

HOUSE HEARINGS

HB 1852 (Smith), which changes the changes the laws regarding the crimes of harassment and stalking and adds them to the list of crimes schools must report to law enforcement, was heard in the House Crime Prevention and Public Safety on March 4.

The House Special Committee on Tax Reform heard and voted "Do Pass" HCS for HB 1644 (Onder) on March 4. This bill was also voted "Do Pass" from House Rules on March 12. This bill allows full deductibility from state income tax of all federal income tax liability for corporations without a reduction for tax credits claimed. The estimated reduction in state corporate tax revenue is \$60 million per year. The substitute also allows full deductibility of federal income taxes paid on state income tax returns. The committee also heard HCS for HB 2112 (Emery) on March 4. This bill would phase out the state income tax and replace it with a sales tax. The Substitute was later voted out of committee on March 11.

The House Special Committee on Financial Institutions heard and voted "Do Pass" HB 1874 (Cunningham) on March 5. The bill creates an alternative certification route for teachers in the subject areas of banking and financial responsibility. Applicants would be able to obtain certification to teach banking and financial responsibility with a bachelor's degree and successful score on the Praxis or other exit exam in that subject. However, applicants would not have tenure and would be limited to an initial professional certification.

Two bills were heard on March 6 in the House Elementary and Secondary Education Committee. HB 1676 (Hoskins) would require the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to establish criteria for the admission or rejection by adjoining accredited schools of nonresident students from unaccredited districts. Several committee members indicated that without further clarification, local control could be diminished regarding a district's preferred classroom size compounded with inadequate funding for the additional students and transportation expenses. HB 1726 (Robb) requires twins or other multiple-birth siblings to be placed in the same classroom if the parent or legal guardian makes a timely request. The committee voted HB 1726 "Do Pass". The motion for consent status failed.

HB 1957 (Hughes) was presented on March 11 and later voted "Do Pass" on March 12 from the House Special Committee on Urban Issues. This bill would establish the Duty Free Zone Act, which upon voter approval, authorizes the creation of tax-free or reduced-tax zones. Under this act a governing body of any city may designate a portion of the city as a duty-free zone (historically an economically depressed area) and grant the district tax favored status for up to 23 years. A business located within the zone may be eligible to receive tax-favored status for up to 15 years. Under this bill a city could have no more than one duty-free zone at any given time. The City of Kansas City, Taxpayers Institute and several Kansas City representatives testified in support.

HB 2156 (Grill) was heard in the House Special Committee on Job Creation and Economic Development on March 12. This bill authorizes a motherhood/fatherhood stay-at-home tax credit for a parent who stays at home to provide care for a child up to 24 months of age. The credit will be 25% of the stay-at-home parent's annual salary if the salary is \$35,000 or less, 20% if the annual salary is between \$35,000 and \$70,000 or \$15,000 if the annual salary is between \$70,000 and \$100,000.

HOUSE FLOOR

HB 1678 (Day) was third read and passed in the Senate on March 4 by a vote of 154-1. This bill would authorize Missouri to enter into the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children and establishes the Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children.

The House gave preliminary approval on HB 1722 (Wallace) on March 10. The bill contains several provisions changing the laws regarding school employee liability, safety practices and reporting acts of violence.

SENATE HEARINGS

SB 722 (Coleman), which exempts motor fuel used for school buses from the motor fuel tax, was voted “Do Pass” in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on March 11.

The Senate Education Committee voted SCS for SB 804 (Crowell) “Do Pass” on March 12. This bill allows the state auditor to audit any school district in the same manner as any agency of the state. Under the substitute version, an audit would only be performed at the request of the local school board by a majority vote. Prior to the audit, the school board would be able to request a cost estimate. In the event the audit is completed, future audits would be limited to every three years.

SB 1153 (Crowell), which would prevent nonprofit educational associations or organizations from having their employees join PSRS or PEERS after June 30, 2009, was presented and voted “Do Pass” in the Senate Pensions, Veterans and General Laws Committee on March 12.

MINIMUM SALARY

The Senate Education Committee heard SB 1092 (Engler) and SB 1152 (Crowell). Both bills create a Minimum Salary Fund for Teachers to provide minimum salary supplements.

SB 1092, which is one of the two MSTA initiated bills sets a minimum salary of \$31,000 and contains several provisions that would require the state to pay the difference between teachers’ salaries paid by local school districts and the minimum salary beginning in the 2008-2009 school year; establish a 10-step minimum salary schedule for teachers based on years of experience and level of education; require districts to maintain the percentage of their budget currently spent on base salaries, retirement contributions and health-care costs; allow a teacher to be paid the minimum based on his or her actual years of experience, even for teachers who change districts and would not otherwise receive credit for their total years of experience on their new district’s salary schedule; and allow \$500 increases in all levels of the minimum salaries when the state’s cost drops to 85 percent of the funding level of the program’s first year. The bill is estimated to impact more than 18,000 teachers with a cost to the state of approximately \$69 million. SB 1152 also uses a minimum base salary of \$31,000, but uses a DVM.

MSTA was the only education group to testify in support of the bills. MNEA and MSBA testified “for information only.

On the House side, HB 2040 (Jetton), another MSTA initiated salary bill, was presented in the Special Committee on Student Achievement on March 12. The bill will also raise the minimum teacher’s salary from \$23,000 for a first year teacher with a Bachelor’s degree to \$31,000. Pay for a first year teacher with a Master’s degree will go from \$24,000 to \$33,000. Like SB 1152 (Crowell), the bill contains a DVM provision.

Speaker Jetton testified that many school districts in rural areas are having trouble raising their minimum pay from their tax base alone and to attract and keep high quality teachers, Missouri needs to compensate more competitively as Missouri is currently ranked 44th in the nation. He also acknowledged the hefty fiscal note of approximately \$87 million indicating a funding source was yet to be determined.

Several school administrators from rural school districts and MSTA testified in support. Americans For Prosperity testified for informational purposes only indicating the bill would have their support if a merit

component was added. MNEA, MSBA and the School Administrators' Coalition also testified for informational purposes only.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

The committee also heard HCS for HB 2111 (Muschany), which changes the laws regarding charter schools. The substitute removes the geographical expansion language contained in the original bill. However, the substitute would still allow "at risk" students from other districts (disregarding accreditation status) to enroll. The bill also expands sponsorship eligibility to any four year school with a teaching program.

Missouri Charter School Association testified in support. The Kansas City and St. Louis Board of Education, School Administrators' Coalition, AFT, MNEA and CSD of Greater St. Louis testified in opposition citing concerns that the language contained in the substitute still expands charter school enrollment and furthermore, opens the door to sponsorship with no nexus.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

SB 1158 (Mayer), which creates the Professional Relationships Between Teachers and School Districts Act was presented in the Senate Education Committee on March 12. Provisions which establish procedures for collective bargaining between public school employers and public school employees are contained in the is bill. This MSTA initiated legislation sets up representative councils made up of all teacher associations and prohibits teacher strikes and binding arbitration. Senator Shields suggested adoption of a sliding scale for penalties based on the size of the school in the event that a teacher strike occurs. MSTA, MSBA and the School Administrators' Coalition testified in support. MNEA and AFT testified in opposition.



Below is a listing of additional bills of interest to CSD that has been introduced. For copies of any of the bills, please visit the General Assembly Web Site at www.moga.state.mo.us and click on Joint Bill Tracking. Just enter in the bill number and you will be able to bring up the actual text of the bill.

HOUSE BILLS

- HB 2236 Requires the Office of Administration to conduct certain audits of contractors and subcontractors performing publicly funded construction projects. (Komo)
- HB 2246 Decreases the corporate income tax rate to 5.5% and requires calculations by the sales factor to be multiplied by three for the purpose of calculating the apportionment of corporate income. (Robb)
- HB 2247 Exempts certain local sales taxes from certain tax increment financing provisions. (Nolte)
- HB 2249 Authorizes a tax credit for qualified research costs paid by a qualified Missouri business. (Onder)
- HB 2260 Changes provisions relating to tax credits for qualified research expenses.(Storch)
- HB 2266 Revises the Missouri Teaching Fellows Program. (Jones, 89)
- HB 2276 Changes property taxation laws. (Bivins)
- HB 2281 Requires school administrators, building principal, and school district superintendents to pay membership dues for professional associations out of their own pockets. (Cunningham, 86)
- HB 2290 Exempts from Missouri income tax any advance refund amount received as a credit against federal income tax under the federal Economic Stimulus Act of 2008. (Lembke)
- HB 2304 Amends laws relating to children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. (Lampe)
- HB 2308 Changes provisions relating to workers in this state. (Hunter)
- HB 2315 Alters provisions relating to teacher termination hearings. (Lampe)

- HB 2316 Includes "cyberbullying" in the definition of "bullying purpose of school antibullying policies. (Lampe)
- HB 2317 Establishes the "Professional Educators' Standards and Practices. (Lampe)
- HB 2318 Requires the department of elementary and secondary education to develop standards for teaching in Missouri public schools. (Lampe)
- HB 2357 Establishes curriculum requirements for physical education classes. (Baker, 25)
- HB 2376 Amends laws relating to children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. (Grisamore)
- HB 2397 Requires drug and alcohol testing of persons providing construction services on school property. (Funderburk)
- HB 2403 Imposes term limits on certain school board members when the school district becomes provisionally accredited or unaccredited. (Kraus)
- HB 2404 Establishes the "Missouri For More Program" and creates a credit for employers of employees who participate in the program. (Hubbard)
- HB 2412 Requires the certification of school food service directors in public and private schools receiving federal school lunch program funding. (Aull)
- HB 2419 Excludes vaccination against the human papillomavirus from the list of required immunizations for school children. (Onder)

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

- HJR 72 Proposes a constitutional amendment allowing approval of school district bond issues with a simple majority vote on general election or general municipal election days. (Schoemehl)

SENATE BILLS

- SB 1169 Establishes a school-based influenza vaccination pilot program (Champion)
- SB 1170 Creates the Rebuild Missouri Schools Program to allow loans to rebuild certain damaged school facilities. (Mayer)
- SB 1182 Creates the Missouri 4 For More Program to allow four hours of paid leave per month for parents to work with their children in school. (Smith)
- SB 1189 Modifies provisions relating to the virtual public school. (Shoemyer)
- SB 1191 Allows Clay County school boards to enter into agreements for financing of educational facilities. (Ridgeway)
- SB 1196 Requires public bodies to provide requested public records in a certain format if the record cannot be altered by the recipient of the record. (Goodman)
- SB 1204 Requires the governor to disclose information regarding tax credits and state contracts. (Goodman)
- SB 1212 Creates the Amy Hestir Davis Student Protection Act. (Callahan)
- SB 1213 Allows senior citizens and disabled persons to defer property tax payment. (Bray)
- SB 1215 Enacts the Prevention First Act. (Bray)
- SB 1221 Creates the P-20 Council to create a more efficient and effective education system. (Lager)
- SB 1222 Requires construction employees to take drug tests before working on projects on school and state property. (Engler)
- SB 1223 Modifies provisions relating to the Kids' Chance Scholarship Fund. (Graham)
- SB 1225 Allows school boards to identify a designee to bind the school district during certain special education due process hearings. (Mayer)
- SB 1226 Modifies provisions relating to special education due process hearings. (Mayer)

- SB 1232 Requires high school students to fulfill the personal finance graduation by completing a course through their school district or the virtual public school. (Clemens)
- SB 1239 Makes eligibility for a driver's license for persons under 18 contingent upon documentation that the applicant has complied with school district standards. (Dempsey)
- SB 1273 Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to develop teaching standards for Missouri public schools. (Wilson)
- SB 1282 Requires the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to contract with an online test preparation company for a customized ACT preparation course for high school juniors. (Smith)
- SB 1285 Requires taxpayer notification of projected property tax liability. (Ridgeway)

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTIONS

- SJR 49 Prohibits the imposition of any state or local income tax after January 1, 2023. (Lager)
- SJR 50 Limits general revenue appropriations and mandates state income tax rate reductions in certain situations. (Lager)