

MACTE Legislative Update, 3/19/21

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.

Things have been busy at the legislature these past two weeks as the first two deadlines for committee action have now come and gone. An array of House and Senate bills, both E-12 and higher education, containing provisions put forward by TOCAIT continue to advance. We encourage you to follow the Coalition's work [via their website](#) or regular [email updates](#) for the latest information.

Senate Republicans have released their budget targets and the governor recently released an updated budget reflecting the improved financial picture contained in the most recent state budget forecast. As soon as House Democrats release their targets, leadership can begin the process of negotiating budget deals.

The legislature will begin its Easter/Passover break on March 27, returning on April 6 as they work toward adjournment on May 17.

Senate Higher Education Finance and Policy

No Report

Senate Education Finance and Policy

No Report

House Education Policy

No Report

House Education Finance

PELSB's Bill (HF 1376) was heard by the House Education Finance committee. Representative Frazer, along with PELSB's Director of Education Policy, Yelena Bailey, attempted to clarify misinterpretations from the week before in House Education Policy. The bill includes a change that would remove the option of moving to a fully renewable Tier 3 license after teaching for three years on a Tier 2 license without evidence of being placed on an improvement plan by their district. Teachers following this route have not gone through any kind of process to provide evidence that they meet the SEP or content standards. The teachers utilizing this loophole do not complete the board approved performance assessment nor do they have to show evidence of meeting PELSB teacher licensure standards. In the state's attempt to create more access to teaching licensure with the tiers, this specific loophole has created a pathway that does not have parity to the others. A path from Tier 2 to Tier 3 with three years of teaching experience and "no incidences" is not equivalent to meeting the Tier 3 standards. The portfolio process or higher education/alternative teacher preparation programs are viable options. Laura Mogelson testified on behalf of MACTE and written testimony from Rhonda Bonnsetter was submitted. On 3/16/21 HF 1376 was laid over for further consideration and possible inclusion in a future omnibus bill. As of 3/19/21, the following limitation has been added to the Tier 2 to Tier 3 licensure pathway: the applicant must fill a shortage area under section 122A.06, subdivision 6 in addition three years of teaching experience under a Tier 2 license and evidence of summative teacher evaluations that did not result in placing or otherwise keeping the teacher on an improvement plan.