

Hi Barbara,

Please share this addition to my report with CEC from the March ACCE Meeting.

Legislative Session Update – Higher Education Budget and Bills

Key Updates from the Legislative Session

- The regular session ends March 14. Higher education has done very well in both the House and Senate, and the budget may fully implement the higher education funding model for the first time.

Budget Bill (SB 250)

- Passed the House and was sent to the governor on March 6.
- The governor has five days to approve the bill or issue line-item vetoes.
- The Legislature could still override vetoes before the session ends.

The bill:

- Fully funds the higher education funding model, including the inflation adjustment.
- Restores the 2% proposed budget cut.
- Includes a PEIA employer premium increase and an average 3% pay raise for employees.

Funding for initiatives includes:

- \$581,000 for dual enrollment
- \$1 million for a research Collaboratory and aerospace workforce programs
- \$208,000 for the Tuition Contract Program

Additional surplus appropriations include:

- \$30M – Marshall School of Medicine building
- \$5M – WVU Dental School
- \$32M – WVU School of Medicine
- \$5M – WVSOM biomedical sciences research expansion

Other Bills Being Tracked

- HB 5212 – Financial aid program restructuring
- HB 5354 – Higher education rules bill
- HB 4592 – Campus safety mapping for EMS
- HB 4006 – Aerospace and advanced manufacturing workforce program
- HB 4087 – WV-Ireland Education Alliance
- SB 402 – Workforce readiness / micro-credentialing
- SB 913 – Removes the outdated reporting requirement for the Research Trust Fund

Additional Notes

- Some bills did not advance, including:
 - o Student-led campus food pantry bill (HB 4081)
 - o Wage-threshold funding restriction bill (HB 4587)

Overall: Higher education funding is in a strong position, pending the governor's final action on the budget.

In addition, Jill Beaty, a PEIA representative, visited ACCE at the last meeting on March 9. Her email is: Susan.j.beaty@wv.gov.

Thank you,

Yulia