

Legislative Update
April 3, 2015

Budgets

The House and Senate passed their budget bills yesterday and early this morning. Following are a few highlights available in our [comparison document](#):

- The House provides \$53 million additional funding in the second year of the biennium to serve more of the 34,000 eligible unserved students. This funding is contingent on the passage of a Capital Gains tax in the final budget.
- The Senate reduces tuition by varying amounts at the public institutions of higher education and the College Bound Scholarship and State Need Grant award amounts are also reduced.
- Both budgets maintain funding for the College Bound Scholarship program.

Bills

The second policy cutoff was on Wednesday. Some bills have been referred to the fiscal committee and may be heard next week. The fiscal committee cutoff is Tuesday, April 7.

Dual Credit: E2SHB 1546 related to Dual Credit has been referred to Ways and Means and could be heard next week, but it is not yet listed for hearing. The Senate budget does not provide funding for expansion of dual credit programs.

Veterans: E2SHB1825 and SSB5355 are also awaiting hearings in the fiscal committees. The bills would ensure that veterans are considered residents of the state for the purposes of tuition. This change needs to be made to ensure that our state law aligns with the new Choice Act of 2014.