



AFT-West Virginia 2016 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Tuesday, January 19, 2016



AFT-WV would like to thank the thousands of teachers and service personnel who stood in solidarity with other union members to protest the legislative leadership's attack on working families. Over 3500 people packed the Capitol before the Governor's State of the State address to stand up against PEIA cuts, right to work legislation and proposals to destroy prevailing wage laws.

PEIA

Gov. Tomblin proposed raising the state's tobacco tax by 45 cents to a total of \$1 a pack. If passed, this proposal will direct \$43 million to help fund PEIA, ensuring public employees do not see the dramatic benefit reductions initially proposed. However, additional funding is needed to prevent all proposed benefit cuts.

"The Governor's proposal to increase the tobacco tax to fund to PEIA is a step in the right direction. Now, it's up to the Legislature to increase this proposal to fully fund the PEIA shortfall and demonstrate the same commitment to working families," explained AFT-WV President Christine Campbell.

The Supreme Court and the Vacant Senate Seat

The WV Supreme Court heard oral arguments on Tuesday regarding the replacement for Senator Daniel Hall, who resigned several weeks ago. It is unclear how long a ruling from the Court will take, but the outcome could have a significant impact on the session.

Charter Schools bill to be introduced in House this week

House Education Chair Paul Espinosa will introduce a newly revised charter school bill in the coming days. AFT-WV maintains that charter schools are a distraction to real solutions. We know they will divert already limited funding from our public schools, providing profit for out-of-state charter school management firms. We know there is no evidence charter schools produce improvements in student achievement. Meanwhile, Governor Tomblin is introducing legislation aimed at improving the Innovation Zone concept that has been proven to provide schools and counties the educational flexibility to enhance student achievement. AFT-WV will review every aspect to the proposed charter school bill and governor's innovation bill to keep legislators, members, and the public informed.



AFT-West Virginia
Christine Campbell, President
www.aftwv.org 800.222.9838



AFT-WV will be evaluating and developing positions on education bills, and will publish our positions in future legislative updates. If you have comments directed at specific bills, please email them to info@aftwv.org.

Education Bills Introduced as of 1-19-16:

- [SB 46](#)** Changing mandatory school instructional time from 180 days to minutes
- [SB 58](#)** Temporary reassignment of injured or ill county board of education service personnel
- [SB 75](#)** Establishing cook-meal ratios for full- and half-day school cooks
- [SB 89](#)** Providing maximum ratio of 1500 pupils to one licensed school psychologist
- [SB 100](#)** Requirements for employment of public school nurses
- [SB 105](#)** Allowing nonpublic school student participate in public school athletics
- [SB 113](#)** Increasing teacher pay over 5-year period
- [SB 114](#)** Increasing school service personnel pay over 5-year period
- [SB 131](#)** Allowing counties to impose additional property levies solely to fund public libraries
- [SB 134](#)** Establishing task force to study impact of any state 2- or 4-year campus closure
- [SB 137](#)** Setting safety standards for youth lacrosse
- [SB 143](#)** Requiring annual WVU-Marshall basketball game
- [SB 146](#)** Establishing instruction standards for early childhood education
- [SB 275](#)** Creating low-interest student loan refinancing program for teachers
- [SB 299](#)** Creating Library Facilities Improvement Fund
- [SB 313](#)** Changing mandatory school instructional time from 180 days to minutes
- [SB 316](#)** Removing requirement home-schooled student must acquire GED to qualify for PROMISE scholarship
- [SB 318](#)** Clarifying that home schooled student may not be classified as habitually absent
- [SB 321](#)** Providing more equitable disbursement of funds to county boards to lessen impact of serving special needs students
- [HB 4018](#)** Establishing incentives for public schools to make their recreational facilities available for public use outside of school hours
- [HB 4020](#)** School Consolidation Task Force
- [HB 4024](#)** Prohibiting the use of the Smarter Balanced Assessment
- [HB 4025](#)** Requiring members of the State Board of Education to be physically present in state board meetings
- [HB 4026](#)** Limiting terms of citizen members of the School Building Authority
- [HB 4027](#)** Increasing pay to teachers and service personnel
- [HB 4028](#)** Relating to school calendar and school instructional days
- [HB 4036](#)** Restoring language that gives preference to currently employed certified professional educators when hiring athletic coaches
- [HB 4039](#)** Increasing salaries for teachers
- [HB 4147](#)** Making the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind eligible to participate in any and all funding administered or distributed by the West Virginia School Building Authority



[SIGN THE PETITION AT WWW.FIXPEIA.COM](http://WWW.FIXPEIA.COM)



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