



AFT-West Virginia 2015 Legislative Update

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FINAL EDITION

Precisely at midnight on Saturday, March 14th, the conclusion of the 2015 Legislative Session decided the fate of several pieces of legislation. The outpouring of activism by teachers and school service personnel had a direct impact on the outcome of this session. AFT-WV is so grateful to everyone who took the time to email and call legislators. **You truly made a difference for public education!**

SB 14 - WV Public Charter Schools (FAILED)

SB 14 allowed the creation of public charter schools in WV. The bill appeared to be on the fast track early in the session but even with many delays, it still passed the Senate. After being advanced by the House Education and Finance committees, SB 14 seemed to be set for passage. However, the bill was scheduled for third reading on the House floor when it was abruptly placed at the bottom of the House calendar. SB 14 remained at the foot of the calendar until the gavel fell at midnight, despite a late attempt to amend it into another bill. Additionally, a resolution to study charter schools also fell short on the last day of the session. The ultimate demise of the charter school bill is a tremendous victory for public education and the outcry from education employees was a key factor in the momentum shift for this bill.

HB 2005 – Alternative Certification (PASSED)

In its original form, HB 2005 expanded alternative certification programs in WV to address teacher shortages in the state. The bill would have lowered standards for program entry by allowing anyone with a bachelor's degree to teach any subject area or grade level without additional training. Once again, thanks to the thousands of emails and calls, the Senate Education Committee made several amendments to the bill, addressing many of AFT-WV's concerns.

The amended version allows hiring alternative certification teacher candidates only in areas of critical need regarding shortages. Provisions were included to prevent the displacement of traditionally certified teachers by alternatively certified individuals in matters of hiring and reduction in force. Language in the bill was strengthened to guarantee the content area expertise of alternative certification candidates. Professional development requirements were added, ensuring the alternative certification program provides candidates additional courses in areas such as child development and learning, classroom management, educational technology and curriculum.

HB 2934 Repeal of the Common Core Standards (FAILED)

HB 2934 called for a complete repeal of the Common Core Standards in WV and quickly passed the House of Delegates. Due to concerns that the bill would leave WV with no standards and cost the state well over \$100 million, the Senate amended the bill to require a review of the standards. Revised HB 2934 passed the Senate but died when the House refused to concur with the Senate's changes.

HB 2939 Requirements for mandatory reporting of sex offenses involving students (PASSED)

This bill clarifies the reporting requirements of school employees who witness or receive disclosure of sexual offenses involving students. School employees are required to report these matters to their principal immediately, but not more than 24 hours of the incident becoming known. The bill requires administrators to report the incident to the State Police within 24 hours.

SB 537 Changing mandatory school instructional time from days to minutes (FAILED)

SB 537 would have changed current law regarding instructional time from days to minutes, allowing local boards of education to use minutes beyond the required amount, or "banked time," for lost instructional days. The bill would have been effective immediately, potentially assisting county boards in offsetting lost instructional days for the current school year. However, the House and Senate could not concur on amendments to the bill, and it failed to pass on the final day of the legislative session.

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AFT-West Virginia - Education-related legislation passed by 1st Session of 82nd WV Legislature 2015

Click bill number for full bill history.

Bill	Title	Status	Effective Date
SB 7	Requiring CPR and care for conscious choking instruction in public schools	Approved by Governor 2/24/15	Effective July 1, 2015
SB 19	Specifying minimum early childhood education program instruction days	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
SB 238	Limiting certain county board of education liability arising from unorganized recreation	Approved by Governor 3/5/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage May 26, 2015
SB 243	Relating to school nutrition standards during state of emergency or preparedness	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
SB 286	Relating to compulsory immunizations of students; exemptions	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
SB 287	Providing posthumous high school diplomas	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
SB 455	Relating to public higher education procurement and payment of expenses	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
SB 529	Relating to PERS, SPRS and TRS benefits and costs	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2005	Relating to alternative programs for the education of teachers	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2025	Prohibiting certain sex offenders from loitering within one thousand feet of a school or child care facility	Approved by Governor 3/3/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage May 26, 2015
HB 2139	Relating to employment of retired teachers as substitutes in areas of critical need and shortage for substitutes	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2140	Building governance and leadership capacity of county board during period of state intervention	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2160	WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind eligible for School Building Authority funding	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2200	Revising, rearranging, consolidating and recodifying the laws of the State of West Virginia relating to child welfare	Approved by Governor 2/19/15	Effective from passage February 16, 2015
HB 2370	Increasing the powers of regional councils for governance of regional education service agencies	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2377	Authorizing State Board of Education to approve certain alternatives with respect to instructional time	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2381	Providing a teacher mentoring increment for classroom teachers with national board certification who teach and mentor at certain schools	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2478	Relating to public school finance	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature

HB 2502	Possessing deadly weapons on school buses or on the premises of educational facilities	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2527	Creating a Task Force on Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children; "Erin Merryn's Law"	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2550	Increasing the number of unexcused absences of a student before action may be taken against the parent	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2598	Ensuring that teachers of students with disabilities receive complete information about the school's plan for accommodating the child's disabilities	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2632	Exempting the procurement of certain instructional materials for use in and in support of public schools from the division of purchasing requirements	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2645	Expanding the availability of the Underwood-Smith Teacher Loan Assistance Program	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2669	Relating to compulsory tuberculosis testing	Approved by Governor 3/3/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage May 26, 2015
HB 2674	Making home schooled students eligible for a PROMISE scholarship without taking the GED test	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2702	Redefining service personnel class titles of early childhood classroom assistant teacher	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2755	Relating to service and professional employee positions at jointly established schools	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2764	Making a supplementary appropriation to the State Department of Education - School Building Authority	Approved by Governor 3/11/15	Effective from passage March 6, 2015
HB 2780	Enhancing the ability of campus police officers at public colleges to perform their duties	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2793	Relating to exemptions from mandatory school attendance	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2840	Providing an alternative plan to make up lost days of instruction	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2867	Requiring recommendations for higher education course credit transfer	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2884	Modifying training and development requirement for certain members of certain higher education boards	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2892	Authorizing certain legislative rules regarding higher education	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature
HB 2939	Relating to requirements for mandatory reporting of sexual offenses on school premises involving students	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation Awaiting Governor's signature