

## MACTE Legislative Update, 2.19.21

Hello MACTE members. This update is a collaboration of the 2021 MACTE legislative liaison working group: Sally Baas, Marcela Kostihova, Kyena Cornelius, Laura Mogelson, Rhonda Bonnsetter and Cyndy Crist.

### **Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy**

On 2/16/21, the Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy Committee heard about two bills. The first was a grant request for the Black Men Teach Twin Cities program. Speakers noted the importance of having black male role models in schools for all students and requested funding for this program.

The second bill to be heard was SF 797, which is part of the Increasing Teachers of Color Act in higher education. The first part of the bill requests funding for the Aspiring MN Teachers of Color Scholarship Program and lays out the requirements for applying for the grant, as well as for administration of the grant. The second part of the bill makes amendments to the current grant program for student teaching stipends to ensure that the funds go to candidates of color and/or those who are student teaching in one of the 10 highest licensure shortage areas in the economic development region where they are placed. It ties funding for the grant to the percentage of teachers of color vs. students of color in the state, so that as long as a gap exists, the grant will be funded. The final portion of the bill establishes a teacher shortage loan forgiveness program, which would fund loan forgiveness for those who demonstrate need and are teaching in the highest licensure shortage areas in the economic development region where they are teaching. A portion of the loan forgiveness funds is tied to the percentage of teachers of color vs. students of color in the economic region.

### **Senate Education Finance and Policy**

Senator Clausen introduced SF 522. The reason behind the bill is that there are licensure areas in MN that do not have a MN-based teacher preparation program. There are three parts to the bill: 1) PELSB works w/ MN providers to create programs 2) if MN doesn't have one/create one, PELSB must identify one or more out-of-state nationally accredited programs 3) the MN programs and/or the out-of-state programs must be available online. Alex Liuzzi from PELSB testified that there are 60 licenses in Minnesota. Seven of those only have one program. There are at least 8 that don't have a teacher preparation program. PELSB is supportive of this bill. He talked about the idea of having "licensure hub" areas around the state. He said providers have expressed this might not be possible. He then talked about out-of-state providers and publicizing those options on the PELSB website.

### **House Education Policy**

No report

### **House Education Finance**

No report

**Bills to Watch**

Bills have now been introduced in both the House and Senate translating Governor Walsh's budget and policy priorities into vehicles for action. As reported last Friday, we will be closely following the pair of E-12 bills, **HF 950** and **SF 788**, which contain many provisions from TOCAIT as well as the elimination of three years of tier 2 teaching as a pathway to tier 3 licensure and the basic skills test requirement.

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