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 SB 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 HB 4378  Relating to disciplining teachers