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Information

Legislative Committee of the Whole

Items of Interest to the Commission

Executive Summary: Staff will present an update on items of interest to the Commission.

Recommended Action: None—Information

Presenters: Anne Padilla

Strategic Plan Goal: 4

Continue effective and appropriate involvement of the Commission with policymaker's on key education issues.

- ◆ Sustain productive relations with key policymaker's and staff.

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE COMMISSION

Governor Calls for Special Session in State of the State

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger opened his second state of the state address by calling a special session of the Legislature to address state spending, pensions, education and legislative redistricting. In his speech (excerpt attached), the Governor specified that the special session address reforms such as:

- ◆ Spending cuts to close the state's budget deficit, including legislation that cuts spending across the board when expenditures increase above revenues ;
- ◆ Changes to the Proposition 98 guarantee for education;
- ◆ A revision of the teacher tenure system to reward teachers for merit and tie continued employment to student performance;
- ◆ Congressional and legislative districts be decided by an independent panel of retired judges;
- ◆ Implementation of certain California Performance Commission recommendations beginning with the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency and the elimination of 100 boards and commissions;
- ◆ Moving from a defined benefit pension plan to defined contribution plan for new state employees (including the State Teachers Retirement System);

The Governor offered to work with the Legislature on these reforms but also made it clear that he would "go to the people" using the initiative process if reform was not forthcoming.

Pertinent Text of the Governor's remarks on education

California will spend \$50 billion on K through 14 education this year; that's \$2.9 billion more than last year. Nearly half the state's budget is dedicated to education.

What do we get for that money? We get many wonderful and dedicated teachers. We get many children who are doing terrific.

But \$50 billion, and we still have 30 percent of high school students not graduating. That is a human disaster.

\$50 billion and we still have hundreds of schools that are failing. That is an institutional disaster.

\$50 billion and the majority of our students cannot even perform at their grade level. That is an educational disaster.

So, where do we start? We start in the classroom. We start with those who hold our children's learning in their hands. We start with the teachers.

Let me say this to every California teacher who is opening the minds of our children and nurturing their lives: I want to reward you for your hard work. I want to reward you for the sacrifices you make. I want to reward you for the learning that you instill.

But I cannot do so under the current system. Help me change it.

We must financially reward good teachers and expel those who are not. The more we reward excellent teachers, the more our teachers will be excellent. The more we tolerate ineffective teachers, the more our teachers will be ineffective.

So, in the special session, I propose that teacher pay be tied to merit, not tenure. And I propose that teacher employment be tied to performance, not to just showing up.

And I want to say to every Californian who has a child: "Your child deserves a good teacher. An educational system that rewards and protects a bad teacher at the expense of a child is wrong. And I intend to change that system."

My colleagues, this is going to be a big political fight. This is a battle of the special interests versus the children's interests. Which will you choose?

I will also introduce measures to further charter schools, vocational education and fiscal transparency so people know how every educational dollar is spent at their local schools.

SB 13 (Bowen)
Introduced December 6, 2004

SB 13 (Bowen) proposes to amend Section 1798.24 of the Civil Code and Section 10850 of the Welfare and Institutions Code pertaining to the release of personal information such as names, addresses and social security numbers.

Current law allows an agency to release personal information to employees of the agency if the disclosure is relevant and necessary in the ordinary course of the performance of their official duties and is related to the purpose for which the information was acquired. Additionally, current law allows the transfer of personal information from one agency to another when necessary for the agencies to perform their constitutional or statutory duties. Finally, a law enforcement or regulatory agency may transfer information to another law enforcement or regulatory agency if the information is needed in an investigation of unlawful activity under the jurisdiction of the requesting agency or for licensing, certification, or regulatory purposes by that agency. SB 13 would keep these provisions intact, thus allowing the Commission to continue its licensing and investigative functions.

Under SB 13, current law would be amended to prohibit the transfer of personal information for statistical research or reporting purposes. Additionally, the bill would prohibit the transfer of personal information to the University of California or a nonprofit educational institution conducting scientific research.

According to staff in Senator Bowen's office, agencies could provide information for statistical or research purposes if non-personal identifiers are assigned.

Senator Bowen's office has invited Commission staff to participate in discussions about this legislation.