

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE WEEK 7 (2/24/2020)

WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOL SERVICE PERSONNEL ASSOCIATION

Active Legislation

- ⇒ **SB 241**-Requiring the State BOE to develop a method for student transportation as a stand alone consideration. This bill revises the calculation for service personnel funding for counties who have a low population and large geographic area.
- ⇒ **HB 4535**-Relating to student aide class titles. Creating two assistant teaching positions for special education and student support through e-learning classes. Aide V is a Special Education Classroom Assistant Teacher and Aide VI is a Student Behavioral Support Specialist. Pay grade during training is an E and after training an F. Aides will not be required to take this training and will only receive the training if a job is posted by their county.
- ⇒ **SB 616**-Relating to employment grievance procedure for public employees. This bill has been heavily amended, many of the bad provisions have been removed. In its current form this bill changes the following items:
 - * An employee may not serve as a representative in more than four grievances per calendar year.
 - * An employee may not use a state vehicle to travel to and from grievance proceedings or grievance preparation activities.
 - * The grievant and employee representative will only be granted 4 hours of preparation during work hours regardless of how many procedural levels are involved. This does not include the grievance proceedings.
- ⇒ **HB 3127**-Also known as the Tim Tebow bill. This bill would allow homeschooled students to participate in secondary school extracurricular activities. To be eligible students must be enrolled in one virtual class, have test scores within or above the fourth stanine in all subject areas and is limited to participation in the attendance zone in which they live. Counties will receive a portion of state aid funds for this student.
- ⇒ **SJR Number 9**-Repealing the manufacturing machinery, equipment and inventory tax. Allows the Legislature to eliminate or lower personnel property tax by statute. Eliminates the current constitutional requirement for uniformity of taxation. Allows the Legislature to set different rate of statewide taxation, assessment and/or valuation. Allows the Legislature to classify property in statute as real or personal for purposes of taxation.
- ⇒ **SB 837**-Is a sister bill to SJR Number 9. Creates a six year phase out of personal property taxes on manufacturing equipment, machinery, inventory, automobiles and retail inventory. Provides counties, municipalities, and school funding will remain whole if SJR Number 9 passes. Provides for replacement revenue by raising the following taxes; the sales tax from 6% to 6.5%, tax on cigarettes from \$1.20 to \$2.00, tax on other tobacco from 12% of the wholesale value to 50% and e-cigarette/vaping products from 7.5 cents to 50% of the whole sale price.

Dead Legislation

- ⇒ **HB 4043**-Preventing state, county and municipal agencies from covering any portions of PEIA premiums for spouse.
- ⇒ **HB 2425**-Defining the work day for service personnel. This bill would make service personnel work longer hours for no additional pay.
- ⇒ **SB 698**-Declaring a shortage of qualified bus operators and allowing retired bus operators to accept employment. Same legislation as HB4596.
- ⇒ **HB 4457**-Requiring air conditioning on all school buses.
- ⇒ **HB 4649**-This legislation would provide training to all school employees to help students deal with trauma stemming from the Opioid Crisis.
- ⇒ **HB 3128**-Mandatory cook to meal ratio at 110 meals per cook.
- ⇒ **HB 3130**-Bus Operator II after 5 years and Bus Operator III after 10 years.
- ⇒ **SB 247**-Providing bonus for school service employees who use less than four days of personal leave.
- ⇒ **SB 31**-Providing 11 month window for PERS members to purchase certain credited services.

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