



WVSSPA

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

2026 Legislative Update Week 8 - 3/6/2026

This past Wednesday was crossover day; it was the last day to consider bills on third reading in their house of origin. The 2026 legislative session will end at midnight on Saturday, March 14th. Unfortunately, the only pay raise bill moving is the Governor's proposed 3%, all legislation pertaining PEIA has failed.

HB 5669 would have established Raylee's Law, which temporarily prevents a student from switching to homeschooling if there is a pending CPS investigation reported by a mandatory reporter at their school. Delegate Fluharty is the lead sponsor, and he has been trying to get this legislation passed for three years. This bill died after a vote by the House of Delegates failed to suspend the Constitutional Rule requiring a bill to be read 3 times. Raylee Browning was tortured and murdered by her father, stepmother, and stepmother's sister. Raylee was withdrawn from public school after CPS was contacted to report abuse.

HB 5686 is a House Finance Committee bill concerning the Hope Scholarship. It requires that funds be paid quarterly. The previous bill, which set guardrails and lowered the payment amount, is no longer active. This bill has passed the House of Delegates and is pending in the Senate Finance Committee. There is \$290 million budgeted for the Hope Scholarship.

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 passed the House of Delegates and has been assigned to the Senate Finance Committee. The appropriation for the 3% pay increase is in the Budget.

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 passed the House of Delegates and is pending in the Senate Education Committee.

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. Footage should be reviewed every 30 days, and all investigations must be finalized. The lead sponsor is Delegate Martin. The amended version has passed the House of Delegates and is pending in 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 has passed the Senate and is pending in the House Education Committee.

HB 5453 provides a revised method of school aid funding. Funding would not change until the 2029-2030 school year. Counties would receive \$6100 per pupil in a block grant, with a base of 1,200 pupils. Counties currently receive \$6100 per pupil. Counties would receive an additional \$3,050 per Tier II special-needs pupil and \$ 6,100 per Tier III special-needs pupil. Charter schools would receive \$8600 per pupil. Counties can apply for additional supplemental funding for transportation, Vocational and CTE centers, and pilot programs. Funding could be withheld for maladministration. Delegate Ellington is the lead sponsor. This bill passed the House of Delegates and is pending in the Senate Education Committee.

HB 5587 updates code to allow video footage from school bus cameras to be sent directly to law enforcement when a vehicle illegally passes a stopped school bus. Delegate Funkhouser is the lead sponsor. This bill passed the House of Delegates. And is on first reading in the Senate.

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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 has passed the Senate and is pending in the House Education Committee. 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, passed both the House and Senate, and is now awaiting the Governor's signature.

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 information regarding the investigation must be placed in a statewide database. The lead sponsor is Delegate Drennan. This bill passed the House of Delegates and will move to the Senate.

Harmful Legislation

SB 67 gives charter schools the right of first refusal on unused school buildings. The charter school can purchase or lease the building at or below market value; the charter school also has 60 days to refuse. If charter school employees do not participate in TERS, the charter school will receive funding directly, with a 50% allocation starting July 1, 2026, and a 99% allocation starting July 1, 2027. Similarly, if charter school employees do not participate in PEIA, the charter school will receive funding directly, with a 50% allocation starting July 1, 2026, and a 99% allocation starting July 1, 2027. This bill also allows colleges or universities to establish charter microschoools. Charter schools will now be allowed to partner with learning pods or microschoools. Senator Rucker is the lead sponsor. This bill has passed the Senate and is pending in the House Education Committee.

HB 4025 exempts new hires and promoted employees within the Departments of Health, 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, passed the House of Delegates, and is pending in the Senate Judiciary 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 for new employees and those who transfer to another position. This bill was introduced on behalf of Governor Morrisey, passed the House of Delegates, and is pending in the Senate 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 at the Superintendent's Association's request. The bill has passed the House of Delegates and is on First reading in the Senate. This bill is similar to SB 1061.

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