

Committee Hearings March 15-19

Transportation and Transit Policy – Wednesday March 17, 2010

1. HF 3080 (Hortman) Child Passenger restraint requirements exempted
 - a. Bill exempts school buses from booster seats, type III vehicles are not exempted
 - i. Passed to Floor

K-12 Ed Finance House - Wednesday March 17, 2010

1. HF 3120 (Bly) – Creating Efficiency plus access task forces for school districts
 - a. Bill creates a system and structure for districts to follow to form regional task forces to evaluate ways to improve efficiency and save costs through collaborative efforts.
 - i. Requires school districts with fewer than 5,000 students to participate in an efficiency plus access task force. It is optional for districts with more than 5,000 students.
 - ii. Allows participating districts to organize the task forces using an existing regional structure such as education districts or other cooperative models.
 - iii. Defines task force membership as one member appointed by each district board included in the task force and one member from each other public entity that chooses to participate. Requires school board to develop a process to allow community to have input.
 - iv. Requires each task force to review and make recommendations regarding:
 1. Administrative services
 2. Instructional and learning services
 3. Cooperative arrangements for shared extracurricular activities
 - v. Requires each efficiency plus access task force to report to the commissioner of education by October 15, 2010 about the structure and membership of each task force. Requires task forces to submit final reports to the commissioner by March 15, 2012.
 - a. Laid over for possible inclusion in omnibus bill
2. HF 3478 (Benson) Reducing School District Mandates
 - a. Allows school districts to move to a four day week
 - b. Allows districts to publish many documents on their website instead of in local newspapers

- c. Allows districts to move money for staff development into the general revenue
- d. There is a provision to allow districts to start before labor day. There is an amendment to remove this provision.
 - i. Northern Minnesota doesn't want the change because tourism revenue will drop if kids go back to school earlier.
 - ii. Amendment passed 11-9.
 - 1. Bill Laid over for possible inclusion in omnibus bill.

House State and Local Government Operations, Thursday March 18th

- 1. HF 2952 (Murphy) State Employee Retirement System Changes
 - a. Amendment to change the date for the deferred retirement members for a year to 2011. The purpose is to give PERA an extra year to contact these deferred members about the change. Deferred members do not get contacted often by PERA so it is more difficult to contact them about changes.

House State and Local Finance Committee, Thursday March 18th

- 1. HF 2840 (Swails) Collaborative Governance Council
 - a. Amended the language to remove any fiscal note. Does not substantially change the bill but deletes some reporting provisions that would have resulted in a cost to the State Auditor's Office.
 - b. MAPE had chairwoman Kahn prepare an amendment to add them to the bill. Swails said that this was the first she had heard of their request and she would prefer to continue to work with them before accepting the amendment so Rep. Kahn withdrew her amendment.
 - c. State Auditor Rebecca Otto testified in support.
 - d. Bill passed and was referred to full finance.