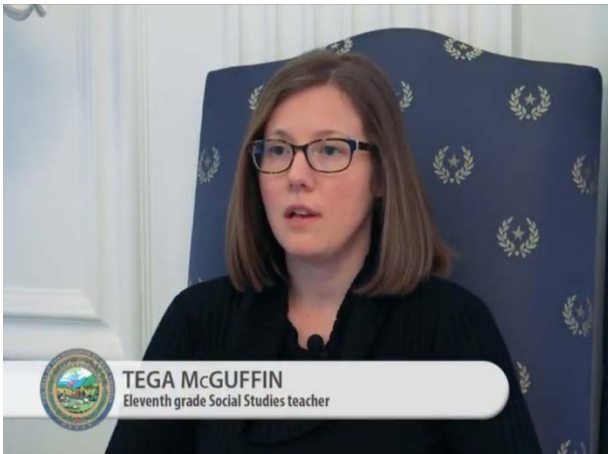




# AFT-West Virginia 2017 Legislative Update

Please  
Post

Friday, March 03, 2017



*What do WV educators have to say about Governor Jim Justice's education proposals to streamline education bureaucracy?*

[Click here to watch a video!](#)



AFT-WV retiree members participated in the Coalition of Retired Public Employees (CORPE) Legislative Breakfast this week and discussed their issues with their elected officials.

**Want to get a play by play of education committee action? Check out @aftwv on Twitter. You don't need to monitor our tweets all day, simply check out the threads from each committee meeting at your convenience. It's a great way to learn about the discussion and action taken on bills.**

## Still No Budget from Legislature

There is still no budget from Legislature, and the clock is literally ticking. Governor Jim Justice has proposed two versions of a budget for legislators to consider, but no plan has been presented from the House or Senate. Governor Justice has posted a budget countdown clock as a reminder to the House and Senate to pass a responsible budget before the legislative session ends on at midnight on April 8<sup>th</sup>. [Click here to see the Budget Clock.](#)

Governor Justice has made it clear there is no reason for lawmakers to wait for a special session to finalize the budget. "The clock is ticking, the session is almost halfway finished and the Legislature still hasn't come up with a budget— I've already released two plans that put West Virginia on a pathway to prosperity," said Governor Jim Justice. "This budget crisis won't be solved by wasting time. I want the people of West Virginia to realize that the Legislature is on the clock and needs to get moving. The last thing we need is a long special session that wastes \$35,000 a day."

## Bill Count

143 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 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](mailto:info@aftwv.org).

## Governor's Education Bill

[SB 420](#) has been introduced and proposes multiple changes in our education system, including provisions to streamline bureaucracy, reduce regulation and restore local control (including provisions that would give teachers more control over their planning time), reduce high stakes testing and eliminate A-F grading of schools. It also raises teacher pay by \$808 (2% average). **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.**



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## Bills Advanced from Education Committees

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[SB 186](#) Adjusts date when children become eligible for certain school programs and school attendance requirements. Passed Senate Education as a Committee Substitute, pending Senate Finance. **AFT-WV Supports**

[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 Education 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 passed the Senate and the House. HB 2420 has passed the House, pending Senate Education Committee. **AFT-WV Supports**

[SB 18](#) Requires a new comprehensive statewide student assessment; amended to no longer specify a testing vendor. Passed Senate Education as a Committee Substitute; pending Senate Finance. **AFT-WV Supports**

[SB 221](#) Changes the composition of PEIA Finance Board from 10 to 8 members; eliminates the seat on the Board designated for organized labor. It also changes criteria for Board members in a way that would prevent education, public employee and retiree groups' elected leaders and lobbyists from serving on the Board. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[Comm. Sub for HB 2542](#) Significantly changes higher education classified staff personnel laws; eliminates seniority tie breakers, bumping and recall rights. 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; pending Senate Education. **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; pending Senate Education. **AFT-WV Supports**

[HB 2373](#) Authorizes school bus drivers trained in administration of epinephrine auto-injectors to administer auto-injectors. Passed House Education with amendments; pending House Judiciary. **AFT-WV Supports**

[HB 2561](#) Relates to public school support by increasing financial flexibility at the local level. Passed House Education with amendments; pending House Finance. **AFT-WV Supports**

[HB 2637](#) Relates to employment of retired teachers and prospective employable professional personnel in areas of critical need and shortage; includes speech pathologists and nurses. Passed House Education with amendments; pending House Finance. **AFT-WV Supports**



### 2017 Legislative Bad Apples

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

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

[SB 408](#) Relates to public employees; eliminates civil service. **AFT-WV Opposes**

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