

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hailey Bibbee, Administrative Associate
FROM: Marybeth Beller, Faculty Senate Liaison to Legislative Affairs Committee
DATE: April 18, 2024
RE: Committee Report

The Legislative Affairs Committee met on January 12, 2024. We scheduled bi-weekly meetings throughout session to monitor legislation we were tracking, but as these bills did not move, the meetings were cancelled.

We produced a resolution (attached) against HB 5105, which would have eliminated vaccination requirements for public virtual schools and private and parochial schools. This resolution was sent to the Legislature on March 1, 2024.

Our last meeting, scheduled for March 29, failed to meet a quorum.

We tracked following bills, all of which failed to pass:

1. HB 4387, Relating to Nondiscrimination at Institutions of Higher Education, has one sponsor and has been referred to House Education.
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2024_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb4387%20intr.pdf
2. HB 4981, Gun Carry Allowed on College Campuses, has one sponsor and has been referred to House Education and then How Judiciary
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2024_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb4981%20intr.pdf
This bill clarifies that it is not a crime for anyone who possesses a state license to carry a concealed deadly weapon to do so on a college campus.
3. HB 4958, To Create the American Campuses Act, has one sponsor and has been referred to House Education.
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2024_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb4958%20intr.pdf
This bill prohibits “missions of Foreign Countries of Risk to state higher education institutions; prohibiting involvement with any Foreign Government-Sponsored Talent Recruitment Program of a Foreign Country of Risk.”
4. HB 4939, Banning Certain Practices by medical Students without Informed Consent, has four sponsors and is referred to House Health and Human Services
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2024_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb4939%20intr.pdf
5. HB 4899, WV Belief-Based Campus Student Organization Bill, has three sponsors and is referred to House Education.
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2024_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb4899%20intr.pdf

6. HB 4846, In God We Trust signs, has 11 sponsors, including Speaker Hanshaw, and has been referred to House Education.
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Text_HTML/2024_SESSIONS/RS/bills/hb4846%20intr.pdf
7. HB 5105, Eliminating the vaccination requirement for public virtual schools. The bill passed both chambers and was vetoed by the governor on March 28, 2024.
https://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/bills_history.cfm?INPUT=5105&year=2024&sessiontype=RS

Resolution Against House Bill 5105

Whereas Marshall University's Legislative Affairs Committee has a responsibility to keep its students, staff and faculty as healthy as possible to mitigate the spread of communicable viruses and diseases;

Whereas The Legislative Affairs Committee as part of a public institution with a College of Medicine also must advocate for the children in our community and state who may not have a voice to advocate for themselves;

Whereas Marshall University's Legislative Affairs Committee works continuously to ensure the enactment of health care policies that are reflective of current science practices;

Be it resolved, that the Legislative Affairs Committee of Marshall University encourages the governor and legislature to oppose religious exemption of vaccinations due to the effect it has on the state's children and public health as a whole.

We so resolve.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE CHAIR:

_____ DATE: _____

COMMENTS: _____

