

MACTE Weekly Legislative Update, 3.09.20
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Committee Work Continues at Capitol. Legislative committees continued a busy schedule with the first deadline for bills to pass out of the body of origin now less than two weeks away. In the past week, no new bills specifically addressing teacher preparation and licensure have been introduced aside from TOCAIT bills. The changes that MACTE supports in tiered licensure continue to receive favorable hearings in the House but to date no companion bills have been scheduled in the Senate.

A number of **TOCAIT bills**, in both E-12 and higher education, have been introduced in both the House and Senate. The Coalition continues to do an excellent job of tracking, supporting, and reporting on these bills and I urge interested members to join their mailing list in order to keep fully informed of this important work.

We are also tracking a number of bills that have been introduced to fund specific Grow Your Own programs in Greater Minnesota. These include **HF 3965, HF 4054, and HF 4142**. We believe they have been written and introduced because very little, if any, current funding has been awarded outside the Twin Cities metropolitan area. While it is important for GYO programs to be funded throughout the state, it is also potentially problematic to identify specific programs in statute and to divide funding appropriations rather than enlarge a single pool with enough money to meet the need statewide. We will track the progress of these bills if/as they are scheduled for hearings.

Finally, a very comprehensive reading bill, **HF 4065**, was introduced last week. Although from an initial scan it doesn't appear to directly address teacher preparation and licensure, it would undoubtedly have an impact on our programs if adopted. MACTE members with expertise in reading are currently reviewing the bill and I will share their thoughts and concerns in a future weekly report. It is worth noting that we don't know yet if it will be given a hearing in 2020 but we will monitor its progress.

Legislative Symposium on Opportunity Gaps. We were very disappointed that the legislature was so late in announcing last Friday's House Education Symposium focused on closing the opportunity gap in Minnesota, since we suspect many of you would have been interested in attending. From all reports, it was a powerful and informative day during which legislators had an opportunity to hear from a wide range of individuals from Minnesota communities. Videos of the morning and afternoon sessions are available via the House Television Archives on the legislative website.