

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2890

By Delegates Toney and Vance

[Introduced February 24, 2025; referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-5-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 clarifying county boards of education members' compensation rate.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**§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 on the dates provided by law, and at any other times the
2 county board deems necessary. Subject to adequate public notice, nothing in this section prohibits
3 the county board from conducting regular meetings in facilities within the county other than the
4 county board office. At any meeting authorized in this section and held in compliance with the
5 provisions of §18A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code, the county board may employ qualified teachers, or
6 those who will qualify by the time they assume their duties, necessary to fill existing or anticipated
7 vacancies for the current or next ensuing school year. Meetings of the county board shall be held
8 in compliance with the provisions of §18A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code for purposes relating to the
9 assignment, transfer, termination and dismissal of teachers and other school employees.

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

12 (c) In addition, a public hearing shall be held concerning the preliminary operating budget
13 for the next fiscal year not fewer than ten days after the budget has been made available to the
14 public for inspection and within a reasonable time prior to the submission of the budget to the state
15 board for approval. Reasonable time shall be granted at the hearing to any person who wishes to
16 speak regarding any part of the budget. Notice of the hearing shall be published as a Class I legal
17 advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

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

20 (e) Board members ~~may~~ shall receive compensation at a rate ~~not to exceed~~ of \$260 per
21 meeting attended, unless the Board votes to approve a lower rate, but they may not receive pay for

22 more than 40 meetings in any one fiscal year. Participation and voting on this issue is not
23 prohibited by §6B-2-5 or §61-10-15. Board members who serve on an administrative council of a
24 multicounty vocational center also may receive compensation for attending up to twelve meetings
25 of the council at the same rate as for meetings of the county board: *Provided*, That council
26 meetings are not counted as board meetings for purposes of determining the limit on compensable
27 board meetings: *Provided, however*, That a county board member who is in default of a training
28 requirement established in §18-5-1a of this code shall not, until after the default is cured, receive
29 compensation for any meeting held during the period of default. For purposes of compensation, a
30 member in default of a training requirement may cure the default by completing the unfulfilled
31 training requirements within three months of the default. Upon curing the default, the member
32 shall receive compensation, without interest, for the meetings held during the period of default:
33 *Provided, further*, That up to five paid meetings may be provided when planning for activities such
34 as running an election for excess levy, construction bond hearings, school closure hearings,
35 personnel hearings, student expulsion hearings, and in the case of a disaster: *And provided*
36 *further*, That members shall be paid for up to two trainings.

37 (f) Members also shall be paid, upon the presentation of receipts, for all necessary
38 traveling expenses, including all authorized meetings, incurred on official business, at the order of
39 the county board.

40 (g) When, by a majority vote of its members, a county board considers it a matter of public
41 interest, the county board shall join the West Virginia School Board Association and may join the
42 National School Board Association and shall pay the dues prescribed by the associations and
43 approved by action of the respective county boards. Membership dues and actual traveling
44 expenses incurred by board members for attending meetings of the West Virginia School Board
45 Association shall be paid by their respective county boards out of funds available to meet actual
46 expenses of the members, but no allowance may be made except upon presentation of receipts.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify the per-meeting compensation rates of county board members.

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