



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AFT-West Virginia, AFL-CIO



Standing 55 Strong...From Statehouse to Schoolhouse

February 7, 2020



Halfway point in session

Thursday marked the halfway point in the 2020 Legislative Session and we are starting to see the pace quicken.

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 Education, on 2nd reading in Senate

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

HB 4735* Places a LPN or RN at every school; amended and passed House Education, pending House Finance **Live link is not available for this bill at press time.*

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

[HB 4691](#) Relating to employment in areas of critical need in public education; passed House Education, on 2nd reading special calendar

[HB 4069](#) West Virginia Student Religious Liberties Act; passed House Education, on 2nd reading special calendar

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

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

HB 4790* Expands CTE/ Vo-Tech programs into middle schools; passed House Education, pending House Finance **Live link is not available for this bill at press time.*

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

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

[SB 623](#) Allowing noncitizens of US be eligible for teaching certificate; passed Senate Education, on 3rd reading in Senate

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

No movement but remain vigilant

[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

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

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

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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