



# WVSSPA

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

## 2026 Legislative Update Week 6 - 2/20/2026

**We have 3 weeks left in the 2026 Legislative Session. February 17 was the day to introduce bills in the House of Delegates; the Senate's last day to introduce bills will be Monday, February 23. All bills are due out of committee on March 1 and pass out of the house of origin on March 4.**

**House Finance Committee originated** a bill to set guardrails for the Hope Scholarship. Sets the annual amount at a flat \$5250; \$250 would go to the State Treasurer for program administration, and Hope students would receive \$5000. Requires participating schools to be in-state if they are brick-and-mortar schools. Eliminates the following qualifying expenses: AP exams, college admission exams, and prep courses for AP or college admission exams; tutoring services; after-school or summer programs; instruments/equipment as part of the music education course/curriculum; limits nonpublic virtual online programs to tuition and fees for the curriculum; limits transportation costs. Requires students under Individualized Instructional Programs to take the statewide student growth assessment required of public-school students; the cost would be a covered qualifying expense, and the data would be used as it is for public schools. This bill completed the committee hearing process and was placed on today's agenda for markup and passage. The committee adjourned before taking up the bill.

**HB 5453** provides a revised method of school aid funding. Counties would receive \$6500 per pupil in a block grant, with a base of 1,200 pupils. Counties would receive an additional \$3,250 per Tier II special needs pupil and \$6500 per Tier III special needs pupil. Counties can apply for additional supplemental funding for transportation, Vocational and CTE centers, and pilot programs. Delegate Ellington is the lead sponsor. This bill passed the House Education Committee and will move to the House Finance Committee.

**HB 4765** intends to increase the salaries of certain state employees by 3%. This would give service personnel a monthly increase of \$87. This was introduced on behalf of Governor Morrisey. It has passed the House of Delegates and will move to the Senate

**HB 4574** establishes a reserve called the Temporary Shortfall Supplement Fund for the State 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. HB 4574 was discussed for over an hour in the Senate Education Committee, but no action was taken on the bill.

**HB 4575**, a related appropriation bill, allocates \$8 million of surplus funds to the Shortfall Supplement Fund. This bill is on second reading in the Senate.

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.

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**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 passed the House Education Committee and was reported to the House Finance 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. It is similar to **HB 4025**, which removes these rights from the Departments of Health Facilities and Human Services. This bill was on the House Government Organization Committee Agenda today for a committee hearing.

**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 passed the House Education Committee and will move to the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 5012** allows teachers and service personnel to be transferred throughout the school year. Employees can only be moved if there is a population shift and no other reason. 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, but the bill was introduced on behalf of the Superintendent's Association. The bill has passed the House Education Committee.

**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 the committee hearing for the House Education Committee.

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