



WVSSPA

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

2026 Legislative Update Week 5 - 2/13/2026

We are now halfway through the 2026 Legislative Session. Below, you'll find the bills currently progressing through the Legislature. At this time, no bills related to pay increases or PEIA have been placed on a committee agenda.

HB 4395 requires a board of education to continue investigating 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. This bill passed the House Public Education subcommittee and will be reported to the full committee.

HB 4995 amends special education laws by installing cameras in support areas and rooms connected to self-contained classrooms and requires staff escorting students to the restroom to wear a recording device. Footage must be reviewed every 7 days, and all footage must be kept for two years. The lead sponsor is Delegate Martin. This bill has completed the public hearing portion of the House Education Committee and will move to markup and passage.

HB 4817 creates the Charter School Startup Fund, which would be funded by appropriations, grants, and gifts. The bill requires applicants to submit an application to the West Virginia Professional Charter School Board to receive funds from the Charter School Startup Fund. Delegate Crouse is the lead sponsor. This bill has completed the public hearing portion of the House Education Committee and will move to markup and passage.

SB 801 increases each school district's state aid by increasing the ratio of professional educators per 1,000 students and the ratio of service personnel per 1,000 students. This would add 715 service personnel positions statewide. Senator Grady is the lead sponsor. This has passed the Senate Education Committee and been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

SB 437 adds additional weighting for special education students for increased funding. Each student with an IEP will be weighted according to the level of support needed. This would increase school aid funding by \$45 million. Senator Deeds is the lead sponsor. This has passed the Senate Education Committee and been referred to the Senate Finance Committee.

SB 758 increases funding for rural schools by weighting each student as 2.5 students. The bill's intention is to prevent extremely remote schools from closing. Senator Morris is the lead sponsor. The Senate Education Committee took no action on the bill.

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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. This bill has completed the committee process in the Government Organization committee.

HB 4950 establishes the West Virginia Freedom and Innovation Pilot Act of 2026. If a county chooses to participate in the pilot program, it will receive a \$5,775 per-student block grant and a 1% increase each subsequent year. The county would not have to comply with any provisions in code sections 18-5-18 and all of chapter 18a. In short, this bill would strip employees of all protections provided in code. Delegate Hornby is the lead sponsor. This bill has passed the School Choice Subcommittee and will advance to the House Education Committee.

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.

HB 5441 terminates the State Personnel Board and its responsibilities to the Division of Personnel. Additionally, this bill removes civil service protections and the grievance procedure from the State Tax Division, the Bureau of Social Services, and the Department of Transportation. This bill was introduced on behalf of Governor Morrisey and has not yet reached committee. It is similar to HB 4025, which removes these rights from the Departments of Health Facilities and Human Services.

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