



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AFT-West Virginia, AFL-CIO



Standing 55 Strong...From Statehouse to Schoolhouse

January 31, 2020



AFT-WV members attend WV AFL-CIO Legislative Conference

Twenty-six AFT-WV leaders and activists attended the WV AFL-CIO Legislative Conference this week in Charleston. The event is held annually to educate union members on the legislation that affects their members. Participants also visited the Capitol to discuss the issues with their legislators.

This week:

School Calendar Bill rejected by House

A bill that would have restricted the starting and ending dates of the school year was rejected on the House floor by a 47-50 vote (see roll call on right.) The bill had been amended in committee to restrict schools to beginning after Labor Day and ending after June 7. A motion to reconsider the bill on the floor failed on a 52-46 vote the following day.

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES			
84th Legislature - Second Regular Session			
1 of 1 Modifying the school calendar to begin not earlier than Labor Day and end prior to Memorial Day			RCS# 55 1/29/2020 12:26 PM
PASSAGE			
YEAS: 47	NAYS: 50	NOT VOTING: 3	REJECTED
YEAS: 47	Dean	Jeffries, D.	Robinson
Anderson	Diercio	Jeffries, J.	Rodighiero
Angelucci	Doyle	Kelly, D.	Robchach
Atkinson	Ellington	Kelly, J.	Rowan
Azinger	Estep-Burton	Kessinger	Sponagle
Barnhart	Evans	Lavender-Sowe	Stappes
Barlett	Fast	Longtreth	Thompson, C.
Bates	Finbarry	LowJoy	Thompson, R.
Brown, N.	Graves	Maynard	Toney
Brown, S.	Hanna	Wiley	Wilson
Campbell	Hartman	Paynter	Zukoff
Cannistraro	Hicks	Pethel	
Caputo			
NAYS: 50	Hansen	McCahan	Storch
Barrett	Hardy	Milner	Summers
Boggs	Higginbotham	Nelson	Swartzmiller
Bowler	Hill	Pack	Thyolt
Byrd	Hott	Phillips	Tomlin
Cedie	Householder	Porterfield	Walker
Crisp	Howell	Puckin	Waxman
Cowles	Jennings	Pyles	Westfall
Criss	Kump	Queen	Williams
Espinosa	Linville	Rowe	Worrell
Fleischauer	Little	Short	
Foster	Martin, C.R.	Skiff	Speaker Hanshaw
Hamrick	Martin, P.	Steele	
NOT VOTING: 3	Cooper	Hornbuckle	Mandt

HB 2425 -School Service Personnel Work Day

After being pulled from the House Education agenda twice, this bill is currently laid over and no movement is expected this week on the bill. Clearly, your calls and emails in opposition to the bill made a difference and may be needed again in the future if the bill reappears.

⚠️ Bills Advanced out of the House Education Committee ⚠️

[HB 4022](#) Clarifying the qualifications of the Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission; passed House, pending Senate Education

[HB 4077](#) Increasing the amount of the bond required to be posted by proprietary schools; passed House, pending Senate Education

[HB 4365](#) Granting of college credit hours for learning English as a second language; passed House, communicated to Senate

[HB 4089](#) Requiring cursive writing to be taught; passed House, communicated to Senate

[HB 4143](#) Creating the Business PROMISE+ Scholarship; pending House Finance

Comm Sub for [HB 2464](#) Requiring free feminine hygiene products in grades 6 through 12; pending Finance

[HB 4546](#) Relating to tuberculosis testing for school superintendents; amended and passed House Education, pending Health and Human Resources

[Comm Sub for 4378](#) Relating to disciplining teachers

Bills Advanced out of the Senate Education Committee

[SB 42](#) Permitting faith-based electives in classroom drug prevention programs; passed full Senate, pending House Education

Comm Sub for [SB 187](#) Relating generally to in-state tuition rates for certain persons; pending Senate Finance

Comm Sub for [SB 192](#) Relating to WV Secondary School Activities Commission audits; failed 16-17 (1 absent) on Senate floor vote

[SB 241](#) Requiring State Board of Education develop method for student transportation costs as stand-alone consideration; passed Senate, pending House Education

Comm Sub for [SB 297](#) Requiring Board of Education create home economics course; passed Senate, pending House Education

Comm Sub for [SB 303](#) Enacting Students' Right to Know Act; passed Senate, pending House Education

Comm Sub for [SB 614](#) Changing method of allocating funding from Safe School Funds; pending Senate Finance

[SB 623](#) Allowing noncitizens of US be eligible for teaching certificate; passed Senate Education, advances to full Senate

Stay Informed during the Legislative Session

Take advantage of the many ways to stay informed from AFT-WV!



- Visit the AFT-WV website at www.aftwv.org
- While you are on the website, sign up for email alerts from AFT-WV. Please use a personal, non-work email address.
- Sign up for our AFT-WV text alerts. Text AFTWV to 69238 to receive breaking news, legislative alerts, and more!*
- (*AFT will not charge for these updates, but your carrier's message and data rates may apply.)
- "Like" us at [Facebook.com/AFTWV](https://www.facebook.com/AFTWV) and follow us on Twitter [@AFTWV](https://twitter.com/AFTWV)
- Make sure your cell phone number is updated with us! During the 2019 strike, AFT-WV deployed a new technology that enables us to instantly have a text conversation with all members with a valid mobile number on file. If you haven't recently updated your contact information, please do so using the link on the AFT-WV website.
- Many AFT local presidents and staff representatives use the Remind app to communicate with their local members. Ask your local president or staff rep if your county uses Remind and get signed up!

Bills to Watch

These bills have been introduced, but no action taken yet. We will be watching these problematic bills closely.

- [HB 2002](#)/[SB 515](#) Education Savings Account Act
- [HB 2632](#)/[HB 3127](#)/[SB 131](#) Tim Tebow Act
- [HB 2847](#) Allows exemptions for required vaccinations for public schools
- [SB 127](#) Allows governing boards to eliminate tenure for higher education faculty