



# AFT-West Virginia 2015 Legislative Update

Friday, January 30, 2015

Two major pieces of legislation this week propose significant changes for teachers and public education. Senate and House Committee leaders are taking action on **SB 14** and **HB 2005**.

## **Senate Bill 14 / House Bill 2014 – West Virginia Public Charter Schools Act of 2015**

SB14: Sponsored by Senators Sypolt, Walters, Blair, Cole (Mr. President), Takubo

HB2014: Delegates Upson, Pasdon, Cowles, McCuskey, Hamrick, Ihle, Walters, Overington, Faircloth, Azinger

**AFT-WV opposes charter schools legislation for a number of reasons, including:**

- the elimination of the due process and personnel rights for teachers and service personnel
- the potential mismanagement or abuse of state and local tax dollars; and
- the lack of evidence to demonstrate charter schools improve student achievement.

SB 14 was on the Senate Education Committee agenda on Tuesday. The committee held a two-part meeting to hear input from interested parties. AFT-WV President Christine Campbell and WVSPA Executive Director Joe White spoke before the committee to outline their concerns.



*AFT-Fayette activist Tega McGuffin speaks against charter schools at the public hearing.*

On Wednesday, a Legislative Public Hearing was held to allow public input on charter school legislation. **AFT-WV & WVSSPA are proud of the teachers and service personnel who spoke so passionately in opposition of this bill. We would also like to thank all educators who have emailed or called Senate members to express concerns with this bill. Keep up the great work!**

A committee substitute to SB14 was introduced to the Senate Education Committee during Thursday's meeting. The new language is drastically different than introduced and the committee will continue its discussion next Tuesday.

## **House Bill 2005 – Alternative Certification Programs**

Sponsored by Delegates Pasdon, Hamrick, Zatezalo, Romine, McCuskey, Walters, Westfall, Arvon, Overington, Espinosa, Moffatt

**AFT-WV opposes HB 2005 in its current form.**

HB 2005 was brought before the House Education Committee on Monday. At the beginning of the meeting, a 45 page strike and insert amendment was presented to the committee. The amendment added several new sections to state law, including one to allow "approved education providers" such as Teach for America to enter into "partnership agreements" with local schools, Boards of Education and RESAs.

After six hours of discussion and more amendment attempts, HB 2005 was passed by the House Education Committee and now awaits action in the House Finance Committee.

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**AFT-West Virginia**

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## AFT-WV Bill Watch:

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### **House Bill 2005** - Relating to alternative programs for the education of teachers

Delegates Pasdon, Hamrick, Zatezalo, Romine, McCuskey, Walters, Westfall, Arvon, Overington, Espinosa, Moffatt

**AFT-WV opposes** the current form of this bill, which would allow “approved education providers” such as Teach for America to enter “partnership agreements” with local schools, boards of education and RESAs.

### **House Bill 2032** - Increasing salary increments paid to principals and assistant principals

Delegate Romine

**AFT-WV opposes** HB2032 unless 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

Delegates Caputo and Manchin

**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

Delegates Caputo and Rowan

**AFT-WV supports** with appropriate funding allocation.

### **House Bill 2107** - Relating to required courses of school instruction generally

Delegates Overington, Ambler, Foster, Frich, Householder, Sobonya, Moffatt, Kelly, Rowan, Zatezalo, Butler

**AFT-WV opposes** mandating curriculum in state code.

### **House Bill 2155** - Increasing pay to teachers and service personnel

Delegates Perry, Longstreth, Phillips, L., Pethtel, Rowan, Moyer, Hartman, Williams, Fleischauer

**AFT-WV supports** raising salaries to retain and attract teachers and service personnel.

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HB2014: Delegates Upson, Pasdon, Cowles, McCuskey, Hamrick, Ihle, Walters, Overington, Faircloth, Azinger

**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.

Senate Education began discussing the SB14 committee substitute on Thursday 1/29.

### **Senate Bill 33** - Decreasing teacher-pupil ratios; increasing certain classroom aides' pay

Senator D. Hall

**AFT-WV supports** all efforts to produce a quality learning environment. SB33 would establish a 20 pupil per class maximum for pre-K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and 25 pupil per class maximum for all other classrooms.

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

Senators Trump, Blair, Leonhardt, Williams

**AFT-WV supports** treating public employees with fairness.

### **Senate Bill 296** - Providing maximum licensed school psychologist-pupil ratio

Senators Walters and D. Hall

**AFT-WV supports** a 1,500 pupil ratio for each licensed school psychologist in the county.

### **Senate Bill 307** - “Payroll Protection Act”

Senators Blair and Carmichael

**AFT-WV opposes**



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