

**Subject:** FW: MASB's News From the Capitol

# News From the Capitol

## Government Relations



May 2, 2014

- **Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Bills Held Up in Committee**
- **Senate Committee Considers Bills on Unfunded Mandates**

### **Teacher/Administrator Evaluation Bills Held Up in Committee**

On Wednesday, the House Education Committee brought House Bills 5223 and 5224 back up for consideration after weeks of putting more work in on the bills. These bills would establish an evaluation system for teachers and administrators. An expected vote was delayed to give committee members more time to review the bills.

During committee there was significant blowback against the bills because of a letter to committee members from Education Trust – Midwest claiming that if the committee failed to pass the bills on Wednesday, the state would lose its current No Child Left Behind waiver. There has been concern about lack of action on these bills putting our waiver in jeopardy, but the timeline is not as specific as requiring a vote this week. The Education Trust – Midwest letter angered members on both sides of the aisle who pushed back against what they viewed as a bullying tactic and may have led to the delay in the vote.

House Bills 5223-5224 are now posted for a vote on Tuesday, May 6.

### **Senate Committee Considers Bills on Unfunded Mandates**

The Senate Local Government and Elections Committee held a hearing on Senate Bills 495-498 this week which would require the Legislature to establish a local government mandate panel and require the cost of mandates in bills for local governments and schools to be addressed before they become law.

MASB supports these bills as they would benefit our local schools in terms of understanding what the state is trying to require and how the cost of implementation will be covered. The bills would:

- require the state to appropriate and disburse amounts necessary for locals to comply with requirements of new laws;
- ban the state from requiring new activities or services until a fiscal note is created and funds appropriated;
- ban penalties to locals for not following a new mandate if state does not follow procedure; and
- create the Local Government Mandate Panel made up of 8 members, including one person from school districts and intermediate school districts.

It is encouraging that the committee brought these bills up for discussion and we hope that we will see further action on this issue.

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