

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

for

**H. B. 2474**

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(BY DELEGATE(S) COWLES, ROWAN AND DUKE)

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(Originating in the House Committee on Finance.)

[February 26, 2015]

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A BILL to amend and reenact §18-17-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the compensation of personnel employed at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind; updating reference to minimum salaries in effect for personnel at facilities under jurisdiction of the State Board of Education; and authorizing board to establish salary schedules or compensation in excess of the minimums for certain teachers at the West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §18-17-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 17. WEST VIRGINIA SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND THE BLIND.**

**§18-17-1. Continuation; management; minimum salary scale for all employees.**

1        ~~The West Virginia Schools for Deaf Pupils and Blind Pupils~~  
2        ~~heretofore established and located at Romney, in Hampshire~~  
3        ~~County, shall be continued and shall be known as the “West~~  
4        ~~Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind.”~~ The West Virginia  
5        Schools for the Deaf and the Blind located at Romney, in  
6        Hampshire County, is continued. The schools shall be  
7        maintained for the care and education of the deaf youth and blind  
8        youth of the state. The educational ~~or~~ and business affairs of the  
9        schools ~~shall be~~ are under the control, supervision and  
10       management of the State Board of Education, and the state board  
11       shall employ the superintendent, principals, teachers and other  
12       employees and shall fix the yearly or monthly salary to be paid  
13       to each person so employed.

14       The minimum salary scale for ~~said principals, teachers and~~  
15 ~~other employees shall be the same as set forth in sections two,~~  
16 ~~three and eight-a, article four, chapter eighteen-a of this code~~  
17 professional personnel and service personnel employed shall be  
18 in accordance with section seventeen, article four, chapter  
19 eighteen-a of this code. In addition, the state board may establish  
20 salary schedules or additional compensation in excess of these  
21 minimums for teachers whose job duties require specialized  
22 training and skills in addition to the teacher's regular  
23 instructional duties and for teachers assigned to or employed for  
24 duties other than regular instructional duties. The additional  
25 salary schedules or compensation shall be uniform for all  
26 persons performing like assignments and duties.

27       The amendments made to this section in the regular session  
28 of the Legislature two thousand fifteen authorizing the state  
29 board to establish salary schedules or additional compensation  
30 may not be construed to authorize the state board to implement  
31 new salary schedules or additional compensation resulting in  
32 salary payments to professional personnel and service personnel  
33 employed at the Schools for the Deaf and the Blind which in

34 total exceed its appropriations for such payments in the fiscal  
35 years beginning July 1, 2014 and July 1, 2015. Nothing  
36 contained in this section requires any specific level of  
37 appropriation by the Legislature.