Week two saw more bills being introduced and activity in the committees speeding up. This coming week will be much more hectic, and you can expect some unusual bills. Things are very different from other sessions due to COVID 19 but hopefully, we will get through it.

Most of the education bills will be taken care of by the education lobbyists so I may not list all the education issues. One bill a legislator is introducing is a bill to add a penalty and fine to people who report child abuse in error. This is not needed as it will be a disincentive to people reporting child abuse and we need to make sure all suspected cases are reported. Another bill being introduced is to make it a crime for people who manufacture and use computer/robotic dolls as sex toys.

Major issues this session will be dealing with the budget and CARES money distribution, marijuana, education issues, broadband expansion, limited liability for Covid 19, and civics issues.

SENATE BILLS

SB 5 – Includes a child’s legal parents and custodians in the list of parties who may receive information related to reports of the child’s abuse or neglect – passed Senate 35-0. You don’t have to worry about revealing the people who report child abuse because I checked this out with DSS and all reports are confidential and can only be revealed through a judge’s order. This is designed for non-custodial parents.

SB 7 – Permit Medicaid to qualify as a victim for purposed of restitution in criminal cases – bill was amended to delete just Medicaid and language was changed to government entity – passed Senate 35-0

SB 14 – Limit the time children in need of supervision are held in detention under certain circumstances – passed committee 7-0, placed on consent, pulled from consent, and will be debated on Senate floor on Monday.

SB 31 – Provide for release of adult abuse information to certain parties to assist in provision of adult protection services.

SB 34 – Appropriation of $100 million for broadband expansion – hearing on 1/26

SB 35 – Appropriation of $4 million to Revenue and Health for implementation, regulation, taxation, etc of marijuana – Will be sent to the Joint Appropriation Committee

SB 45 – DOE bill to repeal the annual survey of schools for CPR- killed in committee and sent to 41st day 6-1.

SB 46 – DOE bill to allow for consideration of certain instruction to count towards the minimum number of hours required in a school term- has emergency clause – passed Senate 35-0 and hearing in House Committee on 1/25

SB 49 – Annual levy bill for state aid, special education – will be around all session as this is one of the last bills to pass once budget is decided – sent to Joint Appropriations Committee

SB 64 – General appropriation bill for 2021 – what needs to be adjusted

SB 68 – Provide for creation and funding of Oceti Sakowin community based school – charter school bill that takes funding from public schools, has regulation issues, and you should oppose. Still in Senate Education and is the same bill as last year. Will be voted on in Committee on Tuesday.

SB 83- Require the provision of information regarding perinatal hospice

SB 90 – Recognize the hair discrimination as an unfair or discriminatory practice

SB 95 – Provide immunity for actions assisting an impaired lawyer or judge
SB 98 – Limit the application of the death penalty

HOUSE BILLS

HB 1025 – DOE bill on deleting/revising certain outdated language related to education – 1/25 hearing in Education Committee
HB 1030, 1031, 1032, 1033 – Retirement bills
HB 1044 – Transferring the Office of Indian Education to the Dept of Education
HB 1046 – Limit liability for COVID 19 – includes non-profits, schools, businesses, insurance, etc – Support – bill passed committee 12-1 with 3 amendments – sunset date of 3 years, language addition to the health care section, and deletion of some language in Section 5. All are minor and fine with the coalition. Will be on the House floor on Tuesday
HB 1051 – Maintain the life of any child born alive – FYI – hearing on 1/26
HB 1052 – Provides a rebuttable presumption in favor of joint physical custody of a minor child – same bill as we have seen for the past 10 years – they proponents want to start at 50/50 for custody of a child. Current law leaves the custody issue in the hands of the judge.
HB 1055 – Authorizes certain children who are subject to military relocation to be eligible for registration with a state approved distance learning provider – Assigned to Military and Veterans Affairs Committee
HB 1056 – Authorizes the designation of Purple Star Schools – hearing on 1/25
HB 1067 – Modifies identification requirements for a marriage license and provides for a name change.
HB 1075 – Limit directives and incentives for extreme risk protection orders with a penalty – this is a bill to NOT limit guns to people convicted of Domestic Violence – is a pre-emptive bill in case President issues any orders on taking guns away – ridiculous and dangerous bill
HB 1076 – Require that birth certificate reflect the biological sex - anti transgender bill and allowing them to change their birth certificate
HB 1077 – Gov’s bill on providing for licensure by endorsement for certain licensed professionals and occupations – House State Affairs Committee
HB 1080 – Bill to increase the enhanced penalty for simple assault – a 4th and 5th offense will have an enhanced felony charge
HB 1081 – Bill to increase the penalty for protection order violations – for a 4th and 5th offenses or subsequent offense, there will be an enhanced felony charge.

There will be a bill on eliminating testing for home school kids, etc – education lobbyists are still negotiating this with the administration. We keep you updated. There will also be a broad civics bill, but we have not seen this yet – may deal with teacher training as well as content.

Have a good weekend and stay safe!