

LEGISLATIVE LINEUP



YOUR LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM CCAWV

WWW.CCAWV.ORG - (304) 345-4639

Collective County Voices

*Wednesday February 6, 2019,
Week 4 of the 2019 WV Legislature*
BY: Vivian Parsons, Executive Director

CCAWV's Legislative Agenda is Underway

Copies of bill drafts for six Association's priorities have been delivered to Speaker Hanshaw's office and have been shared with President Carmichael. Some now have numbers (see below) and some have sponsors and we are waiting numbers! Be sure to continue to talk to your legislators about the bills and ask for their support!

--**HB 2861** - 1% Sales Tax Authority for Counties – **To Pol Sub then Finance (Have sponsors in Senate, waiting on numbers)**

-- Local Government Salary Bill Mechanism (**Have sponsors in House, waiting on numbers**)

--Increasing the Roll-back Provision Maximum (**sponsors in Senate – waiting on numbers**)

-- **SB 295** - Protection for Court Security Officers – **To Senate Judiciary – was on the Sen Judiciary committee agenda, then pulled for an amendment.**

--Expanding Authority for Disposal of County Property (**Sponsor in the Senate – waiting on number**)

-- **HB 2663** - Exempting Agriculture Buildings from County Building Code --**Passed the House Agriculture Committee. Now in House Gov Org**

Severance Exemption for Low Producing Wells

The House Energy Committee passed **HB 2673** and sent it to House Finance. It will exempt low volume oil and gas wells from severance tax and then charge a special use fee on sales from oil and gas wells which produce more than 5,000 cubic feet of natural gas or one-half barrel of oil per day but less than 60,000 cubic feet of natural gas or 10 barrels of oil per day. Mark Muchow, Dept of Revenue said that the wells that fall into

this category accounts for about 7 ½% of produced gas and about 15% of the oil. The total loss of severance dollars across the state is about 15 million and the county portion is about \$1.5 million. **We are working on a deal that would keep counties whole.** Stay tuned....the bill is in the House Finance Committee.

No Movement on Inventory Tax

No movement this week on any of the resolutions introduced to eliminate the tax on Business Inventory and Equipment. The Senate spent much of their time debating the merits of the Education Omnibus bill SB 451 and our time in the House was following severance tax bills!

New 911 Bill Introduced This Week

HB 2830, introduced this week, would establish a commission to study the costs and potential changes needed to implement Next Generation 911. The bill establishes the make up of the committee and its duties. It requires a preliminary report by December 31, 2019 and a final report is due December 31, 2020. The committee will include 4 PSAP representatives and 4 county government representatives, familiar with county purchasing and finances. We are working to make sure that CCAWV has input into who those representatives will be. The bill is assigned to House Gov Org and then House Finance.

SB 261 Pulled From Senate Judiciary Agenda

The purpose of **SB 261** is to codify the number of magistrates serving in the state within each county following the 2020 election cycle. It listed each county and number of magistrates, some increasing and some decreasing and many staying the same. However, when the bill came before the Senate Judiciary Committee, a committee substitute was offered that would affect only 3 counties: Berkeley (adding 1), Putnam (adding 1), and McDowell (removing 1). As the bill was discussed, multiple amendments were offered, but the committee time ran out. The bill has not been placed back on the agenda since.

SB 28 Removing Hotel/Motel Occupancy Tax Limit Collections for Medical Care & Emergency Services

Senate bill 28 passed both the Senate and the House but is now parked in Senate rules due to an amendment offered in House Finance this week. The amendment would allow an additional purpose for those expenditures for the support and operation of economic development activities, including site development, facilities and infrastructure. This is a bill that would help some counties like Tucker County that struggles to meet its obligations for medical & emergency services.

HB 2876 Sheriffs' Commission Bill






HB 2876 will allow the statutory commission paid for high performing tax collections by sheriff, to be considered as part of the sheriff's annual base salary for the calculation of future increases to the pay of a sheriff. CCAWV supports this bill.

HB 2767 Reducing Coal Severance

The purpose of this bill is to reduce the severance tax on thermal or steam coal to two percent, and to still include the county share in the rate. The 2% rate of tax includes the thirty-five one hundredths of one percent additional severance tax on coal imposed by the state for the benefit of counties and municipalities as provided in [§11-13A-6](#).

Following is a list of the introduced last week that have county interest. Remember our legislative committee meets weekly by phone conference to discuss the issues. Contact this office (304) 345-4639 or any of your legislative committee members to express concerns. You can find a complete list of all bills at the WV Legislative website: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us/index.cfm>

If you are viewing this report online, you can click on bill numbers to review the full language of the bill or resolution. Be sure to look at the latest version!

2019wk4 - 2019 Regular Session					
Bill	Title	SA/SI	Last Action	Committee Reference	Notes
SB 491 (None) 	Extending effective date for voter registration in conjunction with driver licensing		01/31/19 - To Senate Judiciary	Senate Ref. 1 - Judiciary	The purpose of this bill is to extend the effective date for voter registration in conjunction with driver licensing until July 1, 2020. Edit Delete
SB 507 (None) 	Relating to ethical standards for elected and appointed officials		02/01/19 - To Senate Judiciary	Senate Ref. 1 - Judiciary	The purpose of this bill is to increase the class size of similarly situated persons or businesses that includes a person who is also a public official, excluding members of the Legislature, that determines whether a public official may vote on a matter before him or her. The bill increases the class size from 5 to 200. Edit Delete
SB 519 (None) 	Requiring county emergency dispatchers complete course for telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation	SI HB2880	02/04/19 - To Senate Health and Human Resources	Senate Ref. 1 - Health and Human Resources Senate Ref. 2 - Finance	Add a note.
SB 536 (None) 	Updating election law language		02/06/19 - To Senate Judiciary	Senate Ref. 1 - Judiciary	all relating to updating election law by providing language governing new election systems; and allowing voters during in-person early voting to change their address and vote the proper ballot without challenge. Edit Delete
HB 2827 (None) 	Removing the residency requirements for hiring deputy assessors		02/01/19 - To House Political Subdivisions	House Ref. 1 - Political Subdivisions House Ref. 2 -	Add a note.

				Government Organization	
HB 2829 (None) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Relating to the termination of severance taxes on limestone and sandstone		02/04/19 - To House Finance	House Ref. 1 - Finance	The purpose of this bill is to terminate and expire termination of severance taxes on limestone and sandstone effective July 1, 2019. Edit Delete
HB 2830 (None) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Establishing Next Generation 911 services in this state		02/04/19 - To House Government Organization	House Ref. 1 - Government Organization House Ref. 2 - Finance	Add a note.
HB 2840 (None) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Allowing a county commission in certain counties to impose an amusement tax to support medical care		02/04/19 - To House Political Subdivisions	House Ref. 1 - Political Subdivisions House Ref. 2 - Finance	Add a note.
HB 2845 (None) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Relating to apprenticeship programs		02/04/19 - To House Industry and Labor	House Ref. 1 - Industry and Labor House Ref. 2 - Finance	Add a note.
HB 2861 (None) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Local Control and Accountability Act		02/06/19 - To House Political Subdivisions	House Ref. 1 - Political Subdivisions House Ref. 2 - Finance	Relating generally to the Local Control and Accountability Act; providing counties with authority to impose a one percent county sales tax under certain circumstances; clarifying that a county sales tax does not apply in municipalities already imposing a municipal sales tax; clarifying applicability of county sales tax when a portion of the county is annexed by a municipality with an existing municipal sales tax; and requiring counties imposing a county sales tax to use the services of the Tax Commissioner to administer. This is a priority for CCAWV Edit Delete
HB 2876 (None) <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Relating to the commission allowed to a sheriff for collection of taxes		02/06/19 - To House Finance	House Ref. 1 - Finance	Add a note.