

MACTE Weekly Legislative Update, 2.23.20
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Bill Introductions Proliferating. As the legislature moves into the third week of the 2020 session, a wide array of bills are being introduced. At last week's MACTE meeting, I reported on several of these of likely interest to our member institutions. Following my report, a second House bill addressing licensure issues, HF 3580, was introduced and it will be heard on Wednesday, 2.26, along with HF 3186, the Governor's policy bill about which I shared information last Thursday. At least two of our colleagues, President Rhonda Bonstetter and MEC member Sonya Vierstraete, are planning to attend and, as appropriate, testify on our behalf.

As a reminder, HF 3186 removes two key sections of language: the option to earn a Tier 3 license based on successful completion of three years of teaching with a Tier 2 license and all language regarding a basic skills test. These provisions can be found in Article 3 of the bill on page 28. HF 3580 appears to include at least most of the other provisions in last year's licensure bill. Changes include an array of language clean-ups to make provisions more clear and consistent; the addition of two teacher members to PELSB and clarification of language about the teacher preparation member; limitations of licensure by portfolio to Tier 3; and inclusion of a performance assessment as an option in place of passing a pedagogy test for licensure.

Also on next week's schedule is a Senate Education Committee hearing at which several literacy-related bills will be heard. After consulting with some of our experts in this field last week, it appears that these are non-controversial bills that will not require testimony from MACTE.

Request Reminder. Just a friendly reminder that I welcome offers of assistance from any of you for policy-related issues in areas of your particular interest and expertise. Examples of assistance that might be sought include the review of bill language, the development of policy statements, and attendance at committee hearings. Each of these activities would be addressed on a case-by-case basis, so sending me your name and area(s) of expertise will not obligate you to anything but rather help me build a list of members to consult as specific bills and legislative issues arise. You can always reach me at cyndy.crist@gmail.com Thanks!