

Wednesday, March 29, Update

1 message

Rob Watson <SAMLN@saom.memberclicks.net>
Reply-To: samrw@sammt.org
To: samks@sammt.org

Wed, Mar 29, 2023 at 7:04 AM

Hello SAMLN23,

We are approaching another transmittal deadline. As such, there are many bills being introduced and heard this week.

Below is a brief summary of a few bills that you should know about.

As always - please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Wednesday, March 29

3pm, House Appropriations, HB774. This is the *election bill* that would change your school trustee and levy elections to every other year during the general election. We have [presented some amendments](#) to this bill, but as of today, he has not accepted these potential changes. Therefore, CAMPS will oppose this bill unless amended.

3pm, House Education, HB913. This bill seeks to clarify the process for schools to follow when a *library book has been challenged*. While the process generally follows the same process that is stipulated in the MTSBA model policy, there are some additions recommended in the bill. First, the book challenge (or request for reconsideration) has to come from a registered elector from the district. Second, there are recommended actions when the majority or supermajority of parents from the school cosign the request for reconsideration of the library material. Simple majority = remove the book while reconsideration process occurs. Super majority (2/3) = permanently remove the book unless the trustees reject the request through the reconsideration process. CAMPS will support this bill. We believe that this bill helps schools to defend against the parent rights and education transparency bills that are being pushed in this legislative session.

Thursday, March 30

8am, Senate Finance & Claims, SB547. This bill would use funding from state-wide capital gains taxes and direct that funding to teacher salaries by expanding the TEACH ACT. For districts that qualify, they could receive two quality educator payments for all teachers in their district. CAMPS will support this bill, however, it should be noted that capital gains tax reduction was a cornerstone in the Govn.'s tax relief plan, which makes it unlikely that the legislature will change their mind and use these monies to boost teacher salaries.

Friday, March 31

3pm, Senate Education, HB566. There is currently a competition between HB502 and 566 as to which will be supported by Senate Education. Both bills seek to clarify and fix some problems with *SB99 (the sex education bill)* from last session. It appears that HB566 will be amended to accept some of the language from 502. What does this mean? I believe we will have a stricter timeline to notify parents about a potential sex ed lesson, but the definition of "what is sex ed" will be narrowed so that we are not sending out notices for every little thing that could be considered sex ed. Tune into the hearing on Friday if you would like to see how all this plays out. CAMPS will support HB566. The bill sponsor is motivated to "clean up" the mess created by SB99 from the last session.

Other bills that have not been scheduled yet, but will likely have a hearing in the next 5 days.

TBD, No hearing scheduled yet: [SB562](#). We have not been impacted by any potential *constitutional amendments* yet this session. This bill would be the first that would have a direct impact on schools. This bill would put term limits on school board trustees (no more than two terms.) Remember that any constitutional amendment requires 2/3 vote of both house and senate members combined. Also, if it passes, it would be placed on general election ballot for voters to decide if the constitution should be amended.

TBD, No hearing yet: [HB949](#). This bill would clarify how student data is managed and shared in our state by establishing a data governance board. Members of the Board represent state level departments: OPI, Dept of Labor, higher ed, state administration as well as members of the legislature as non-voting members. The board would provide oversight and management of how student data is used at OPI.

In other bill news:

HB450, self defense in public schools (also known as the fight club bill, also known as the punch the bully in the nose bill) passed the senate on a 31-19 vote on Tuesday.

HB352, the early literacy bill, passed House Appropriations on a 21-2 vote and will be heard on the House floor on Wednesday (March 29)

HB822, the student mental health bill, passed House Appropriations on a 20-0 vote. Will be scheduled for house floor debate.

HB332, the health insurance trust bill, is still stuck in House Appropriations. Hopefully we will have news on this bill soon.

Don't forget - we have our usual SAM Zoom Meeting next Monday at noon. I will send a calendar invite to the email that you provided for SAMLN.

Here is a link to all bills that will be heard this week and next Monday - this will be updated.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/e/2PACX-1vQXrVTPLCKTMKU7vst6dWIYlyU76SWsnBzZvKkmvgif73mIEOBuZ-CDDrKE4PIJLA/pubhtml>

Thanks, Rob

School Administrators of Montana • [900 N. Montana Ave., Suite A-4](#), Helena, Montana 59601, United States • 406-442-2510

[Remove My Email](#) • [Privacy Policy](#)