



AFT-West Virginia 2016 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Friday, February 26, 2016



Common Core

AFT-WV President Christine Campbell appeared on Talkline with Hoppy Kercheval on Tuesday to discuss the issue. Campbell discussed the importance of stability, noting the multiple changes in recent years in both the standards and assessment.

"The WV Legislature needs to rely on education professionals in regards to our education standards, curriculum, and assessments. Our public schools need resources for our classrooms, support for all school employees and stability in education. Constant change drains resources we desperately need to educate our children," Campbell said.

On Thursday during 2nd reading in the House, the House amended the bill, reinserting language that would block next school year's implementation of new science standards that require teaching students about global warming and removing

"Common Core instructional strategies" by 2017-18. [Committee Substitute for HB 4014](#) passed the House on Friday.

Senate amends and advances tobacco tax to fund PEIA

Last week, the Senate Finance Committee amended and advanced SB 420, a bill designed to raise the state's tobacco tax by \$1 and fund the PEIA deficit. SB 420 was passed this week by the full Senate and now awaits action by the House of Delegates.

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 by supporting SB 420.

Salary Equity Bill would result in pay cut for service personnel

[HB 4465](#) proposes to eliminate the current calculation for salary equity for school service personnel. By eliminating the current calculation, the legislature will be cutting \$6 million from hard working service personnel across West Virginia. The bill was on 2nd reading, but was removed from the House floor. The bill appears to have stalled but could regain momentum at any moment. **AFT-WV opposes HB 4465.**

Two School Calendar bills active

AFT-WV supports school calendars that provide thorough instructional time and allow local communities to develop calendars to fit their unique needs. [Engrossed Committee Substitute for SB 313](#) changes mandatory school instructional time from 180 days to minutes and permits limited use of available accrued instructional time. The bill passed the Senate and awaits action by the House. [HB 4171](#) calls for a school year that begins no earlier than August 10 and completes by June 10. It also permits the use of accrued instructional minutes to makeup up 8 days lost to inclement weather. The bill has passed the House and awaits action by the Senate.

Lesson Plans Online

[SB 681](#) provides teachers' lesson plans be available on the Internet to student and parents. The bill was in the Senate Education agenda on Thursday but did not consider the bill due to time. Over 20,000 people have viewed the SB 681 action item on AFT-WV's Facebook page! Keep calling and emailing until they pull this bad bill! **AFT-WV opposes SB 681.**

Charter Schools dead according to Senate Majority Leader

Republican Majority Leader Senator Mitch Carmichael told the Associated Press on Tuesday that lawmakers won't pass a bill to allow charter schools in West Virginia during this session. AFT-WV remains vigilant, as anything can happen with 15 days remaining in session. **AFT-WV opposes HB 4011.**



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Notable Bills Advanced from Education Committee

SB 146	Establishing instruction standards for early childhood education; amended and passed both chambers
SB 105	Creating Tim Tebow Act allowing nonpublic school student participate in SSAC member school athletics; passed Senate, sent to House
SB 369	Reducing legislative education reporting requirements; passed both chambers
SB 373	Moves hiring and governing authority for RESA directors from the state BOE to the RESA; pending Senate Finance
SB 459	Requiring payment of tuition by a county board to the Mountaineer Challenge Academy; pending House Education
HB 2474	Relating to the compensation of personnel employed at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; passed House, pending Senate Education
HB 4175	Relating generally to home schooling; passed both chambers
HB 4261	Prohibits the sale or transfer of student data to vendors; passed House; pending Senate Education
HB 4291	Increasing penalties for teachers who commit sexual offenses against children; passed House, pending Senate Ed.
HB 4301	Relating to a framework for initiating comprehensive transformation of school leadership; pending House Finance
HB 4322	Expanding the Earn and Learn component of the Workforce Development Initiative; passed House, pending Senate Education
HB 4316	Relating to reimbursement of certification fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification Governor's bill to expand the Innovation Zone program; passed House, pending Senate Education
HB 4295	Relating to the adoption of instructional educational resources; 3 rd reading in House
HB 4445	Relating to the adoption of instructional resources; passed House, pending Senate Education
HB 4572	Excepting specialized contract instructors from the definition of teacher; amended and passed House, sent to Senate

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**

[Committee Sub for SB 146](#) Changes early childhood educational requirements from instructional days to minutes; amended and passed both chambers

[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; 2nd reading in House; **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

[HB 4566](#) Changes timelines for RIF and transfer of personnel; changes preferred recall posting and notification process for school service personnel; changes transfer timelines for service personnel who work one-on-one with students; pending House Finance



2016 Legislative Bad Apples

[SB 681](#) Provides teachers' lessons plans be available on the Internet to student and parents; pending Senate Education; **AFT-WV OPPOSES**

[HB 4465](#) Recalculates salary equity among school systems and would result in a pay cut for some school service personnel; 2nd reading in House; **AFT-WV OPPOSES**

[B 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**

