



**CAPITOL REPORT:
VOUCHER, CHARTER FIGHTS RAGING**

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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 25, 2019

The two privatization fights rage on in the legislature. The governor's **statewide charter authorizer bill narrowly passed** House Education last week after extensive debate and intense political pressure being applied by House leadership. It also cleared Senate Education with less discussion and debate.

The bill is now on to the rulemaking bodies in Government Operations committees before heading to the Finance committees, where **more scrutiny is expected**.

The other major privatization effort, **the governor's voucher bill, also narrowly made it out of subcommittee in the House after many tough questions Wednesday morning**. The bill now faces a very tough vote in full House Education Committee. There is incredible pressure being applied to vote yes on vouchers, and it will take a concerted effort on the part of all public education supporters to defeat the bill.

Here are the bills of interest coming up this week:

Tuesday 3/26

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.
- HB315/SB443- (Hicks/Bell)- 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.
- HB802/SB670 (Haston/Hensley)- SUPPORT- Requires the SBE to develop two alternative graduation pathways for high school, one college prep and one technology.
- 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.

House Ed Admin Sub- 4:30PM- HHRIII

- HB1352/SB1216 (Hill/Crowe)- MONITOR- Requires all funds collected by a county for capital projects be distributed based on FTE, including to municipal systems in that county.

Wednesday 3/27

Full House Ed- 8:00AM- HHRI

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

- SB1267/HB1394 (Pody/Cepicky)- SUPPORT-Establishes timelines for the release of state test questions, provides for the release of all questions from the test.
- SB442/HB91 (Bell/Hicks)- SUPPORT- Permits LEAs to use an alternative growth indicator instead of the pre-K/kindergarten portfolio if they wish.
- SB1058/HB1330 (Dickerson/Haston)- SUPPORT- See above description.

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

- 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.
- HB1084/SB477 (Thompson/Robinson)- SUPPORT- Requires TDOE to survey students and report to the general assembly on home internet access of public school students.

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