



WVSSPA

West Virginia School Service Personnel Association



An Affiliate of the UMWA
WV AFL-CIO

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2023 Legislative Update Week 5 (2/9/2023)

We are thrilled to see the Aide V and Aide VI bill (HB 2602) headed to the Governor for his signature and the Critical Need for Bus Operators bill (HB 2346) moving quickly through both chambers of the legislature. Unfortunately, this week the Senate Health Committee passed Legislation making significant changes to PEIA. These changes will result in a significant increase in employee premiums (SB 268). This bill has to go to Senate Finance, the full Senate and the House of Delegates. We need each of our members to contact their Legislatures and tell them to vote no to these changes to PEIA. Read below for legislation affecting Service Personnel.

Active Legislation

SB 268-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. This bill was amended to require the return to 80/20 and the consolidation of tiers to be in place by July 1, 2023 instead of a 5 year phase in. Similar to HB 2534. **This is another piece of terrible legislation. With the committee amendment health care costs will dramatically increase for all service personnel. Passed Senate Health Committee and sent to Senate Finance. (Senator Takubo)**

HB 3271-The purpose of this bill is to require audio recording devices be placed in the bathrooms of any self contained special education classrooms in addition to the cameras already placed in each self contained classroom. Parents can opt their students out of being recorded or ask for their student to be taken to another bathroom. **This has passed the House Education committee and sent to the House Judiciary Committee. (Delegate Mazzochi)**

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. **These positions were previously in code but removed due to a computer error. Passed the House of Delegates and Senate and sent to the Governor. (Delegate Toney)**

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 SB 56 which passed Senate Education. **If this legislation passes it would go a long way in relieving bus operator shortages. We feel there is good chance this bill will pass as it is moving in both chambers. Passed House of Delegates ordered to the Senate. (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 or one year to get the proper certifications. **This bill would allow more service Personnel to bid on and get Professional positions in transportation. Passed the House of Delegates and sent to the Senate. (Delegate Toney)**

SB 99-The purpose of this legislation is to approve meetings among County Boards of Education to discuss consolidation of school districts and sharing services. **We fear this would lead to job loss for service personnel and loss of local control by giving the Legislature too much input into what should be a local decision. Counties already have the ability to share services. Passed Senate Education. (Senator Nelson)**

2023 Legislative Update Week 5 (2/9/2023)

Active Legislation- No Movement

HB 2893-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. **This was legislation the Governor Spoke about in the State of the State. Passed Pensions and Retirement sent to House Finance. (Governor Justice)**

HB 2598-Would provide a \$900 monthly pay increase for all service personnel. **This would be a significant pay raise for service personnel putting our salaries equal to surrounding states. Passed House Education sent to House Finance . (Delegate Toney)**

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; 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; not allowing an employee to represent a grievant more than 5 times per year; holds the grievance in abeyance if the grievant is on leave. Amended in Judiciary to include a loser pays clause. This bill was recommended by the Department of Transportation. **Terrible bill intended to make filing a grievance and going through the grievance process as difficult as possible. Passed the Senate and has been sent to the House of Delegates. (Senator Clements)**

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 the Senate and sent to the House Judiciary Committee. (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 sent to the House Government Organization Committee. (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. The House has not accepted the Communication. (Senator Takubo)**

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 to raise 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)**

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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.