



AFT-West Virginia 2015 Legislative Update

Monday, January 19, 2015

Republican Majority begins Legislative Session

The First Session of the 82nd Legislature gaveled in on Wednesday, January 14, 2015, with a historic change of leadership in the House of Delegates and State Senate.

House Speaker Tim Armstead (R-Kanawha) and Senate President Bill Cole (R-Mercer) will lead Republican majorities in both chambers in setting the legislative agenda of the state.

AFT-WV Bill Watch:

[House Bill 2005](#) - Relating to alternative programs for the education of teachers

AFT-WV is working with members of the House and Senate Education committees to ensure a highly qualified WV educator in every classroom. Alternative Certification programs should benefit WV's public education system while respecting the teaching profession.

[House Bill 2014](#) / [Senate Bill 14](#) – West Virginia Public Charter Schools Act of 2015

AFT-WV Opposes charter schools that eliminate the rights of teachers, abuse state and local tax dollars, and show no evidence of improving student achievement.

[House Bill 2032](#) - Increasing salary increments paid to principals and assistant principals

AFT-WV Opposes HB2032 unless it is attached to pay increases that will attract and retain school employees at all levels.

[House Bill 2077](#) - Requiring county boards of education to provide released time for professional educators and service personnel when serving in an elected municipal or county office

AFT-WV Supports public education employees serving at all levels of elected office, from city hall to the statehouse.

[House Bill 2082](#) - Requiring county boards of education to employ a certified library media specialist in each county school

AFT-WV Supports with appropriate funding allocation.

[Senate Bill 5](#) - Creating teacher corps program

OPPOSE – WV needs to find ways to attract highly qualified teachers for every classroom. Lowering teaching standards to allow private special interests access to state funds will not improve our children's education.

[Senate Bill 33](#) - Decreasing teacher-pupil ratios; increasing certain classroom aides' pay

AFT-WV Supports all efforts to produce a quality learning environment. SB33 would establish a twenty-five pupil per class maximum for all classrooms.

[Senate Bill 246](#) - Establishing grandfather exemption requiring certain School for Deaf and Blind child care workers hold associate's degree

AFT-WV Supports treating public employees with fairness.

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AFT-West Virginia

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