



AFT-West Virginia 2016 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Friday, February 12, 2016

Distractions, not solutions continue to dominate legislative session

Common Core

Last Thursday, AFT-WV President Christine Campbell spoke during a public hearing on the common core standards, describing the continued focus on repealing standards a distraction from serious issues facing education. Citing the PEIA crisis, 600 unfilled classroom teacher vacancies and an alarming lack of support for teachers and service personnel, Campbell questioned, "Why are we still talking about this?"

A Committee Substitute for HB 4014 was discussed by the House Education Committee on February 10th and 11th. Staff from WVDE, SBOE, State Superintendent and counsel for House Education answered questions over the course of two days. If passed, the cost to public education in our state is unclear and would cause yet another change in direction for WV teachers and students. At press time, the committee planned to further discuss the bill.



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 an alternate solution to fix and fully fund PEIA.

At the half-way mark of the legislative session, concerns continue to grow regarding the inaction of the legislative leadership. Over 230,000 West Virginians will be hurt by the \$120 million in proposed PEIA benefit cuts unless a funding stream is passed by the legislature. Please continue to contact your representatives and ask them to fix and fund PEIA.

School Calendar bill changes 180 days to minutes

AFT-WV supports school calendars that provide thorough instructional time and allow local communities to develop calendars to fit their unique needs. [SB 313](#) changes mandatory school instructional time from 180 days to minutes; pending Senate Finance.

Attacks on working families pass both chambers

[HB 4005](#) repealed prevailing wage laws for publicly financed construction projects, which will enable cheap, often undocumented workers from out of state corporations to under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. [SB 1](#) makes 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 Governor vetoed both bills; however, it will only take a simple majority to override the Governor's veto. Both the House and Senate are expected to vote to override both Prevailing Wage repeal and Right to Work this weekend.

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, while allowing service personnel jobs to be contracted out to private companies or out-of-state corporations. The national trend of mismanagement and fraud in Charter Schools is not what we need in West Virginia. To read AFT-WV President, Christine Campbell and AFT President, Randi Weingarten's article on Charter Schools, visit <http://www.wvgazette.com/gazette-opinion/20160210/christine-campbell-randi-weingarten-dont-be-fooled-by-charter-school-bill-gazette>

AFT-WV opposes HB 4011.



AFT-West Virginia
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Notable Bills Advanced from Education Committees

Half way through the session, 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
SB 373	Moves hiring and governing authority for RESA directors from the state BOE to the RESA
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 4261	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
SB 459	Requiring payment of tuition by a county board to the Mountaineer Challenge Academy

Education Bills of Note (With Status) as of 2-11-16:

[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**

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

[SB 549](#) Requires school counselors spend 100 percent of time on comprehensive school counseling programs; **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**

[HB 4036](#) Restores language to the code that gives a preference to currently employed certified professional educators when hiring athletic coaches or coaches of other extracurricular activities in public schools; pending House Education; **AFT-WV SUPPORTS**

[HB 4269](#) Alters the funding cycle for replacement of school buses; pending House Education



2016 Legislative Bad Apples

[HB 4011](#) / [SB 407](#) 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 and Senate; awaits action by Governor; **AFT-WV OPPOSES**

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

