

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2135**

By Delegate Toney

[Introduced January 11, 2023; Referred to the  
Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-5-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 county board of education compensation; increasing compensation to \$250 per meeting.

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

**ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

**§18-5-4. Meetings; employment and assignment of teachers; budget hearing; compensation of members; affiliation with state and national associations.**

1 (a) The county board shall meet upon the dates provided by law, and at any other times the  
2 county board fixes upon its records. Subject to adequate public notice, nothing in this section  
3 prohibits the county board from conducting regular meetings in facilities within the county other  
4 than the county board office. At any meeting as authorized in this section and in compliance with  
5 the provisions of chapter eighteen-a of this code, the county board may employ qualified teachers,  
6 or those who will qualify by the time they enter upon their duties, necessary to fill existing or  
7 anticipated vacancies for the current or next ensuing school year. Meetings of the county board  
8 shall be held in compliance with the provisions of chapter eighteen-a of this code for purposes  
9 relating to the assignment, transfer, termination and dismissal of teachers and other school  
10 employees.

11 (b) Special meetings may be called by the president or any three members, but no  
12 business may be transacted other than that designated in the call.

13 (c) In addition, a public hearing shall be held concerning the preliminary operating budget  
14 for the next fiscal year not fewer than ten days after the budget has been made available to the  
15 public for inspection and within a reasonable time prior to the submission of the budget to the state  
16 board for approval. Reasonable time shall be granted at the hearing to any person who wishes to  
17 speak regarding any part of the budget. Notice of the hearing shall be published as a Class I legal  
18 advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code.

19 (d) A majority of the members of the county board is the quorum necessary for the  
20 transaction of official business.

21           (e) Board members may receive compensation at a rate not to exceed ~~\$160~~ \$250 per  
22 meeting attended, but they may not receive pay for more than ~~forty~~ 45 meetings in any one fiscal  
23 year. Board members who serve on an administrative council of a multicounty vocational center  
24 also may receive compensation for attending up to twelve meetings of the council at the same rate  
25 as for meetings of the county board. Meetings of the council are not counted as board meetings for  
26 purposes of determining the limit on compensable board meetings.

27           (f) Members also shall be paid, upon the presentation of an itemized sworn statement, for  
28 all necessary traveling expenses, including all authorized meetings, incurred on official business,  
29 at the order of the county board.

30           (g) When, by a majority vote of its members, a county board considers it a matter of public  
31 interest, the county board may join the West Virginia School Board Association and the National  
32 School Board Association and may pay the dues prescribed by the associations and approved by  
33 action of the respective county boards. Membership dues and actual traveling expenses incurred  
34 by board members for attending meetings of the West Virginia School Board Association may be  
35 paid by their respective county boards out of funds available to meet actual expenses of the  
36 members, but no allowance may be made except upon sworn itemized statements.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase county board of education compensation to \$250 per meeting.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.