



Legislative Update Week 15
April 23, 2022

Top 3 Things to Know

1 House Passes H.5183 - This week the House extensively debated and adopted [H.5183](#).

H.5183 was written following several hearings over a total of 18 hours on anti-Truth bills **H. 4325, 4343, 4392, 4605, and 4799**, [which The SCEA submitted testimony against](#). However, the public and educators were given no opportunity to review and be heard on the new bill prior to the committee voting to adopt the language.

While some of the most problematic language of the preceding five bills had been removed from **H.5183**, many concerns remained regarding educator due process and rights, as well as the ability for funds to be held from districts and schools found to be in violation of H.5183.

Representative Allison introduced an amendment that ensure that no preliminary information, including an educator's name or certificate number, be released or disclosed in the investigatory process of complaints. This amendment was adopted.

Several other amendments, some seeking to provide additional protections to educators or to ensure that certain aspects of Black history are taught were tabled. Eventually, bundles of amendments about different facts from Black history were all declared dilatory and repetitive and ruled as out of order.

Representative Morgan proposed an amendment, which was adopted, that changed the word "impartial" to "fact-based" in regards to discussions of ideology and viewpoints, as he pointed out that what is considered "impartial" can in itself be subjective and that some historical and current events may not be able to be discussed impartially.

While Representative Morgan's amendment provided needed clarity to help educators navigate the impact of this law on their pedagogy, an amendment that was brought up by Representative Lin Bennett immediately after seemingly nullifies the adopted amendment from Representative Morgan by bringing back the language regarding

impartiality in discussing historical events related to oppression or controversial aspects from history.

Debate on Tuesday was interrupted for adjournment prior to being put to a vote on Wednesday.

Representatives McKnight, Matthews, Bamberg, Govan, King, Rivers, Bernstein, and McDaniel all spoke against the bill, and Representative Allison spoke in favor of the bill. Following this, the bill was voted on and [passed 73-40](#).

- All amendments and all votes on **H.5183** [can be found here](#).
- The SCEA live-tweets of the final discussion on the bill [can be found here](#)

Because the bill did not meet crossover, to even be considered by the Senate, two-thirds of Senators would need to agree to consider the bill. More likely is the passage of problematic anti-truth budget provisos. [You can reach out to your Senator to ask them not to take up the bill and to vote against any anti-truth budget provisos on the floor next week.](#)

2 ***H.3336 carried over in Committee-*** [H.3336](#) allows volunteer school personnel to administer insulin. The SCEA believes **H.3336** is dangerous and that only licensed, trained school nurses should administer insulin.

President Sherry East testified when the bill was in the House and [submitted a letter to the Senate Medical Affairs committee detailing The SCEA's opposition and concerns](#), which impacted the Committee's decision to carry over rather than give a favorable report at this time in order to engage in more discussion and research before proceeding. [A full committee meeting summary can be found here](#).

3 ***Senate Education Committee*** - The Senate Education Committee met this week to discuss several bills--so many that they were not able to discuss all prior to adjourning.

Bills discussed and given a favorable report include [H.3006](#), a bill that would no longer allow students' families to be taken to collections over school-lunch debt, as well as eliminating some forms of meal-shaming; [H.3591](#), a bill that creates a report card for educator preparation programs to track their success; and [H.3588](#), a bill that expands LIFE Scholarship eligibility to education majors that commit to fulfilling a service requirement to teach in South Carolina.

[H.3613](#), a bill that would make changes to the Read to Succeed program was scheduled to be discussed during this meeting but the committee did not have time prior to adjournment and has not yet been placed on the schedule for full committee discussion next week. [A full meeting summary can be read here](#).


Don't forget that with any legislation or issue, you can reach out to your elected official by phone, email, or even social media [using this tool](#)!

[Check out the Week Ahead with Legislation and Meetings of Interest!](#)



Above: Representative Kambrell Garvin, former educator and The SCEA member, discusses how H.5183 could impact educators and students.

Use Your Educator Voice!

 **Cheers** - Representatives McKnight, Matthews, Bamberg, Govan, King, Rivers, Bernstein, Garvin, Tedder, Moore, Pendarvis, Johnson, Alexander, Ott, and McDaniel for speaking up against H.5183 and advocating that educators be trusted as professionals.

[You can reach out to your Senator to ask them not to take up H.5183 and to vote against any anti-truth budget provisos on the floor next week.](#)

The Senate Education Committee for giving a favorable report to **H.3588** to extend the LIFE Scholarship to Education majors and **H.3006** to protect families from collections on school lunch debts.

[You can urge your Senator to vote YES on H.3588 and H.3006 by finding their email here!](#)

 **Jeers** - Representatives who voted in favor of anti-truth education censorship bill H.5183.

[Reach out to your Senator now to urge them not to consider H.5183!](#)

Take Action!

 **Stay Tuned: Senate Budget Debate** 

This week the Senate will debate the budget on the Senate floor, including educator and school staff raises and the education funding formula.

[Stay tuned for action alerts from The SCEA!](#)



South Carolina's schools are facing an unprecedented educator and school staff shortage crisis that deepens by the day.

Students need fully staffed schools. **Legislators need to fund it.**

Urge your Senator and Representative to [fund raises for ALL](#) South Carolina educators and schools staff.

[Advocate for Raises for ALL](#)

Unencumbered time

[S.946](#) the unencumbered time bill will be heard the House Education and Public works committee on Tuesday. Unencumbered time is top priority in The SCEA Legislative Agenda.

[Email your representative now to urge them to vote YES on S.946!!](#)



Contact your elected officials at any level on any issue.



Do you believe every South Carolina student deserves a great public school?

Click this button to find their contact information, including email, phone number, and even their Facebook or Twitter.

[Find & Contact Elected Officials](#)

Make sure your state Senator & Representative know that Public Education issues will have most impact your decision as a voter.

[Take the Pledge!](#)

The Week Ahead & Legislation of Interest

[Click here for a look at the meetings scheduled for next week](#) on bills of interest to education.

Want the latest on federal legislation?

[Check out Education Votes by NEA and subscribe to the weekly Education Votes email.](#)

