

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

MASA Spring Conference – Lake of the Ozarks

April 6, 2018

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- The five Greitens' appointments have yet to receive a hearing from the Gubernatorial Appointments Committee.
- Senate leaders have asked for Governor to appoint five new members for the the Senate to consider.
- Unlikely any appointees that voted to remove the Commissioner Vandeven will be confirmed
- If Senate votes appointments down or session ends and no action is taken, appointees would be prohibited from ever serving on State Board of Education.
- Appointees cannot resign and Governor cannot withdraw the appointments. The outcome is entirely up to the Senate.

# STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

- If session ends and board members are not confirmed, Governor will have the ability to appoint five new members and they will be able to hire a commissioner immediately.
- If House moves forward with impeachment proceeding, the Governor cannot serve in his official capacity during the impeachment trial.

# TEACHER CERTIFICATION

## VISITING SCHOLARS CERTIFICATION (HB 1665)

- Allows the State Board of Education to grant an initial visiting scholar certificate as a license to teach grades 9-12 in Missouri public schools.
- The teacher is required to part of a business partnership with a focus on providing career pathways for students.
- Applicant must be employed in a content area in which the individual has an academic degree or professional experience.
- Certificate is good for one year and can be renewed.

# VIRTUAL EDUCATION

## MISSOURI COURSE ACCESS AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM (SB 603)

- Modifies the existing MoVIP program to update the law.
- Largely maintains the existing Mo-VIP Program but creates a number of new requirements for DESE to promote and implement the program.
- Takes advantage of numerous, existing offerings that are available in the state from public and private providers.
- Responds to need from rural districts where there may be teacher shortages and/or a lack of advanced high school courses available to students.
- Ensures districts maintain control over the cost and quality of the classes.
- Creates an appeal process first to the local school board, then to DESE if a student is denied.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

# COMPUTER SCIENCE CREDITS (HB 1623 & SB 894)

- In districts that offer computer science coursework, students would be allowed to substitute a computer science credit for a Math, Science, or Practical Art credit for the purposes of high school graduation.
- Student is still required to take all courses that the state requires MAP testing
- Students/Parents must be informed and sign a waiver indicating they are aware some college require four math credits in order to be admitted

VOUCHERS

## VOUCHERS (SB 612)

- \$25M Voucher Tax Credit
- Eligible Students: (Special Needs, Foster Care, Military)
- Can Be Spent At: (Private, Parochial, Home School, Another Public School District)
- To date, the bill has received more than 10 hours of debate with out a vote.
- Senators Hummel, Rizzo, Schupp, and Walsh have been the most outspoken Senators against the bill.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

## CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION (HB 2247)

- Charter schools could open in any district with a building below 60%
- Students from any district can attend the charter school.
- A process for a charter school to close is created, but a failing charter school would still stay open for at least 8 years.
- Fails to reform the current charter law relating to public accountability, financial inefficiency, enrollment practices and the high failure rate of charter schools.

# CHARTER SCHOOL EXPANSION (HB 2247) - CONTINUED -

- The vote on HB 2247 has now been delayed for a month as proponents have tried to garner the 82 votes needed to pass the bill.
- Changes/Additions likely to be added to obtain votes necessary to pass
- If the bill comes up for a vote, it will be very close.
  - HB 2247 narrowly passed House Education Committee (Rep. Swan voted against the bill)
  - The bill received 83 votes in the House last year (82 needed to pass)

TAX REFORM

## TAX REFORM (HB 2450 & SB 617)

- Both the House and the Senate have “perfected” a version of wholesale reforms to the Missouri’s tax code.
- Both bills are currently being held up in order to assess the overall impact to the state budget.
- Both version of the bill seek to offset tax cuts with tax increases to reduce the cost.
- Bills seek to be “revenue neutral” when looking at total state revenues.
- Provisions that cut general revenue but raise revenue dedicated to transportation funding could have extreme negative impact on entities heavily dependent on general revenue.
- Numerous legislative and budget leaders have expressed uncertainty of passing additional tax cuts while SB 509 & federal tax bill are being implemented.
- The tax reform discussions this year are likely a precursor to a significant push next year.

**BUDGET**

## BUDGET OVERVIEW

- There is still uncertainty regarding the impact of the federal tax changes, SB 509 and other tax cuts.
- Congress funded the CHIP program in last budget deal and this has freed up approximately \$81 million in general revenue (likely will be used to restore cuts to higher education)
- The amount of mandatory Medicaid spending has been reduced by \$55 million
- Blind pension will receive approximately \$20 million in back payment

## FY 2019 GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION

- \$51 million increase to foundation formula
- \$13 million reduction in the core for Transportation
- \$15.9 million increase in Proposition C (dedicated tax)
- \$8 million increase in Early Childhood Special Education (mandatory)
- \$68 million cut to Higher Education

# FINAL HOUSE BUDGET & POSSIBLE SENATE CHANGES

- The House appropriated the full \$98 million increase to Foundation Formula.
  - \$6 million cut to Missouri Preschool Program.
- Transportation remained the same as the Governor's recommendation.
- Cuts were restored to Higher Education with an agreement colleges and universities can raise tuition 1% next year.
- Senate is likely to increase total funding by \$98 million, however some funding may go to school transportation. However, the amount for the formula likely will not be reduced below \$48 million.
- Any differences would be worked out in conference committee.

QUESTIONS