



April 27, 2021

Conference committee members on SF1098/HF1342:

The Minnesota Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), which is made up of school district staff working in every Minnesota school district in areas of school finance and business administration, is reaching out regarding the provisions in SF1098/HF1342 as they relate to school districts.

There are several House provisions to consider as you deliberate a final conference committee agreement. These provisions include the extension of unemployment benefits for certain school workers, paid family leave, earned safe and sick time, and the essential workers emergency leave act.

Please note our concerns do not focus on the merits of these proposals but rather the practical implications in implementing these requirements and the impact on taxpayers and school district budgets. These provisions will result in either additional taxes levied on our taxpayers to cover the unemployment benefits or will impact school district budgets because they have no identifiable source of revenue to pay for required coverage.

For example, extending unemployment benefits to those school workers who are employed between school terms, will result in additional unemployment levy costs. The provisions for paid family leave and safe and earned sick time do not include the funding necessary for school districts to meet the requirements for coverage required under these proposals. And, all proposals require additional administrative, tracking, reporting, and staffing costs which would have to be covered out of the general fund which will directly impact the classroom.

Additionally, the provisions for safe and earned sick time and essential worker emergency leave broadly apply to many school employees (substitute teachers, coaches for sports and other extracurricular activities, sporting event staff such as ticket-takers and announcers, referees, etc.) which will result in fiscal and administrative costs and not addressed in the House language.

Lastly, MASBO encourages you to support Senate provisions making clarifications to the MN Wage Theft Prevention Act. MASBO supports the provisions to modify the notice requirements to allow school districts to work within the confines of the collective bargaining agreement as well as the provisions to clarify the notice requirements.

Thank you for your work this legislative session and in the coming days ahead.

Sincerely,

Julie Cink
President, MN Association of School Business Officials