

Deadlines and looking to the budget bills

So far, 2682 Senate bills and 2675 House bills have been introduced making the first two deadlines a heavy lift. By Friday, March 15, any bill containing policy must have been acted on or laid over for further consideration in their body of origin to avoid being referred to as “dead.” The next committee deadline, March 29, is for committee consideration of bills that met first deadline in the other body.

However, even though committees are still hearing bills to meet the second deadline, much of the attention has shifted to the finance committees. We are waiting news of House and Senate budget targets which should be released publicly March 25 March 30, respectively. Soon after, finance committees will begin working on putting together their budget bills.

House Early Education Finance Division to release its budget bill next week

Tuesday, the House Early Education Finance Division will release its budget bill. I will provide you details and a summary next week.

ABE bill to be heard in House Education Finance Committee

Next Wednesday, the House Education Finance Committee will hear legislation brought forward by the Literacy Action Network to increase ABE funding. MCEA will provide testimony in support of the bill. The hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, March 27 from 9:45-11:15 in Room 5 State Office Building.

Update on snow day relief bill

Both the Senate and House have now passed their own versions of a bill to relieve school districts of missed days due to weather this year. The Senate [version](#) allows school boards to choose to count any lost time in the calculation for required instructional days and hours. The House [version](#) allows up to three days (January 29th, 30th and/or 31st) to be waived for the overall calculation. Other difference between the two bills concerns compensation for part-time staff and outside contractors. A conference committee to work out these differences has been named and we expect work to resolve differences to begin next week.