



WVSSPA

West Virginia School Service Personnel Association



An Affiliate of the UMWA
WV AFL-CIO

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2023 Legislative Update Week 7 (2/24/2023)

Active Legislation

SB 268-This bill makes extensive changes to PEIA. There have been 2 committee substitutes, the most recent is the committee substitute is from Senate Finance. This version of the bill makes the following changes to PEIA; Increase premiums for employees and employers back to 80/20, increased out of pocket expense for those living in border counties and going to doctors outside WV, removal of spouses from PEIA if they are offered insurance through their employee; codifies that the tiers and additional funds may not be adjusted by the Governor or PEIA. This bill also calls for a study to look at the solvency of PEIA. **This is another piece of terrible legislation. With the committee amendment health care costs will dramatically increase for all service personnel. Laid over on third reading today in the Senate. (Senator Takubo)**

SB 423- Increasing salary for certain state employees. This was the Governor's pay raise bill giving a 5% increase to all state employees. Specifically service personnel would have received \$130 a month increase. Senate Finance amended this bill to provide a \$2300 across the board yearly pay increase. **We feel this increase was to offset the premium and out of pocket expenses created by the PEIA legislation in SB 268. Laid over on third reading today in the Senate. (Governor)**

HB 3547-The purpose of this bill is to increase the number of personal leave days that county board of education employees may use without regard to the cause for the absence from three to four. **Passed House of Delegates and communicated to the Senate. (Delegate Clark)**

HB 2761-To allow classroom aides with 10 or more years of service and good evaluations to bid on teaching positions. They would have 3 years to complete a degree from a institution of higher education within three years of the school year for which the classroom aide is selected to teach. **Passed House Education read a second time in the House. (Delegate Ross)**

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 House Education and Judiciary Committees and read a first time. (Delegate Mazzochi)**

Active Legislation- No Movement

SB 237-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. Similar to HB 2893. **This is similar legislation to what the Governor Spoke about in the State of the State. Passed the Senate and ordered to House Pensions and Retirement. (Senator Nelson)**

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 ordered to House Workforce Committee. (Senator Takubo)**

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.

2023 Legislative Update Week 7 (2/24/2023)

Active Legislation- No Movement Continued

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 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 ordered to House Judiciary. (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 274-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. This bill provides aides for 1st grade the first year, then adds 2nd and 3rd grade in subsequent years. Similar to HB 2003. **This is great legislation that would not only create 2900 jobs but truly help our students succeed. Passed Senate and ordered to House Education. (Speaker Hanshaw)**

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 the Senate and ordered to House Education. (Senator Nelson)**

Completed Legislation

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. Has been signed by the Governor and is law. (Delegate Toney)**

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