



# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AFT-West Virginia, AFL-CIO



*Standing 55 Strong...From Statehouse to Schoolhouse*

February 13, 2020

## 5 weeks down, 3 to go!

We are in week 5 of the 2020 Legislative Session and bills are starting to move more quickly.

The week started off with [HB 4043](#) appearing on the agenda of the Banking and Insurance Committee without any warning. The bill would have prevented state, county and municipal agencies from covering any portions of PEIA premiums for spouses. Thanks to the quick work of our members in responding to AFT-WV's action alert (and the subsequent barrage of emails and calls to the committee members), the bill died on an 11-11 vote. However, we must remain vigilant, as procedural rules could allow the bill to be reconsidered at the next scheduled committee meeting.

## Bills on the move this week:

[Comm Sub for SB 131](#) The Tim Tebow Act allows homeschool and private school students to participate in public school extracurricular activities; passed Senate, pending House Education

[SB 230](#) Requires State Board of Education to provide routine education for suicide prevention; passed Senate, sent to House

[SB 482](#) Eliminating permit requirement for storing concealed handgun in vehicle on school property for persons over 21; passed Senate, pending House Judiciary

[Com. Sub. for S. B. 702](#) Designating specific grade levels in which nutrition and physical fitness programs are taught; on 1<sup>st</sup> reading in Senate

[SB 703](#) Increasing earning limit for employees who accept separation incentive; on 1<sup>st</sup> reading in the Senate

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

[HB 4691](#) Relating to employment in areas of critical need in public education; passed House, pending Senate Education

[HB 4069](#) West Virginia Student Religious Liberties Act; passed House, pending Senate Education

[HB 4398](#) Extends the requirements of Freedom Week (teaching Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc.) to private schools; on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading House special calendar

[HB 2719](#) Establishing an optional bus operator in residence program for school districts; passed House Education, pending House Finance

[HB 4790](#) Expands CTE/ Vo-Tech programs into middle schools; on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading House special calendar

[HB 4804](#) Relating to comprehensive systems of support for teacher and leader induction and professional growth; passed House Education, pending House Finance

[Comm Sub for HB 4649](#) Relating to implementation of trauma-informed practices in schools; passed House Education, moves to House floor

[HB 4546](#) Relating to tuberculosis testing for school superintendents; on 1<sup>st</sup> reading House special calendar

## No movement this week but remain vigilant

[SB 616](#) Changes provisions in the grievance procedure for public employees; passed Senate Government Organization, pending Senate Judiciary

[HB 2425](#) Changing the School Service Personnel Work Day

After being pulled from the House Education agenda twice, this bill is currently laid over and no movement has been made 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.

[HB 4677](#) Making public school teachers state employees; introduced on Feb. 4<sup>th</sup>, but no further movement

## **Bills Advanced out of the House Education Committee**

[HB 4735](#) Places a LPN or RN at every school; amended and passed House Education, pending House Finance

[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, pending Senate Education

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

[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

[Comm Sub for 4378](#) Relating to disciplining teachers; passed House, pending Senate Education

## **Bills Advanced out of the Senate Education Committee**

[Comm Sub for SB 38](#) Requiring schools provide elective course on Hebrew Scriptures or Bible; passed Senate Education; pending Senate Judiciary

[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

## **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 2847](#) Allows exemptions for required vaccinations for public schools
- [SB 127](#) Allows governing boards to eliminate tenure for higher education faculty