Teachers Strike Enters Day 2

All 55 of West Virginia’s counties remain closed today as teachers continued day 2 of a statewide strike.

Striking teachers are demanding increased pay and a permanent funding source for PEIA (WV Public Employees Insurance Agency) to offset health care cost increases.

Earlier this week Governor Justice signed SB 267 into law, which provides teachers a 4-percent pay raise over the next three years (2-1-1) and a 3-percent pay raise over the next two years (2-1) for school service personnel and state troopers. Additionally, the PEIA Finance Board, at the request of the Governor and Legislative leaders, froze all benefits and premiums for the next year and a half while long-term solutions are sought. This action will require the Legislature to supplement PEIA approximately $29 million in additional funds for the next fiscal year.

Teachers on strike have said these actions are not sufficient. Questions remain as to whether school across the state will resume on Monday.

Bill to Prevent Employers from Prohibiting Firearms in Vehicles on Company Property to be Read a 1st Time

2018 Legislative Schedule

Bills Due Out of Committees in House of Origin
Sunday, February 25

Last Day to Consider Bill on Third Reading in House of Origin
Wednesday, February 28

Legislative Session Ends at Midnight
HB 4187, the Business Liability and Protection Act, is on 1st Reading in the West Virginia House of Delegates today.

The bill was approved by the House Judiciary Committee on Tuesday after language that exempted employers handling hazardous materials from the bill was removed by an amendment.

The West Virginia Manufacturers Association, the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce and many businesses across the state have remained in strong opposition of the bill. Chamber President Steve Roberts stated that the bill adds a cause of action against employers and adds new regulations on businesses. Roberts also said that the bill is attempting to regulate something that employers and employees have been successfully negotiating.

HB 4187 must be read three times in the House of Delegates before it will be up for a final vote.

To contact your delegates and express your concerns regarding this bill, please click here.

House Finance Originates Bill to Terminate Workers' Comp Debt Surcharges

Today the House Finance Committee took a major step in closing the last remaining chapter of the Workers' Compensation Old Fund.

The bill, which was originated and approved in the House Finance Committee this morning, would eliminate the current Workers' Compensation debt reduction surcharges on insurers and self-
Deputy Insurance Commissioner Andrew Pauley testified that the Workers’ Compensation Old Fund is nearing solvency. These surcharges typically generate approximately $30 million per year from insurers and employers.

The West Virginia Chamber of Commerce has long maintained that this surcharge should be eliminated once the Old Fund is fully funded.

The originating bill will be assigned a number and move to the House Floor later today.

**Bill to Exempt Aircraft Repair from Sales Tax Moves Forward**

HB 4022, which would exempt certain aircraft repair, remodeling and maintenance from the consumer sales and service tax and use tax, continues to move through the West Virginia Legislature.

HB 4022 is largely in response to the recent West Virginia Supreme Court decision in the case of *Pratt & Whitney v. Steager*, Case No. 16-0903, November 1, 2017. That case held that aircraft parts that are repaired become subject to sales tax.

If passed, this bill could encourage aircraft companies to perform service and maintenance at West Virginia airports, potentially creating new jobs for state residents.

HB 4022 passed the House of Delegates on a vote of 95-3 on Wednesday, and was approved by the Senate Finance Committee this afternoon. The bill now moves to the full Senate.
TO REVIEW THE TEXT OF ANY BILL
CLICK THE BILL NUMBER

SB 100 --- Taxing digital goods, products and services

SB 267 --- Increasing salaries of certain state employees

SB 269 --- Establishing 2018 Regulatory Reform Act

SB 272 --- Relating generally to drug control

SB 273 --- Reducing use of opiates

SB 284 --- Increasing access to career education and workforce training

SB 289 / HB 4205 --- Entitling natural resource producers to economic opportunity tax credit

SB 300 --- Creating five-year tax credits for businesses locating on post-coal mine sites

SB 304 --- Relating to authorization and establishment of charter schools

SB 335 --- Protecting employees’ wages or salaries from being withheld or diverted for political activities

SB 341 --- Creating new WV Intermediate Court of Appeals

SB 360 --- Clarifying royalty owned in oil and gas lease

SB 395 --- Providing for judicial review of appealed decisions of Air Quality Review Board, Environmental Quality Board and Surface Mine Board
**HB 2028** --- Relating to the venue for suits and other actions against the state

**HB 2379** --- Providing a special method for valuation of certain wireless technology property for property taxes

**HB 2383** --- Providing for the redistricting office of the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to propose redistricting plans during census years

**HB 2727** --- Providing an identification card for released inmates who do not have a West Virginia identification card of driver's license

**HB 4002** --- Providing that all delegates shall be elected from one hundred single districts following the United States Census in 2020

**HB 4005** --- Clarifying that appeals to the Supreme Court are a matter of right

**HB 4009** --- State Settlement and Recovered Funds Accountability Act

**HB 4013** --- Clarifying venue in West Virginia state courts as it applies to nonresidents of the state

**HB 4022** --- Exempting the consumer sales and service tax and use tax for services for the repair, remodeling and maintenance of certain aircraft.

**HB 4187** --- Business Liability Protection Act (prevents employers from prohibiting firearms in locked vehicles on company parking lots)

**HB 4268** --- Co-tenancy Modernization and Majority Protection Act

**HB 4270** --- Providing for the timely payment of moneys owed from oil and natural gas protection

**HB 4298** --- The Campus Self Defense Act (allows concealed carrying of firearms on state institutions of higher education)

**HB 4357** --- West Virginia Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act

**HB 4396** --- Permitting wagering on the results of certain professional or collegiate sports or athletic events
**HB 4407** --- Relating to eligibility for alternative program teacher certificate

**HB 4440** --- Relating to the "Equal Pay Act of 2018"

**SJR 3** --- Judicial Budget Oversight Amendment

**SJR 9 / HJR 106** --- Just Cut Taxes and Win Amendment (eliminates personal property taxes on industrial equipment and inventory)

**HJR 103** --- Election of West Virginia Board of Education members amendment

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