

April 25, 2017



Legislative Update

Results of the 2017 Regular Legislative Session

The Budget

The legislative leadership, yet again, failed to pass a balanced budget without raiding the Rainy Day Fund. We have heard time and time again from legislative leaders that we need to “live within our means” and be “revenue neutral,” however, continuing to steal from our Rainy Day Fund to balance the budget is not “revenue neutral.”

Instead of investing resources into infrastructure, education and workforce training, the legislative leadership cut funding for education, refused to pass Governor Justice’s infrastructure package and did not even discuss training workers for the jobs of tomorrow.

So it’s no surprise that Governor Jim Justice has vetoed that budget, and intends to bring legislators back to Charleston in a special session to develop a new version sometime before the end of the current fiscal year, July 1

We are hopeful that the Governor will convince the Republican majority to agree to some revenue measures to prevent the drastic cuts included in the vetoed budget. **Most importantly, it is critical that legislators move forward with the Governor’s road construction and infrastructure initiative that will create as many as 48,000 jobs for West Virginians.**

“Right to Work,” Paycheck Deception

Unfortunately, the Legislature also wasted time on other bills that hurt working families, such as **Senate Bill 330** to clean up the poorly drafted 2016 “Right to Work” legislation, which the West Virginia AFL-CIO and others are currently challenging in court. The Legislature even went so far as to override the Governor’s veto of the bill, although just barely in the House by a 51-49 vote.

We are hopeful that Governor Justice will soon veto **Senate Bill 239**, Paycheck Deception, an attempt to impede the free speech of workers and the groups that represent them. The bill would make employers responsible for monitoring any paycheck deduction an employee elects to have withheld, such as for union membership, a charity or other organization, and require a form be signed annually by both the employee and the employer.

*** The following are some critical bills that were moving late in the session***

Red = Opposed

Black = Supported

Purple = Watched Closely

WV AFL-CIO & All Affiliates

SB 239 -- Paycheck Deception (to the Governor)

SB 330 – Relating to the Workplace Freedom Act (Legislature overrode veto)

SB 221 – Composition of PEIA Finance Board – removing labor representation (to the Governor)

SB 446 -- Allowing Governor executive orders to furlough state employees (died in House Judiciary)

HB 2018/SB 199 -- Budget (vetoed)

AFT-WV

HB 2524 – School-level continuous improvement processes (died in House Education)

SB 401 – County board employment decisions/Common Core repeal (died in House Education)

SB 409/SB 609 – Reducing school funding (died House Finance)

SB 524/SB 18 -- Relating to WV academic standards – Common Core (died in House Education)

HB 2738 -- Transfer process of school personnel (died in Senate Education)

HB 2711 -- Abolishing RESAs, providing for transfer of property and records (to the Governor)

SB 242 – Relating to School Calendars (died in House Education)

Building and Construction Trades

SB 16 -- Repealing section related to wind power projects (died in House Energy)

SB 224 – Repealing requirement for employer’s bond for wages & benefits (to the Governor)

SB 412 -- WV Jobs Act reporting requirements (died in House, 3rd reading)

SB 399 -- Prohibiting local ordinances regulating employee benefits (died in House Judiciary)

SB 477 -- Increasing Road Fund by raising DMV fees, fuel excise taxes (died in House Finance)

SB 482 -- Relating generally to WV Parkways Authority (died in House Finance)

CWA

HB 2483 – Transfer anyone age 18 from Juvenile Services to Corrections (died in Senate Judiciary)

HB 3018 – Making assault against a correctional employee a felony (to the Governor)

SB 180 -- PSC jurisdiction of telephone, internet services (to the Governor)

HB 3093 -- Establishing Broadband Expansion Policies (to the Governor)

SB 614 -- Relating to expansion of broadband service (died in House Finance)

UMWA

SB 687 – Regarding coal mining safety and environmental protection – (to the Governor)

USW

SB 437 -- Discontinuing WV Greyhound Breeding Development Fund (Governor vetoed)