



# Legislative Report

Volume 20, No. 16

for the week ending February 12, 2010

## Education Issues Still Prominent in Regular Session Numerous Bills of Great Interest to TEA Introduced

While some thought the regular session would be relatively “quiet” for education issues, a number of bills have been filed which should be of concern to TEA members. As this issue is published, TEA Government Relations is still analyzing bill introductions to determine the impact of various proposals on public education. Below is a partial listing of education bills introduced to date. Future legislative reports will carry details as these proposals -- along with other bills -- move through the legislative process.

- **Student Physical “Activity”** -- HB 2419 (M. Turner)/SB 3063 (Woodson) -- Requires one hour of physical activity per instructional school day for elementary and secondary school students beginning no later than the 2011-2012 school year. - Amends TCA Title 49 and Title 68.
- **Non-Renewal Notification** -- HB 2772 (Montgomery)/SB 3067 (Woodson) -- Changes the date by which teachers must be notified in writing of their dismissal or failure of reelection for the next school year from April 15 to May 15. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 4.
- **Kindergarten Entrance Age** -- HB 2820 ( T Cobb)/SB 3208 (L Finney) -- Changes from September 30 to August 1 the date by which children must reach age four in order to enter preschool or prekindergarten or age five to enter kindergarten. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6.
- **Student Testing** -- HB 2957 (Maggart)/SB 2791 (Black) – Requires that a percentage of student's final grade in a subject to be derived from the student's TCAP score; the department of education will determine the percentage, but it must be at least 15 percent. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 6 and Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 60.
- **Vouchers** -- HB 3688 (J Deberry)/ SB 2741 (Kelsey) -- Enacts the "Parental Choice Scholarship Act." - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 6.
- **School Start Date** -- HB 2996 (J Deberry)/SB 3088 (Burchett) -- Makes certain changes to the school start dates, administration of TCAP for non-proficient students, and the reporting of such results. Establishes the school start date as “no earlier than the fourth Monday in August” unless the LEA establishes a year-round schedule. Requires students to pass TCAP tests for attending summer programs. Amends TCA Title 49.
- **Teacher Code of Ethics** -- HB 3130 (Harwell)/SB 2416 (Gresham) -- Requires state board of education to develop and adopt teacher code of ethics to be used in defining conduct unbecoming to a member of the teaching profession. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 3 and Title 49, Chapter 5. Requires State Board of Education to develop new code of ethics for members of the teaching profession.
- **ESP Insurance** -- HB 3193 (Shaw)/SB 3125 (Burks) – Requires local education agencies (LEA) to pass on to employees insurance premium monies for Education Support Personnel. Amends TCA Title 8, Chapter 27, Part 3.

The Tennessee General Assembly website is an excellent source of information for TEA members. You can go to [www.legislature.state.tn.us](http://www.legislature.state.tn.us) and type in a bill number to get a copy of the bill summary, fiscal note, and the legislative history. It is also possible to view video streaming of legislative sessions and standing committee meetings.

## **K-12 Subcommittee First “Hurdle” for Most Bills Contacts will be Necessary As Session Advances**

Virtually all bills impacting K-12 education are assigned to the twelve-member K-12 Subcommittee of the House Education Committee. The committee is chaired by Rep. Les Winningham (D-Huntsville). Since many bills of vital concern will be before the committee in coming weeks, TEA members – particularly those whose legislators sit on the committee – should be prepared to contact subcommittee members as bills are scheduled for a vote. The committee will meet at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays. Listed below is contact information for this committee which is so critical to the fate of education proposals.

<b>K-12 Subcommittee of House Education</b>			
<b>Member (Party &amp; District)</b>	<b>Office</b>	<b>Phone Area Code (615)</b>	<b>E-Mail Address (Please include your name, postal address, and phone number in your e-mail.)</b>
Chairman Les Winningham (D-38)	36 LP	741-6852	<a href="mailto:rep.leslie.winningham@capitol.tn.gov">rep.leslie.winningham@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Vice Chairman Ron Lollar (R-99)	209 WMB	741-7084	<a href="mailto:rep.ron.lollar@capitol.tn.gov">rep.ron.lollar@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Judy Barker (D-77)	24 LP	741-0718	<a href="mailto:rep.judy.barker@capitol.tn.gov">rep.judy.barker@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Tommie F. Brown (D-28)	36 LP	741-4374	<a href="mailto:rep.tommie.brown@capitol.tn.gov">rep.tommie.brown@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Bill Dunn (R-16)	110 WMB	741-1721	<a href="mailto:rep.bill.dunn@capitol.tn.gov">rep.bill.dunn@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Beth Harwell (R-56)	107 WMB	741-0709	<a href="mailto:rep.beth.harwell@capitol.tn.gov">rep.beth.harwell@capitol.tn.gov</a>
David Hawk (R-5)	219 WMB	741-7482	<a href="mailto:rep.david.hawk@capitol.tn.gov">rep.david.hawk@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Joey Hensley (R-70)	106 WMB	741-7476	<a href="mailto:rep.joey.hensley@capitol.tn.gov">rep.joey.hensley@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Ulysses , Jones Jr. (D-98)	35 LP	741-4575	<a href="mailto:rep.ulysses.jones@capitol.tn.gov">rep.ulysses.jones@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Mark L. Maddox (D-76)	17 LP	741-7847	<a href="mailto:rep.mark.maddox@capitol.tn.gov">rep.mark.maddox@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Johnnie Turner (D-85)	208 WMB	741-6954	<a href="mailto:rep.johnnie.turner@capitol.tn.gov">rep.johnnie.turner@capitol.tn.gov</a>
Terri Lynn Weaver (R-40)	204 WMB	741-2192	<a href="mailto:rep.terri.lynn.weaver@capitol.tn.gov">rep.terri.lynn.weaver@capitol.tn.gov</a>

### **Schedule of Education Committee Meetings** **All meetings are Wednesday of each week.**

- 9:15 a.m.** Higher Education Subcommittee of House Education (Room 16, Legislative Plaza)
- 10:00 a.m.** K-12 Subcommittee of House Education (Room 16, Legislative Plaza)
- 11:00 a.m.** House Education (Room 16, Legislative Plaza)
- 1:00 p.m.** Senate Education (Room 12, Legislative Plaza)

## **Governor's Proposed Budget Gets Legislative Scrutiny** **TEA Will Work to Prevent Cuts to Programs, Personnel**

As reported last week, on February 1 Governor Bredesen released his proposed budget for fiscal year 2010-2011 to a joint session of the General Assembly. The \$28.4 billion proposal contains \$5.3 billion for pre-K-12 education -- approximately 19% of the total budget. Higher education is funded at \$3.7 billion -- 13% of the total budget. While the budget reflects reductions of about 9% in most departments, the proposal includes \$175 million in increases in pre-K-12 spending including \$43 million necessary to "fully fund" the Basic Education Program (BEP). [Note: The Capital Outlay growth portion of the BEP is an exception.] The budget contains \$67.8 million to fund a one-time bonus for teachers. (Note: the 3% budgeted amount for the bonus applies only to BEP positions which means -- by the time the funding is spread to all teachers -- it will be less than 3%.)

One very important component in the budget is the proposed expenditure of \$48.9 million to keep the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) actuarially sound. While this does not improve benefits for a retiree, it is critical to make sure the system is adequately funded in order to guarantee retirement benefits promised to employees. Also in the proposal, it is recommended that \$57.4 million be spent from reserve accounts to fund several education programs including coordinated school health, extended contracts, professional development, Exemplary Educators programs, family resource centers, K-12 assessments, and early intervention centers.

In the coming days, legislative finance committees will hold hearings on the proposed budget. A final vote will be one of the last actions of the General Assembly before they adjourn in April or May. TEA will closely monitor all budget discussions and will work to see that education funding is not reduced.

### **Selected Recommended Education Improvements**

■ Basic Education Program	\$43,000,000
■ Teacher Salary Bonus	\$67,800,000
■ Retirement Contribution Increase	\$48,900,000
■ Health Insurance Increases	\$ 8,200,000

### **An Overview of the Legislative Schedule**

Generally, legislators come to Nashville on Mondays and return home on Thursdays. On Monday evenings, the House and Senate hold “floor sessions”, meaning they meet in their respective chambers in the Capitol, usually at 5:00 p.m. This year, both the Senate and House Education Committees will meet on Wednesdays. The House K-12 Committee will meet at 10:00 a. m. and the full Education Committee at 11:00 a.m. (both in Room 16, Legislative Plaza). The Senate Education Committee will meet at 1:00 p.m. in Room 12 of the Legislative Plaza. There is generally a floor session on Wednesday afternoon and on Thursday mornings. TEA Government Relations recommends that TEA members who wish to come to Nashville to attend meetings, observe the legislative process, or meet with their legislators come on Tuesday or Wednesday in order to maximize their visit.

### **WANT TO REGULARLY RECEIVE THIS REPORT BY E-MAIL? Join TEA’s GREAT (Grass Roots Education Action) Team**

During the legislative session, the TEA Legislative Report is mailed each week to local leaders and association representatives. It is also available on the TEA website at [www.teateachers.org](http://www.teateachers.org). If you are not already a member of TEA’s GreatTeam, and would like to receive this Report electronically, send a request — giving your HOME e-mail address — to [GreatTeam@tea.nea.org](mailto:GreatTeam@tea.nea.org). Please include your first and last name and local association. This service is available to **TEA MEMBERS ONLY**, and you must provide us with your HOME — not work — e-mail address.