

From: [TASA Governmental Relations](#)
To: [Scott, Angela](#)
Subject: Capitol Watch Action Alert: Senate to Debate HB 3 Cleanup Bill (HB 1525) - Contact your Senator ASAP!
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Capitol Watch Alert



May 18, 2021

Senate to Debate HB 3 Cleanup Bill (HB 1525) Contact your Senator ASAP!

HB 1525 is set on the Senate Intent Calendar and is likely to be heard as early as today. The bill has been referred to as the “HB 3 Cleanup Bill.” **The Senate convenes at 11 a.m. today!**

School districts have expressed concerns over sections 24 and 25 of the bill.

Section 24 puts a cap on transition grant funding, which could result in proration of funds to those districts receiving the funds.

Talking Point:

- Districts receiving these grants will not know prior to settle-up if there will be cuts and will be unable to adjust their budgets at that point.

Section 25 allows the commissioner to adjust districts' state and local FSP entitlements as needed to ensure compliance with the maintenance of effort and equity provisions under the American Rescue Plan (ESSER III). In addition, it requires school districts to reserve a portion of their federal funds to be spent over five years rather than the three. The bill requires TEA to determine the portion to be reserved by school districts. School districts could access the portion set aside in fund balance beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Talking Points:

- School districts need these funds immediately to address learning loss due to COVID. Districts are well along in their planning for the uses of these funds; this change would negate months of planning.

- School districts can put reserves aside for later if needed per federal law and don't need a change in state law.
- The state should not prescribe the amount of reserves a school district must have, especially since the amount of funds received by school districts will vary.
- The state should not be asking school districts to supplant local money with federal fund intended to be supplemental funding.
- There has been much discussion about school district fund balances this session and this language would mandate further increases in school districts' fund balances.
- State and local money has fewer restrictions, but this section requires locals to use federal dollars that have very specific purposes related to mitigating the impact of COVID and to "save" the more flexible funds in fund balance.

There is widespread support for the CTE language in the bill, which adds the small and mid-sized adjustment to the basic allotment for calculating CTE funding.

Please contact your senator today and voice your concerns about Sections 24 and 25 of the bill and your support for the CTE funding fix.

[Find contact member information for senators.](#)

[Watch the live Senate floor debate.](#)

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