



CAPITOL REPORT:

Several big fights unresolved; CIVICATION on Wednesday this week

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April 8, 2019

Several more subcommittees in the house closed last week, and Senate Education will begin its final calendar this week. The legislature is entering its final phase for the year, and there are still numerous big fights still unresolved.

Both main privatization bills advanced last week, as the statewide charter authorizer was approved in budget sub in the house and the voucher bill moved through the Gov Ops rulemaking committee. Teachers, parents, and other allies continue to push back against these bad bills, and will need to continue to do so in the coming weeks.

A bill arming teachers with nothing more than a concealed carry permit appeared on the final calendar of K-12 sub last week and passed out on a voice vote. This happened despite fierce opposition from educators and law enforcement experts alike.

Two bills passed out of subcommittee that would provide relief for teachers using the pre-k/kindergarten portfolio. The bills offer different solutions, and TEA will be part of the effort to try to combine the concepts into one bill that can move forward.

Here is a summary of bills of interest this week:

Tuesday 4/9

Senate Finance- 8:30AM- SHRI

- SB259/HB215 (Kyle/Clemmons)- SUPPORT- Encourages LEAs to place a bleeding control kit in every school and to develop training on their use for all school employees.
- 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.

House Finance- 3PM- HHRI

- HB940/SB796 (Johnson/Lamberth)- OPPOSE- See above description.

Wednesday 4/10

House Budget Sub- 11AM- HHRIII

- HB70/SB20 (Powers/Gresham)- DEFERRED- Extends repeal of the Tennessee Virtual Schools Act to 2023.
- HB939/SB795 (Lamberth/Johnson)- OPPOSE- This is the governor's voucher bill, the Tennessee Education Savings Account Act.
- HB215/SB259 (Clemmons/Kyle)- SUPPORT- Encourages LEAs to place a bleeding control kit in every school and to develop training on their use for all school employees.

Senate Ed- 12:30PM- 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.

House Education- 3PM- HHRI

- HB944/SB800 (Lamberth/Johnson)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- HB559/SB504 (Camper/Akbari)- SUPPORT- Permits LEAs to offer internship programs for elective credits through cooperative agreements with state and local governments.
- HB808/SB1242 (Kumar/Gresham)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- HB632/SB565 (Terry/Bowling)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- HB1158/SB1238 (Ogles/Gresham)- SUPPORT- Authorizes LEAs to establish threat assessment teams for school security.
- HB767/SB820 (Love/Akbari)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- HB866/SB63 (DeBerry/Robinson)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- HB1061/SB1243 (Weaver/Gresham)- DEFERRED- See above description.
- HB1246/SB753 (Byrd/Hensley)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- HB1394/SB1267 (Cepicky/Pody)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- HJR132 (DeBerry)- SUPPORT- Expresses support for a teacher’s bill of rights.
- 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- See above description.
- HB1380/SB1399 (Williams/Bell)- OPPOSE- See above description.

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