



CAPITOL REPORT:

VOUCHERS COULD BE ON HOUSE FLOOR THIS WEEK, URGE YOUR LEGISLATORS TO VOTE NO!

Please send a message to your legislator NOW, tell them you live in their district and urge them to vote NO on vouchers!

<https://actionnetwork.org/letters/no-to-vouchers>

April 15, 2019

The governor's voucher bill continues to advance through the legislature, though there ever-increasing differences between the house and senate versions of the bill. The house version was unchanged last week and advanced through budget subcommittee, to be heard Tuesday in full finance.

The House is expected to suspend rules governing how long bills take to advance on Monday night, meaning the voucher bill could be heard on the House floor **THIS WEEK**. Updates will go out as they're available.

The Senate version had a new amendment presented in education, which contained none of the provisions amended onto the House version to get the votes needed to pass its education committee. The Senate version put homeschool students back in, removed the state testing requirement, and doubled the size of the program at full implementation. The senate version serves as a useful reminder of what privatization advocates really want: **unchecked, unaccountable voucher growth**. The bill ultimately passed out of education after several hours of tough questions. Both versions of the bill will be heard in finance committees on Tuesday.

The statewide charter authorizer moved out of full finance in the house and headed to the floor on **Wednesday**. It has been heavily amended, though there is still major concern the new commission will disregard local decisions and beginning opening new charter schools across the state where they aren't wanted. The senate version will be heard in finance on Tuesday.

The bill to allow guns in schools was taken off notice last week, which signals the sponsor's intent not to pursue the legislation this year. The portfolio bills were rolled to this week's final education calendar in the house while stakeholders and the department of ed negotiate final language.

Here is a summary of bills of interest.

Monday 4/15

House Floor Session- 5PM

- HB1330/SB1058 (Haston/Dickerson)- SUPPORT- Bill developed by Tennessee Community Schools State Network, of which TEA is a part.

Tuesday 4/16

Senate Finance- 8:30AM- SHRI

- SB796/HB940 (Johnson/Lamberth)- OPPOSE- Admin bill that creates a new statewide charter authorizer that charter schools can use to bypass the LEA in the application process. Would permit this new commission to open charters in every LEA in the state.
- SB795/HB939 (Johnson/Lamberth)- OPPOSE- This is the governor's voucher bill, the Tennessee Education Savings Account Act.

Wednesday 4/17

House Floor- 9AM

- HB940/SB796 (Johnson/Lamberth)- OPPOSE- Admin bill that creates a new statewide charter authorizer that charter schools can use to override the LEA in the application process. Would permit this new commission to open charters in every LEA in the state.

House Education- Following Floor- HHRI

- HB91/SB442 (Hicks/Bell)- SUPPORT- Allows LEAs to opt out of pre-k/kindergarten portfolio for an approved alternative growth indicator.
- HB993/SB1139 (Moon/Swann)- SUPPORT- Another version of a portfolio fix bill. This version ends its use entirely.

House Finance- Following Finance Sub (follows Education)- HHRI

- HB939/SB795 (Lamberth/Johnson)- OPPOSE- See above description.
- HB70/SBSB20 (Powers/Gresham)- DEFERRED- Extends repeal of the Virtual Schools Act to 2023.

Senate Education- 2:30PM- SHRI

- SB800/HB944 (Johnson/Lamberth)- SUPPORT- Creates Governor's Civics Seal to recognize schools and districts implementing high-quality civics education programs.
- SB909/HB653 (Southerland/Hawk)- SUPPORT- Changes BEP funding ratio for nurses from 1:3000 to 1:700 students.
- SB1139/HB993 (Swann/Moon)- SUPPORT- Removes pre-k/Kindergarten portfolio from teachers evaluation.
- SB1267/HB1394 (Pody/Cepicky)- SUPPORT- Requires release of test scores to LEAs within 60 days of the administration of the test and within 90 days to the teacher. Requires release of all test questions.
- SB565/HB632 (Bowling/Terry)- SUPPORT- Awards extra PDPs to teachers who teach in priority schools in certain circumstances.
- SB482/HB564 (Gardenhire/Dunn)- DEFERRED- Makes payroll deductions available to any professional organization upon the request of one employee.
- SB776/HB959 (Yarbro/Camper)- SUPPORT- Changes value of the BEP instructional component to the statewide average teacher salary.
- SB63/HB866 (Robinson/DeBerry)- SUPPORT- Extends CTE to middle schools.
- SB1399/HB1380 (Bell/Williams)- OPPOSE- Allows any school employee with a concealed carry permit to carry loaded guns on public school grounds.

- SB1058/HB1330 (Dickerson/Haston)- SUPPORT- Bill developed by Tennessee Community Schools State Network, of which TEA is a part.
- SB262/HB1065 (Hensley/Vaughn)- SUPPORT- Imposes maximum allotment of time for students taking standardized tests based on grade level.
- SB670/HB802 (Hensley/Haston)- SUPPORT- Requires the SBE to develop two alternative graduation pathways for high school, one college prep and one technology.
- SB753/HB1246 (Hensley/Byrd)- SUPPORT- Requires TDOE to release certain percentages of questions from the state test to districts and schools.
- SB820/HB767 (Akbari/Love)- SUPPORT- Requires in-service training for restorative justice practices for school employees.
- SB1243/HB1061 (Gresham/Weaver)- DEFERRED- Requires high school students to pass a civics exam with questions from US citizenship test in order to graduate.
- SB1242/HB808 (Gresham/Kumar)- Designates nurses as certified employees.

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Please use these hashtags when posting about your advocacy efforts on social media:

#NOvouchers #FundTNSchools #TN2020Vision #RedForEd
TEA--THE STRONGEST VOICE FOR SCHOOLS AND EDUCATORS!