

Senate Education Committee

[AB 215 \(Buchanan\) School employees: dismissal or suspension: hearings](#)

This bill modifies the dismissal procedures for certificated employees who have attained permanent status, and establishes a separate set of dismissal processes for employees charged only with egregious misconduct. The bill also provides a specific set of offenses that fit within the definition for “egregious misconduct”.

Action: Passed 9-0

Analysis: This is one of three competing teacher dismissal bills introduced this year—the other two measures were SB 843 (Correa) and SB 1164 (Liu). It became clear that AB 215 would be the bill moving forward after the Governor struck a compromise with the CTA and EdVoice. This move was formalized in this week as neither Senator Liu nor Senator Correa had their bill heard in committee and both authors asked to be co-authors on Assembly Member Buchanan's bill. The bill was amended in committee, but language is still pending.

[SB 1157 \(Hancock\) School facilities: K-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006](#)

This bill prohibits the transfer of funds from the Seismic Mitigation Program for any other purpose, and requires that any High Performance Schools funds transferred as the result of a Budget action in 2014 be used only for projects that meet the original intent of the funds.

Action: Passed 8-0

Analysis: As Senator Hancock sits on the State Allocation Board, she is very familiar with funding issues for school facilities. Senator Hancock is using this measure as a way to encourage the Legislature to discuss the Governor's budget proposal to use various school facility program funds for the new construction and modernization program, particularly using Seismic money for purposes not originally intended. The Governor's 2014-15 budget proposes the transfer of bond authority from the Overcrowded Relief Grant, Seismic Mitigation, Career Technical Education, and High Performance Schools programs to the new construction and modernization programs.

[SB 1174 \(Lara\) English language education](#)

This bill amends and repeals various provisions of statute implemented by the enactment of Proposition 227 of 1998, to be submitted to voters for approval at the November 2016 statewide general election.

Action: Passed 8-0

Analysis: Senator Lara emphasized in his presentation that the bill would not affect the status of English as the official language, rather the bill focuses on increased access to and expansion of dual-immersion programs. There was significant public comment from students and school administrators supporting dual-immersion language programs.

[SB 1263 \(Pavley\) Charter schools](#)

Please note that this bill was significantly amended during the committee hearing. While the amendments are not yet in print, below is a summary of what we expect the amendments to be, and a discussion of what occurred in the committee.

Action: Passed 8-1

Analysis: As originally presented to the committee, this bill would have created a conflict resolution process for conflicts of charter law arising between school districts or county offices of education and charter schools. Yet, after hearing compelling testimony from the bill's proponents - the committee made the unusual move of gutting the bill and amending it to close the “loophole” in law that permits a charter school to locate outside of an authorizing school district's boundaries. The bill moved out of committee with a bipartisan vote. Senator Huff voted against the measure. We expect this bill to generate high interest moving forward.

Assembly Education Committee

AB 1444 (Buchanan) Elementary education: kindergarten

Requires, beginning in the 2016-17 school year, a child to complete one year of kindergarten before he or she may be admitted to first grade.

Action: Passed 6-1

AB 1719 (Weber) Full-day kindergarten

Requires, commencing with the 2017-18 school year, school districts offering kindergarten to implement a full-day kindergarten program.

Action: Passed 5-1

Analysis: As expected, both kindergarten bills passed out of education committee with relative ease. AB 1444 even received bipartisan support. The bills will have more of an uphill climb in the Appropriations Committee due to cost and capacity issues and it is unclear at this time where the Governor stands on the issues. It is important to note that AB 1444 was recently amended to delay the beginning of compulsory kindergarten until the 2016-17 school year and AB 1719 was amended to allow a delay in implementation of the full-day kindergarten due to a lack of facilities. It will also be interesting to see how the bills fare in the Senate given the Pro Tem's bill, SB 837, allowing for transitional kindergarten for all.

AB 1573 (Jones-Sawyer) Alternative schools: Student Achievement via Excellence accountability system

Requires the SPI, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to develop, by July 1, 2016, the Student Achievement via Excellence (SAVE) accountability system for the schools under the jurisdiction of a county board of education or a county superintendent of schools, community day schools, specified charter schools, nonpublic/nonsectarian schools providing special education, continuation high school, opportunity schools, and other alternative schools.

Action: Passed 7-0

Analysis: This continues to be a well-intentioned work in progress. It is moving in the right direction – but slowly.

AB 1892 (Bocanegra) Pupils redesignated as fluent English Proficient

Adds pupils redesignated as fluent English proficient to the list of "unduplicated pupils" for purposes of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and makes other changes related to this provision.

Action: Passed 7-0

Analysis: The issue of redesignation has shot to the top of the radar with LCFF placing significant additional funding at the feet of EL students. The counting game cuts both ways – the state has a fiscal interest in tamping down designations for those that are no longer EL, while districts and advocates make the case that EL students are in need of additional resources even after reaching proficiency. Despite the fact that committee staff were recommending the bill be stripped and amended to instead require CDE to report to the Legislature by January 1, 2016 with recommendations for establishing statewide standards and criteria for the redesignation of EL students, Assembly Member Bocanegra opted not to accept the committee's recommendation and moved the bill over the objections of the chair. Rarely does a bill move out of committee when recommended amendments are not taken, but not only did the bill pass out – it did so unanimously.

AB 2216 (Muratsuchi) Regional occupational centers and programs: funding

Extends the current maintenance of effort spending requirement for regional occupational centers or programs (ROC/Ps) to the 2016-17 fiscal year. Also requires the SPI to convene a task force to study funding models for ROC/Ps and report recommended options regarding possible funding models to the Legislature and Director of Finance by September 1, 2016.

Action: Passed 7-0

Analysis: The struggle to address the issue of how to protect ROCPs under LCFF continues with AB 2216. The concept of extending the MOE, while trying to develop a resolution to the issues that are leading to a decline in ROC/Ps and career technical education, will be attractive to some stakeholders in the CTE arena. This approach appears to deepen a divide that exists between ROC/P JPAs and county offices of education. Neither the California Association of Regional Occupation Centers and Programs (CAROCP), nor the various county offices of education engaged on this issue support an approach that extends the MOE. In fact, all are lobbying for a solution to the CTE dilemma that satisfies all parties. The bill has a long way to go and budget discussions are taking place on the side as well.

AB 2307 (Donnelly) Common core academic standards: school district opt out

Permits a school district to opt out of any state statute or regulation that would require the use of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) by that school district.

Action: Failed passage 0-7

Analysis: Easily the most contentious testimony of the day – a large contingent of parents brought their children to testify against the “federally mandated” Common Core law. They made it clear that Common Core should not be mandated on their children. It is important to note that many of these parents self-identified as home-schooling parents and therefore are clearly free to teach their children another curriculum. The bill failed spectacularly with all members, including all Republicans, voting against the bill.

AB 2710 (Muratsuchi) Public schools: school superintendent contracts: ethics training

Limits the terms of an employment contract between a LEA and a district or county superintendent of schools, requires the governing board of a school district, before executing or renewing an employment contract between the school district and the district superintendent of schools, to review the proposed contract, including each contract term and the value of each element of compensations at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board. The school district or county office of education would also be required to maintain on its internet web site, annual expenditures including but not limited to the salary schedules for certificated and classified employees.

Action: Passed 7-0

Analysis: This bill is difficult for most in the management space to touch given the circumstances that generated the legislative interest. This is often referred to as the “Centinela bill,” and was introduced after it became known that the superintendent of Centinela Valley Union High School District drew more than \$663,000 in compensation. A number of groups are working to lessen some of the requirements in the bill to make it more workable.

This analysis was prepared by the team at Capitol Advisors. Let us know if we can provide any additional information.