



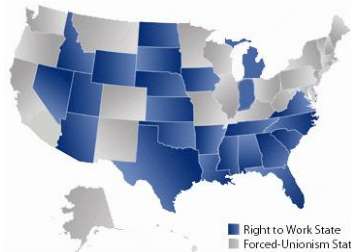
2015 Weekly Legislative E-Briefing

WEST VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

February 3, 2015
21st Day of the 60-Day
Legislative Session

Right-to-Work Bill Introduced in State Senate, Chamber President Says "Time has Come"

A bill creating the "Workplace Freedom Act" has been introduced by State Senate Majority Leader Mitch Carmichael (R-Jackson). The bill ([SB 337](#)) would prohibit requiring West Virginia workers to join unions in locations covered under union contracts. Chamber President Steve Roberts says, "I am very respectful about the people who are nervous about what the future holds. You can see it in the faces of those who work for labor unions at the Capitol. But I think the time has come to try something new." Roberts continued, "I've talked to enough business people associated with the Chamber to be pretty convinced there is a belief out there this is a policy we ought to try."



Currently, 24 states have right-to-work laws (*states in blue on map above*).



2015 Legislative Schedule

**30th Day of the
Session
(half way point)**
Thursday, February 12

**Last day to introduce
bills in both Houses**
Monday, February 23

**Bills due out of
committees**
Sunday, March 1

**Last day to consider
bill on 3rd Reading
(passage stage)**
Wednesday, March 4

Session Adjourns
Saturday, March 14

House of Delegates to Vote Tomorrow on Non-Partisan Election of Judges

The House will vote tomorrow on legislation ([HB 2010](#)) to change the way judges are elected in West Virginia. If adopted by the Legislature and signed by the Governor, all judges including Supreme Court of Appeals Justices, Circuit Court Judges, Family Court Judges and Magistrates will be elected on a non-partisan basis. Currently, the Mountain State is only one of seven states that still chooses judges on a partisan basis. The West Virginia Chamber has been a strong vocal advocate for removing partisan politics from the state's judiciary.



First Chamber Legislative Breakfast Set for

Next Tuesday

The kickoff for this year's schedule of Chamber Legislative Breakfasts will be held next **Tuesday February 10 at 7:45 a.m.** at the Charleston Marriott.



The breakfast will feature a discussion of the state's **"Financial Challenges in 2015."**

Special guests include: Senate Finance Committee Chair Mike Hall (R-Putnam), House Majority Leader Daryl Cowles (R-Morgan) and House Finance Committee Chair Eric Nelson (R-Kanawha).

BILLS TO WATCH

[TO REVIEW THE TEXT OF ANY BILL](#)
[CLICK THE BILL NUMBER](#)

STATE SENATE

[SB 2](#) --- Predicating actions for damages upon comparative fault principles

[SB 3](#) --- Relating to real property possessor's liability for trespasser harm
Passed Senate 1/21; Passed House 1/29; To Governor for approval

[SB 5](#) --- Creating teacher corps program

[SB 6](#) --- Relating to medical professional liability Passed Senate 2/2; to House Judiciary

[SB 10](#)--- Requiring nonpartisan election of judges & magistrates

[SB 11](#) --- Relating to workers' compensation disbursements when injury is self-inflicted or intentional: permitting recovery in private suit

[SB 12](#) --- Relating to payment of separated employee's outstanding wages
Passed Senate 1/23

[SB 13](#) --- Reinstating open and obvious doctrine for premises liability
Passed Senate 1/27; On Third Reading (passage stage) in the House 2/4

[SB 14](#) --- Creating Public Charter Schools Act

[SB 37](#) --- Relating to arbitration

[SB 38](#) --- Relating to apportionment of damages in tortious conduct actions

[SB 101](#) --- Limiting punitive damages awarded in personal injury or wrongful death actions

[SB 102](#) --- Expending period that terminated employees' wages must be paid

[SB 103](#) --- Establishing comparative fault standard

[SB 104](#) --- Increasing threshold of defendant's liability to qualify for several

liability in tortious actions

[SB 129](#) --- Establishing an Intermediate Court of Appeals

[SB 134](#) --- Creating Civil Justice Reform Act of 2015

[SB 245](#) --- Repealing requirement for prevailing wage payment for public improvement construction

[SB 306](#) --- Establishing an Intermediate Court of Appeals

[SB 307](#) --- Creating Paycheck Protection Act

[SB 308](#) --- Changing minimum interest rate paid on judgments or decrees

[SB 318](#) --- Relating to payment of wages by employers **On Third Reading (passage stage) 2/4**

[SB 321](#) --- Creating Paycheck Protection Act

[SB 344](#) --- Relating to limitations on compensatory and punitive damages in employment claims

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

[HB 2001](#) --- Repealing Alternative & Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard(cap & trade) **Passed Senate 1/27; Passed House 1/28; To Governor for approval**

[HB 2002](#) --- Predicating actions for damages upon comparative fault
Passed House 1/27; To Senate Judiciary Committee

[HB 2003](#) --- Relating to the liability of a possessor of real property for harm to trespasser

[HB 2005](#) --- Relating to alternative programs for the education of teachers

[HB 2006](#) --- Relating to medical professional liability

[HB 2010](#) --- Requiring the elections of justices of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit court judges, family court judges and magistrates be nonpartisan and by division **On Third Reading (passage stage) 2/4**

[HB 2011](#) --- Relating to workers' compensation disbursements when injury is self-inflicted or intentional: permitting recovery in private suit

[HB 2012](#) --- Relating to the payment of wages by employers and when final wages are required to be paid

[HB 2013](#) --- Reinstating open and obvious doctrine for premises liability

[HB 2014](#) --- West Virginia Public Charter Schools Act of 2015

[HB 2052](#) --- Relating to the labor-management relations act for the private sector

[HB 2091](#) --- False Claims Act

[HB 2162](#) - Relating to payment of employees separated from payroll before payday

Reserve Your Seat Now



NEXT WEEK

Tuesday, February 10 7:45 a.m.
"Our Financial Challenges in 2015"

Mike Hall, Chair, Senate Finance Committee
Daryl Cowles, House Majority Leader
Eric Nelson, Chair, House Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 17 7:45 a.m.
"Meet West Virginia's Press Corp"

Hoppy Kercheval, WV MetroNews
Ashton Marra, WV Public Broadcasting
Joel Ebert, Charleston Daily Mail
Eric Eyre, The Charleston Gazette (invited)

Tuesday, February 24 7:45 a.m.
"The Energy Store in West Virginia"

Woody Ireland, Chair, House Energy Committee (invited)
Randy Smith, Delegate & experienced coal miner (invited)
Ben Beakes, Alpha Natural Resources
Kevin Ellis, Antero Resources & President, WV Oil & Natural Gas Association

Tuesday, March 3 7:45 a.m.
"Bold Education Reform in 2015"

David Sypolt, Chair, Senate Education Committee
Amanda Pasdon, Chair, House Education Committee

[REGISTER HERE](#)

**Chamber Legislative Breakfast
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