

**Senate Bill No. 415**

(By Senators Browning and Plymale)

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[Introduced; referred to the Committee on Education; and then to  
the Committee on Finance.]

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A BILL to amend and reenact §18-5-4 of the Code of West Virginia,  
1931, as amended, relating to compensation of board of  
education members that serve in a school district with more  
than twenty thousand students.

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

That §18-5-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**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.**

(a) The county board shall meet on the first Monday in July,  
and upon the dates provided by law for the laying of levies, and at  
any other times the county board fixes upon its records. Subject  
to adequate public notice, nothing in this section prohibits the  
county board from conducting regular meetings in facilities within  
the county other than the county board office. At any meeting as

1 authorized in this section and in compliance with the provisions of  
2 chapter eighteen-a of this code, the county board may employ  
3 qualified teachers, or those who will qualify by the time they  
4 enter upon their duties, necessary to fill existing or anticipated  
5 vacancies for the current or next ensuing school year. Meetings of  
6 the county board shall be held in compliance with the provisions of  
7 chapter eighteen-a of this code for purposes relating to the  
8 assignment, transfer, termination and dismissal of teachers and  
9 other school employees.

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

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

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

25 (e) Board members may receive compensation at a rate not to  
26 exceed ~~\$160~~ \$225 per meeting attended, but they may not receive pay

1 for more than fifty meetings in any one fiscal year: Provided,  
2 That if the school district serves more than twenty thousand  
3 students, board members may receive pay for as many as sixty-five  
4 meetings in any one fiscal year. Board members may additionally  
5 receive compensation at a rate not to exceed \$100 per session and  
6 twelve sessions per fiscal year for attending training sessions  
7 sanctioned by the county board member training standards review  
8 committee appointed under section one-a of this article and  
9 approved by the State Board of Education. Board members who serve  
10 on an administrative council of a multicounty vocational center  
11 also may receive compensation for attending up to twelve meetings  
12 of the council at the same rate as for meetings of the county  
13 board. Meetings of the council are not counted as board meetings  
14 for purposes of determining the limit on compensable board  
15 meetings.

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

20 (g) When, by a majority vote of its members, a county board  
21 considers it a matter of public interest, the county board may join  
22 the West Virginia School Board Association and the National School  
23 Board Association and may pay the dues prescribed by the  
24 associations and approved by action of the respective county  
25 boards. Membership dues and actual traveling expenses incurred by  
26 board members for attending meetings of the West Virginia School

1 Board Association may be paid by their respective county boards out  
2 of funds available to meet actual expenses of the members, but no  
3 allowance may be made except upon sworn itemized statements.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to redefine compensation of board of education members that serve in a school district with more than twenty thousand students.

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