



AFT-West Virginia 2016 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Friday, March 04, 2016



House leaders continue to ignore PEIA, Finance Committee rejects Senate's PEIA fix

Last week, SB 420 was passed by the full Senate to raise the tobacco tax by \$1 to fully fund the PEIA shortfall and avoid potential employee premium increases. Yesterday, the House Finance Committee amended the bill to a 45 cent tax increase. Ultimately, the committee didn't pass the watered down version of the bill, leaving a \$120 million hole in the budget with no other funding alternatives to address the shortfall. With one week to go in the 2016 Legislative Session, the House turned their backs on 230,000 West Virginians who depend on PEIA for affordable health care coverage. Please continue to contact House members and ask them to fix and fund PEIA and by reconsidering SB 420.

[Click here to watch Sen. Ron Miller discuss SB 622.](#)

Retaliatory bill strips union representation from PEIA Board

[SB 622](#) would change the composition of the Public Employees Insurance Agency Finance Board. The bill passed the Senate Wednesday on a party line 18-16 vote. SB 622 would reconfigure the board, which each year must approve PEIA health care benefits packages for public employees and retirees. The board would shrink from 10 to eight members; a union representative and an at-large citizen member would be removed from the current board. SB 622 awaits action by the House. **AFT-WV opposes SB 622.**

Common Core

AFT-WV maintains the WV Legislature should rely on education professionals in regards to our education standards, curriculum, and assessments. Our students and educators need continuity and stability to improve achievement.

[Committee Substitute for HB 4014](#) passed the House last Friday. This version includes 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. The bill now awaits action by the Senate Education Committee.

Salary Equity revamp fails to pass out of House

[HB 4465](#) proposed to eliminate the current calculation for salary equity for school service personnel. By eliminating the current calculation, the legislature would have cut \$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 was not addressed again, and did not pass out of the House before the crossover day deadline. **AFT-WV opposed HB 4465.**

Online lesson plans bill dies after outcry from educators

[SB 681](#) called for teachers' lesson plans to be available on the Internet to student and parents. Over 20,000 people have viewed the SB 681 action item on AFT-WV's Facebook page. Thanks to your calls and emails, the bill died in the Senate Education Committee. **AFT-WV opposed SB 681.**

Two school Calendar bills still active

AFT-WV supports school calendars that provide thorough instructional time and allow local communities to develop calendars to fit their unique needs. [Eng. Comm. 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.



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



Notable Bills Passed by Both Chambers

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| SB 146 | Establishing instruction standards for early childhood education |
| SB 369 | Reducing legislative education reporting requirements |
| HB 4175 | Relating generally to home schooling |

Notable Bills Still Alive (Passed One Chamber)

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| Comm. Sub. for SB 13 | Increasing penalties for overtaking and passing stopped school buses; Passed Senate, 2 nd Reading in House |
| SB 105 | Creating Tim Tebow Act allowing nonpublic school student participate in SSAC member school athletics; passed Senate, pending House Education |
| SB 378 | Relating to truancy intervention; passed Senate, pending House Judiciary |
| SB 459 | Requiring payment of tuition by a county board to the Mountaineer Challenge Academy; passed Senate, pending House Education |
| SB 631 | Authorizing higher education boards of governors develop retirement and incentive packages; passed Senate, pending Senate Finance |
| 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 2960 | Permitting county boards of education to develop emergency preparedness drills in schools; passed House, pending Senate Education |
| 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 |
| HB 4295 | Governor's bill to expand the Innovation Zone program; passed House, pending Senate Education |
| HB 4445 | Relating to the adoption of instructional educational resources; passed House, pending Senate 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; passed House, pending Senate Education |
| HB 4572 | Excepting specialized contract instructors from the definition of teacher; amended and passed House, pending Senate Education |
| HB 4295 | Creates Innovation in Education designated schools, which demonstrate innovation in STEM, community school partnership, entrepreneurship or career pathways and includes designated funding; passed House, pending Senate Education |



Dead on Arrival:

Education Bills Never Considered by Committee

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| SB 90 | Allows collective bargaining between state and its employees; pending Senate Labor |
| 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 |
| SB 549 | Requires school counselors spend 100 percent of time on comprehensive school counseling programs |
| 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 |
| 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 |

SB 113, SB 114, HB 2389, HB 4026 and HB 4039 proposed salary increases for teachers and service personnel. None of these bills were ever placed on a committee agenda for discussion during the 2016 session.



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