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## Fwd: Rauner struggling with Charter bill? Nope!

1 message

Jason Bauer <jbauer@panaschools.com>  
To: Nicole Blodgett <nblodgett@panaschools.com>

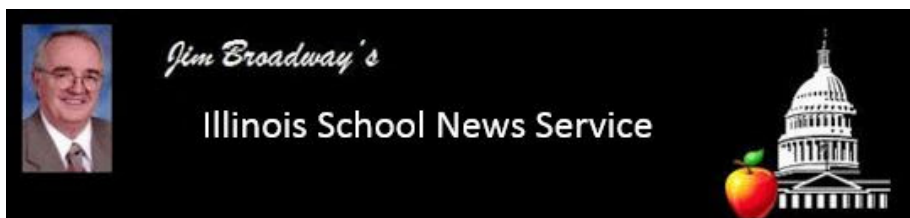
Mon, Aug 27, 2018 at 11:30 AM

September board meeting

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **State School News Service** <j.m.broadway74@gmail.com>  
Date: Mon, Aug 27, 2018 at 11:21 AM  
Subject: Rauner struggling with Charter bill? Nope!  
To: [jbauer@panaschools.com](mailto:jbauer@panaschools.com)

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## Rauner struggling with Charter bill? Nope!

By Jim Broadway, Publisher, Illinois School News Service

Gov. Bruce Rauner wasn't struggling with his decision on what to do about [HB 5175](#) after all. He *vetoed it late Fridayafternoon, just as I had predicted*. In fact, he vetoed it late enough so that the paperwork could not pass through the office of the Secretary of State in time to be reflected on the legislature's web site.

Pretty sneaky. That's why it appeared, in every record accessible to the public - even a 2 a.m. this morning! - that he still had not made up his mind how to make this legislation, this weakening of the Illinois State Charter School Commission to the benefit of democracy as it relates to school governance, go away.

His deceptive strategy caused my [School Code-amending bill status page](#) to be wrong with respect to this legislation. (It was, and still is, wrong in at least one other respect as well, so it's not all to Rauner's credit.)

To repeat, the bill would have repealed the Commission's authority to overturn a local school board's decision to reject an application for their district to host - and to pay for - a charter school that would not be accountable to its host district. It is now pretty dead. Votes to override the veto are not there in the House.

**The minimum pay for teachers bill was also vetoed.** This is a bill - [SB 2892](#) - that was vetoed Sunday! That's perhaps even sneakier than what the governor did with the

Charter Commission bill. Although [the headline writers said](#) the bill would "set" minimum teachers' pay at \$40,000 per year, that's not quite true.

It [would have set the minimum at \\$32,076](#) for the 2019-20 school year, and the amount would have risen until it reached \$40,000 in the 2022-23 school year, after which it would be indexed to the Consumer Price Index.

"Teachers are our greatest asset in ensuring the future of our youth and they deserve to be well-compensated for their hard work," [Rauner said in his veto message](#). "However, minimum pay legislation is neither the most efficient nor the most effective way to compensate our teachers. Illinois is one of only 17 states that utilize statewide teacher salary schedules to guarantee some level of minimum pay for teachers."

Actually, Governor, there is no "statewide teacher salary schedule." And the minimum salary that state law "guarantees" for teachers is \$9,000 per year. You may not be familiar with compensation figures that small, but that's the current law, enacted in 1980 and unchanged since then.

**Like the Charter Commission bill, the teachers' pay bill** would seem to be pretty dead. The Senate vote total was 37 yes, a super-majority plus one. But the House total was 65, with 71 needed for an override. House Democrats would have to get some help from Republicans in that chamber, which is unlikely.

"Refusing to guarantee professional educators a livable minimum wage is no way to lure more teachers to Illinois," the bill's sponsor Sen. Andy Manar (D-Bunker Hill) said. "I'm disappointed in the governor's veto, and I know thousands of dedicated, hard-working, creative educators throughout the state are too."

There is some confusion about this year's legislation on teacher salaries.

SB 2892, Manar's bill, was reflected on the General Assembly's web site with the "short title" of: "SCH CODE-TEACHER SALARY." A bill's short title never changes, no matter how a bill might be amended. In this case, that did not matter since the bill's amendments did not change the subject it was to address.

But HB 5175, the Charter Commission bill I've been writing about so much that I'm getting tired of it, originally had the short title of: SCH CODE-TEACHER SALARY." Sponsored by Rep. Jay Hoffman (D-Belleville), it would also have raised the minimum wage for teachers to \$40,000 per year. But it was amended.

**By the time Hoffman's bill reached the Senate**, that chamber had already passed Manar's bill on teacher pay. But the matter of the Charter Commission had been festering for a while. In fact, in [Rauner's veto message on HB 5175](#), he noted that he had just vetoed a similar bill in February.

"This legislation was vetoed in February, 2018, and still represents bad public policy," the governor wrote. "The Charter School Commission remains a proper venue to appeal these decisions of local school boards before sending parties to court, and the Commission has a history of thoughtfully evaluating appeals...."

Well, we shall soon present some facts with regard to that last statement.

Anyway, why did both bills have short titles indicating that they were about minimum pay for teachers? It was because that was the original subject of HB 5175 when Hoffman filed it. Sure, it got changed to an entirely different subject in the Senate, but short titles do not change.

Going back to the web page [linking you to School Code-amending bills](#), you'll notice a letter after some bill numbers, the letter s, or h, or b. The letter indicates that a bill was amended in the Senate, the House or both. That means the short title (which does not change) may be unrelated to the bill's contents now.

Click the bill's number, then the "Full Text" link on its ILGA site status page, then read the enrolled version. I know doing research on legislation can be complicated, but that's one of the few real curve balls in the system.

Next issue will be next week, unless Rauner throws another curve ball. - Jim

### Snippets:

**Many Teachers Retirement System members** are applauding Rauner's signature on [SB 3046](#), a bill that explicitly asserts that a *"TRS benefit recipient shall not be deemed ineligible to participate [by re-enrolling in the TRS health benefits program] solely by reason of the TRS benefit recipient having made a previous election to disenroll or otherwise not participate in the program of health benefits."* An ISNS subscriber joyfully declared, "It impacts me!"

**At the top of this commentary you were linked** to a web page with all 34 School Code-amending bills that were passed by the General Assembly in the spring listed in a table. You are encouraged to use that page to access key information on bills of interest to you (sponsors, House and Senate vote totals, final texts, etc.).

**Links to most newsletters posted so far this year** are available [at this web page link](#). Please remember that *current* ISNS archives are for our subscribers only; *do not share this link*. But all 2017 issues can be found [HERE](#). You *may share the 2017 archives web page link* with anyone who wants to see it.

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8/27/2018

Pana Community Unit School District #8 Mail - Fwd: Rauner struggling with Charter bill? Nope!

Sent by j.m.broadway74@gmail.com in collaboration with



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