

[Daily Legislative Schedules](#)

Late night floor session to send bad ideas to Senate

As this is written, [HB 67, SCHOOL GRADE PROMOTION & RETENTION](#), sponsored by [Representative Monica Youngblood](#), is being debated on the House floor. Unfortunately the outcome is not in doubt. The measure will pass on a near party-line vote and move to the Senate. If you wish to watch go [to this link](#). Later tonight another very bad idea, [House Bill 145](#), introduced by [Representative Conrad James](#), will be debated and pass on to the Senate. The details of these two bills are below:

Third grade flunking bill

As predicted, [HB 67, SCHOOL GRADE PROMOTION & RETENTION](#), sponsored by [Representative Monica Youngblood](#), was given a do-pass recommendation by the [House Education Committee](#). It has no other referrals, so it is headed to sure passage in the Republican controlled House. This bad idea from the Governor and Secretary of the PED has been debated year after year in the legislature. It is one of Governor Martinez's main objectives for this legislative session once again. This measure would require that third grade public students who cannot pass a reading text be retained in the third grade, with no input from parents or education professionals. Research indicates that retention is not an appropriate educational strategy. This ill-conceived public policy will be on the House floor Friday. On a bright note the ranking Republican member of the [Senate Education Committee](#), [Senator Gay Kernan](#), has withdrawn her support for the bill and now believes that one test score should not determine whether or not a child is retained in third grade. So this bad measure can likely be killed in the [Senate Education Committee](#) after House passage. Please let all legislators know that we oppose this bad legislation.

Unqualified personnel in classrooms

Another bad public policy received a straight party-one do-pass in the [House Education Committee](#)'s on Wednesday; all republicans voting for this bad idea and all democrats voting against. [House Bill 145](#), introduced by [Representative Conrad James](#), provides that an unlicensed person who has earned at least a bachelor's degree; has a minimum of three years' experience in each area of subject-matter expertise in which the adjunct secondary instructor will teach; passes the New Mexico teacher assessments in each area of subject-matter expertise in which the adjunct secondary instructor will teach; and completes a department-approved pedagogy course can teach subject areas in grades seven through twelve. These individuals will not be allowed to receive any benefits other than "negotiated" compensation. Although presented as a way to prevent shortages, in reality this measure allows school districts to save money by hiring unqualified unlicensed "experts" to teach. Since it has no other referrals, the bill heads to sure passage in the republican controlled House. Let all legislators, but especially members of the [Senate Education Committee](#), know that you oppose this attack on the quality of the teaching profession. That [Committee](#) will be our first chance to kill this bad idea when it reaches the Senate.

Bill to change funding formula

[Senate Bill 141](#), sponsored by [Senator Howie Morales](#) and [Representative Dennis Roch](#), received a unanimous do-pass recommendation from the [Senate Education Committee](#) this morning. This measure will make major changes in the public school funding formula. It will gradually increase the effect of at-risk units over the next five years, which should benefit schools with high-needs populations. It will reduce the ability of charter schools to take advantage of small-school adjustment units. It will also in FY 18 through FY 23 phase out the Training and Experience index and replace it with a Teacher Cost Index. The new index will be weighted by licensure level and years of experience, rather than education or degrees. The department, the legislative education study committee and the legislative finance committee shall jointly gather data, conduct an analysis and submit a report by November 1 of each year to study the effects of the changes and to recommend any changes to the index. While a fiscal analysis of the effect on each school district is not yet available, districts that have maximized the current system by requiring teachers to get advanced degrees and education will be disadvantaged. One million dollars is appropriated to the PED to mitigate any cuts to districts or charter schools caused by respective program cost calculations that have resulted solely from the implementation of provisions of the act over the next three years. In FY 17 districts would be guaranteed their FY 16 appropriation. In FY 18, 75% of the FY 16 funding and finally in FY 19 at least 50% of their FY 16 funding. After that the changes would simply be allowed to operate on their own.

Changes to the funding formula describe how the money appropriated to the school equalization guarantee will be distributed. They do not affect the total amount of funding available to districts. Unless new funding is added above the line in the formula, after the hold-harmless funding goes away, there will be winners and losers among the state's school districts.

NEA-New Mexico is still researching the effects of the changes and has taken no stand on [Senate Bill 141](#).

Constitutional Amendment to increase funding from the land grant permanent fund moves

[Senator Michael Padilla](#)'s [Senate joint resolution 3](#) received a do pass on a straight party-line vote in the [Senate Rules Committee](#) this morning, Democrats supporting and Republicans opposing. This measure will let voters decide whether or not to approve additional funding for public schools. If this measure passes the loss in funding caused by the drop in the payout from 5.5%

this year to 5.0% next year will be replaced by a 5.8% payout into the future, adding some \$30 million to school funding starting in the 2017-2018 school year. This measure moves to the [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) next. Please let members know that allowing the voters to decide to fund their schools is important.