



WVSSPA

West Virginia School Service Personnel Association
An Affiliate of the UMWA WV AFL-CIO

2026 Legislative Update Week 4 - 2/6/2026

Below are bills moving through the legislature. Right now, no pay raise or PEIA bill has been sent to committee, although several have been introduced.

SB 216 creates the Restoring Private Schools Act of 2026. This effectively removes all regulations that private, parochial, or church schools currently must comply with. Tuition for these schools can be paid through the Hope Scholarship. The Hope Scholarship pulls funding from public education. The lead sponsor is Senator Hart. This bill passed the Select Committee on School Choice.

HB 4574 establishes a reserve called the Temporary Shortfall Supplement Fund for the County Board of Education to assist counties in financial difficulty with less than five percent of available funding. Funds allocated to these counties must be repaid to the state. Additionally, the county must submit its financial statements to the State Board of Education upon request and comply with all WVEIS requirements. A report is required to LOCEA if the county's reserve drops below 5 percent for more than 60 days. **HB 4575**, a related appropriation bill, allocates \$8 million of surplus funds to the Shortfall Supplement Fund. Both bills originated in the House Finance Committee. The House suspended rules to pass both bills in one day and reported them to the Senate. HB 4574 was discussed for over an hour in the Senate Education Committee; no action was taken on the bill. The committee chair said the bill would be brought back in a later meeting.

SB 428 divides bus operators into 3 separate job titles. Bus Operator I is a bus operator with less than 5 years of experience and would remain at pay grade D. Bus Operator II is a bus operator with 5 to 10 years of experience and would be paid at pay grade E. Bus Operator III is a bus operator with 10 or more years of experience and would be paid at pay grade F. This bill also raises a Cafeteria Manager from a pay grade D to pay grade E. This bill has passed the Senate Education Committee and has been sent to the Senate Finance Committee. The lead sponsors are Senator Deeds and Senator Morris.

HB 4025 exempts new hires and promoted employees within the Departments of Health Facilities, Human Services, and Health from the classified civil service system and the

state grievance process, effective July 1, 2026. This bill was introduced on behalf of Governor Morrisey. House Government Organization held the committee hearing for this bill today. The bill will go to the mark-up and passage phase next. During the last legislative session, the Departments of Commerce, Economic Development, Administration, Environmental Protection, Revenue, Veterans' Assistance, and the Bureau of Senior Services lost their civil service protections as well as the grievance procedure.

HB 4395 requires a board of education to continue investigations of allegations that school personnel have jeopardized the health, safety, or welfare of a student even after the school personnel obtain another job or transfer to another school. The lead sponsor is Delegate Drennan. House Education held the committee hearing for this bill today. The bill will go to the mark-up and passage phase next.

Introduced Bills

HB 5012 allows teachers and service personnel to be transferred throughout the school year. Currently, employees cannot be transferred after the last of the second month of school unless they are an itinerant employee. Delegate Ellington is the lead sponsor. This bill has not reached committee.

SB 660 removes the requirement that an employee pay the actuarial value for spousal coverage and requires the employee to pay for coverage based on their salary and tier of coverage. Senator Oliverio is the lead sponsor. This bill has not reached committee.

HB 4765 and **SB 585** intend to increase the salaries of certain state employees by 3%. This would give service personnel a monthly increase of \$87. Both bills were introduced on behalf of Governor Morrisey. Neither piece of legislation has been placed on a committee agenda.

HB 5043 provides a \$900 monthly increase to state school service personnel. Delegate Toney is the lead sponsor. This bill has not reached committee.

HB 5045 changes the minimum ratio of school cooks to a mandatory one cook for every 110 meals prepared and served. Delegate Toney is the lead sponsor. This bill has not reached committee.

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