



AFT-West Virginia 2016 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Thursday, February 04, 2016

PEIA

At press time, there has been no attempt by the leadership in the House or the Senate to advance the Governor's proposal or create their own solution to fix and fully fund PEIA.

On Monday, House Democrats attempted to amend funds from the Rainy Day Fund into a time-sensitive spending bill. Democratic members, concerned by the inaction of the majority party to address the issue, tried to amend a supplemental budget bill with a plan to address the \$120 million financial hole currently faced by the Public Employees Insurance Agency.

Del. Isaac Sponaugle (D-Pendleton) proposed an amendment to take more than \$58.5 million from the state's Rainy Day Fund and put it toward PEIA, but the attempt failed on a strict party line vote.

Attacks on working families continue

[HB 4005](#) repeals prevailing wage laws for publicly financed construction projects, which will enable cheap, often undocumented workers from out of state corporations to under bid projects and ultimately result in lower wages and less jobs for thousands of West Virginians in the construction trades. The bill passed in the House. It sailed through the Senate Government Organization, despite repeated requests for a reference to Finance Committee. At press time, HB 4005 is on third reading in Senate.

[SB 1](#) would make WV a Right to Work state. Right to Work legislation is designed to weaken unions. It creates government intrusion in employer-employee negotiations and forces unions to bargain for and represent non-dues paying employees in the bargaining unit. The bill has passed the Senate, and is on third reading in House at press time.

Charter Schools bill still awaiting action in House

HB 4011 is more troublesome than last year's charter schools bill because it removes local community and employee buy-in. It also creates an entirely independent Public Charter Schools Oversight and Accountability Board, complete with gubernatorial appointees and paid staff. This would essentially be a second State Board of Education for charter schools and could be in conflict with the state's constitution. Additionally, the Charter Schools Governing Board would consist of nine voting members, three of which would be parents of charter school students. The principal, two teachers and one service personnel would be **non-voting** members of the governing board.

AFT-WV maintains that charter schools are a distraction to real solutions. Charter schools divert already limited funding from our public schools, providing profit for out-of-state charter school management firms. There is no evidence charter schools produce improvements in student achievement. Watch for more information **-including action items-** from AFT-WV in the coming weeks on this bill. The bill is pending action in the House Education Committee. **AFT-WV opposes HB 4011.**



*AFT-WV attendees at this week's WV AFL-CIO
Legislative Conference*



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Bills Advanced from Education Committees

Over a third of the way into the session, a dismal number of bills have been reported out of the education committees. None of these bills address the PEIA shortfall, widespread teacher shortages, or serious ways to improve student achievement.

- [SB 146](#) Establishing instruction standards for early childhood education
- [SB 369](#) Reducing legislative education reporting requirements
- [HB 2474](#) Relating to the compensation of personnel employed at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind
- [HB 4175](#) Relating generally to home schooling
- [HB 4251](#) Prohibits the sale or transfer of student data to vendors
- [HB 4291](#) Increasing penalties for teachers who commit sexual offenses against children
- [HB 4301](#) Relating to a framework for initiating comprehensive transformation of school leadership
- [HB 4322](#) Expanding the Earn and Learn component of the Workforce Development Initiative
- [HB 4316](#) Relating to reimbursement of certification fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification
- [HB 4325](#) Requiring payment of tuition by a county board to the Mountaineer Challenge Academy

Education Bills of Note (With Status) as of 2-2-16:

[Committee Sub. For SB 13](#) Increasing penalties for overtaking and passing stopped school buses; Passed Senate, pending House Judiciary; **AFT-WV SUPPORTS**

[SB 90](#) Allows collective bargaining between state and its employees; pending Senate Labor; **AFT-WV SUPPORTS**

[SB 100](#) Reduces the student-school nurse ratio from 1,500-1 in grades K-7 to 750-1 and expands it to all levels of school in the 2016-17 school year to provide for ever-increasing medical needs of students, while ensuring that school nurses will do the work, not contract services; pending Senate Education; **AFT-WV SUPPORTS**

[HB 2981](#) Extends the time for teachers in the defined contribution retirement plan to purchase service credit in the State Teachers Retirement System; pending House Education; **AFT-WV SUPPORTS**

[HB 4295](#) Creates Innovation in Education designated schools, which demonstrate innovation in STEM, community school partnership, entrepreneurship or career pathways and includes designated funding; pending House Education; **AFT-WV SUPPORTS**

[SB 146](#) Changes early childhood educational requirements from instructional days to minutes; passed Senate, pending House Education

School Calendar

Currently, there are three school calendar bills. AFT-WV supports school calendars that provide thorough instructional time and allow local communities to develop calendars to fit their unique needs.

[SB 46](#) Changes school calendar mandatory school instructional time from 180 days to minutes; pending Senate Education

[SB 313](#) Changes school calendar mandatory school instructional time from 180 days to minutes; pending Senate Education

[HB 4028](#) Changes school calendar and instructional time by mandating school instructional terms for students may begin no earlier than September 1 and must terminate on or before June 5. The bill decreases the number of instructional days for students by five days and requires five days for professional development or continuing education; pending House Education



2016 Legislative Bad Apples

[HB 4011](#) Creates charter schools in WV with independent governing board and paid staff, minimal community oversight and no employee buy-in; pending House Education; **AFT-WV OPPOSES**

[HB 4005](#) Repeals prevailing wage laws for publicly financed construction projects, which will enable cheap, often undocumented workers from out of state corporations to under bid projects and ultimately result in lower wages and less jobs for thousands of West Virginians in the construction trades; passed House, passed Senate Government Organization, Committee chair refused requested reference to Finance Committee, third reading in Senate; **AFT-WV OPPOSES**

[SB 1](#) Right to Work legislation, designed to weaken unions, prohibits closed shop union membership; forces unions to bargain for and represent non-dues paying employees in the bargaining unit; passed Senate, third reading in House; **AFT-WV OPPOSES**

[SB 407](#) Creates charter schools in WV with independent governing board and paid staff, minimal community oversight and no employee buy-in; pending Senate Education; **AFT-WV OPPOSES**

