

## SAM Legislative Session Summary

Bill Number	Short Title	Bill Sponsor	Notes
<u>HB 117</u>	Generally revise working retiree laws under TRS	Marta Bertoglio(R) HD 75	Retirement earnings moved from 33% to 49%, Break in service 150 to 120 days.
<u>HB 128</u>	Generally revise marijuana laws	Joshua Kassmier(R) HD 27	See Section 28, Adds marijuana product to list of prohibited items in MCA 20-1-220
<u>HB 203</u>	Generally revise education laws to enhance educational opportunities	David Bedey(R) HD 86	Open enrollment bill, requires district of residence to pay tuition to receiving district, requires schools to accept out of district with some exceptions, effective date is July 2024. Tuition Estimate
<u>HB 214</u>	Revise education laws related to remote instruction	Marta Bertoglio(R) HD 75	Allows a student to enroll in an online class in a neighboring district, outside their resident district, if their district does not offer the course. Part Time ANB will follow the student.
<u>HB 234</u>	Revise dissemination of obscene material to minors laws	Bob Phalen(R) HD 36	Does not significantly change what is already in law. Districts should follow challenged materials process. Article <u>explaining the change</u> .
<u>HB 338</u>	Revise laws related to Indian Education for All	Jonathan Windy Boy(D) HD 32	Establishes new reporting requirements for all districts regarding how their IEFA resources are created and how their allocation is spent.

<u>HB 352</u>	Provide targeted interventions to support 3rd grade reading proficiency	Brad Barker(R) HD 58	Early literacy bill, provides funding for a 4y/o reading intervention program (identification process yet to be defined). Also provides funding for summer school Pre -K, 1,2,3 for those identified in need of intervention to be reading by 3rd grade. Effective date: July 2024. Also, current exceptional circumstances will sunset.
<u>HB 359</u>	Prohibit minors from attending drag shows	Braxton Mitchell(R) HD 3	Schools may not allow sexually oriented performances on its premises during regular operating hours or at any school-sanctioned extracurricular activity. "Sexually oriented" means any simulation of sexual activity, stripping, salacious dancing, any lewd or lascivious depiction or description of human genitals or of sexual conduct as defined in 45-5-625. Penalties: fine and loss of license.
<u>HB 361</u>	Provide that use of a name and sex by a student is not discrimination	Brandon Ler(R) HD 35	Schools cannot discipline for misgendering or use of "dead" name, if the behavior does not rise to the definition of bullying as provided in 20-5-208. It is not an unlawful discriminatory practice for a student to: (a) call another student by the student's legal name; or (b) refer to another student by the student's sex."
<u>HB 382</u>	Revise education laws related to career and technology student organizations	Greg Oblander(R) HD 40	Increases funding to CTSOs, does not add any new CTSOs, establishes performance grants with specific reporting procedures.
<u>HB 393</u>	Establish the Students with Special Needs Equal Opportunity Act	Sue Vinton(R) HD 56	Establishes a special ed savings account. Legal challenge is underway - violates MT constitution, privatization with public funds. Admin by Supt of Public Instruction. Student cannot be enrolled in public school. Family receives ANB funding to use towards variety of private or non-public school services. Families waive right to FAPE and school district not on the hook for IEP management nor services.
<u>HB 396</u>	Require school trustees to admit resident children on a part-time basis	Naarah Hastings(R) HD 50	Schools must allow part-time enrollment for any students that are residents of the school district, when student is enrolled in a nonpublic or home school. Part-time student must enroll for at least enough time to meet ANB requirements as part-time status. District still has authority to determine placement (both location and program).
<u>HB 450</u>	Protect physical self-defense in K-12 schools	Jedediah Hinkle(R) HD 67	AKA Punch a bully in the nose bill. Schools cannot discipline a student who uses physical force that is reasonable and necessary for self-protection. Also can use reasonable and necessary physical restraint in protection of another who is being physically attacked. Only impacts school code, not criminal code.

<u>HB 504</u>	Revise school laws to require trustees to adopt a grievance policy	Naarah Hastings(R) HD 50	Requires schools to have grievance policy / procedure that accepts filing of a formal complaint within <b>30 days</b> of the completion of the informal resolution.
<u>HB 549</u>	Authorizing establishment of public charter schools	Fred Anderson(R) HD 20	Creates option for establishing a public charter school, governed by local school board OR board of public education if local school board declines. Provides for funding (additional basic entitlement) for approved charter schools or programs over certain enrollments.
<u>HB 562</u>	Authorize establishment of community choice schools	Sue Vinton(R) HD 56	Creates an option for private charter schools with approval of a charter school commission. (Legal challenge is underway - violates MT constitution.) Private charter would receive ANB and basic entitlement - but no accountability. Exempt from all school codes stipulated in Section 20.
<u>HB 676</u>	Revise laws to clarify fundamental parental rights	Kerri Seekins-Crowe(R) HD 43	Establishes parent rights, the vast majority are already protected in state or federal law. One exception: be notified promptly if, and provide consent before, the child would share a room or sleeping quarters with an individual of the opposite sex on a school-sponsored trip.
<u>HB 715</u>	Revise school immunization laws	Jennifer Carlson(R) HD 69	Establishes changes to school immunization procedures. Communication from the school regarding immunization requirements must include info about exemptions allowed in state law, including copy or link to exemption forms. Also removes requirement for "notarized" signature for religious exemption. Parent can just submit signed affidavit - no longer required to be notarized.
<u>HB 724</u>	Generally revise public notice requirements	Brad Barker(R) HD 58	Requires public agencies to publish meeting agendas on newspaper websites, only if newspaper does so free of charge. Otherwise, agendas need to be posted on school district website or social media.
<u>HB 744</u>	Revise laws to protect religious expression for students and teachers	Greg Kmetz(R) HD 38	Allows a student to initiate or participate in a conversation about religion, religious beliefs, or religious practices with another student or a teacher.
<u>HB 745</u>	Revise laws related to religious materials and prayer in schools	Greg Kmetz(R) HD 38	A student is allowed to read from the Bible or other religious materials during free reading time. If reading requirement is part of the course and students are allowed to self-select, they must be allowed to read from Bible or other religious materials. Prayer is permitted in school, school grounds or at school-sponsored event, but a person may not be compelled to pray. School day may begin with a prayer.
<u>HB 811</u>	Create online repository for information on school district boards of trustees	Marta Bertoglio(R) HD 75	OPI will create/maintain a repository of information regarding school district trustees

			(terms, contact info, website). OPI will work with clerks to implement.
<u>SB 8</u>	Revise transformational learning program laws	Shannon O'Brien(D) SD 46	Defines proficiency-based learning: an education system in which student progress is based on a student's demonstration of competence rather than on the basis of seat time or the age or grade level of the student. This definition will be used by OPI with transformational learning grants.
<u>SB 213</u>	Revise laws related to school safety teams	Edith (Edie) McClafferty(D) SD 38	Requires implementation of threat assessment practices as part of school safety plan. Requires threat assessment protocol and threat assessment team. Strengthens language for establishment of county interdisciplinary team.
• <u>SB 480</u>	Remove opt in requirement for student contact information on ACT test	Mary Ann Dunwell(D) SD 42	If OPI still uses ACT (or other college entrance exam) as the statewide assessment, students PII may be released to postsecondary education institutions, unless parent OPTS OUT and elects not to have info shared.
<u>SB 518</u>	Revise parental rights laws to increase parental involvement in education	Theresa Manzella(R) SD 44	Details requirements for parent involvement policy - most of which is already allowed or done. Exceptions: procedures by which parent may learn about nature and purpose of clubs and activities AND student shall provide signed parent permission form PRIOR to participating in any school-sponsored club or extracurricular activity. Also - procedure for parent written consent before child uses a pronoun that does not align with child's sex & can't compel staff or other students to use pronoun - even when parent provides consent.