



CAPITOL REPORT: WEEK ONE

February 15, 2019

This was the first week that saw any substantial movement on legislation of the 111th General Assembly. Some bills of interest advanced out of committees, while others were taken off notice.

An extension of the **TN Virtual Ed law**, which permits the Tennessee Virtual Academy to operate, among other district-led virtual learning initiatives, passed the Senate Monday night, while the House version of the bill was rolled in subcommittee.

Two bills of concern, one **expanding the special ed voucher program** to current non-public school students, and **one preventing candidates running for school boards** who are related to directors of schools or central office employees, were both taken off notice in House subcommittee.

Major legislation on **Ed Savings Accounts (vouchers)** has yet to be unveiled, as it appears advocates are still working out funding and other details. The payroll dues ban, **HB1143/SB1397 (Ragan/Bell)**, was referred to the sponsor's K-12 subcommittee, but is not on notice next week. More info about this bill will be forthcoming.

For new readers, here is a short glossary of terms used as shorthand:

Sub = subcommittee

Full = full committee

HHR = House hearing room (rooms are numbered in roman numerals in the legislature)

SHR - Senate hearing room

Caption bill = A placeholder bill that is amended with new language that makes the legislation different than what was introduced.

Off notice = removed from the calendar, may be placed back on notice at any time for the next meeting

Rolled = placed on the next week's calendar for that committee

Fiscal Note = an estimate of cost from the legislature's office of fiscal review

Deferred = the association has not taken a position of support or opposition to the bill

SBE = state board of education

TDOE = Tennessee department of education

Tuesday, 2/19

House Ed Innovation Sub- Noon- HHRIV

- **HB928/SB784 (Lamberth/Johnson)**- SUPPORT- Administration bill to spin forward the hold harmless on the use of data from the failed test administration for the next two years.
- **HB383/SB488 (Weaver/Bowling)**- DEFERRED*- Permits LEAs to use ACT, Aspire, or SAT suites of tests in lieu of the EOCs for math and language arts in grades 9-12. *Members will be receiving a poll shortly to gauge teacher support for this concept.
- **HB315/SB443 (Hicks/Bell)**- SUPPORT- Requires TCAP scores used for student final grades to be delivered by the state at least five school days before the end of the year.

House Ed Admin Sub- 4:30PM- HHRIII

- **HB399/SB1261 (Parkinson/Gresham)**- DEFERRED- requires all school boards and charter schools to adopt a code of conduct for all persons entering a school

Wednesday, 2/20

House Ed full-9AM- HHRI

- **HB177/SB295 (Love/Akbari)**- SUPPORT- Prevents local funding bodies from spending interest earned on school fund balances for non-educational purposes.

Senate Ed- 2PM- SHRI

- **SB917/HB294 (Southerland/Hawk)**- DEFERRED- Allows students to take ACT WorkKeys tests in lieu of required post-secondary readiness test in grade 11.
- **SB953/HB1261 (Yarbro/Dixie)**- SUPPORT- directs department to reimburse parents of economically disadvantaged students for the cost of one AP test.
- **SB784/HB928 (Johnson/Lamberth)**- See above description
- **SB790/HB934 (Johnson/Lamberth)**- DEFERRED- Administration bill making various changes to special ed law; transfers control of state special schools from SBE to TDOE
- **SB443/HB315 (Bell/Hicks)**- See above description.
- **SB295/HB177 (Akbari/Love)**- See above description

House Ed K-12 sub- 3:30PM- HHRI

- **HB405/SB170 (Love/Robinson)**- SUPPORT- Requires an adverse childhood experience (ACE) assessment prior to any suspension, expulsion, in-house, or referral to alternative school
- **HB767/SB820 (Love/Akbari)**- SUPPORT- Requires in-service training on restorative justice discipline practices for all LEA employees. *TEA support this concept but will work with sponsors and stakeholders to ensure this is met with a reduction in another area of in-service requirements.
- **HB808/SB1242 (Kumar/Gresham)**- SUPPORT- Assigns school nurses the same classification of certified as teachers if they are deemed classified employees by an LEA.

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