



CAPITOL REPORT: OFF TO THE RACES

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THE ONLY WAY TO WIN is to come to the hill between now and April 16!

March 8, 2019

It was an eventful week began with Governor Bill Lee delivering his first State of the State to the General Assembly Monday night. He highlighted several education initiatives, including expanding access to career and technical education, **improving teacher pay, and fixing the state test.** He also spoke about his commitment to pass **Education Savings Accounts (ESAs), which are a super-voucher** that can be used for home school students as well as private schools. He stopped short of unveiling it as an administration bill, but did include \$25 million in recurring funding to ESAs as part of his budget. His staff also informed the House finance committee with some more details about the planned program, but stopped short of providing bill language, stating the details were still being worked out.

With some subcommittees already taking up final calendars starting next week, the time to start moving a voucher bill is winding down. **Expect the bill to move in the next week or two if it's going to move this year.**

Here is a rundown of the bills of notice coming up next week:

Tuesday 3/12

House Ed Innovation Sub- Noon- HHRIV

- 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.
- HB940/SB796 (Lamberth/Johnson)- MONITOR- Admin bill that is a substantial rewrite of the state's charter law. Bill language hasn't been reviewed yet, but it is possibly an expansion of the state charter authorizer and an attack on local control over charters.

House Ed Admin Sub- 4:30PM- HHRIII

- HB567/SB310/(White/Massey)- DEFERRED- Directs the Tennessee School for the Deaf, together with the West Tennessee School for the Deaf, to establish a two-year deaf mentor pilot project to assist families and agencies in implementing bilingual and bicultural home-based programming for young children who are deaf, hard of hearing, or deaf-blind.

Wednesday 3/13

Full House Ed- 9AM- HHRI

- HB949/SB805 (Lamberth/Johnson)- SUPPORT- Administration's GIVE (Governor's Investment in Vocational Education) Act. Bill seeks to expand access to CTE courses.
- 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
- HB947/SB803 (Lamberth/Johnson)- 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.
- HB1158/SB1238 (Ogles/Gresham)- SUPPORT- Governor's school safety grant program. Provides \$40m in grants, prioritizing districts without an SRO in every school.
- HB215/SB259 (Clemmons/Kyle)- Place a bleeding control kit in every school and requires LEAs to develop training on their use for all school employees.
- HB177/SB295 (Love/Akbari)- SUPPORT- Prevents local governments from spending interest accrued in fund balances designated for public schools.
- HB241/SB166 (Dunn/Gresham)- MONITOR- Makes changes to the course access program, specifies that students may only enroll in two courses per year, requires LEAs to pay tuition and fees for those courses.
- 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.

Senate Ed- 2:30PM- SHRI

- SB796/HB940 (Johnson/Lamberth)- MONITOR- See above description.
- SB802/HB946 (Johnson/Lamberth)- 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
- SB764/HB1425 (Yarbro/Rudder)- SUPPORT- Increases from one to two the number of additional dual enrollment courses a student may take under a dual enrollment grant under certain circumstances; allows an eligible student to receive a dual enrollment grant for no more than 10 courses
- SB953/HB1261 (Yarbro/Dixie)- SUPPORT- Asks department to reimburse parents of economically disadvantaged students for the cost of taking on AP exam.
- SB64/HB402 (Robinson/Staples)- SUPPORT- Requires annual ACEs training for school employees.
- SB213/HB240 (Haile/Moody)- MONITOR- Caption bill. Could be voucher related.
- SB803/HB947 (Johnson/Lamberth)- SUPPORT- Requires school safety center to develop grant guidelines for recipients, prioritizing schools without full-time SROs.
- SB442/HB91 (Bell/Hicks)- SUPPORT- Authorizes LEAs to use an alternative growth indicator approved by the SBE instead of than the pre-k/kinder portfolio
- SB442/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.
- SB295/HB177 (Akbari/Love)- SUPPORT- See above description

- SB1238/HB1158 (Gresham/Ogles)- SUPPORT- See above description

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

- 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.

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