



AFT-West Virginia 2017 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Thursday, February 23, 2017



FIX PEIA .com
AFT-West Virginia @AFTWV · 3h
Thanks to @WVCBP for another great #budgetbreakfast. @AFTWV was well-represented. Outstanding panel discussion. #ProtectWV #SaveOurState

Amanda Shelton 🙌 @Eiramadnama · 2h
Representing teachers and @AFTWV in a discussion on children's healthcare with @Sen_JoeManchin and other stakeholders. We're in a mess!



You and 6 others

6

11



2

3

AFT-WV activists from across the state came to Charleston this week to attend the WV AFL-CIO Legislative Conference. Participants learned about pending legislation that will affect working families and had the opportunity to discuss education issues with their elected representatives at the Capitol. Members also attended the WV Center on Budget and Policy's annual Budget Breakfast and a roundtable discussion on children's healthcare with Senator Joe Manchin and other stakeholders.

Governor's Education Bill Introduced

The highly-anticipated Governor's education bill was introduced Thursday in the Senate. [SB 420](#) calls for sweeping changes in our education system. The bill proposes to:

Streamline Bureaucracy

- Restructure the State Department of Education by changing the way shared services are provided to our local schools, eliminating the need for Regional Education Service Agencies (RESAs)
- Eliminate the Office of Education Performance Audits
- Limit school system intervention by the State Board of Education to only the most extraordinary or dire circumstances

Reduce Regulation and Restore Local Control

- Establish a County Superintendents' Advisory Council
- Encourage county boards of education to share services formerly provided by RESAs
- Make 180 calendar day policy more flexible for local communities
- Create flexibility for instructional days, including reserved time for teachers to collaborate and plan lessons for their students

Reduce High Stakes Testing

- Require state board to review/develop and approve a college and career readiness assessment to be administered in 11th grade and make it count towards statewide student assessment in English Language Arts, Math, and Science in said grade or as required by federal law and regulations
- Amend school accreditation, accountability and school performance to include multiple measures
- End the A to F grading of public schools by amending school accreditation, accountability and school performance to include multiple measures

Raise Classroom Teacher Pay by \$808 (2% average)

- Pay for the raise through reorganization and prioritization of educational programs at the State Department of Education

AFT-WV supports the Governor's bill, but will work throughout the session to extend the pay raise to include service personnel and public employees.

[Watch Governor Justice's video on his proposed pay raise.](#)



AFT-West Virginia

Christine Campbell, President
www.aftwv.org 800.222.9838



Bill Count

As of February 23rd, 115 bills related to education or public employees have been introduced and are pending in committee. This number does not include bills reported from committee or the few other bills that AFT-WV is monitoring. AFT-WV will be continually evaluating and developing positions on education bills. If you have comments directed at specific bills, please email them to info@aftwv.org.

Bills Advanced from Education Committees

[SB 242](#) Changes to the school calendar, including changes faculty senate from 4 to 6 meetings; allows for extra daily minutes to be used for make-up of lost days due to inclement weather; requires that reimagining student instructional days be exhausted prior to using accrued minutes for lost instructional days; Passed Senate with amendments, Pending House Education. **AFT-WV Supports**

[HB 2524](#) Bill from Education Chairman Espinosa that addresses numerous sections of code; the bill reorganizes several areas of government. A major concern is the elimination of required postings for master teachers, mentors, academic coaches and other professional development support employees. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[SB 231](#) / [HB 2420](#) Provides that the State Board of Education may delegate its Medicaid provider status and subsequent reimbursement to regional educational service agencies or county boards. This bill would provide counties flexibility in determining which services to bill Medicaid for reimbursement. It would not affect actual services provided to students and the associated required documentation. SB 231 on Second Reading Full Senate. HB2420 Passed House Education, advanced to Health and Human Resources Committee. **AFT-WV Supports**

[Comm. Sub for HB 2542](#) Massive changes to higher education classified staff personnel law; including eliminating bumping and recall rights. All the language for seniority tie breakers, bumping, and preferred recall would be eliminated from state law. The institution can identify a position for elimination and lay the incumbent off regardless of skill set or seniority; authorizes governing boards to adopt rules for faculty with little to no oversight; passed House Education, on First Reading in House. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[HB 2123](#) Makes the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and Blind eligible to participate in all funding administered or distributed by the West Virginia School Building Authority; passed House Education and Finance, on First Reading in House. **AFT-WV Supports**

2017 Legislative Bad Apples

[HB 2572](#) & [SB 200](#) Providing for the authorization and oversight of public charter schools. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[SB 273](#) Establishing Education Savings Account Program. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[SB 408](#) Relating to public employees. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[SB 221](#) Relating to composition of PEIA Finance Board. **AFT-WV Opposes**

You Retweeted



Tega McGuffin @tegamcguffin · 4h
Honored to represent @AFTWV this morning at a healthcare round table sponsored by @Sen_JoeManchin.



2

5



AFT-West Virginia @AFTWV

Chair @KMannWVSenate shares story about substitute teaching prior to session. You read that correctly: the Senate Education Chair teaches!!

2/23/17, 14:48



AFT-West Virginia @AFTWV

@AFTWV members and retirees attended the @WestVirginiaAFL Legislative Conference this week. They discussed issues & lobbied @wvlegislature.



AFT-West Virginia @AFTWV

7:00 pm continuation of #HB2524 thread in @WVHouseEd Analyst addressing a previous question regarding a rule change re: evaluations.

2/22/17, 19:09 from Charleston, WV

VIEW TWEET ACTIVITY

2 LIKES



FEBRUARY 22 & 23, 2017 WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Stay Informed with AFT-WV

Sign up for email alerts at www.aftwv.org

Text AFTWV to 69238 to receive text alerts from AFT-WV

*Msg & data rates may apply

Follow us on twitter @aftwv

Like us on facebook!



AFT-West Virginia

Christine Campbell, President
www.aftwv.org 800.222.9838

