COMMITTEES START UP NEXT WEEK

The State legislature returns to the Capitol next week (lawmakers were not in session this week) and will begin discussing legislation in committees. Originally this was supposed to be the week Governor Pat Quinn delivered his Budget Address, but that has now been pushed back until next month. Thousands of bills have been introduced in this second half of the legislative term, it remains to be seen if legislative leaders will allow legislators to move all of the initiatives along or if there will be an organized effort to bottle up bills in the Rules Committee.

Work will begin on budget preparation despite the delay in the Governor’s budget announcement. Appropriations committees in both the House of Representatives and Senate will meet next week. The House Appropriations – Elementary and Secondary Education Committee will meet on Tuesday at 2:00 p.m. to hear from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) and its budget request.

BILLS SCHEDULED FOR COMMITTEE NEXT WEEK

SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Tuesday, February 18, 1:00 p.m., Room 400, State Capitol

SB 2647 (Althoff, R-McHenry) provides that a school district is subject to and its school board must comply with any valid local government zoning ordinance or resolution that applies where the pertinent part of the school district is located.

SB 2661 (Hastings, D-Mattegon) allows an elementary school district with a student population of no more than 200 to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with an elementary school district with a student population of at least 5,200 for the delivery of any or all special education services if the two elementary districts have an adjacent boundary.

SB 2682 (Hastings) requires the study of the history of organized labor in America and the collective bargaining process to be included in the teaching of the history of the United States.

SB 2710 (Cunningham, D-Chicago) requires a private school to conduct a minimum of one annual meeting at which the school must review each school building's emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, and procedures and each building's compliance with the school safety drill programs of the school.

SB 2711 (Sullivan, J., D-Quincy) permits the ISBE to make payments for grants provided by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the U. S. Department of Education, or any other federal agency for any fiscal year without regard to the fact that the services being compensated for by such payment may have been rendered in a prior fiscal year.

SB 2760 (Lightford, D-Maywood) amends the School Code to prohibit a student from being asked any question or being requested to make any statement while in the presence of a police officer without first informing the student of the right to have a parent, a guardian, or an attorney present.

SB 2793 (Hutchison, D-Chicago Heights), as part of the annual school report card, requires every school to provide data on the issuance of out-of-school suspensions, expulsions, and removals to alternative settings. The data must be disaggregated by race and ethnicity, gender, age, grade level, limited English
proficiency status, length of exclusion, reason for exclusion, and whether alternative educational options were provided.

SB 2870 (Silverstein, D-Chicago) provides that no student shall be subjected to bullying through the use of data or computer software that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or through the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by a school district or school if the bullying substantially interferes with or limits the victim's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school or substantially disrupts the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

HOUSE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 19, 8:30 a.m., Room D-1, Stratton Office Building

HB 3724 (Burke, D-Chicago) requires training on how to properly administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation and how to use an automated external defibrillator to be included in high school health education classes and a prerequisite to receiving a high school diploma.

HB 4207 (Fine, D-Glenview) prohibits a student from being subjected to bullying through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by a school district if the bullying substantially interferes with or limits the victim's ability to participate in services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school.

SENATE LABOR AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 19, 10:00 a.m., Room 212, State Capitol

SB 2789 (Munoz, D-Chicago) creates the Earned Sick Time Act that requires all employers to provide at least two days of paid sick time to their employees per year (both full-time and part-time employees).

HOUSE STATE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 19, 1:00 p.m., Room C-1, Stratton Office Building

HB 4268 (Ives, R-Wheaton) requires that once an agreement is reached between a public or educational employer and its employees regarding all of the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, the agreement shall be reduced to writing and published on the website of the public or educational employer. It also requires the employer, not less than 14 days after publishing such an agreement, to hold an open public meeting on the ratification of that agreement.

HB 4437 (Halbrook, R-Charleston), in the Open Meetings Act, deletes a provision which provided that if a notice or agenda is not continuously available for the required period due to actions outside of the control of the public body, then that lack of availability does not invalidate any meeting or action taken at a meeting.

HB 4438 (Halbrook) amends the Open Meetings Act to provide that if a person requests information from a public body during a meeting and does not get a response during the meeting, then the public body shall provide a written response to the request prior to or at its next meeting.

The legislative report is written and edited by the lobbyists of the Illinois Association of School Boards to provide information to the members of the organizations that comprise the Statewide School Management Alliance.

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