



A Voice For Faculty

Capitol Monitor

A Weekly Report on Activity at the State Capitol

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What's Ahead: Grading Teacher Preparation Programs

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The State Board of Education voted Wednesday to create a panel that is to develop a formula by next April on how to grade the state's teaching colleges.

'There are outstanding teacher preparation programs... We need to ensure that we are held to the task,' said Education Commissioner Stefan Pryor of the state's 17 teaching colleges that graduate about 3,600 new teachers each year. 'Teacher quality and administrator quality is at the center of this enterprise... It is extremely important that we position our teachers for success.'

This unanimous decision follows the Malloy administration's pitching the idea to ensure that teachers are ready when they enter the profession. Measures that will be considered when grading colleges include performance evaluations of teachers in the years immediately following graduation; peer and principal feedback; and rates of employment of graduating students.

Read more [here](#).

Public Hearing on Workplace Bullying Bill

The Labor and Public Employees Committee held a public hearing on Thursday, March 8 at noon on S.B. 154, *AN ACT CONCERNING STATE EMPLOYEES AND VIOLENCE AND ABUSIVE CONDUCT IN THE WORKPLACE*. This bill would require the Department of Administrative Services to report the number of complaints of abusive conduct in the workplace between state employees to the General Assembly.

Click [here](#) to read the testimony given on this bill, including the testimony provided by CSU-AAUP.

Bills Filed: Week of 3/5

"I support or oppose one of these bills; what should I do?"

1. Write to your legislators! Find them [here](#).
2. Track the bill so you know when public hearings are scheduled.

The following list of bills have been identified by our lobbying firm, Betty Gallo & Co, as having a potential impact on our members if passed. CSU-AAUP and our lobbying firm will follow the progress of the bills throughout the session and alert our members if action is needed.

SB 384: AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER PREPARATION.

Statement of Purpose: To enhance teacher preparation requirements to ensure that every individual graduating from a teacher preparation leading to professional certification is better qualified to teach students and ensure that Connecticut students receive the best possible education.

SB 382: AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHER CERTIFICATION.

Statement of Purpose: To require endorsements to each elementary education grades one to six, to be valid only for grades one to six.

HB 5448: AN ACT CONCERNING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER EDUCATOR PROGRAMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION.

Statement of Purpose: To implement the recommendations of the Speaker's English Language Learners Task Force.

HB 5060: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TAX CREDIT FOR CORPORATE DONATIONS TO SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

Statement of Purpose: To provide a credit against the corporation business tax for businesses donating more than \$2,500 to scholarships that help Connecticut public school students attend a constituent unit.

HB 5449: AN ACT CONCERNING PERFORMANCE-BASED FINANCIAL AID.

Statement of Purpose: To require the Office of Financial and Academic Affairs for Higher Education to develop a plan for implementing performance-based financial aid programs.

HB 5422: AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT HIGHER EDUCATION TRUST.

Statement of Purpose: To require submittal of the required evaluation by a date when more timely information will be available and useful.

What are the Hot Topics at the Capitol?

From the Office of Legislative Research:

1. Summaries of Governor's Bills
2. Milestones in Connecticut Education: 1912-2012
3. Connecticut and the Federal NCLB Waiver Process
4. State Gasoline and Diesel Tax Rates
5. Funding Heating System Conversions in Housing Authorities