



**CAPITOL REPORT:
VOUCHER, CHARTER BILLS MOVING**

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THE ONLY WAY TO WIN is to come to the hill between now and April 16! (Always wear RED to Civication).

March 18, 2019

Several pieces of major legislation were unveiled last week, as the governor's initiatives to create a **massive voucher program** and begin **radical charter expansion** statewide have been introduced. The charter expansion bill passed out of subcommittee in the house, despite several concerns being expressed during the hearing. The sponsor made clear objections would be worked out prior to the bill being heard in full committee next, and the bill was rolled one week in the Senate while an amendment is developed.

The governor also released his **voucher** proposal this week. The ESA bill would call for a program to begin in 2021, funded by outlays of \$25 million in each of the next three years, and the program could end up **costing taxpayers \$125 million in the first three years**. The debit cards would be available to parents who reside in any LEA with at least three schools in the bottom 10% based on state test scores, which currently would voucherize Knox, Hamilton, Davidson, Jackson-Madison, and Shelby counties.

The bill will be heard in subcommittee **Tuesday at noon**, and is expected to pass out to full House Education next week. **Every educator and supporter of public education will need to make sure they speak to their legislator is they sit on that 23 person committee.** Look for TEA communications on how to reach out to those legislators toward the end of this week. More to come on both this and the statewide charter authorizer bill.

Here is a summary of bills of interest this week:

Tuesday 3/19

House Ed Innovation Sub- Noon- HHRIV

- HB939/SB795 (Lamberth/Johnson)- OPPOSE- This is the governor's voucher bill, the Tennessee Education Savings Account Act.
- HB1246/SB753 (Byrd/Hensley)- SUPPORT- Requires release of certain percentages of the state test to districts and schools.
- HB1180/SB1307 (Boyd/Pody)- DEFERRED- Permits LEAs to use the ACT or Aspire suite of tests instead of TNReady in high school.

- HB1261/SB953 (Dixie/Yarbro)- SUPPORT- Asks department to reimburse parents of economically disadvantaged students for the cost of taking on AP exam.

House Ed Admin Sub- 4:30PM- HHRIII

- HB952/SB808 (Lamberth/Johnson)- MONITOR- Admin bill that transfers authority for several functions from the SBE to the TDOE.

Wednesday 3/20

Full House Ed- 8:30AM- HHRI

- HB934/SB790 (Lamberth/Johnson)- DEFERRED- Admin bill that rewrites large sections of the state special ed law. Admin officials state the bill is largely a clean up to align to current IDEA.
- HB944/SB800 (Lamberth/Johnson)- SUPPORT- Admin bill to establish Governor's Civics Seal to recognize public schools and LEAs implementing high-quality civic education programs.
- HB949/SB805 (Lamberth/Johnson)- SUPPORT- Administration's GIVE (Governor's Investment in Vocational Education) Act. Bill seeks to expand access to CTE courses.
- HB940/SB796 (Lamberth/Johnson)- 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.
- HB946/SB802 (Lamberth/Johnson)- SUPPORT- Requires LEAs to report to TDOE how funds were spent each year there is an increase in state funding for instructional salaries and wages; requires info to be included in annual BEP report prepared by BEP review committee
- HB564/SB482 (Dunn/Gardenhire)- DEFERRED- Bill dealing with payroll dues collection. TEA does not oppose the legislation, as amended, as it would require all professional organizations to operate under uniform rules.
- HB70/SB20 (Powers/Gresham)- DEFERRED- Extends repeal of the Tennessee Virtual Schools Act to 2023.
- 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- 2:30PM- SHRI

- SB373/HB66 (Swann/Moon)- SUPPORT- Reduces weight of students achievement data for untested teachers from 30 to 15 percent. Allows teacher to decide if the remainder uses TVAAS composites or qualitative observations.
- 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.
- SB482/HB564 (Dunn/Gardenhire)- DEFERRED- See above description.
- SB796/HB940 (Johnson/Lamberth)- OPPOSE- See above description.
- SB803/HB947 (Johnson/Lamberth)- SUPPORT- Requires TN school safety center to establish school safety grants, directs grants to be allocated first to schools without full-time SROs and to develop other criteria.

- SB808/HB952 (Johnson/Lamberth)- MONITOR- See above description.
- SB443/HB315 (Bell/Hicks)- SUPPORT- Requires test scores used in determining student final grades to be delivered by the state at least five days before the end of school.
- SB1058/HB1330 (Dickerson/Haston)- SUPPORT- Bill developed by Tennessee Community Schools State Network, of which TEA is a part.
- SB1261/HB399 (Gresham/Parkinson)- DEFERRED- Requires LEAs and charter boards to develop a comprehensive code of conduct for all persons entering school grounds.
- SB1238/HB1158 (Gresham/Ogles)- SUPPORT- Governor's school safety grant program. Provides \$40m in grants, prioritizing districts without an SRO in every school.

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

- HB653/SB909 (Hawk/Southerland)- SUPPORT- Changes BEP funding ratio for nurses from 1:3000 to 1:700 students.
- HB255/SB1149 (Freeman/Akbari)- SUPPORT- Beginning in FY19-20, requires the number of BEP-funded teaching positions to be the same as the number of positions required for an LEA to comply with maximum class size requirements.
- HB1330/SB1058 (Haston/Dickerson)- SUPPORT- See above description.

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