

MACTE Legislative Update, 4.28.19
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Omnibus Bills Move Ahead. Most of the activity at the legislature is now taking place in floor sessions as both the House and Senate move toward a May 1 deadline for getting all bills passed and ready to be taken up by conference committees. HF 2400, the omnibus E-12 bill, was passed by the full House on Tuesday, April 23. Nearly 100 amendments were taken up, and happily none to alter the proposed changes in tiered licensure were passed. Thanks to those of you who contacted your legislators asking them to support the bill as passed out of committee. It clearly made a difference! The path for the omnibus Senate bill, SF 7, was a little slower as it moved through committees. It had its second reading on the floor of the Senate on 4.25 and will be taken up for amendments and a vote sometime this week. Because the House bill passed first, its number (HF 2400) is, I believe, the number assigned to the bill that will proceed to conference committee.

The TOCAIT coalition has been doing a great job of tracking the provisions focused on diversity in teachers, teaching, and learning contained in the higher education bills in both bodies, HF2544 and SF 2415. I believe the single number to be used going forward is SF 2415, but that obviously doesn't mean its provisions will be those finally adopted. If you haven't already added your name to the list of folks receiving TOCAIT's periodic email updates, I encourage you to do so or to visit their website and take the recommended actions in support of their critical work.

Next Steps. This year, legislative leaders have agreed to additional deadlines intended to keep things moving forward in a timely way and to prevent the kinds of last minute craziness that results in major bills being passed in the final day or two of the session without any time for public or even legislative review. According to this year's schedule, all bills must be passed off the floors of the House and Senate by Wednesday, May 1; agreement between House and Senate leaders and the governor on fiscal targets for all major finance bills must be reached by Monday, May 6; and conference committees must complete their work by Monday, May 13. This will in turn allow a week for bills to be reviewed and acted upon by each body in advance of the constitutionally mandated date for adjournment on May 20.

As a reminder, conference committees are the way that the House and Senate reach compromises on all bills passed. These committees are generally composed of three to five members from each body that reflect the party majorities; in addition, only members who vote for a bill on the floor of each chamber can serve on conference committees. This means that occasionally all representatives of the House or Senate are members of the majority party only, while at other times a member of the minority party will vote for a bill primarily in order to serve on a conference committee.

As these bills move forward, please watch for 'calls to action,' so that we can add our voice to the discussion.

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And a Rule Making Reminder

If you haven't, please add your individual comments to the second draft of the unit rule.

Rule draft v. 2 is here on PELSB's website:

https://mn.gov/pelsb/assets/4576%20Draft%20%284.08.2019%29_tcm1113-379250.pdf

The link to make comments is here; it is listed as closing on May 10th or until further notice is published, whichever is later: <https://minnesotaoah.granicusideas.com/discussions/35856-professional-educator-licensing-and-standards-board-request-for-comments>