



2015 Weekly Legislative E-Briefing

WEST VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 20, 2015
7th Day of the 60-Day
Legislative Session

Chamber Backed Jobs Impact Statement Mandated by New Rules in Both Senate & House of Delegates

Effective immediately, both Houses have mandated that any new bill introduced that has a "potential impact on the state's economy" should be evaluated on its potential impact on "jobs," or the state's economy in general. The House ([House Resolution 1](#)) calls it an "Economic Impact Statement" and the Senate ([Senate Resolution 1](#)) a "Jobs Impact Statement." The two legislative presiding officers may request such statements from any of the state's colleges or universities.



What's the significance of this simple change to the rules of each House? First of all, it's a very inexpensive way to make sure legislators and the Administration understand just how specific proposals cause a positive or negative impact on job creation and economic growth in the state. Second, and most meaningful, requiring such an economic analysis of proposed legislation will allow the Legislature to improve the climate for jobs in the state and gain a better understanding of how subsequent proposals will have an impact on the state's business climate."

For the past few years, the WV Chamber, on behalf of the state's business community, has strongly advocated this action. This will assist the Legislature in knowing ahead of time whether their actions will create jobs for the state or stymie state growth by causing a loss in jobs. The West Virginia Chamber applauds the Legislature for this very simple, but extremely meaningful action.

Bills to Address Significant Barriers to Economic Development Introduced

Bills have been introduced to address three significant areas the Chamber believes will strengthen the state's



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

economy and assist in creating new jobs. They include:

- Measures to significantly improve the condition of the state's educational system, thus giving our children a greater opportunity for future success. Bills have been advanced to permit Charter Schools, allow alternative programs for the education of teachers that will assist in areas of the state that have teacher shortages and critical needs, and the creation of a teacher corps program.
- Bills to reform serious inequities in the state's civil justice system including punitive damages, joint & several liability, medical monitoring and a number of others.
- A bill requiring the nonpartisan elections of all justices to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit court judges, family court judges and magistrates.

BILLS TO WATCH

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

[STATE SENATE](#)

[SB 1](#) --- Repealing Alternative & Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard
(cap & trade) **Second Reading (amendment stage) 1/20**

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

[SB 3](#) --- Relating to real property possessor's liability for trespasser harm

[SB 4](#)--- Relating to development of state plan under Clean Air Act

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

[SB 6](#) --- Relating to medical professional liability

[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

[SB 13](#) --- Reinstating open and obvious doctrine for premises liability

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

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

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

[SB 80](#) --- Creating State Labor Relations Act

[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 105](#) --- Disqualifying unemployment benefits for time not worked because of strike

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

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

[HOUSE OF DELEGATES](#)

[HB 2001](#) --- Repealing Alternative & Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard(cap & trade) **First Reading 1/20**

[HB 2002](#) --- Predicating actions for damages upon comparative fault

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

[HB 2004](#) --- Providing a procedure for the development of a state plan under section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act

[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

[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

WEST VIRGINIA CHAMBER
LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING BREAKFASTS

Charleston Town Center Marriott



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"

Jeff Mullins, Chair, Senate Energy, Industry & Mining Committee (invited)
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

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