



WVSSPA

West Virginia School Service Personnel Association



An Affiliate of the UMWA
WV AFL-CIO

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2023 Legislative Update Week 3 (1/27/2023)

There is some beneficial legislation introduced this year that is just not being put on committee agendas. WVSSPA is at the Legislature every day of session speaking to law makers on behalf of service personnel. Many times that is not enough. We need each of you to contact your legislators and ask them to move good bills and vote against the bad ones. Read below for a list of legislation affecting service personnel.

Active Legislation

SB 74-The purpose of this bill is to require entities and parties to uphold and apply the Superintendent of Schools' interpretation of school law and State Board of Education rules. This legislation will require the Grievance Board to give "significant deference" to the interpretation given by the State Superintendent when deciding a grievance. This will force many cases to the Intermediate Court of Appeals to overturn the interpretation given by the State Superintendent. **This is terrible legislation aimed at weakening the grievance procedure. Passed Senate floor and will be sent to the House. (Senator Weld)**

SB 244-Requires every board, commission, agency, or entity that issues licenses, registrations, or certifications to individuals who practice a profession, occupation, or trade in this state, shall prepare and maintain a complete roster of the names and mailing address to be made available online and at the request of the public. **This is an invasion of privacy. As public employees your names and work locations are available to the public, your contact information and address should not be. Passed the Senate and has been sent to the House. (Senator Woodrum)**

SB 59-Changes the number of weeks workers are eligible for Unemployment from 26 weeks to just 12 weeks and only increasing to 20 weeks in times of high unemployment. **Another piece of legislation aimed at taking away from workers. Unemployment is historically low. If there is fraud it should be handled but not in a way that punishes those who truly need the benefit. Passed the Senate and has been sent to the House. (Senator Takubo)**

SB 56 and HB 2346-Deems Bus Operators as critical need. This will allow retired bus operators to work as substitutes without penalty to their retirement. Similar to HB2346. **If this legislation passes it would go a long way in relieving bus operator shortages. Passed Senate Education and sent to Senate Finance and Passed House Education and sent to House Finance. (Senator Weld) (Delegate Toney)**

HB 2003-Providing early childhood assistant teachers and systems of support to help students achieve grade level literacy and numeracy by end of third grade. The intent of this legislation is to place ECCAT's in all 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. A similar bill has been introduced in the Senate, but only provides aides for 1st grade the first year, then adds 2nd and 3rd grade in subsequent years. **This is great legislation that would not only create 2900 jobs but truly help our students succeed. Passed House Education and sent to House Finance. (Speaker Hanshaw)**

SB 127-This deals with PEIA and the rate it reimburses hospitals for care. It raises the reimbursement rate to 110% of what Medicare pays hospitals. The Senate suspended rules and passed this bill on the first day of session. **Passed the Senate and sent to the House of Delegates. (Senator Weld)**

HB 2602- Reestablishing certain specialized school service personnel classifications, Aide V and Aide VI. This previously passed, due to an error in another piece of legislation was not put into code. **Passed House Education and read a first time in the House. (Delegate Toney)**

Introduced Legislation-Pay Raise Bills

HB 2598-Would provide a \$900 monthly pay increase for all service personnel. **Introduced in the House of Delegates. (Delegate Toney)**

HB 2776 and SB 423-5% pay raise for state employees. Service personnel would receive \$130 month. Like previous pay raises this not a true 5% raise but a low average of service personnel salaries. **Introduced in the House of Delegates and Senate (Governor Justice)**

Introduced Legislation-Grievance Bills

HB 2507 and SB 461-The purpose of this bill is to extend certain time limits throughout the process, to require a notarized grievance form; outline the grievance motion to dismiss procedure; allow employer to develop procedural policy; require adjudicators at all levels to abide by the Code of Conduct for Administrative Law Judges; require disclosure of representatives of employees; require representatives to disclose each employee being represented; charging annual leave for work hours spent preparing for and attending grievances in excess of four hours; and update language to the current drafting requirements. This bill was recommended by the Department of Transportation. **Introduced in the House of Delegates and Senate. (Delegate Linville) (Senator Clements)**

Introduced PEIA Bills

SB 268 and HB 2534-This bill makes extensive changes to PEIA. This would increase premiums for employees and employers back to 80/20, condense salary tiers, change the life insurance payout at age 65, and remove spouses from PEIA if they have other insurance available. **Introduced in the Senate and House. (Senator Takubo) (Delegate Summers)**

Introduced Retiree Bills

HB 2893 and SB 420-The purpose of this bill is to provide a one-time bonus payment of \$1500 for retirees in the Public Employees Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System that are at least 70 years of age with 20 years of service and receive a monthly annuity of less than \$1000. This also raises the monthly annuity to \$1000 for retirees age 70 with 25 years experience. **Introduced in both the House and Senate (Governor Justice)**

SB 81 and HB 2134-Allowing Tier II Teachers Retirement System members to apply accrued annual and sick leave toward an increase in retirement benefits. **Introduced in the Senate and House. (Senator Grady) (Delegate Toney)**

HB 2139-Will provide a 5% cost of living increase for state retirees who make under \$60,000 per year. **Introduced in the House of Delegates. (Delegate Toney)**

Other Introduced Legislation

HB 2455-Defining a work day for school service personnel and removing a provision relating to employment of licensed practical nurses. This makes all service personnel hourly and allow employees to be RIFed to hire an LPN. **Introduced in the House of Delegates. (Delegate Martin)**

HB 2320-Changing the recommended guidelines for full-day and half-day cooks to the minimum ratio of one cook for every 110 meals. **Introduced in the House of Delegates. (Delegate Toney)**

HB 2433-This creates three separate bus operator job titles based on years worked and provides an increase in pay grade. **Introduced in the House of Delegates. (Delegate Toney)**

HB 2443-A service employee who is certified as a Director or Supervisor of Pupil Transportation by the NAPT is eligible for any professional employee position involving supervision of a county transportation department. All new persons employed as a director, assistant director or coordinator of transportation shall have at least five years of experience working in the transportation department of a county board. **Introduced in the House of Delegates. (Delegate Toney)**

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Contact WVSSPA

Phone: 304-346-3544 - Email: Info@wvsspa.org



LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR - 2023

1st Day January 11, 2023: First day of session.

35th Day February 14, 2023: Last day to introduce bills in the House.

41st Day February 20, 2023: Last day to introduce bills in the Senate.

47th Day February 26, 2023: Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for readings.

50th Day March 1, 2023: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin.

60th Day March 11, 2023: Adjournment at Midnight.