

WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education

2021 Legislative Session | April 6, 2021

WOVE...Representing the Career and Technical Education field through advocacy activities, which promotes the value of CTE and the policies that are needed to support CTE practitioners, advance the field, and improve student learning. To subscribe to the *WOVE Legislative Update* or to view past issues, please [click here](#).

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UPDATE:

When the Senate budget was passed out of Ways and Means committee last Tuesday, Senator Schoesler from Ritzville submitted the amendment to return the increase of CTSO funding to \$800,000 per year. The amendment was adopted. Then on March 31, the bill cleared the Senate Ways and Means committee. What transpired after that is essentially technical jargon, so “long story short”...the House laid their budget bill over the Senate bill as a “Striker” (a whole new bill...not just multiple amendments) to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate by using the Senate Bill ([SB 5092](#)) as the vehicle going forward this session. That was great news for us and exactly what we wanted. Had they used the House bill as the version we would have had to amend that bill again and then get the two reconciled. We had a feeling early on that the budget was going to go through the Senate, and that’s exactly how it has turned out.

On our CTE call last week Jesse shared that senate staff had made an error in the amendment that was issued by Senator Schoesler in the “effect” portion, which was short by \$200,000 per biennium. On Saturday Jesse contacted Senators Rolfes, Keiser, and Schoesler and ultimately got the language straightened out with Senate staff. The effect of the amendment will be an increase of \$700,000 to the desired \$800,000 per year.

On Thursday the Senate passed their budget bill from the floor with the CTSO funding and skill center enrollment stabilization help; it was then sent across the Rotunda. On Saturday the House passed that same bill with their own amendments. So, that is where we stand today.

The budget bill process isn’t over. There will still be more NTIB bills (necessary to implement budget) and other things to clean up, so for the most part this feels like we succeeded! This is great news! Barring another event that requires the Governor to make line-item vetoes, we are in great shape!

Congrats to you all and great job on advocacy this year. Now we lay low and watch the process play out until the Governor signs [Senate Bill 5092](#) into law with our amendment. After “Sine Die” (last day) we can take a victory lap.

THE WEEK AHEAD:

- Key dates to pay attention to are:
 - April 11 is the last day to pass opposite house/chamber bills from the floor, except final budgets and matters necessary to implement budget (NTIB).
 - The last day of session is April 25.

WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE | BILL STATUS REPORT

Click the link below for the current report listing all bills we are currently tracking and their current status:

[BILL STATUS & UPCOMING EVENTS REPORT](#)

Join us on Wednesday afternoons where we discuss upcoming bills at our weekly Open Leg Zoom at 4:30 PM. Reach out to me if you would like to have the information to join in the meeting.

HOW TO ADVOCATE and ENGAGE:

- [Bill Information](#) - find bill language and information here.
- [Committee Calendars and Agendas](#) - find out when committees meet and what is on their agenda.
- [Sign-Up to testify](#) - share your thoughts/suggestions by declaring your intention to testify no less than an hour before the hearing begins.
 - Prepare - Remote testimony is limited to two minutes in most cases, but be prepared to shorten to one minute if time slots get shortened.
- [Written Testimony](#) - Send committee members formal written testimony or other comments up to 24-hours **after** the start of a hearing.
- [Follow Along](#) - All committee hearings are live and archived on TVW.
 - [Senate Channel](#)
 - [House Channel](#)

A Word of Caution for Working in This Process:

The WOVE Legislative Newsletter is for your information, education, and outreach.

Here are some simple guidelines in how you should properly use this information going forward. In a “virtual” world where many are working from home with school/public provided equipment it will be very important to pay attention to what is allowed when and how as we deal with this new process of advocacy.

- You may pass this information along to your home email and/or share with your administration.
- As a public employee using public resources (time, equipment, and servers) you may not engage in what can be considered “lobbying.” This means you should not during the school/contract day use school phones, computers, equipment, school email, and any use of public servers with your personal email to make direct

contact to lobby any legislative member, this includes their staff or any member of the public that you are directing to vote in a certain way or take on any lobbying action. Lobbying is generally described as a direct ask for action in the political and/or legislative process at any level (local/state/nation).

So, if you choose to be personally or professionally involved in the political process you need to do so on your own time, outside the contract day, and with your own resources and personally owned equipment.

2021 CUTOFF CALENDAR	
April 11*	Last day to consider (pass) opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).
April 25	Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.
* After 5:00 p.m. on the 91st day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.	

WOVE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FOR CTE SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION
<i>(please share with interested colleagues)</i> PDF WORD (checks or purchase orders) Online (credit cards only)