



AFT-West Virginia 2015 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Friday, February 06, 2015

Your voice is being heard on charter schools, please keep calling!

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 14 – 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

On Thursday, members of the Senate Education Committee were scheduled to take action on the Committee Substitute for SB 14. However, Chairman Sypolt announced at the beginning of the meeting that no action would be taken on the bill until Tuesday, and provided members with additional information to review and discuss.



AFT-WV President Christine Campbell discusses concerns with charter schools legislation during a press conference held by the WV AFL-CIO.

AFT-WV is proud of the thousands of teachers and service personnel who have called and emailed committee members to voice their concerns with this bill. We would also like to thank all local leaders who attended the WV AFL-CIO Legislative Conference this week. These activists spent two days at the Capitol, setting up meetings with key legislators to discuss this bill. Thanks to the influx of concerns from our members as well as many unanswered questions, the Senate leadership is beginning to listen to our concerns. Your activism is making a difference! Please continue to call and email the Senate Education Committee to make our voices heard as we continue to fight to improve public education for all WV children.

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.

A Committee Substitute for HB 2005 was brought before the House Finance Committee on Wednesday. A fiscal note was introduced from the Department of Education, citing an estimated cost of \$3 million to implement. These costs would likely include new administrative positions to manage alternative certification programs at the state and regional levels.

The bill was amended to allow every county Board of Education to implement their own alternative certification program without requiring a partnership, which could result in 55 different models. Our concerns regarding the lack of education credit hours continue to be raised at every meeting but are ignored by the majority party.

HB 2005 was passed by the House Finance Committee by narrow margin and now advances to the House Floor.



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AFT-WV Bill Watch:

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

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

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.

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

AFT-WV opposes mandating curriculum in state code.

House Bill 2155 - Increasing pay to teachers and service personnel

AFTWV supports raising salaries to retain and attract teachers and service personnel.

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 20 pupil per class maximum for pre-K through 2nd 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

AFT-WV supports treating public employees with fairness.

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

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

Senate Bill 307 - "Payroll Protection Act"

AFT-WV opposes

Education Bills on the Move:

HB2005 Relating to alternative programs for the education of teachers

Changes alternative programs for the education of teachers; ADVANCED TO HOUSE FLOOR; AFT OPPOSES

HB2151 Making the West Virginia state teacher of the year an ex officio, nonvoting member of the WV BOE

ON 2nd READING / HOUSE FLOOR; AFT-WV SUPPORTS

HB2160 WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind eligible for SBA funding

Makes schools for deaf and blind eligible to participate in any and all funding administered or distributed by WV SBA; ADVANCED TO HOUSE FINANCE; AFT-WV SUPPORTS

SB7 Requiring CPR and care for conscious choking instruction in public schools

Modifies current required instruction in CPR/first aid in grades 6-12; requires minimum 30 minutes instruction prior to graduation in CPR; ADVANCED TO SENATE FLOOR; AFT-WV SUPPORTS

SB238 Exempting county boards of education from liability arising from unorganized recreation

Provides that county boards of education are not liable for loss or injury from the use of school property made available for unorganized recreation; ADVANCED TO SENATE JUDICIARY; NO POSITION TAKEN BY AFT-WV

SB243 Relating to school nutrition standards during state of emergency or preparedness

Facilitates educational instruction during a state of emergency where approved school meals are not available for distribution to students; ADVANCED TO SENATE JUDICIARY; AFT-WV SUPPORTS

SB287 Providing posthumous high school diplomas

Provides for the awarding of a posthumous high school diploma to parents of a high school senior who dies during the senior year ON 1st READING/SENATE FLOOR; AFT-WV SUPPORTS

HB2370 Increasing the powers of regional councils for governance of regional education service agencies

Expands the powers of the regional councils comprised of superintendents, county board members and others in the governance of regional education service agencies; ADVANCED TO THE HOUSE FLOOR; AFT-WV SUPPORTS

HB2377 Authorizing State Board of Education to approve certain alternatives with respect to instructional time

Describes the constitutional authority of the State Board of Education for the general supervision of the public schools and includes provisions for flexibility for instructional time. AFT-WV worked to ensure flexibility provisions in the bill guarantee the current minimum required planning period for teachers; ADVANCED TO SENATE JUDICIARY/ AFT SUPPORTS

