



AFT-West Virginia 2017 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Friday, March 10, 2017



Click the photo on the right (or go to <https://youtu.be/AGG0dcG-y2c>) to watch a video from the WV Center on Budget and Policy's Budget Breakfast. Listen as Governor Justice's Chief of Staff responds to a question from AFT-Putnam President Angie Turkelson about PEIA.

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. [Click here to check out the thread from the House Education K-12 Subcommittee meeting on March 10th](#)

Session at Halfway Point- Still No Budget

Thirty days into the session and there is still no budget from the Legislature. Governor Jim Justice has proposed two versions of a budget for legislators to consider, as well as several options to modify his proposals. At press time, the House and Senate still have not unveiled their budget proposals. 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 8th.

[Click here to view the live Budget Clock](#)



No Budget from Leadership, But Time to Attack Employee

Healthcare

Senate Majority Leader Ryan Ferns introduced a bill on March 8th to dissolve the Public Employees Insurance Agency. [SB 555](#) would privatize PEIA and convert it to an employer-owned mutual insurance company. As a result, PEIA benefits for active and retired employees will be reduced by 20-25% immediately. **AFT-WV Opposes**

URGENT: SB 401 Would Eliminate Seniority

The Senate Education Committee will act on this Saturday morning. **CALLS NEEDED NOW!**
Check your email and Facebook for phone numbers.

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**



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Governor's bill, but will work throughout the session to extend the pay raise to include service personnel and public employees. The bill is pending action by the Senate Education Committee.

Notable Bills Advanced from Education Committees

[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. Pending House Finance. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[SB 231](#) / [HB 2420](#) Provides 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 to prevent education, public employee and retiree groups' elected leaders and lobbyists from serving on the Board. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[SB 312](#) Establishing four-year pilot program to have social workers in public schools. Pending Senate Education. **AFT-WV Supports**

[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 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 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**

[HB2704](#) Prohibits persons convicted of sexual offenses against children with whom they hold positions of trust from holding certification or license valid in public schools. Amended and passed House Education; pending House Judiciary. **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**

[HB 2738](#) Changes the transfer process of school personnel. **AFT-WV Opposes**

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