



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AFT-West Virginia, AFL-CIO



Standing 55 Strong...From Statehouse to Schoolhouse

February 21, 2020



Nearing crossover day, both chambers move a high volume of bills this week

This week's update is a lengthy one, but there is a lot to report on, as both the House and Senate have been busy moving bills out of their originating chambers.

Bills on the move this week:

[Comm Sub for 3127](#) is the House version of the Tim Tebow bill, and came out of House Education this week. The bill is on 2nd reading on the House special calendar. There are substantial differences in this bill and the Senate version.

[Comm Sub for SB 661](#) Creating uniform instructional day to 300 minutes or 5 hours; passed Senate Education; moves to floor

[SB 623](#) Allowing noncitizens of US be eligible for teaching certificate; passed Senate, 3rd reading House special calendar

[HB 4408](#) Requiring the State Board of Education to develop and implement an online database for the employment of school principals; passed House Education, on 3rd reading House special calendar

[Com. Sub. for S. B. 702](#) Designating specific grade levels in which nutrition and physical fitness programs are taught; passed Senate, pending House Education

[SB 703](#) Increasing earning limit for employees who accept separation incentive; passed Senate, pending House Education

[HB 4398](#) Extends the requirements of Freedom Week (teaching Constitution, Bill of Rights, etc.) to private schools; passed House, pending Senate Education

[HB 4790](#) Expands CTE/ Vo-Tech programs into middle schools; passed House, pending Senate Education

[HB 4737](#) Clarifying student eligibility for state-sponsored financial aid; passed House Education, on 3rd reading House special calendar

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

[HB 4546](#) Relating to tuberculosis testing for school superintendents; passed House, pending Senate Education

[HB 4519](#) Establishing a summer youth intern pilot program within Department of Commerce; passed House, pending Senate Education

[HB 2775](#) Requiring each high school student to complete a full credit course of study in personal finance; passed House, pending Senate Education

[Comm Sub for SB 38](#) Requiring schools provide elective course on Hebrew Scriptures or Bible; passed Senate Education; on 1st reading in Senate

[Comm Sub for SB 614](#) Changing method of allocating funding from Safe School Funds; on 1st reading in Senate

Bills Advanced out of the House Education Committee This Week

- [HB 2794](#) Establishing the Summer Feeding for All initiative; passed House Education, pending House Finance
- [HB 2897](#) Relating to driving restrictions in school zones; passed House Education, sent to House floor
- [HB 4843](#) Relating to public school education assessment of students for dyslexia and dyscalculia; passed House Education, pending House Finance
- [HB 4939](#) Relating to senior citizens attending college classes at state institutions without receiving college credit; passed House Education, pending House Finance
- [HB 4729](#) Requiring higher education institutions to use previous versions or editions of instructional materials
- [HB 4568](#) Requiring the State Board of Education to provide for the routine education of all professional educators; passed House Education, pending House Finance
- [HB 4497](#) Requiring an external defibrillator device at any secondary school athlete event; passed House Education, pending House Finance
- [HB 4367](#) Adding speech pathologists to the step increase for special education teachers; passed House Education, pending House Finance
- [Comm Sub for HB 4165](#) West Virginia Remembers Program; passed House, pending Senate Military
- [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 4780](#) Permitting a school-based decision-making council to offer elective courses of instruction on the Bible; passed House Education, public hearing scheduled on this bill at 9 AM on Monday.
- [Comm Sub for HB 4925](#) Requiring the Secondary Schools Athletic Commission to recognize private, parochial, or church schools; passed House Education, moves to floor
- [Comm Sub for HB 4535](#) Relating to student aide class titles; passed House Education, moves to floor
Originating Bill: Adds .15 to FTS for homeschool students who take online courses; passed House Education, pending House Finance
- *Originating bills have no bill number assigned at press time*

Bills Advanced out of the Senate Education Committee This Week

- [Comm Sub for SB 707](#) Relating to nursing career pathways; passed Senate Education, on 2nd reading full Senate
- [SB 691](#) Limiting programs adopted by State Board of Education; passed Senate Education, on 2nd reading full Senate
- [SB 712](#) Correcting name of Forensic Analysis Laboratory; passed full Senate, pending House Education
- [SB 723](#) Requiring Department of Education develop plan based on analyzed data on school discipline; passed Senate Education, on 2nd reading full Senate
- [Comm Sub for SB 760](#) Allowing state college or university apply to HEPC for designation as administratively or financially exempt school; Senate Education, on 1st reading full Senate
- [SB 781](#) Relating to reports regarding collaborative agreements between community and technical colleges and federally registered apprenticeship programs; passed Senate Education, on 1st reading full Senate
- [SB 750](#) Establishing extended learning opportunities; passed Senate Education, moves to floor

[SB 680](#) Qualifying not-for-profit private baccalaureate institutions for Advanced Career Education programs and WV Invests Grant Program; passed Senate Education, pending Senate Finance

[SB 775](#) Requiring two water bottle filling stations be included in newly built or renovated schools; passed Senate Education, moves to floor

Senate Ed Originating Bill: Behavior interventionist pilot program; passed Senate Education, moves to floor

**Originating bills have no bill number assigned at press time*

No movement 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 (*House Education has put forth their own version of the bill, see top of first page*)

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

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

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

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

[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. 4th, but no further movement

[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

[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

[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

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