

Legislative Update

April 23, 2013

Session Progress

- with only about 6 weeks left in the session,
- the Senate Education Committee has passed out 62 bills
- the House Education Committee has passed out 29 bills
- several bills have been heard in both committees but are still pending
- interesting to note that not a single education related bill has passed both Houses and gone to the governor
- [Total bills this session](#)

Education

Testimony on HB 5 (Aycock), education legislation that would among other things address graduation pathways as well as assessments and accountability, was taken during the Senate Committee on Education hearing on April 16. HB 5 was voted favorably from the committee as substituted.

- The companion legislation to the curriculum requirements, SB 3 (Patrick), and the companion legislation in regards to assessment testing, SB 1724 (Patrick), were voted out of committee as substituted on February 25 and placed on the Senate Intent calendar March 27, but have yet to be brought to the Senate Floor.

SB 2 (Patrick), the charter bill, was passed out of the Senate on April 11 and is now on the House side. The bill has been set for a hearing in House Public Education, today.

The [State Board of Education](#) concluded their meeting last week. Details are forthcoming.

SB 1724 (Patrick) Substituted version would require students to pass the following end-of-course exams for graduation:

- Foundation plan – English II, Algebra I, biology and U.S. History
- Business and Industry endorsement – English III, Algebra I, biology and U.S.
- History, Arts and Humanities & STEM paths – English III, Algebra I and Algebra II, Biology and U.S. History.
- Distinguished achievement track would require students to perform at or above the distinguished standard on English III and Algebra II.

The bill was left pending.

SB 132 (Nelson) Relating to school district grading policy that includes a provision for the calculation of cumulative averages. *Voted favorably out of committee.*

SB 172 (Carona) Relating to multidimensional assessment tools on the list of reading instruments for diagnosing kindergarten students' reading development and comprehension. *Voted favorably out of committee*

Budget

[HB 1025](#) is the supplemental appropriations bill that appropriates funds for this biennium. The bill, among other things, will increase appropriations by \$500 million for the purpose of making payments to independent school districts and charter schools eligible for funding through the Foundation School Program.

The bill requires money appropriated [to be distributed in an equal amount](#) per student in weighted average daily attendance (WADA) in eligible districts or charter schools for school year 2013-2013 in an amount not to exceed \$72.50 per WADA. The bill also includes funding to reimburse costs related to last year's wildfires. HB 1025 is on this Friday's House Calendar. Amendments to the bill need to be pre-filed by Tuesday at 10am.

SB 42 by Zaffirini | et al. - Relating to public school accountability for bilingual education and English as a second language and other special language programs.

SB 43 by Zaffirini - Relating to consideration of school district disciplinary placement information in evaluating district performance.

SB 716 by Lucio - Relating to the use of public school counselors' work time

SB 925 by Lucio - Relating to a license requirement for licensed professional counselors employed by school districts.

SB 1308 by Davis - Relating to auditing and monitoring of performance under contracts for state-adopted assessment instruments administered to public school students.

SB 1384 by Hancock - Relating to the authority of an independent school district to invest in local water projects

SB 1725 by Deuell - Relating to a prohibition of employment of a member or former member of the State Board of Education by an open-enrollment charter school; providing a penalty.

SB 1799 by Watson - Relating to the period of time allowed for issuance of decisions by the commissioner of education in certain appeals against school districts.

HB 980 by Harless - Relating to the content of public school campus improvement plans.

HB 1190 by Flynn - Relating to statutory minimum fees for driving safety courses.

HB 1853 by Ratliff - Relating to a behavior improvement plan adopted for certain students with an individualized education program.

HB 2012 by Villarreal - Relating to collection, distribution, and use of information relating to salaries and working conditions of public school classroom teachers.

HB 2056 by Allen - Relating to representation of a person in a special education impartial due process hearing.

HB 2483 by Alvarado | et al. - Relating to including oral health education as part of the coordinated health program for public elementary, middle, and junior high school students.

HB 2697 by King, Susan - Relating to funding under the Foundation School Program for school district career and technology education courses provided at night or during the summer.

HB 2756 by Branch - Relating to the equalized wealth level and the guaranteed yield under the school finance system.

HB 2872 by Villarreal - Relating to the number of student absences that constitute a failure to attend school.

HB 2952 by Rodriguez, Justin - Relating to the period of time allowed for issuance of decisions by the commissioner of education in certain appeals against school districts.

HB 2980 by Rodriguez, Eddie - Relating to student transfers and to the maintenance and dissemination of certain school-related information.

HB 3003 by Allen - Relating to school district programs to assist students in making the transition back to school after certain prolonged placements outside of school.

HB 3374 by Price - Relating to consideration of travel distances in assigning a school to a University Interscholastic League classification.

SB 2 by Patrick | et al. - Relating to certain charter schools.

Water

SB 4 (Fraser) and HB 4 (Ritter), the water bills that would create special funds to fund water infrastructure needs, were voted favorably from Senate Natural as substituted on April 16. Senator Fraser noted during the hearing that two outstanding issues would be the actual funding legislation and if those funds would be inside or outside of the state treasury. The bills will now head to the Senate floor

Health Care

SB 8 (Nelson), legislation addressing Medicaid Fraud, was passed out of the Senate as substituted and with two amendments on April 15 with 30 ayes. The adopted amendment from Sen. Nelson addressed establishing a process for marketing activity to be reviewed and authorized by HHSC, and gave clarification to and language regarding the medical transportation program and delivery of its services. The adopted amendment from Sen. Uresti addressed language regarding legislative intent.