



SAM Priority Bills

Report Date: January 21, 2023

Bill Number	Bill Sponsor	Last Three Actions	Priority Area	Issue Area	Position
HB 15	David Bedey(R) HD 86	01/20/23 - Committee Executive Action--Bill Passed 01/19/23 - Hearing 01/18/23 - Rereferred to Committee	1-School Funding		Support
Implement K-12 Inflation					
1/11/2023 - EA: Questions about amount and length of time. Motion passes.					
1/7/2023 - Bill provides 2.7% in FY24 and 3.0% in FY25. CAMPS will support this bill, with a mention that inflation is currently higher than 3% and budget surplus. Doug will provide testimony on behalf of CAMPS. Testimony here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Rj9wq0wlOz-KCe7ilGFO8SnTJcyix9IF/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=108640981809976839399&rtpof=true&sd=true					
1/6/2023 - This inflationary bill provides 2.7% in FY24 and 3.0% in FY25.					
12/31/2022 - An act applying inflationary adjustments to school funding formula components; amending section 20-9-306, MCA; and providing an effective date and an applicability date.					
LC0175	Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D) SD 38	01/21/23 - Draft to Drafter - Edit Review 01/16/23 - Draft in Edit 01/15/23 - Draft in Legal Review	1-School Funding	health insurance; retention	Not Reviewed
Generally revise laws related to school employee health benefits					
SB 70	Shannon O'Brien(D) SD 46	01/23/23 - Hearing 01/17/23 - Rereferred to Committee 01/17/23 - 2nd Reading Passed	3-Recruitment & Retention	funding; policy	Support
Revise the Quality Educator Loan Assistance Program					
1/11/2023 - EA in committee: No action taken, postponed til Monday. One Senator had concern that there were a few Senators absent. Another Senator showed up so they reopened EA on this bill. Sen. Fuller voiced concern about tax-payer subsidy about forgiving student loan. Leg. Staff showed OPI Map regarding qualified schools. Sen. Emrich questioned the effectiveness of the program. Questioned if it would actually encourage teachers to go to rural schools. Bill passed.					
1/7/2023 - This bill removes some requirements for rural districts to make it easier to qualify for the loan assistance program. Many districts were not using this option as it was difficult to justify some requirements. This should help all rural districts access this program for their staff. CAMPS will support this bill.					
1/1/2023 - AN ACT REVISING THE QUALITY EDUCATOR LOAN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM; REMOVING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A QUALIFYING EDUCATOR TO BE TEACHING IN A CRITICAL QUALITY EDUCATOR SHORTAGE AREA; REVISING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS; REQUIRING THE SUPERINTENDENT TO REQUEST A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION IF NECESSARY TO FULLY FUND THE PROGRAM					



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HB 203	David Bedey(R) HD 86	01/16/23 - Hearing 01/10/23 - Hearing Canceled 01/09/23 - First Reading	6-Education Policy	district boundaries; funding; parent rights; school choice	Support

Generally revise education laws to enhance educational opportunities

1/16/2023 - Committee Hearing notes: MT Disability rights suggested a few amendments which would make it easier. Questions/comments from committee: District may adopt policy to guide enrollment. What happens if a district does not adopt policy? Question about timeline for when a student could request transfer. Question about class size accommodations, bill sponsor said that the bill was drawn broadly enough to allow for district to establish guidelines for expectations to meet District strategic plan. Question about how it will impact smaller schools. How would bill address mobility issues: this bill would create a process for transfer, where a consistent process does not exist. What about requests for athletic transfers? Not addressed directly in the bill. Parents make decisions for request to transfer.

1/11/2023 - CAMPS Testimony will be delivered by Lance M, (MREA) to House Ed committee at the hearing on Monday 1/16:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iQdOrMULD8w1BAYtmZxOVB_pnTwjeMVD/view?usp=share_link

1/11/2023 - CAMPS sent common message to Members. SAM sent to the SAM LN.
https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQL1M-d93xZe5ipnTeTXNG8A-elaQ12-caGwKEVx9g9Zvnp7ao1XNODIQW-gIW_rQ/pub

1/7/2023 - CAMPS believes that the bill sponsor has made an effort to include our suggestions. In addition, we would likely support a bill like this that contains some safeguards and protects district authority. There are others that may present bills (See LC 657) which could be much worse and will limit authority of trustees.

12/31/2022 - An act generally revising education laws related to out-of-district attendance; revising out-of-district and tuition laws to increase educational choice and improve taxpayer equity.

12/5/2022 - Open enrollment bill. Dec 4, CAMPS issued recommendations on this bill to drafters. Here is the link: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vRbvET8kEtmsyv0JMJKL2rzEPAYUs6CRSZWo16hqfJKjB0cGhYIlbsBywTP2NyA/pub>

HB 214	Marta Bertoglio(R) HD 75	01/16/23 - Hearing 01/10/23 - Introduced Bill Text Available Electronically 01/10/23 - First Reading	6-Education Policy	funding; school choice	Support with amendments
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Revise education laws related to remote instruction

1/16/2023 - HB 214 Amendment:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1qrGAT-9FsOqQGG3noDd6gmuasTeq23KJ/view?usp=share_link

1/16/2023 - Clarifies in-person offsite instruction vs. remote instruction. Off-site instruction = in-person within the boundaries of a district. Remote instruction. Proponents - CAMPS. Will no longer impact mandatory enrollment. It will just impact 20-7-118. Opponents included representative for Hutterite colonies as this bill now requires that school districts only serve schools that are within their geographic boundaries. The situation with the colony schools should be solved by a multi-district agreement, rather than what is currently being done through off-site instruction.

1/15/2023 - CAMPS Testimony: To be delivered by Dennis, MREA: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSXjUbwXayfcg-coQwmWYSJ9XDcj5ti4HMaKhv1fauFZ3Kx64k0KkqJNHspMldStg/pub>

1/15/2023 - This bill would require districts (mandatory enrollment) to enroll out of district students in remote learning courses, if there is not an equivalent course in the student's home district. SAM asked for an amendment which would make it clear that a district would have to be offering a remote course before an out of district student



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<p>would be eligible to enroll. Nothing in the bill should compel a district to create a remote course, if one does not already exist.</p> <p>1/11/2023 - AN ACT GENERALLY REVISING EDUCATION LAWS TO ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS; REVISING DEFINITIONS TO DISTINGUISH IN6 PERSON OFFSITE INSTRUCTIONAL SETTINGS AND REMOTE INSTRUCTION AND REVISING RELATED DEFINITIONS AND STATUTES; INCLUDING REMOTE INSTRUCTION FOR OUT-OF-DISTRICT STUDENTS AS A CIRCUMSTANCE FOR MANDATORY ATTENDANCE AGREEMENTS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS; PROVIDING FRACTIONAL ENROLLMENT FOR ANB CALCULATIONS WHEN A STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN MULTIPLE SCHOOL DISTRICTS</p>					
LC1257	Fred Anderson (R) HD 20	11/16/22 - Draft Request Received	6-Education Policy	charter schools; personalized learning; school choice	Not Reviewed
<p>Generally revise criteria for school choice</p> <p>12/31/2022 - An act authorizing the establishment of public charter schools as a means of providing additional high quality educational opportunities; authorizing constitutionally empowered elected trustees to establish, oversee and otherwise provide personalized learning programs for pupils in Montana's public schools through charter schools or programs.</p>					
LC1351	Brad Barker (R) HD 58	01/21/23 - Draft to Drafter - Edit Review 01/18/23 - Draft in Edit 01/18/23 - Draft in Legal Review	6-Education Policy	early literacy; funding; Pre K	Support
<p>Provide targeted interventions to support 3rd grade reading proficiency</p> <p>1/15/2023 - This bill has been amended to now include proposed changes to exceptional circumstances that were proposed by Rep Bedey during the interim committee. Here is current bill: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qvprpv2MwzDcwWrckeX0CICBIZayx_LI/view?usp=share_link</p> <p>12/31/2022 - An act establishing early literacy targeted interventions; providing legislative findings, purpose, and intent; providing definitions; providing duties for the board of public education and superintendent of public instruction and authority for school board trustees; providing funding mechanisms and reporting requirements.</p>					
SB 9	Daniel R Salomon(R) SD 47	01/06/23 - Fiscal Note Printed 01/05/23 - Fiscal Note Received 01/02/23 - First Reading	6-Education Policy	district boundaries; school choice	Support
<p>Prohibit school districts operating schools outside district boundaries</p> <p>1/7/2023 - This bill was discussed in an interim legislative committee. The impetus for this bill came from a dispute regarding the operation of schools on Hutterite colonies.</p> <p>1/1/2023 - AN ACT REVISING LAWS RELATED TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO CLARIFY THAT A SCHOOL DISTRICT MAY NOT OPERATE A SCHOOL OR OFFSITE INSTRUCTIONAL SETTING OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT</p>					
SB 69	Shannon O'Brien(D) SD 46	01/19/23 - Referred to Committee 01/17/23 - Transmitted to House 01/16/23 - 3rd Reading Passed	6-Education Policy	funding; transportation	Support with amendments
<p>Clarify school transportation laws related to passenger vehicles</p> <p>1/11/2023 - EA in committee: Passed</p>					



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<p>1/7/2023 - CAMPS had a concern with this bill, specifically how passenger vehicle was defined in the bill. We were concerned that it would take away the opportunity for a district to use the approved, 5-star rated, 10 passenger vehicles for depreciation. We secured a letter from OPI which states the legislative intent of the bill. While a bill amendment would be better, we don't want to kick the hornets nest on this one, by drawing too much attention to the current statute, which could inadvertently limit our current abilities to access bus depreciation for some vehicles. We believe that this still protects districts who have purchased and are currently using the approved 10 passenger, 5 star rated vehicles. They will still be able to access bus depreciation for those vehicles as was part of the original statute. The new proposed language would limit the other types of vehicles that don't meet those standards. A district could still use those other vehicles for transportation and activities, but won't be able to access bus depreciation. Letter from OPI: https://drive.google.com/file/d/17JJ_n7-RjIGXV9FJGbXdRKoctyp9eLO/view?usp=share_link</p> <p>1/1/2023 - AN ACT CLARIFYING THAT A PASSENGER VEHICLE USED BY A SCHOOL DISTRICT FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR SPECIAL ACTIVITIES IS NOT A SCHOOL BUS; CLARIFYING THAT A PASSENGER VEHICLE OWNED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR INCLUSION IN THE DISTRICT'S BUS DEPRECIATION RESERVE FUND</p>					
SB 129	Russel (Russ) Tempel(R) SD 14	01/20/23 - Hearing 01/09/23 - Referred to Committee 01/04/23 - Introduced Bill Text Available Electronically	6-Education Policy	ANB; funding	Support
<p>Revise laws related to compulsory attendance</p> <p>1/20/2023 - CAMPS will support this bill. Here is rationale from MREA: Thank the sponsor for carrying the bill. Recognize that this bill is a result of a school principal talking to their legislator and that legislator listening and acting. (elementary principal from Cut Bank) I will tailor my testimony to highlight important points already made but I will ensure that the following points are made:</p> <p>No harm to homeschools. This was received well by some very conservative legislators during the interim. Removes the "enroll by age 7" language from statute. Removes "drop at 16 or the end of the 8th grade" Does nothing to impede any parent from making the decision to choose an alternative schooling environment.</p> <p>1/7/2023 - This was a bill that came from interim committee. It would clarify that enrolled students need would be compelled to attend, regardless of age of the student. Resistance from homeschool community during the interim session. CAMPS will support, Dennis to provide testimony.</p> <p>1/3/2023 - AN ACT REVISING SCHOOL LAWS RELATED TO COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE; ALIGNING COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE WITH ENROLLMENT IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL RATHER THAN AGE</p>					
HB 206	Ron Marshall(R) HD 87	01/18/23 - Hearing 01/09/23 - First Reading 01/09/23 - Introduced Bill Text Available Electronically	7-Revenue & Taxation	bonds/levies; elections; funding	Oppose
<p>Generally revise mill levy election laws</p> <p>1/18/2023 - MTSBA, MQEC and SAM sent a "call to action" on 1/17/23. Good response from all members. A legislator from the Kalispell area told a SAM member that the committee would be tabling the bill. Still could come out with a blast motion.</p>					



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<p>1/17/2023 - CAMPS will oppose. Doug, MQEC to provide testimony: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZzLgU9WnbAhCb3gW7badwN9FhN-Zp2Kw/view?usp=share_link</p> <p>1/12/2023 - Creates a new expectation for school levies: 50% voter turnout AND simple majority voting in favor. Voter turnout must be determined by dividing the total number of qualified electors who voted in the election from the tally sheets for the election by the total number of electors who were qualified to vote in the election.</p> <p>1/7/2023 - AN ACT REVISING MILL LEVY ELECTION LAWS; LIMITING THE DURATION OF A VOTED MILL LEVY; REQUIRING VOTER TURNOUT TO EXCEED 50% FOR A VOTED LEVY; REVISING THE INFORMATION THAT MUST BE INCLUDED IN THE RESOLUTION OR PETITION FOR THE MILL LEVY ELECTION; REVISING THE INFORMATION THAT MUST BE PROVIDED TO VOTERS</p>					
SB 123	Greg Hertz(R) SD 6	01/18/23 - Hearing 01/04/23 - First Reading 01/04/23 - Referred to Committee	7-Revenue & Taxation	bonds/levies; elections; facility; funding	Support
<p>Require ballot for bond election to estimate additional taxes for residence</p> <p>1/18/2023 - Amendment added at the committee hearing to clarify that the following numbers should be used on ballot language: tax impact for assessed value of \$100K, \$300K and \$600K.</p> <p>1/18/2023 - CAMPS supported this bill. Testimony was delivered by Rob: https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vQ-BC1niTw7EfPEquq5icSqB7yWjrM_lw9iBLIi3jI0q9LuZpCuCINWYbCS7TPSkg/pub</p> <p>1/17/2023 - This bill would require school districts to estimate tax increase in the first year of the bond for a home with assessed value of 100K and 200K. This estimate would need to go on the ballot. SAM supports this bill because it increases transparency for voters. The concern may be from clerks, the number on the ballot would simply be an estimate, based on current taxable values of the district.</p> <p>1/3/2023 - AN ACT REQUIRING THE BALLOT FOR A BOND ELECTION TO INCLUDE THE ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL PROPERTY TAXES IMPOSED ON A RESIDENCE</p>					
HB 117	Marta Bertoglio(R) HD 75	01/19/23 - Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended 01/19/23 - Committee Executive Action--Bill Passed as Amended 01/18/23 - Hearing	8-Pension Laws	retention; TRS	Support
<p>Generally revise working retiree laws under TRS</p> <p>1/4/2023 - CAMPS supports this bill. Dennis made public comment in support from the group.</p> <p>12/31/2022 - AN ACT REVISING SCHOOL FUNDING LAWS RELATED TO ENROLLMENT INCREASES; PROVIDING FOR SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT INCREASE PAYMENTS BASED ON THE OCTOBER ENROLLMENT COUNT; ELIMINATING THE CURRENT MECHANISM FOR ANTICIPATED UNUSUAL ENROLLMENT INCREASES. This would increase the allowable earnings to 49% and reduce the break in service to 120 days. In addition, this bill adds back the opportunity for Superintendents to be eligible for reemployment under the emergency hire clause.</p>					



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HB 234	Bob Phalen(R) HD 36	01/19/23 - Hearing 01/13/23 - First Reading 01/13/23 - Referred to Committee	9-State Policy	minors	Neutral

Revise dissemination of obscene material to minors laws

1/20/2023 - SAM decided not to weigh in on this bill. If it passes, there is a danger that school staff could face criminal prosecution for providing obscene materials, however, that charge would have to meet definition in law and would have to be supported by local county attorney - which may be highly unlikely given the breadth of the definition. However, opposing the bill may have created harm to the organization as we would have been seen as trying to support the idea that we want our members to have the freedom to provide obscene (also called pornographic in committee hearing) materials to minors. Not a favorable position for SAM. There is a legitimate fear of government controlled censorship created by this bill, which was a very clear argument made by public libraries. Public libraries are in a better position to make this argument as they serve both children and adults.

1/18/2023 - Statement from MTSBA: The bill is a bit confusing. Not because of the way the bill is drafted but because of the way the underlying law is drafted. The underlying law says it is illegal to display obscene material to children, but it creates an exception for libraries and schools. I can't imagine the discussion that took place when this law was first drafted where someone asked for an exemption from the law, so that we could distribute obscene material to children. Fighting this bill at this point will allow others to claim that we are seeking to "continue" providing obscene material to children. We won't make any difference in the outcome of this bill by weighing in, but it will harm our credibility in other areas where we need collaboration.

The following definition is what we would be seeking to allow school districts to show the kids if we oppose the bill, which is proposing to eliminate the exemption for public schools from compliance with this law.

45-8-201(2) A thing is obscene if:

- (a) (i) it is a representation or description of perverted ultimate sexual acts, actual or simulated;
- (ii) it is a patently offensive representation or description of normal ultimate sexual acts, actual or simulated; or
- (iii) it is a patently offensive representation or description of masturbation, excretory functions, or lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- (b) taken as a whole the material:
 - (i) applying contemporary community standards, appeals to the prurient interest in sex;
 - (ii) portrays conduct described in subsection (2)(a)(i), (2)(a)(ii), or (2)(a)(iii) in a patently offensive way; and
 - (iii) lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value.

1/15/2023 - AN ACT REVISING LAWS REGARDING THE PUBLIC DISPLAY OR DISSEMINATION OF OBSCENE MATERIAL TO MINORS; REMOVING EXCEPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS; REMOVING EXCEPTIONS FOR OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND MUSEUMS