

**MACTE Weekly Legislative Update, 3.16.20**  
**Prepared by Cyndy Crist, MACTE Legislative and Policy Liaison**

**A New Legislative Reality.** As many of you may know, the legislature has decided to continue to work but not in its usual way. While they will remain in session, they will only meet on an on-call basis through April 14 and only in spaces that meet the social distancing standard of six feet between people. Further, they have jointly reported that they will have three priorities: “COVID-19 legislation, mission critical legislation that includes a bonding bill, and any bi-partisan agreement.” Governor Walz has also revised his budget request to lean heavily toward funding to address the immediate coronavirus pandemic and to set aside money for future coronavirus and other emergencies.

As a result, although I will continue to track bill introductions, which recently have included several to address funding for teacher shortage loan forgiveness and student teacher support, I do not anticipate writing a weekly update unless legislative activities warrant reporting.

As you all work to meet the needs of your students and your families during these difficult times, I send my best wishes for your health and safety.