

Legislature is back to work

The Legislature returned from Easter/Passover break Tuesday and with the next deadline just around the corner, both bodies got to work immediately.

Since Tuesday, the House has passed their E-12, Jobs & Economic Development, Health & Human Services and Taxes bills. Today the House is taking up additional omnibus bills and then will have a few remaining bills to process next week. There is a chance the House could hold a weekend floor session to process some of these remaining bills.

So far, the Senate has passed their Agriculture, Environment, Higher Education, Judiciary & Public Safety and State Government Finance Omnibus bills. The Senate is not meeting until next Monday where they will begin to take up their remaining budget bills.

House passes E12 omnibus education finance bill

On Tuesday, after 10 hours of debate and discussion on amendments, the House passed its education finance bill by a [vote of 78-55](#). 132 amendments were posted for the bill and about 120 were debated. Most of the amendments were not adopted but several of note were.

One amendment was offered, which was adopted, to require school districts to provide adult basic education and early childhood and family education teachers' salaries comparable to the salaries of local kindergarten through grade 12 teachers.

Up next, Senate E12 omnibus education finance bill

The Senate has not yet scheduled a vote on their education finance bill, but we expect it to be Tuesday or Wednesday of next week.

Conference committee deadlines

The House, Senate, and Governor have agreed to joint deadlines for the conference committee process. May 1, the first deadline, is the date the House and Senate have agreed to have passed all their omnibus bills and appoint conference committees. May 6, the next deadline, is for the Governor and leadership to agree to provide conference committee budget targets and May 13 is the deadline by which conference committees have to complete their work and come to a final agreement on their budget bills. Note though that there is skepticism around the State Capitol that any of these deadlines will be met.

Next steps?

There are several provisions impacting community education programs of concern. Most notably is the Senate proposal to convert the school readiness plus funding to early learning scholarships.

We will be doing advocacy on these issues as the conference committee begins its work. At the appropriate time, we will reach out to ask you to connect with key legislators as well as your own state representative and state senator on these issues. Stay tuned for more information on timing as well as talking points.