



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AFT-West Virginia, AFL-CIO



Standing 55 Strong...From Statehouse to Schoolhouse

February 22, 2019

Swift and strong: Strike results in SB 451's demise

Well done, 55 Strong!

After quickly going on a statewide strike in reaction to Senate's gutting of the House version of SB 451, teachers and service personnel sprang into action to travel to the Capitol, man picket lines, set up feeding programs for students and speak with legislators.



Thank you for all of your hard work to achieve our goal and make our strike a complete success. We scored a complete and satisfying win for teachers, support staff and our students, while the outside corporate interests pushing the privatization of public education suffered a stunning and total defeat. AFT-WV understands some of our membership would have rather stayed out beyond the two-day strike. Whenever there is a strike, there are high emotions and an understandable feeling that we should try to get more, especially since teachers and service personnel have been disrespected for so long. However, when our members authorized AFT-West Virginia to call a strike, we clearly said we were walking out to kill four provisions in Senate Bill 451: education savings accounts, charter schools, seniority and paycheck protection. As soon as the House declared the bill dead, our requirements were met.

You can rest assured that if any of those triggers reappear, our response will be equally swift and strong. AFT-WV, WVSSPA and WVEA clearly stated on Wednesday night that we reserve the right to resume the strike if the triggers come back in other legislation. Employees are also urged to remain vigilant and remain in contact with legislators.

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES			
84th Legislature - Regular Session 2019			
NO. 2730	Increasing the compensation of the membership of the State Police and the salaries for public school teachers and school service personnel.		RCB 264 2/22/2019 12:35 PM
PASSAGE			
YEAS: 89	NAYS: 8	NOT VOTING: 3	WAIVED: 2 PASSED
Anderson	Fast	Lavender-Boss	Ross
Anderson	Fleischer	Liville	Short
Akinsam	Fisher	Longstreth	Skaff
Atlinger	Grove	Lovely	Sproule
Bacrett	Harrich	Maedl	Stappes
Bales	Harris	Martin, C. R.	Steele
Boggs	Hansen	Martin, P.	Storch
Brown, R.	Harty	Maynard	Summers
Brown, S.	Hartnager	Miller	Swanwick
Byrd	Hartman	Miller	Tygart
Cadde	Hicks	Moyle	Thompson, C.
Campbell	Higginbotham	Park	Thompson, R.
Cawertman	Hill	Paylor	Tomlin
Capito	Hornbuckle	Perthal	Toney
Cloger	Hornum	Phillips	Waller
Cowles	Howell	Porterfield	Williams
Cline	Jaffee, D.	Radabaugh	Woodell
Dean	Jaffee, J.	Pyke	Zukoff
Dierke	Jennings	Queen	Speaker Harshbarger
Doyle	Kelly, D.	Robinson	
Espinosa	Kelly, J.	Rodriguez	
Ettinghausen	Kearinger	Rothbach	
Evans	Kump	Rowan	
NAYS: 8			
Butler	Householder	McGowan	Wilson
Foster	Malcolm	Waman	
NOT VOTING: 3			
Ellington	Hallen	Westfall	
WAIVED: 2			
Capito (YEA)			
Wibey (NAY)			

Pay Raise Bill

On Friday afternoon, the House passed HB 2730, the Governor's pay proposal. The bill calls for an average 5% pay raise for teachers, schools service personnel and state troopers. This amounts to approximately \$2120 for teachers and \$1380 for service personnel. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration. [Click here for the roll call vote.](#)



Stay Informed

Circumstances can change rapidly and it's important for AFT-WV to be able to contact members instantly.

During the strike, AFT-WV deployed a new technology tool available to the union to poll members via text. If you did not receive the text from AFT-WV during the strike, we do not have a valid cell phone number for you.

If you would like to be able to receive texts from AFT-WV in the future, please update your contact information at this link:

<https://leadernet.aft.org/webform/update-my-contact-information>



Bills on the Move



- HB 2433 changes the required instructional days from 180 to 170 per year. The school year would begin after Labor Day and end before Memorial Day. Teachers would still have a 200 day contract. Passed House Education; on second reading in the House.
- SB 1 would offer tuition grants for WV residents to obtain degrees through WV Community and Technical Colleges. An amendment was adopted to expand the program to include 2 year programs from 4 year institutions. Passed House Education; pending House Finance.
- HB 2397 would require county school boards to provide adequate mental health and counseling services, at the rate of 1 psychologist per 1000 pupil in K-7 (same ratio as nurses.) The bill would not become effective until 2021-22 school year. Passed House Education; moves to full House.
- HB 2853 would establish the WV Program for Open Education Resources, which would put any teaching resources/materials that are in open domain to a centralized location. This would be publicly accessible. No one would be required to put their items within the database. Non-copyrighted material only. Passed House Education; moves to full House.