



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

AFT-West Virginia, AFL-CIO



Standing 55 Strong...From Statehouse to Schoolhouse

March 11, 2020

Quiet session for education concludes, focus now turns to 2020 election



The 2020 Legislative Session has concluded, and while we are grateful to have escaped the major attacks of the past two years, many critical issues still need addressed.

PEIA is still the biggest unresolved issue for our members. While the plan is currently stable, we know that the future stability is uncertain. Our

elected leaders must find a permanent funding stream as well as ensure PEIA provides high quality benefit levels for participants.

The most important takeaway from this legislative session is simple; educators must pay attention to the priorities and voting records of current legislators and vote accordingly in May and November. Only by electing candidates who support our issues and are committed to improving public education will we be able to move our profession, our students and our state forward.

Bills That Completed Legislative Action:

(most have not been signed yet by the Governor at press time)

[SB 623](#) Allowing noncitizens of US be eligible for teaching certificate

[SB 703](#) Increasing earning limit for employees who accept separation incentive

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

[Comm Sub for SB 707](#) Relating to nursing career pathways

[SB 691](#) Limiting programs adopted by State Board of Education

[SB 712](#) Correcting name of Forensic Analysis Laboratory

[SB 723](#) Requiring Department of Education develop plan based on analyzed data on school discipline

[Comm Sub for SB 760](#) Allowing state college or university apply to HEPC for designation as administratively or financially exempt school

[SB 781](#) Relating to reports regarding collaborative agreements between community and technical colleges and federally registered apprenticeship programs

[SB 750](#) Establishing extended learning opportunities

[SB 842](#) Behavior interventionist pilot program

[Comm Sub for SB 230](#) Requires State Board of Education to provide routine education for suicide prevention

[SB 42](#) Permitting faith-based electives in classroom drug prevention programs

[SB 241](#) Requiring State Board of Education develop method for student transportation costs as stand-alone consideration

Comm Sub for [SB 303](#) Enacting Students' Right to Know Act

[Comm Sub for 3127](#) House version of the Tim Tebow bill. There are substantial differences in this bill and the Senate version.

[HB 4790](#) Expands CTE/ Vo-Tech programs into middle schools

[HB 4737](#) Clarifying student eligibility for state-sponsored financial aid

[HB 4546](#) Relating to tuberculosis testing for school superintendents

[HB 4519](#) Establishing a summer youth intern pilot program within Department of Commerce

[HB 4729](#) Requiring higher education institutions to use previous versions or editions of instructional materials

[HB 4497](#) Requiring an external defibrillator device at any secondary school athlete event

[Comm Sub for HB 4165](#) West Virginia Remembers Program

[HB 4804](#) Relating to comprehensive systems of support for teacher and leader induction and professional growth

[Comm Sub for HB 4780](#) Permitting a school-based decision-making council to offer elective courses of instruction on the Bible

[Comm Sub for HB 4925](#) Requiring the Secondary Schools Athletic Commission to recognize private, parochial, or church schools

[HB 4691](#) Relating to employment in areas of critical need in public education

[HB 4069](#) West Virginia Student Religious Liberties Act

[HB 4022](#) Clarifying the qualifications of the Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission

[HB 4077](#) Increasing the amount of the bond required to be posted by proprietary schools

[HB 4365](#) Granting of college credit hours for learning English as a second language

[HB 4412](#) Relating to education benefits to members of the West Virginia Army National Guard and West Virginia Air National Guard

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