

# Fredrikson and Byron Legislative Update



## **MINNESOTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS FORUM (MISF) 2020 LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE March 2, 2020**

The 2020 Minnesota Legislative Session has gotten off to a fast start and a lot is at stake! With all 201 legislative seats up for re-election this fall, that means House and Senate majorities are on the line. It also means that this year's elections will determine control over legislative re-districting in 2021 and for the rest of the decade! Throw this dynamic into the normal mix of a short, "bonding session" – which started Feb. 11 – and things are moving at a fast clip.

For starters, we've already had a few surprise legislative retirement announcements which could tip the balance of the majority in the Senate next year. Expect to see a few more unexpected announcements before the end of the session. To see who has already announced that they're not running for re-election, go to:

<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/lrl/history/retire>

Even though we're only going into our second full week of session, more than a thousand new bills have been introduced (including MISF bills), committee hearings are already going late into the night, and we've already had MISF testifying and lobbying legislators for and against bills.

Feeling the crunch of hearing policy bills, legislative policy committee deadlines were recently pushed back. So now, to stay alive for the rest of the legislative session, all policy bills need to be heard and passed out of House and Senate policy committees by March 20 and March 27. The budget bill deadline of April 3, when all budget bills need to be passed out of all appropriate budget committees, is still the same.

Based on the elections and this technically being more of a policy bill session and less emphasis on budget changes, we at Fredrikson & Byron see the end of the legislative session looking like this: passage of a bonding bill, a number of policy bills and maybe (maybe!) a tax bill and small budget bill. The fact that the new revised state budget forecast (out last week) is a bit higher at \$1.5 Billion definitely helps MISF with its budget priorities. But there is no guarantee and much more work is needed for MISF to be successful.

For more information on MISF legislative priorities, below is a status update. If you have questions, please let Shep Harris know at [sharris@fredlaw.com](mailto:sharris@fredlaw.com) or 612-492-7849.

### **MISF Agenda**

- Nonpublic pupil funding for security expenses (eg; physical improvements, audits, training, etc.).
- Nonpublic pupil funding for mental health counseling in elementary grades
- Serve as a resource to elected officials involved in E-12 education public and fiscal policy.

#### Other Areas of Interest to Monitor:

- Necessary state funding for nonpublic pupil aid (ie; textbooks, telecom).
- Student data privacy/school social media regulation legislation (HF1821/SF2291);
- Sexual Abuse Claims Extension legislation;
- Mandated disclosure of inappropriate student behavior when transferring schools;
- "Shaming" legislation for students unable to pay outstanding school debts;
- Alternative fire drills without exiting buildings;

- Public school authority over private school functions (eg; NY action);
- Blake transportation liability legislation.

## **MISF Bill “Watch”**

### Active

1. SF580/HF1231 (Eichorn/Persell) – Non-public pupil counseling aid expanded to grades K-6
  - MISF Bill
  - Senate hearing this Wednesday, MISF testifying
  - Support from the Mn School Counselor Association
  - Bill will be laid over for possible inclusion in larger budget bill.
2. HF3853/SFXXXX (Pryor/Housley) – Nonpublic school safety grant program for \$5 million
  - MISF Bill
  - Attempting to get a hearing in the House Education Finance Committee
3. SF3629 (Nelson) – Safe school revenue increase/change
  - MISF supportive but not testifying
  - An alternative approach to getting funds to private schools, based on per pupil allocation
4. HF1821/SF2291 (Lucero/Bruce Anderson) - Student Data Privacy
  - MISF opposes bill, testified against in House Judiciary Committee
  - Loopholes and inaccuracies would create hardships for private schools and families

### Monitoring

- HF431/SF389 (Albright/Pratt) - Alternative fire drills for schools and educational institutions requirement.
- SF3045/HF1062 (Newman/Gruenhagen) - Criminal sexual conduct behavior in the third and fourth degrees specified in secondary schools.
- SF3110 (Jensen) - Vaccine minimum safety standards requirement for any vaccine required to enroll or remain enrolled in an elementary or secondary school.
- SF3134/HF3014 (Miller/Drazkowski) - Charter and nonpublic school student participation in resident district extracurricular activities allowed.
- SF3200 (Eichorn) - Annual tax holiday period for sales and purchases of school supplies establishment.
- SF3253 (Wiger) - requiring notification of environmental hazards in school buildings.
- HF3291 (Poston) - Modifying definition of education expenses for the MN education credit.
- HF3790/SF3824 (Swedzinski/Dahms) - K-12 scholarships provided a credit for donations.
- SF3814/HF (Mathews) - providing for an exemption from statutory immunization requirements for a sincerely held religious belief.

## **Call for Action**

- Contact House and Senate Education Committees (see below)
  - Ask Rep. Youakim to hear HF1231 before the committee deadlines.
  - Ask Rep. Davnie to hear HF3853 and include funding for school safety in his omnibus education budget bill.
  - Ask Sen. Nelson to include funding in her omnibus education budget bill for K-6 private school counseling.
  - Ask Sen. Nelson to include funding in her omnibus education budget bill for private school safety.
- Contact your legislators and ask them to actively support HF1231/SF580 and HF3853/SFXXX by speaking with Reps. Youakim and Davnie and Sen. Nelson.

### House Education Policy Committee

Rep. Cheryl Youakim (DFL) District: 46B  
Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein (DFL) District: 41B  
Rep. Sondra Erickson (R) District: 15A  
Rep. Cal Bahr (R) District: 31B  
Rep. Dave Baker (R) District: 17B  
Rep. Peggy Bennett (R) District: 27A  
Rep. Robert Bierman (DFL) District: 57A  
Rep. Michelle (Shelly) Christensen (DFL) District: 39B  
Rep. Glenn Gruenhagen (R) District: 18B  
Rep. Hodan Hassan (DFL) District: 62A  
Rep. Kaohly Her (DFL) District: 64A  
Rep. John Huot (DFL) District: 57B  
Rep. Carlos Mariani (DFL) District: 65B  
Rep. Kelly Moller (DFL) District: 42A  
Rep. Steve Sandell (DFL) District: 53B  
Rep. Peggy Scott (R) District: 35B  
Rep. Dean Urdahl (R) District: 18A  
Rep. Ami Wazlawik (DFL) District: 38B

House Education Finance Committee

Rep. Jim Davnie (DFL) District: 63A  
Rep. Julie Sandstede (DFL) District: 06A  
Rep. Ron Kresha (R) District: 09B  
Rep. Peggy Bennett (R) District: 27A  
Rep. Brian Daniels (R) District: 24B  
Rep. Lisa Demuth (R) District: 13A  
Rep. Bob Dettmer (R) District: 39A  
Rep. Heather Edelson (DFL) District: 49A  
Rep. Sondra Erickson (R) District: 15A  
Rep. John Huot (DFL) District: 57B  
Rep. Tony Jurgens (R) District: 54B  
Rep. Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn (DFL) District: 48B  
Rep. Mary Kunesh-Podein (DFL) District: 41B  
Rep. Paul Marquart (DFL) District: 04B  
Rep. Mary Murphy (DFL) District: 03B  
Rep. Bud Nornes (R) District: 08A  
Rep. Laurie Pryor (DFL) District: 48A  
Rep. Ruth Richardson (DFL) District: 52B  
Rep. Steve Sandell (DFL) District: 53B  
Rep. Cheryl Youakim (DFL) District: 46B

Senate Education Committee

Carla J. Nelson - District 26, R  
Gary H. Dahms - District 16, R  
Charles W. Wiger - District 43, DFL  
Paul T. Anderson - District 44, R  
Roger C. Chamberlain - District 38, R  
Gregory D. Clausen - District 57, DFL  
Steve Cwodzinski - District 48, DFL  
Justin D. Eichorn - District 05, R  
Karin Housley - District 39, R  
John R. Jasinski - District 24, R  
Susan Kent - District 53, DFL  
Patricia Torres Ray - District 63, DFL