

MACTE Weekly Legislative Report, 3.23.19
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Another Busy Week at Legislature. Committees continued to hear long lists of bills this week as the legislature approaches its second committee deadline on Friday, 3.29. However, since the Senate education committee combines policy and finance and the next step in the House is action by the Education Finance Division, it seems likely that no action will be taken toward comprehensive (e.g., policy and finance) omnibus education bills until closer to the committee bill deadline for funding bills on Friday, 4.12.

In the **Senate E-12 Finance and Policy Committee**, the Governor's education policy and funding bills were taken up on Monday 3.18. There is nothing in the policy bill (SF 2116) involving teacher preparation and licensure, while the funding bill (SF 2347) contains some provisions advancing the goals of the Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota. At the same hearing, a bill making some changes in statute regarding funding of alternative teacher preparation programs (SF 1270) was also taken up. Thanks to Kevin Mackin for attending on behalf of MACTE. He reported generally supportive testimony from a variety of groups regarding the Governor's funding bill and, during consideration of SF 1270, some key issues raised regarding the costs of traditional vs alternative preparation programs that we may wish to clarify or correct in the future with members of the committee.

The **House Education Finance Division** this week did a walk-through of HF 1711, the omnibus education policy bill described in last week's report, but has not yet taken any testimony or action on this bill.

Next Week at the Capitol. At present, only a few bills of interest to MACTE are scheduled for hearings during the week of 3.25-3.29, though agendas are extremely full. On Tuesday morning, the House Education Finance Division will hear HF 824, the Increase Teachers of Color Act, authored by Rep. Kunesh-Podein, and on Wednesday afternoon, the Senate E-12 Finance and Policy Committee will take up SF 822, a CUE appropriation and reporting bill authored by Senator Torres-Ray.