



**CAPITOL REPORT:**

**MORE QUESTIONS ON CHARTER, VOUCHER BILLS IN COMMITTEES**

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*April 1, 2019*

Last week was dominated by discussion about the governor's voucher bill, which ultimately passed through House Education committee with two more votes than the minimum required for passage, one of which was the House Speaker who was casting a vote in a rare move. The bill now heads to **rulemaking before another large showdown in House Budget Subcommittee.**

Several legislators remarked that all legislators should be given the opportunity to vote on the bill, and that it should be passed to the floor for that reason, but it is far from certain the bill will clear the finance committees, where voucher legislation has stalled in two of the last four years. **The bill also is changing constantly,** as the administration adds amendments designed to secure votes on important committees. **The essence of the bill remains unchanged, though, that tax-payer funded debit cards** will go to families who remove their kids from public schools, causing immense harm to the students who remain in the public schools.

House budget subcommittee will hear both privatization bills in consecutive weeks. This week they will hear the **statewide charter authorizer, and next week the voucher bill.** The education subcommittees take up their final calendars this week, a process that may take a couple weeks to complete. Additionally, CTI sub will also hear the portfolio special calendar, while Higher Ed will hear the lottery calendar.

Here is a summary of bills of interest up this week:

**Monday 4/1**

**Government Operations- 2PM- HHRI**

- HB939/SB795 (Lamberth/Johnson)- OPPOSE- This is the governor's voucher bill, the Tennessee Education Savings Account Act.

House Floor Session- 5PM

- 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.

#### **Tuesday 4/2**

##### **Senate Finance- 8:30AM- SHRI**

- SB259/HB215 (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.
- 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.

##### **House Ed Innovation Sub- Noon- HHRIV**

- HB1246/SB753 (Byrd/Hensley)- SUPPORT- Requires the release of certain percentages of questions and answers from TNReady and other EOCs.
- HB802/SB670 (Haston/Hensley)- SUPPORT- Requires the SBE to develop two alternative graduation pathways for high school, one college prep and one technology.
- HB1065/SB262 (Vaughn/Hensley)- SUPPORT- Sets a cap on total time spent taking state-mandated standardized tests based on students' grade level.
- HB559/SB504 (Camper/Akbari)- SUPPORT- Permits LEAs to offer internship programs for elective credits through cooperative agreements with state and local governments.
- HB1394/SB1267 (Cepicky/Pody)- 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.
- HB866/SB63 (DeBerry/Robinson)- SUPPORT- Expands CTE courses to middle school grades.
- HB632/SB565 (Terry/Bowling)- SUPPORT- Permits certain teachers with a 4 or 5 LOE in three consecutive years to take that score for future years in certain situations.
- HB91/SB442 (Hicks/Bell)- SUPPORT- Permits LEAs to opt out of pre-K/Kindergarten portfolio for an alternative growth indicator to be developed by the state
- HB993/SB1139 (Moon/Swann)- SUPPORT- Removes pre-k/Kindergarten portfolio to allow a fresh start.
- HB1384/SB509 (Williams/Massey)- SUPPORT- Enhances training requirements from TDOE on portfolio, permits LEAs to develop their own alternatives.

##### **House Ed Admin Sub- 4:30PM- HHRIII**

- HB916/SB1285 (Keisling/Pody)- DEFFERED- Permits LEAs to meet 180 day calendar requirement with total hours instead of days.

- HB224/SB70 (Parkinson/Robinson)- SUPPORT- Increases requirement from one to three, that members of the SBE be a K-12 public school teacher.

### **Wednesday 4/3**

#### **Full House Ed- 8:00AM- HHRI**

- 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.
- HB70/SB20 (Powers/Gresham)- DEFERRED- Extends repeal of the Tennessee Virtual Schools Act to 2023.
- HB215/SB259 (Clemmons/Kyle)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- HB399/SB1261 (Parkinson/Gresham)- DEFERRED- Requires LEAs and charter boards to develop a comprehensive code of conduct for all persons entering school grounds.
- HB767/SB820 (Love/Akbari)- SUPPORT- Requires annual in-service training for school employees on restorative justice practices.
- HB808/SB1242 (Kumar/Gresham)- SUPPORT- Designates nurses as certified employees.
- HB1330/SB1058 (Haston/Dickerson)- SUPPORT- Bill developed by Tennessee Community Schools State Network, of which TEA is a part.

#### **House Budget Sub- 11AM- HHRIII**

- 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.

#### **Senate Ed- 2:30PM- SHRI**

- SB1267/HB1394 (Pody/Cepicky)- SUPPORT- Establishes timelines for the release of state test questions, provides for the release of all questions from the test.
- SB1058/HB1330 (Dickerson/Haston)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- SB442/HB91 (Bell/Hicks)- SUPPORT- Permits LEAs to use an alternative growth indicator instead of the pre-K/kindergarten portfolio if they wish.
- SB953/HB1261 (Yarbro/Dixie)- SUPPORT- Asks department to reimburse parents of economically disadvantaged students for the cost of taking on AP exam.
- SB63/HB866 (Robinson/DeBerry)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- SB820/HB767 (Akbari/Love)- SUPPORT- See above description.
- SB800/HB944 (Johnson/Lamberth)- SUPPORT- See above description.

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

- HB959/SB776 (Camper/Yarbro)- SUPPORT- Changes value of the BEP instructional component to the statewide average teacher salary.
- HB209/SB268 (Leatherwood/Kelsey)- MONITOR- Prevents SBE from modifying uniform grading procedures for schools more than once every three years.

- HB311/SB296 (Johnson, G/Akbari)- SUPPORT- Truth in Teacher Pay Act, requires salary schedules approved by the SBE to reflect changes in BEP instructional salary component.
- HB1158/SB1238 (Ogles/Gresham)- SUPPORT- See above description.

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