

MACTE Weekly Legislative Update, 3.02.20
Prepared by Cyndy Crist, MACTE Legislative and Policy Liaison

More Bills Introduced to Addressing Teacher Preparation and Licensure. The House Education Policy Committee continues to hear bills that would make changes in the tiered licensure structure. Last week, MACTE was ably represented by Rhonda Bonnstetter and Laura Mogelson, both of whom testified in support of **HF 3186** and **HF 3580**. They focused on the value of adding teacher members to PELSB; the potential value of testing changes to eliminate the basic skills test and to allow candidates to substitute an edTPA score for a pedagogy score; and the removal of the option to earn a tier 3 license on the basis of three years of successful teaching under a tier 2 license.

On Wednesday this week, another bill, **HF 3800**, will be heard in the House Education Policy Committee. It includes provisions similar to several in the Governor's policy bill, including the elimination of the tier 2 to tier 3 licensure option based on three years of teaching. Rhonda Bonnstetter will again be representing MACTE in support of this bill.

Also heard in the House Education Finance Committee last week was **HF 3201**, which would implement many of the provisions being advanced by TOCAIT. Rhonda Bonnstetter attended the hearing and was impressed by much of the testimony offered by Paul Spies and others. She also followed up via email after the hearing with important information for committee members about MACTE's support for the bill and sharing a wealth of information and examples intended to help legislators better understand the testing challenges that many students face, as well as the importance of recruiting and supporting a more diverse students in our programs in order to diversify Minnesota's teaching force.

To date, no licensure-related bills have been scheduled for hearings in the Senate.

Revenue Forecast Improves. Last week, an updated budget forecast was released that showed a larger projected budget surplus of \$1.513 Billion for the current biennium. While this would enable additional spending, there are many voices suggesting restraint given current economic uncertainties.

Committee Deadlines Changed. Last week, the House and Senate leadership agreed to extend the dates by which bills must be passed out of committees. Both bodies now have until March 20 for passage of bills from the house of origin and March 27 for companion bills to pass. The final bill deadline for appropriation and finance bills remains the same, April 3.