

# Fredrikson and Byron Legislative Update



## MINNESOTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FORUM (MISF) 2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Below is a basic update of the current status of the 2019 Minnesota legislative session, issue areas of interest to the Minnesota Independent School Forum (MISF) and potential outcomes of those MISF issues. If you have questions, please let Shep Harris know at [sharris@fredlaw.com](mailto:sharris@fredlaw.com) or 612-492-7849.

### Session Overview

- Session started Jan. 8, projected to end May 20
- Agency overviews, 2000+ bills have been introduced, hundreds of committee hearings
- February Budget Forecast - \$1+ Billion surplus (one-time funding)
- Governor proposed nearly \$50 Billion budget for FY20-21
- Key Issues: 2018 “leftovers” (tax conformity, MnLARS, school safety, opioids, elder abuse, sexual harassment, etc.), gas tax and transportation funding, education funding, paid family leave, disability funding, job creation/training, ERA, marijuana, Broadband, etc.
- Key committee deadlines (March 15, March 29, April 12) and omnibus policy/budget bills
- Spring Break: April 13-22

### MISF Agenda

- Clarify nonpublic pupil textbook aid to include teaching materials
- Nonpublic pupil funding for physical security, security audits and guidance/mental health counseling.
- Support necessary state funding for nonpublic pupil aid (ie; textbooks, telecom).
- Serve as a resource to elected officials involved in E-12 education public and fiscal policy.

#### Monitor for other areas of MISF interest:

- Education tax credit/deduction legislation;
- Student data privacy/school social media regulations;
- Sexual Abuse Claims Extension;
- Allowing certain private school students into PSEO;
- Mandated disclosure of inappropriate student behavior when transferring schools;
- No “shaming” students if unable to pay outstanding school debts.
- Change lockdown drill requirements for nonpublic schools of certain size.

### MISF Strategies

- Work in collaboration with other private school groups (eg; MCC, JCRC, MAIS) on top two priorities.
- Recruit chief authors/co-authors, introduce legislation, lobby committee members, bill hearings, inclusion in omnibus education budget bills.
- Meetings with education committee chairs.
- Neutralize any opposition from education advocacy groups (MASA, EdMN, MSBA, etc.).
- Educate, neutralize opposition from MDE.

## **Status of MISF Agenda**

1. Textbook Bills (HF428, HF945/SF1297 – Gruenhagen, Wazlawik/Anderson)
  - Heard and included in House Education Omnibus Policy Bill (HF1711)
  - Awaiting hearing in the Senate Education Committee
  
2. Telecom Bill (SF628 – Eichorn)
  - No House bill introduction yet, deferring to MN Catholic Conference
  - Heard in Senate Education Committee, possible inclusion in omnibus finance bill
  
3. Counseling Bill (HF1231/SF580)
  - Heard in Senate Education Committee, possible inclusion in omnibus finance bill
  - Awaiting hearing in the House Education Finance Committee
  
4. Security Grant Bills
  - No bills yet, deferring to Mn Catholic Conference

## **MISC Items**

- New MDE Commissioner: Mary Cathryn Ricker - <https://education.mn.gov/MDE/about/cmsh/>