



March 9, 2017

Introduction

The California Federation of Teachers has successfully introduced four sponsored pieces of legislation for the 2017 legislative year. In addition, CFT is working on two budget proposals and one audit request. These legislative initiatives were recommendations from the legislative committee and approved by the executive committee.

SPONSORED LEGISLATION

For-Profit Charter Schools: Assembly Bill 406 (McCarty) would prohibit for-profit Education Management Organizations (EMOs) and for-profit Charter Management Organizations (CMOs) from managing charter schools. In addition, the bill would not allow charter schools to operate as for-profit corporations.

Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment (BTSA) Program: Assembly Bill 410 (Cervantes) would prohibit Local Educational Agencies (LEAs), including school districts, county offices of Education and charter schools, from charging beginning teachers to participate in the Beginning Teacher Support and Assessment Program.

Pregnancy Disability and Maternity Leave: Assembly Bill 568 (Gonzalez-Fletcher) would require K-12 school districts and community colleges to provide both certificated and classified employees with a minimum of six weeks of paid maternity leave during their pregnancy and during recovery from childbirth.

School Safety: Community Schools and Restorative Justice: Assembly Bill 1029 (Weber) would add a community schools coordinator, a restorative justice practitioner, and/or a mental health professional to school safety planning committees. In addition, the bill would require the Department of Education to post on its website models of best practices. Finally, the bill would require the Department to provide technical assistance and professional development to educators and administrators in these practices.

BUDGET PROPOSALS

Part-Time Faculty Office Hours

This budget proposal would seek to secure additional funding for community college part-time faculty office hours. Compensation would be at the part-time faculty member's non-classroom rate of pay and would be assigned at the rate of one hour per week per three hours of weekly assigned class time. If the part-time faculty member accepts the offer of paid office hours, he/she would include in his/her syllabus the days, times and places where the office hours would be held. Office hours would be held at a location convenient for students to attend.

Labor in the Schools

This budget proposal would seek to secure one-time funding to support release-time for one teacher in six school districts to develop curriculum and provide professional development to educators in order to assist them in incorporating into their curriculum the history of the labor movement and the role immigration played in its creation and evolution.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT COMMITTEE (JLAC) REQUEST

Technology Study

This Joint Legislative Audit Committee request would call on the Auditor General to review a sample of community college districts to determine if they are engaging in long-term strategic planning for replacing and upgrading their instructional technology and support structures, as well as providing adequate professional development for their employees.

Conclusion

Policy committee hearings have already begun in Sacramento, so these legislative proposals, budget requests and audit request will be heard in the appropriate committees over the next several months. We encourage CFT members to become knowledgeable of these proposals, actively advocate for them with their legislators and staff and share information with their colleagues.

FOR QUESTIONS OR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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