

AFT-WV LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

FIGHTING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION



FROM STATEHOUSE TO SCHOOLHOUSE

February 4, 2022

Controversial bill advances from House Education Committee

[HB 4011](#), referred to as the Anti-Stereotyping bill, frankly addresses a problem that doesn't exist in WV public schools. The bill seeks to hamstring the discussion of diversity and equity in history curriculum. During the Education Committee meeting, Delegate Chris Pritt (R-Kanawha), the lead sponsor of the bill, could not provide specific examples of this occurring in the state of WV. While an amendment was made to clarify that this bill would not mandate teachers post actual lesson plans online, this is still a bad bill. Discussion on the bill was cut short and the bill was passed from the House Education Committee. HB 4011 now moves to the House Judiciary Committee for consideration.

"Teachers should be able to discuss accurate history, present multiple perspectives and teach students to become critical thinkers and formulate educated viewpoints. This bill is a political football to siphon support from public schools and nothing more than a vehicle to divide and distract constituents during an election year. It does nothing to address the real issues in public education such as the teacher shortage or the pandemic-related challenges facing our students," remarked AFT-WV President Fred Albert.

Bills Passed from a Chamber:

[Committee Sub for HB 4074](#) requires schools provide eating disorder and self-harm training for teachers and students. The bill has passed the House and awaits consideration by the Senate Education Committee.

[SB 246](#) requires water bottle filling stations in any school being built or under major improvements. This bill passed the Senate and now moves to the House Education Committee for consideration.

[SB 60](#) allows the BOE to create and provide courses in family and consumer sciences in secondary schools. The bill has passed the Senate, and now moves to the House for consideration by the Education Committee.

[Committee Substitute for SB 229](#) requires an impact statement in certain instances of school closing or consolidation. SB 229 has passed the Senate and awaits action by the House Education Committee.

[SB 261](#) updates previous legislation which requires video cameras in certain special education classrooms. The bill calls for more frequent viewing of the video footage in special education classrooms in order to detect abuse sooner or prevent it. The bill was amended and passed Senate Education, but then was recalled for technical clean up. A committee substitute was passed and subsequently passed on the Senate floor. SB 261 now moves to the House for consideration.

Bills Advanced From Committee:

[SB 267](#) relates to transportation of students in county board owned and insured vehicles. This also allows for parents, guardians, or other adults to transport students (less than 16) in private vehicles. The bill was amended on the floor during second reading to lower the number of students that can be transported. The bill was referred to Rules on third reading.

[Committee Substitute for SB 227](#) requires county boards of education and county superintendents to comply with instructions of State Board of Education. This bill was laid over on third reading on Thursday and referred back to the Education Committee.



[SB 493](#) requires county BOE to make meetings available to public in-person and through internet and provide opportunities for delegations to speak. This bill passed the Senate Education Committee and is will be on second reading on the Senate floor on Monday.

[HB 4467](#) will provide additional classroom social/emotional and academic support for first and second grade pupils by requiring an early childhood classroom assistant teacher in first and second grade classrooms that have more than 12 pupils. The bill passed the House Education Committee and moves to House Finance for consideration.

[HB 4105](#) make service employees with National Association for Pupil Transportation Certification as a Director or Supervisor of Pupil Transportation eligible as candidates for professional employee positions involving supervision of a county transportation department. The bill passed the House Education Committee and is on first reading on the House Special Calendar.

[House Joint Resolution 102](#) subjects the policy-making and rule-making authority of the State Board of Education to legislative review, approval, amendment, or rejection. If passed, this bill would require a referendum vote by the general public, because it removes the constitutional authority from the state Board of Education. The resolution passed the House Education Committee and moves to House Judiciary for discussion and consideration.

[HB 4071](#) makes masks and quarantines optional in public schools, despite any policies enacted by local school boards. The bill removes the local control of education or public health officials from the decision making process. The bill passed the House Education Committee and moves to House Judiciary for consideration.

[Committee Sub for HB 4058](#) requires all school bathrooms have individual stalls for privacy by June 30, 2023. This cost would be borne by the local school board and carries a \$28 million price tag. The bill now moves to House Finance for consideration.

[HB 4391](#) requires counties to employ nurses in proportion to student population, with each county to have at least one school nurse, allows allow licensed practical nurses supervised by a registered professional nurse to be counted as nurse. After extensive discussion, this bill passed the House Education Committee and moves to the House Finance Committee for consideration.

Pay Raise Bills

[SB 531](#), the Governor's pay raise proposal, was introduced on February 1st. The bill gives 5% across the board pay increase for state troopers, teachers and service personnel. The bill awaits consideration by the Senate Finance Committee.

[SB 18](#) is a separate pay bill, sponsored by Senators Romano, Jeffries, Lindsay, Caputo, Geffert, and Woelfel. The bill proposes a pay increase for all public school teachers of \$2,700 per year for the next three school years. The bill has been introduced and awaits consideration by the Senate Education Committee.

Other Bills of Interest

The following bills have been introduced but not considered by a committee at press time:

[SB 195](#) expands early childhood education programs to three-year-old children.

[HB 2362](#) calls for implementing trauma-informed practices in schools.

[HB 3006](#) provides for the hiring of homeless education coordinators in counties designated by the State Board of Education to assist and support students living in vulnerable situations.

[HB 4444](#) would establish a pilot program to develop school-based mental and behavioral health services

[HB 2143](#) declares a shortage of qualified bus operators and allows retired bus operators to accept employment.

[HB 4104](#) provides a 5% cost of living increase for state retirees who make under \$60,000 per year.

[HB 2039](#) expunges records of unsubstantiated complaints made by the Department of Health and Human Resources against teachers after three years.



Bills of Concern

These problematic bills have been introduced but not considered by a committee at press time:

[HB 3017](#) removes standardized testing and portfolio requirements for homeschooled students. The bill does not replace the requirements with any other accountability measurements.

[HB 4310](#) changes the spousal coverage for health insurance through PEIA. We believe the intent of this bill is to require employees to pay the full share of PEIA for their spouse's coverage, if their spouse has health insurance coverage available through their employer and chooses PEIA coverage instead. AFT-WV is reaching out to PEIA officials for clarification on this bill.

[HB 4016](#) creates the Anti-Racism, Anti-Sexism, and Prevention of Political-Economic Bias in School Curriculum and Pedagogy Act of 2022. This bill, while similar to the nature of HB 4011, is significantly worse and even more dangerous.

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