

FEA Frontline Report

2020 Legislative Session

Week 9 – Day 61

March 14, 2020

Sine Die?

And true to our predictions, the legislature did not adjourn *sine die* yesterday because legislators had not finalized the budget and the constitutionally required 72-hour “cooling off” period for the budget has not occurred. So, our *Frontline* this week will be a little different as you can tell!

Budget

Late Saturday, the House and Senate budget chairs met to propose and ultimately accept the final pieces of the FY 2020-2021 budget. The down and dirty of the budget allocations are provided below. The End of Session report will go out in about a week. We’ll send you a link at that time where you can review all the bills that were passed along with the bills that, with your help, we successfully killed this session.

We know one of your chief concerns is how the teacher salary allocation that has been discussed all session will impact you. A new bill we weren’t previously following closely due to it being an innocuous education bill – HB 641 by Rep. Rene Plasencia (R-Titusville) and companion legislation, SB 836 by Senator David Simmons (R- Longwood) were amended to include the teacher salary allocation language. The language calls for funding to raise the base salary for classroom teachers, including certified prekindergarten teachers, and provides increases for veteran teachers including certified prekindergarten teachers, and other instructional personnel.

Now let’s get down to the money. The House and Senate accepted an increase to the Base Student Allocation (BSA) of \$40 and provided the teacher salary allocation amount of \$500 million. This amount breaks down to \$400 million to increase the base salary of teachers not currently making \$47,500 or the salary level that the district can achieve with the money provided – in other words not every district will be able to get to the \$47,500 base salary next this year. The remaining \$100 million will be available to increase the pay of veteran teachers and other instructional personnel. The amount of funds each district will receive is based on their total number of full-time students. And of course, any salary increase will be negotiated between the local union and the school district.

Once the budget hits the desks for the mandatory 72-hour cooling off period, the legislature will return to Tallahassee to finally pass the budget and send to the governor for his approval or veto.

As the session comes to an end in the next few days, it’s time to gear up for election season. The more public education advocates Floridians send up to Tallahassee, the better life becomes for you and the students your serve. Onward!

Questions? Call PPA at 850-224-2078

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