



Legislative Update

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Number 3
Jan. 21, 2016
www.mnea.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE HEARS PAYCHECK DECEPTION BILL

The House Workforce Standards and Development Committee heard HB 1891 (Rehder) on January 19. The bill applies to most public labor organizations and requires annual, written authorization for payroll deduction of member contributions for dues or for political action.

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE CALL, WRITE OR USE THE LINK BELOW TO SEND AN E-MAIL TO URGE YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO OPPOSE HB 1891.

<http://www.capwiz.com/nea/mo/issues/alert/?alertid=64057071&type=ST>

The Association opposes HB 1891. All employees have the constitutional right to participate in the Association and work together to support political campaigns without undue interference from state policies that would undermine those rights.

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor Jay Nixon delivered the State of the State Address to a joint session of the House and Senate in the House Chamber at 7 p.m. on January 20. The State of the State address gives the Governor a chance to present his vision for the state and his budget priorities.

The Governor's budget recommendations for FY 2017 include several increases for K-12 public education: \$85 million for the school funding formula, \$21 million for the Early Childhood Special Education program, \$5 million for transportation services, \$4.2 million for performance-based assessments, and \$3.2 million to assist low-performing schools in improving student outcomes.

The budget also recommends increases for higher education, including: \$55 million for performance-based funding to institutions, and \$7 million for the Access Missouri, A+, and Bright Flight scholarship programs.

The Association appreciates the Governor's efforts to increase funding for public schools. MNEA remains hopeful that the Governor and legislature can work together to fulfill the promise of a quality education for all Missouri students, regardless of where they live.

HOUSE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee met on January 19 to allow education groups to present their 2016 legislative agenda. Missouri NEA emphasized the need to invest in all of our students, regardless of zip code, with the tools and time to learn, ensure every child has a qualified, caring and committed teacher and create an effective partnership to provide an education that inspires students' natural curiosity, imagination and desire to learn.

HOUSE EMERGING ISSUES IN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee heard several bills on January 19:

HB 1546 (Lauer) to require school districts to adopt a policy on youth suicide awareness and prevention and allows licensed educators to complete annual training. The bill allows teachers to take training on youth suicide awareness as a part of their professional development requirements. The Association supports the bill.

HB 1601 (Ruth) to require that a teacher representative be appointed to the State Board of Education. The Association supports the bill. The Association also urges enactment of legislation which creates an autonomous, independent teacher licensure commission, composed of a majority of classroom teachers, having the sole responsibility for approval of teacher education programs, establishment of standards for certification, maintenance of standards and retention within the profession.

HB 1612 (Swan) to require the State Board of Education to establish minimum graduation requirements for a career and technical education high school certificate which may be earned in addition to a regular diploma. The Association believes students should have flexible options and quality public school programs available that help them meet their challenges, have academic success and finish high school. Missouri NEA supports the bill.

HB 1367 (Hubrecht) to require review by the General Assembly or committees of the General Assembly of various proposed actions by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE).

HB 1419 (Pfausch) to restore the financial penalty for reductions in district gifted education programs. The Association believes gifted and talented students should have programs to meet their needs and supports the bill. The bill provides that next year will be a planning year and identifies the per student amount for district gifted programs that will be used to determine funding penalties for reduction of programs and services.

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee heard several bills on January 20:

SB 582 (Munzlinger) to modify the composition of the Career and Technical Education Advisory Council. The bill changes the appointing authority from the Governor to the Commissioner of Education and adds legislative members. The Association supports the bill.

SB 620 (Romine) to require the State Board of Education to establish minimum graduation requirements for a career and technical education high school certificate which may be earned in addition to a regular diploma. The Association believes students should have flexible options and quality public school programs available that help them meet their challenges, have academic success and finish high school. Missouri NEA supports the bill.

SB 711 (Brown) to make CPR instruction a high school graduation requirement. The bill requires students to participate in a 30 minute CPR program at some point in their high school program in either physical education or health classes. The Association supports first aid and CPR instruction in all schools.

SB 650 (Pearce) to modify the A+ Schools Program by removing the requirement that the student's attendance of public high school occur in the three years immediately prior to graduation.

HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

The committee heard several bills on January 20, including:

HB 1427 (Sommer) to require school districts to post certain financial information on the district's website for free public access.

HB 1432 (Vescovo) to require a hearing to be held within 30 days if a public employee is placed on administrative leave to determine if the employee engaged in misconduct. The bill's application of a 30-day hearing requirement is not consistent with existing timelines and provisions relating to investigations and hearings for school employees on administrative leave.

HOUSE PASSES PHOTO ID

The House gave final approval (Third Reading vote) on January 21 to two measures regarding voter ID requirements: HB 1631 (Alferman) and HJR 53 (Dugger). These related proposals are implementing bills that would require government photo ID for voting. Missouri NEA believes voting is a constitutional right that should not be restricted by unnecessary voter photo identification requirements or other additional barriers to the voting franchise. The Association opposes both provisions.

The Senate Financial & Governmental Organizations and Elections Committee heard two similar measures regarding voter ID requirements on January 19: SB 594 (Kraus) and SJR 20 (Kraus).

PLAN TO ATTEND YOUR MNEA LEGISLATIVE RECEPTION

Legislative involvement is close to home at your MNEA Legislative Reception. The event is a great opportunity to visit with local area legislators, build relationships and hear a legislative briefing. For details and contact information, please visit:

<http://www.mnea.org/Missouri/LegislativeReceptions.aspx>

Area legislative reception schedule:

Kansas City	Jan. 23, 2016
St. Louis	Jan. 30, 2016
St. Charles	Mar. 24, 2016
Southeast/Jefferson County	Apr. 14, 2016

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