



2015 Weekly Legislative E-Briefing

WEST VIRGINIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

January 23, 2015
10th Day of the 60-Day
Legislative Session

Governor Tomblin Tells Legislature Less is Needed from Rainy Day Fund

Due to increased return on state investments, Governor Earl Ray Tomblin says the state will only need to borrow \$25 million from the state's Rainy Day Fund to balance the 2015-16 state budget. Last week, he told the Legislature a withdrawal of \$68 was needed. Currently the Fund has a balance of \$860 million. Republican legislative leaders have voiced their opposition to borrowing from the fund for the second year in a row.



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 & Senate Vote to Repeal Alternative Energy Law

The Senate & House have passed their first bills of the legislative session ... both to repeal the so-called Cap & Trade law that was enacted by the Legislature in 2009. Current state law requires electric utilities to use an increasing amount of energy sources other than coal over the next few decades. Many legislators called the repeal a way to preserve coal mining jobs and keep state electricity rates low. The bill is expected to be sent to the Governor soon for his signature.



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Roberts Talks to Legislative Committee about WV Small Business

Chamber President Steve Roberts told the House of Delegates Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development Committee yesterday that to-date a Chamber survey reveals the state's small businesses are generally optimistic about the direction of the West Virginia economy. To read more about Robert's comments and those of other speakers at yesterday's committee [click here](#)



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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) **Passed Senate 33-0 1/21;**

SB 2 --- Predicating actions for damages upon comparative fault principles

SB 3 --- Relating to real property possessor's liability for trespasser harm **Passed Senate 33-0 1/21; to house**

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 **Passed Senate 1/23**

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) **Passed House 1/22 95-4:**

[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

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

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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