



# AFT-West Virginia 2017 Legislative Update

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Friday, March 17, 2017

## YOUR ACTIVISM WORKS!

Thank you! In less than 24 hours, House Education Committee members received hundreds of individual calls and emails from concerned teachers and service personnel regarding [HB 2569](#), a bill that eliminated seniority as a factor in RIF and transfer decisions. After some discussion in the Wednesday morning meeting, the bill was pulled from the afternoon agenda. This was the second time in less than a week that the calls and emails of concerned education employees halted the passage of harmful legislation.

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.



### Budget Framework from Leadership Guts Education, Axes Pay Raise Proposal

Under mounting pressure to unveil a budget bill, legislative leaders instead put forth a "framework" of their budgetary vision, which mainly calls for slashing state spending and services.

The legislative leadership's proposal would require cuts to areas that have been spared major reductions in the past, including K-12 public education and programs in the Department of Health and Human Resources, along with additional cuts to higher education.

The framework calls for \$150 million in public and higher education spending cuts, including possible cuts in the School Aid Formula. These proposed cuts would be devastating for our public schools and higher education institutions.

### Education Standards

[SB 524](#) prohibits using Common Core standards and calls for implementation of outdated, out of state standards. AFT-WV would like to thank the members for voicing their concerns to legislators about this bill. Senate Education Chairman Kenny Mann stood up for these concerns and implored his Senate colleagues to vote against this bill in favor of consistency and less disruption to the educational process. Chairman Mann, a funeral director, presented a death certificate for SB 524 on the floor of the Senate, proclaiming, "In the opinion of this Chair, Common Core is dead in WV" and asked fellow senators to "Trust our educators." Laid over on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in Senate. **AFT-WV Opposes**

### Transfer Process

[HB 2738](#) changes the transfer process of school personnel. Thanks to the efforts of our endorsed candidates in the House Education Committee, HB 2738 was amended to reinstate seniority. AFT-WV will continue to oppose the bill, as long as our transfer rights are in jeopardy. Passed House Education; 1<sup>st</sup> reading in the House. **AFT-WV Opposes**

### Notable Bills Advanced from Education Committees

[SB 186](#) Adjusts date when children become eligible for certain school programs and school attendance requirements. On 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the Senate. **AFT-WV Supports**



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[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 was tabled on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the House. **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. Passed the Senate; pending House Government Organization. **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 and Senate. **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. On 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in House. **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**

[SB 330](#) Relates to WV Workplace Freedom Act; Right to Work bill. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[SB 401](#) Allows county board of education disregard seniority in RIF/transfer decisions. Pulled from Senate Education agenda. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[SB 555](#) Dissolves PEIA and privatizes employee health insurance. **AFT-WV Opposes**

[HB 2871](#) Eliminates the mandated employer versus employee cost share (80/20 split) for PEIA coverage. Passed Banking & Insurance; pending House Finance. **AFT-WV Opposes**

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