF 1329 will be heard on Monday, 3.04 at 10:00 a.m. in the House Education Policy Committee and we will be lining up several testifiers. I am not aware yet of a hearing scheduled for HF 1415 but we will alert you when it is. Although all three bills have Senate companions, they are more likely to be heard in the House, at least for their first hearings.

A number of other bills of interest have also been introduced but not yet scheduled for hearings. These include House companions for several of the dyslexia/reading senate bills; bills in both bodies to modify some provisions of the alternative preparation grants statute (HF 1233 and SF 1270); a bill providing funding for paraprofessional training (HF 1559/SF 1715); a bill to establish licensure requirements for early childhood teachers (HF 1512/SF 1482); and a Senate bill addressing performance assessment for licensure (SF 1154).

I urge members to look these bills up, read them, and share thoughts and comments with any members of MEC. As a reminder, you can find bills by visiting the legislative website at www.leg.state.mn.us, then clicking on Bills, then Bill Search and Status, and entering the number of the bill if you know it (be sure to include HF or SF before the number), or by topic or author.

Day at the Capitol. Discussions continue about whether/when to schedule a MACTE Day at the Capitol and what it might include. In my experience, the participation of students is especially impactful with legislators but I know this is difficult to manage in terms of both timing and logistics. Please let me and other members of MEC know your thoughts about this event and what might work best for your campuses.. Because MEC is scheduled to meet on Friday, March 1, it would be very helpful to hear your ideas prior to that date.