



## **CAPITOL REPORT:**

**Legislators angered by no-bid voucher contract; TEA pushing back on science, social studies & PE bills; supporting testing transparency**

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*February 17, 2020*

Last week in the legislature was highlighted by a **raucous subcommittee hearing** where legislators vented their frustration at state officials over the process used by the department of education to award the **contract for administering the money for the voucher program**. The department did not solicit bids for the **contract**, and the value of it far exceeded the appropriation in the current fiscal year approved by the legislature for the voucher program. After more than two hours, subcommittee chairman **Rep. Matthew Hill made clear that he expected officials to appear this week at another hearing**, and to provide the committee with any and all documentation relating to the contract award.

Here is a summary of bills of interest to be heard this week:

### **Tuesday, 2/18**

Senate Finance Revenue Sub- Following full finance at 8:30AM- SHRI

- SB2686/HB2301 (Haile/Gant)- OPPOSE- Proposes reducing corporate tax by 0.1% when growth exceeds 2%. Based on current projections, this would reduce state revenue by about \$55 million over the next two years.

House CTI sub- Noon- HHRIV

- HB2407/SB1637 (Ragan/Yager)- SUPPORT- Permits students with IEP testing accommodations to use the same accommodations when taking TCAP exams.
- HB1687/SB1735 (Cepicky/Hensley)- OPPOSE- Requires SBE to abolish all science and social studies standards in grades K-2.

- HB1688/SB1739 (Cepicky/Hensely)- OPPOSE- Deletes requirements that LEAs provide physical education class taught by a licensed teacher with a PE endorsement. Requires LEAs to provide for at least two 25-minute periods of physical activity per day.

K-12 Sub- 4:30PM- HHRIII

- HB2002/SB2035 (Cepicky/Hensley)- SUPPORT- Requires SBE to establish class size and caseload standards for teachers with primary responsibility for students with an IEP.
- HB2335/SB2284 (Cepicky/Hensley)- SUPPORT- Requires TDOE to survey LEAs to determine whether there are adequate numbers of speech pathologists and report back to the legislature.
- HB1975/SB2262 (Moody/Gresham)- MONITOR- Adds offenses to the list of offenses the SBE shall automatically revoke a teaching license.
- HB2001/SB1962 (White/Gresham)- MONITOR- Requires county legislative bodies to make revenue estimates and determine the level of revenue necessary to meet local match requirements in state funding laws.
- HB1617/SB1616 (Dixie/Haile)- AMEND- Reduces the number of days from 14 to 3 that a teacher has to accept a job offer once extended.
- HB1993/SB2343 (Dunn/Gresham)- OPPOSE- Requires LEAs to have mandatory open enrollment periods.

**Wednesday, 2/19**

House Education- 9AM- HHRI

- HB1826/SB1946 (Haston/Hensley)- SUPPORT- Requires LEAs to develop and make available to LEAs formative assessment question banks that align with summative assessments required by the state.

Senate Education- 3PM- SHRI

- SB1616/HB1617 (Haile/Dixie)- AMEND- See above description.
- SB2782/HB2059 (Bell/Cochran)- Authorizes LEAs to apply excess instructional time toward the required 180 days of instructional time if it is unused.
- SB1962/HB2001 (Gresham/White)- MONITOR- See above description.

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