



Due to activities around the TEA Representative Assembly, we are providing an abbreviated version of the Legislative Report this week. We will resume the regular Report next week.

TEA Has Outstanding Week on Capitol Hill **Many "Bad" Bills On Hold or "Rolled" to 2010**

Several bills strongly opposed by TEA were taken "off notice" or placed in "general subcommittee" this week. This is "legislative speak" for saying that the bills most likely do not have the votes necessary for passage and will be left in committee until 2010. **It is important to understand that these bills are not dead and could potentially resurface this session, although that scenario is unlikely.**

TEA-opposed bills which are currently on "hold" for this year include:

Tenure Attack (SB 1186/HB 1171) – Extends from three years to four the probationary period that public school teachers must serve before they can receive tenure; provides that probationary teachers with low teacher effect scores cannot be rehired for a fourth year. Amends TCA, Title 49.

Tenure Attack (HB 811) – eliminates tenure for teachers employed after July 1, 2009; places teachers on two-year contracts with two performance reviews during such time. Amends TCA, Title 49.

Bargaining Unit (SB 246/HB 1506) – Prohibits principals under performance contracts from being members of negotiating units for collective bargaining purposes. Amends TCA, Section 49-5-602(7).

Attack on Association Rights (SB 411/HB 785) – Allows local boards of education to refuse professional employees' organizations access to the school district's electronic mail system or Web site. Amends TCA, Section 49-5-609.

Attack on Association Rights (SB 1289/HB 1380) – Prohibits professional employees' organization representing LEA professional employees from preventing another such organization from disseminating information to LEA professional employees. Amends TCA, Title 49, Chapter 5, Part 6.

Teacher Rights (SB 1242/HB 816) – Requires all disciplinary actions, criminal violations, and civil actions pertaining to official capacity of teachers and administrators be posted on a site on the Internet. Amends TCA, Title 49, Chapter 5.

THERE ARE OTHER "BAD" BILLS PENDING AND HAVE NOT YET BEEN TAKEN "OFF NOTICE" FOR THIS YEAR. THESE INCLUDE:

Vouchers (SB 751/HB 599) – Enacts the “Parental Choice Scholarship Act.”

Teacher Rights (SB 1974/HB 1739) – Makes teacher effect data for tenured teachers public records and requires the data to be posted on the Internet. Amends TCA, Title 49, Chapter 1, Part 6.

Cyber Charter Schools (SB 621/HB 1525) – Removes the prohibition on cyber-based charter schools. - Amends TCA Title 49, Chapter 13, Part 1

TEA-opposed legislation which greatly expands charter schools (**SB 2133/HB 2146**) passed the Senate Education Committee this week and will be on the Senate floor next week. A vote is also expected next week on **HB 2146** in the K-12 Subcommittee. TEA strongly opposes expanding charter school eligibility to all “free and reduced lunch” students in the twelve largest school districts.

TEA members are to be commended for the numerous grassroots contacts with legislators this session – keep up the good work! It is extremely important that members stay well informed over the next three to four weeks as the session winds down – **surprises are always possible until the session is gaveled to an end** – probably around Memorial Day. Any member who is not signed up for TEA’s G-R-E-A-T Team should do so immediately by sending a request – giving your HOME e-mail address – to GreatTeam@nea.nea.org. Also check TEA’s website often at www.teateachers.org.