



# WVSSPA

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

## 2026 Legislative Update Week 7 - 2/27/2026

All bills are due out of their committee in their house of origin on Monday, March 2. Any bill that does not complete this committee process would be considered dead. After Monday, committees will focus on bills from the opposite house.

The House Finance Committee originated another bill regarding the Hope Scholarship. This bill requires that funds be paid quarterly. The previous bill that set guardrails and reduced the payment amount is dead.

**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 Morrissey. It has passed the House of Delegates and will move to the Senate.

**HB 5511** provides a lump sum payment of accrued personnel leave to the estate of an employee who dies while employed by the county board of education. The amount cannot exceed \$6000. Delegate Toney is the lead sponsor. This bill is on first reading in the House of Delegates.

**HB 4995** has been amended to remove the provisions requiring cameras in support areas and rooms connected to self-contained classrooms, as well as the requirement that staff escorting students wear recording devices. The bill now requires parents or guardians to be notified of any outage affecting video or audio recording. The lead sponsor is Delegate Martin. This bill has passed the House Judiciary Committee and will move to the full House of Delegates.

**Senate Banking and Insurance Originating Bill – PEIA** This legislation allows PEIA to create and fund a fraud unit. The fraud unit would focus on provider fraud and allow PEIA to recover the funds with damages. The legislation will move to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

**SB 1024** authorizes the recession or reversal of school closure decisions through July 15 and establishes procedures for these decisions. Senator Maynard is the lead sponsor. The bill is on second reading today in the Senate

**SB 929** would tie school financial reporting to state funding. This bill requires the West Virginia State Auditor to issue a notice of noncompliance if a county board fails to submit its annual financial statement within 90 days after the end of the fiscal year. If the board remains non-compliant for more than 60 additional days, it would be ineligible to receive discretionary state funding until compliance is achieved. This bill allows the State Board of Education to access the Shortfall Supplement Fund if the county is unable to meet its financial obligations during an intervention. The county would be required to repay the loan in 36 months. Senator Taylor is the lead sponsor; the bill be on second reading in the Senate tomorrow. This bill is an alternative to HB 4574, which the House passed but stalled in the Senate Education Committee.

**HB 4575**, an appropriation bill, allocates \$8 million of surplus funds to the Shortfall Supplement Fund, which was created in SB 929. This bill originated in the House Finance Committee and has passed both the House and Senate.

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**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 of Delegates and will move to the Senate.

**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 has passed the House Education Committee and has been placed on the agenda for a House Finance Committee hearing.

### Harmful Legislation

**SB 1048** transfers the responsibility for determining whether to eliminate school personnel positions due to a lack of need from the county boards of all county school districts to the West Virginia Board of Education. Employees on transfer will no longer have the right to a hearing before the county board of education. A county may submit a plan to the state board of education to retain positions above the formula. Senator Amy Grady is the lead sponsor. This legislation was passed out of the Senate Education Committee and goes to the Senate Finance Committee next.

**HB 4025** exempts new hires and promoted employees within the Departments of Health Facilities and Human Services, from the classified civil service system and the state grievance process, effective July 1, 2026. This bill was introduced on behalf of Governor Morrisey and passed out of the House Government Organization Committee and will be reported to the House of Delegates.

**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 passed out of the House Government Organization Committee and will be reported to the House of Delegates.

**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 at the Superintendent's Association's request. The bill has passed the House of Delegates and will move to the Senate. **SB 1061** is the Senate version of this bill. The Senate Education Committee passed it this morning, with the Committee Substitute, mirroring the changes made in the House Education Committee. Senator Grady is the lead sponsor of this bill. The bill is on second reading today.

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