

Bills Transmitted to Governor Ducey – 2015 Legislative Session

SB1074 unused school facilities; sale; lease (sponsor: Sen. Ward)

Prohibits a school district from restricting a charter school from negotiating to buy or lease vacant and unused buildings or portions of buildings in the same manner as other potential buyers or lessees. Requires school districts to attempt to obtain the maximum current market value for the sale or lease of vacant and unused buildings or portions of buildings.

AEA position: Monitor

Status: Passed the Senate by a vote of 18 ayes – 11 nays (Senate Democrats, except Begay, opposed the bill). Passed the House by a vote of 35 ayes – 22 nays (House Democrats, except Bolding, opposed the bill). The bill was transmitted to Governor Ducey on March 26.

SB1093 online instruction; concurrent enrollment; testing (sponsor: Sen. Smith)

Prohibits a school district or charter school from charging a student a fee to take an examination for the transfer of Arizona Online Instruction (AOI) credits.

AEA position: Monitor

Status: Passed the Senate by a vote of 24 ayes – 5 nays (no's: Contreras, Dalessandro, Hobbs, Pancrazi and Quezada). Passed the House by a vote of 34 ayes – 23 nays (the Democrats opposed). The bill was transmitted to Governor Ducey on March 26.

SB1267 schools; exempt fundraisers (sponsor: Sen. Lesko)

Requires the Arizona Department of Education to provide nutrition standard exemptions to allow school districts and charter schools to sell foods of minimal nutritional value at fundraisers during the normal school day.

AEA position: Monitor

Status: Passed the Senate by a vote of 28 ayes – 1 nay (Dalessandro). Passed the House by a vote of 55 ayes – 2 nays (Fernandez and Mendez). The bill was transmitted to Governor Ducey on March 26.

SB1289 schools; letter classification; transition process (sponsor: Sen. Ward)

Establishes a transition process, which prohibits the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) and the State Board of Education (SBE) from assigning schools and school districts letter grade classifications during the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years (transition period). In addition, the bill permits school district governing boards to adopt alternative policies for performance based funding, dismissal and nonrenewal during the transition period. A student's score on the AZMerit assessment cannot be used as a factor in determining their letter grade in any particular course during this transition time (2014-2015 and 2015-2016 school years). Lastly, this bill requires the SBE, by December 15, 2015, to submit a report to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate that includes proposed legislation to implement the revised accountability system for schools and school districts.

AEA position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed the Senate by a vote of 28 ayes – 2 nays (Ableser and Dial). Passed the House by a vote of 55 ayes – 0 nays. The bill was transmitted to Governor Ducey on March 23.

Bills Signed into Law by Governor Ducey – 2015 Legislative Session

HB2064 graduation requirement; civics test (sponsor: Rep. Montenegro)

Requires the State Board of Education to include in the high school competency requirements a requirement for students to correctly answer at least 60 out of 100 questions on a test identical to the civics component of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services . This is required for students to graduate from high school or to obtain a high school equivalency diploma starting in the 2016-2017 school year.

AEA position: OPPOSE – This is an unfunded mandate and completely unnecessary because the social studies standards already cover this subject matter.

Status: Passed the House by a vote of 42 ayes – 17 nays (no’s- Alston, Andrade, Cardenas, Clark, Espinoza, Fernandez, Friese, Gabaldon, Gonzales, Larkin, March, McCune Davis, Mendez, Sherwood, Steele, Velasquez and Wheeler). Passed the Senate by a vote of 19 ayes – 10 nays (no’s – Ableser, Bradley, Cajero Bedford, Contreras, Dalessandro, Farley, Hobbs, Meza, Miranda and Quezada). Signed by Governor Ducey on January 15, 2015.

HB2109 ballot; form; secondary property taxes (sponsor: Rep. Mitchell)

Adds ballot language for a bond that are to be repaid with secondary property taxes, that articulates what a “yes” vote means (authorize the governing body to issue and sell \$__ of __ bonds to be repaid with secondary property taxes) and what a “no” vote means (not authorize the governing body to issue and sell bonds).

AEA position: OPPOSE – The intent of this bill is to make it more difficult to pass bond elections.

Status: Passed the House by a vote of 36 ayes – 24 nays (Republicans supported, Dems opposed). Passed the Senate by a vote of 17 ayes – 12 nays (Republicans supported, Dems opposed). Signed by Governor Ducey on March 23, 2015.

SB1191 graduation; passing test score; moratorium (sponsor: Sen. Ward)

A student is not required to obtain a passing score on a standardized test during the 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2016-2017 or the 2017-2018 school years in order to graduate from high school. This impacts the students in high school that needed to retake the AIMS exam in order to pass all three content areas to graduate. There is an exemption that will continue to require students to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test (see HB2064 above) starting in the 2016-2017 school year.

AEA position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed the Senate by a vote of 26 ayes – 2 nays (no’s: Kavanagh and Lesko). Passed the House by a vote of 55 ayes – 0 nays. Signed by Governor Ducey on February 20, 2015.

SB1461 dyslexic pupils; schools; reading assistance (sponsor: Sen. Ward) Creates an exemption for “Move on When Reading” competency requirements for students who are in the process of a special education referral or evaluation for placement in special education or for students who have been diagnosed as having a significant reading impairment (including dyslexia). Requires the State Board to adopt rules permitting teachers and administrators to count towards continuing education credits any training regarding screening, intervention, accommodation, use of technology and advocacy for students with reading impairments.

AEA position: SUPPORT

Updated: March 27, 2015

Status: Passed the House by a vote of 54 ayes – 1 nay (J. Allen). Passed the Senate on final pass by a vote of 28 ayes – 0 nays. Signed by Governor Ducey on March 26, 2015.