



AFT-West Virginia 2018 Legislative Update

Please
Post

Wednesday, February 21, 2018



13,000 Stand in Solidarity in Charleston, Statewide Walkout Announced

Latest Developments on the Issues

PEIA:

After the rally and announcement of a statewide work stoppage, AFT-WV, working in conjunction with WVEA and WVSSPA, has seen more focus on the PEIA issue. We still believe a freeze is not a fix.

Net sports gambling profit above \$15 million would be deposited into the PEIA Financial Stability Fund. A separate bill proposes the state allocate 20 percent of any surpluses left at the end of each fiscal year to the PEIA Stability Fund. While we are glad that legitimate long-term funding streams are finally being discussed, the potential revenue generated from these two proposals will not be enough to address the full burden of rising healthcare costs.

Salary:

Last night, the Senate amended the House version of SB 267 and passed a pay raise of 2%, followed by 1% for the next two years. The bill was quickly sent back to the House of Delegates and passed, despite the attempts of our friends in the minority party to have an opportunity to amend the bill.

“They say they want us to stay in West Virginia and teach our children, but the multi-year pay raise has now been reduced from 5 percent to 4 percent. I don't believe that any of our school employees are really buying what's being said, especially when there are personal attacks and all these things from different directions,” remarked AFT-WV President Christine Campbell.

Retaliation Bills Moving!

These bills are aimed at silencing the voice of employees and their leaders.

SB 335 -Paycheck Deception (Sponsors: Senators Karnes, Weld, Boso, Blair, Rucker, Cline and Ferns)

In a clear attempt to silence your voice, immediately following last Friday's rally, the Senate Judiciary Committee passed SB 335, which affects your union dues deduction from your paycheck. Please contact your House members and tell them you don't need government interference in your paycheck. The bill passed the Senate and awaits action in House Judiciary.

SB 494 Attack on the Union Presidents

(Sponsors: Senators Azinger and Ferns)

This bill would strip provisions in current law that allow elected presidents of the statewide professional associations to purchase service credit in the State Teachers Retirement System. The buyback only applies to the time spent while serving as an officer at no cost to the state nothing. While it has been amended to grandfather the current leaders in the retirement system, it would exclude future leaders. The bill passed the Senate on Feb. 20th and is pending action in House Pensions.

[Click here to view the roll call of the vote.](#)



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Numerous bills have been introduced that attack the rights of employees and public education funding. **AFT-WV opposes all legislation that defunds public education and attacks worker's rights. Please watch our social media sites and your email for continued updates and actions regarding these bills.**

Red Alert

SB 6 - Education Savings Accounts (Sponsored by Sen. Rucker and Sen. Karnes)

Education Savings Accounts (ESA) are school vouchers. Vouchers drain funding from public schools, resulting in less resources to provide services to students.

Permitting county boards of education to base certain workforce decisions on individual's qualifications

There are several bills attacking the seniority rights for teachers and service personnel. While none of these bills have advanced from a committee yet, we must remain vigilant and continue to contact legislators to oppose any attack on seniority.

SB 124 / SB 304 / HB 2572 - Authorizing charter schools (Lead sponsors: Sen. Karnes, Sen. Carmichael & Del. Espinosa)

There are multiple bills to propose charter schools. All would drain funding from public schools.

HB 4407 Alternative Certification (Lead sponsor Del. Espinosa)

This bill would lower the requirements to become an alternatively certified teacher. The bill narrowly passed the House of Delegates. The bill is now pending action in Senate Education.

Rally Photos:



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