



masbo

2016 Legislative Session  
Review

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2016 Session

- > Timeline
  - Short, ten week session
  - Began March 8
  - Legislature not required to pass anything
- > Unfinished business
  - Taxes
  - Transportation
  - Bonding
- > Access
  - New Senate office building
  - Construction made Capitol inaccessible

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2016 Session

- > Election year politics
  - Both House and Senate up for re-election in 2016
  - Rural issues were primary focus
  - Retirements – 14 House retirements (5 are running for State Senate, 13 Senate retirements)
- > The process
  - Abbreviated deadlines made for challenging committee schedules
  - Very little time given on each bill hearing or sufficient time for public testimony.
  - Lack of transparent, open conference committee process. More so than ever deals were made behind closed doors.
  - Proposals included in final budget or tax bills that were never introduced or heard in committee.
  - Raucous end to session, which has become business as usual. Session ended with frantic action and chaos in the final moments.

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## 2016 Session

- Bill introductions and passage
  - 4032 bills introduced in House 2015-2016
    - 1653 in 2016 session
    - 2379 in 2015 session
    - 3396 in 2014-2016 cycle
  - 3641 bills introduced in Senate 2015-2016
    - 1415 in 2016 session
    - 2226 in 2015 session
    - 2992 in 2014-2016 cycle
  - 106 bills to Governor
    - Awaiting signing of major omnibus bills (as of 5/31/16)

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## 2016 Session

- Budget forecast
  - November forecast showed \$1.89 billion surplus. State law requires 33% of any surplus goes into budget reserve
  - \$660 million went to reserve leaving surplus at \$1.2 billion
  - February forecast showed budget surplus reduced to \$900 million
    - About half considered sustainable to next biennium
- End of session
  - \$182 million for supplemental budget
  - \$257 million for taxes in FY17
  - No Bonding or Transportation bills, possible special session

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## So what did happen?

- Clear from beginning of session there was no interest by Legislature or Governor to provide additional formula increases or funding the special education cross subsidy.
- Perception that they did enough last year in regards to the formula. A common refrain we heard before session was "we did that already."
- Focus on unfinished business.

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### So what did happen?

- > E12 - \$78 million in FY17
  - \$25 million - Voluntary Pre-K
  - \$12 million - student support grants
  - \$10 million - teacher shortage proposals
  - \$4.9 million - equity revenue
  - \$10 million – teacher workforce
  
- > Taxes - \$47.6 million in FY17
  - \$44. 4 million in FY18, \$44.6 in FY19 to agricultural bond credit
  - \$3.2 million in FY 18 and FY18 for maximum effort loan aid
  - Provision in House Omnibus Tax bill to only allow local referenda to be held on general election day not adopted

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### So what did happen?

- > TRA pensions
  - COLA reduction for current retirees from 2% to 1% effective January 1, 2017 for one year only
  - Elimination of future COLA triggers
  - 1% employer increase in the original TRA proposal not included
  - TRA will bring forward proposal again in 2017
  - Vetoed
  
- > Elections
  - School board can make an appointment to fill a vacancy but requires an election be held the next November.
  - Permits the voters to reject a board appointee by petition of at least five percent of the number of voters who voted in the district in the most recent state general election.

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### MASBO Platform

- > Invest in infrastructure – MDE budget request
  - \$1 million funded
  - House especially was reluctant to fund request
  
- > HITA
  - Bills introduced in both House and Senate
  - Provisions included in House State Government supplemental budget
  - Strong opposition from EdMN
  
- > Facilities
  - Debt service equalization and changes to LTFM to allow for Pre k needs

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## MASBO Platform

> New mandates

- Site teams
- District assessment committees
- New civics test
- Reporting of disaggregated data on student performance
- Student discipline reporting
- Additional reporting requirements in WBWF
- Open enrollment lotteries – district staff have priority

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## MASBO's Impact

- > Platform continues to provide valuable information and can inform decisions at the capitol.
- > MASBO members continue to be a valuable resource, when legislators hear from you.
- > Ongoing relationship building by MASBO with local legislators must continue.
- > Lobby Day is important to process.
- > MASBO will continue to try and influence the process by providing testimony and feedback in the next legislative session.

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## What next?

- > Legislators need to hear from you about importance of MASBO priorities and school district needs.
- > Don't wait until next session. Use the interim to give legislators an opportunity to get to know your district better.
- > Send a thank you note.

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Thank You!

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