



**Volume 1**

**January 21, 2022**

## **2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS**

The 2022 Legislative Session began Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Because he was battling COVID, Governor Justice was unable to give his State of the State Address in person. [His written remarks expressed his optimism regarding West Virginia's future.](#) The Governor [proposed a relatively flat budget](#), including pay raises for state employees.

There have been 458 bills introduced in the Senate and 925 bills introduced in the House of Delegates. Many of these bills are carryover bills from the 2021 Session.

As a sign of the times, much of this week has been spent on COVID mandates. [House Bill 4071](#), a bill that would ban mask mandates in West Virginia schools, is still in its early stages. but has advanced out of House Education Committee. 35 school districts require masks, while 12 refer to the county alert map for guidance. Masks are optional in only one county - Pocahontas. The West Virginia DHHR is reporting all but two counties in the Kanawha Valley currently red on the map. The CDC is still recommending universal indoor masking in schools. The bill has not reached the house or senate floors yet. Its next stop is the House Judiciary Committee. Other bills addressing COVID and mask mandates include [SB 23](#), [HB 4298](#), [HB 4080](#) and [HB 2869](#).

[Legislators heard from WVU Economist John Deskins this week that financial recovery is swifter than expected.](#)

### **General Business**

[HB 3267 Relating to inventory tax reduction.](#) The purpose of this bill is to change the method of assessing inventory for taxing purposes.

[HB 3115 Guarantee Earned Sick Days for every worker.](#) The purpose of this bill is to establish minimum requirements and protections for earned paid sick leave for all workers in this state.

[HB 2710 Providing counties the power to establish a county sales tax under certain circumstances.](#) The purpose of this bill is to allow counties that contain municipalities with a home rule sales tax to also enact a sales tax equal to that of the municipality.

[HB 2866 Establishing the Municipal Home Rule Program.](#) The purpose of this bill is to remove the authority of municipalities participating in the Municipal Home Rule Program to impose a municipal sales tax.

[SB 132 Requiring municipalities impose one percent sales tax must reduce and remove B&O tax in five years.](#) The purpose of this bill is to require a municipality to eliminate its business and occupation tax within five years of instituting a one percent sales tax.

[SB 457 Relating to reducing consumers sales and service tax.](#) The purpose of this bill is to reduce the consumer sales and service tax from six percent to five percent as well as establish a process which continues to gradually reduce the consumer sales and service tax every time the combined balance of the Rainy Day Fund reaches \$1,100,000,000.

**Following are bills specific to our industry:**

[HB 2170 Unfair Trade Practices.](#) The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the use of a person's credit history in certain insurance transactions involving passenger motor vehicles or commercial vehicle insurance lines.

[SB 89 Relating to surcharge on fire and casualty insurance policies for funding volunteer fire departments.](#) The purpose of this bill is to restore to one percent the surcharge on fire and casualty insurance policies to fund volunteer fire departments. Obsolete language is removed.

[SB 234 Creating surcharge on fire and casualty insurance policies to help municipalities and counties with certain fire-related cleanup and demolition.](#) This legislation would provide:  
(a) For the purpose of providing funds for municipalities and counties that are left to pay for demolition and cleanup following a fire at privately owned property that does not have sufficient insurance, does not have insurance or where an insurance policy has lapsed, there is hereby authorized and imposed on the policyholder of every fire insurance policy or casualty insurance policy issued by any insurer, authorized or unauthorized, or by any risk retention group, a policy surcharge equal to one tenth of one percent of the taxable premium for each such policy. This surcharge is in addition to other similar surcharges and taxes currently existing in law.

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**Find Your Legislators**

The Legislature's website is an excellent resource to find contact information for your local Legislators and the committees on which they serve. Below are links to the member rosters for both the Senate and House.

If you would like to contact your **Senators** about an issue, their information is [available here.](#)

If you would like to contact your **Delegates** about an issue, their information is [available here.](#)



**2022 LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**



**First Day** - January 12, 2022: First day of session.

**Twentieth Day** - January 31, 2022: Submission of Legislative Rule-Making Review bills due.

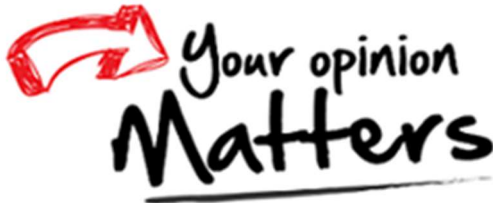
**Thirty-fifth Day** - February 15, 2022: Last day to introduce bills in the House.

**Forty-first Day** - February 21, 2022: Last day to introduce bills in the Senate.

**Forty-seventh Day** - February 27, 2022: Bills due out of committees in house of origin to ensure three full days for readings.

**Fiftieth Day** - March 2, 2022: Last day to consider bill on third reading in house of origin. Does not include budget or supplementary appropriation bills.

**Sixtieth Day** - March 12, 2022: Adjournment at Midnight.



If you have any questions during the session or would like to express your opinion on issues, please contact Daniel Hall at [daniel@omegawv.com](mailto:daniel@omegawv.com) or you can call the office at 304.342.2440 and leave him a message. You may also contact Traci Nelson at [traci@omegawv.com](mailto:traci@omegawv.com) or at 304.342.2440.

**BIG i**  
WEST VIRGINIA

**BIG "I" OF WV**  
Capitol Conversations  
2022 WV LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Join IIAWV for  
Live Weekly  
Virtual Conversations  
About Industry Issues  
& News From Inside  
the Capitol

Every Thursday  
During the Legislative Session  
4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
VIA ZOOM

Tune into the Capitol Conversation live every Thursday evening, beginning February 10<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m., during the 2022 WV Legislative Session. We will be discussing the leading industry issues and updating members about what is going on at the Capitol. We will have special guests each week. **Each weekly session has been approved for one hour of continuing education credits.** The following weekly sessions will occur on:

- Feb 10, 2022 04:00 PM
- Feb 17, 2022 04:00 PM
- Feb. 24, 2022 04:00 PM
- Mar. 3, 2022 04:00 PM

To register, please complete the [Registration Form](#). A confirmation email will be remitted after receiving your registration form, multiple registrations can be remitted on one form.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [Sarah Estep, Programs Coordinator](#).

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