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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Steve White, Director

Unemployment Benefits Cut SB2 Dies in WV House

A bill aimed at cutting unemployment benefits for WV working families has died in the WV House of Delegates and will not become law.

Earlier this session, the WV Senate originally passed SB 2, a bill which would have cut unemployment benefits from 26 to 12 weeks.

After passing the Senate, it was then sent to the House Finance committee, where it was passed and then sent to the House floor.

Because of pressure brought by the trades and others the House moved SB 2 off of their agenda.

The move avoided a full vote on the House floor, where it most likely would have failed.

On the last night of the session at eight o'clock pm, Senate leaders amended the language of SB 2 and SB 3, a bill which would have required additional work search activities and raise the amount individuals could make and still receive benefits, into another bill; SB 543.

SB 543 was proposed to create an unemployment compensation fraud unit within Workforce WV.

The tactic backfired, prompting both House and Senate Democrat caucuses to threaten using procedural moves to slow the process down.

A deal resulted where the House refused to accept the bill when it was sent over, and the push to cut unem-

ployment benefits died.

Opposing the cuts to unemployment was the main fight faced by the trades this legislative session.

In addition to the countless hours that were spent lobbying by our members and the thousands of calls

and emails sent to legislators, ACT sponsored a website to create public awareness surrounding the issue and make contacting individuals' local delegates more accessible.

By simply logging onto the web-

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The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades DC 53 holds a rally to oppose SB 2 outside the West Virginia State Capitol Building on February 21, 2022.

Roundup of 2022 WV Legislative Session: Most Devastating Attacks were Stopped

Several bad bills in the 2022 Legislative session came close to passage but were stopped due to opposition from many advocating against them.

SB 71 would have taken local control away from cities and counties in

a number of ways, including their power to set bidding criteria for public projects. For example, under the bill they would have been unable to establish responsible bidder policies in terms of performance, prevailing

wage requirements, or the encouragement of an apprenticeship program.

SB 252 would have eliminated a worker's ability to sue their employer for knowingly forcing them to work

in unsafe conditions. The bill was not taken up for a vote, dying in the Senate, and therefore it did not become law.

Finally, ACT representatives, in

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WV AFL-CIO Primary Endorsement Process

With the end of this year's legislative session and the 2022 election cycle in full swing, the WV AFL-CIO is meeting to confirm candidate endorsements for the 2022 primary election as this story goes to print.

The WV AFL-CIO endorsement process begins on the local level.

Every candidate who runs for office receives the WV AFL-CIO Candidate Questionnaire.

Those candidates who fill out the Questionnaire are called in for an in-

terview with their local Central Labor Council (CLC).

Interviews cover work related issues like local hiring, prevailing wage, unemployment, apprenticeship, safety, licensing, and issues for other unions as well.

There are 13 CLCs that cover the state and each meets with the candidates in their jurisdiction, and then gives their endorsement recommendations for statehouse candidates to the state WV AFL-CIO Committee

On Political Education (COPE).

The state COPE is made up of 75 delegates and is set to meet on March 19th to confirm all endorsements for the 2022 primary election.

To receive an endorsement by the WV AFL-CIO, a candidate must receive a 2/3rds majority of votes

cast by the 75-member body.

"This is a bipartisan process," said

Andy Walters, Secretary-Treasurer for the WV AFL-CIO. "Our goal is to endorse the most qualified candidates, regardless of their party affiliation, who will stand up for working families at the state Capitol."

"Our goal is to endorse the most qualified candidates..."

Andy Walters

*Secretary-Treasurer
WV AFL-CIO*

The WV AFL-CIO state COPE will reconvene in

June to confirm endorsements for the 2022 general election. ■

Unemployment

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site and filling out a form, individuals could automatically have an email sent to their local delegate.

Through this effort alone, more than five thousand people sent emails to legislators in addition to other efforts.

"We want to thank all of our-

members who volunteered their time to advocate against SB 2," said John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades.

"We also want to thank all the delegates and senators who stood with us in the fight." ■

Legislative Session

Continued from Page 1

coordination with members of the House Workforce Development committee on both sides of the aisle, were able to stop another attack on the WV Jobs Act. The WV Jobs Act requires 75 percent of labor on public construction projects to be from the local labor market. HB 4256 would have made the reporting of certified payroll documents optional, essentially stripping the enforcement procedures from the WV Jobs Act.

However, the bill was defeated in committee on a vote of 13-12 and the bill did not become law. This is the eighth year in a row this attack has been run in the WV legislature.

While the worst attacks leveled against the trades did not pass, there is a notable bill which did pass.

HB 4634, which relates to what is called universal licensing, passed the legislature. Essentially, the bill creates a pathway for out-of-state license holders in certain occupations to be granted a WV license, so long as they are in good standing in their home state. Furthermore, if their home

state has no licensing regulations, the individual would only have to show they worked in the occupation for two years prior to be granted a WV license.

There is no reciprocity for WV license holders in other states. The bill is a new version of a licensing bill that did not pass last year with a twist.

In 2021, this bill included a number of occupations. However, this version was aimed at the trades, mainly affecting plumbers, electricians, and HVAC technicians.

In addition, SB 4, a bill which removes the statewide ban on the construction of nuclear power plants, also passed.

Nuclear industry representatives, who testified earlier this session in the House of Delegates, believe this will pave the way for new facilities to potentially be built over the course of the next decade.

For more information on all bills that were run during the 2022 WV legislative session, log on to www.wvlegislature.gov. ■

Renewable Energy Breakfast at Capitol



Justin Williams, Attorney for the International Union of Operating Engineers 132, speaks to legislators and industry representatives from renewable energy companies last month during a policy breakfast, aimed at connecting the two groups at the Capitol.

Topics were focused around current and future renewable energy projects in the state.

West Virginia has witnessed more than a billion dollars of renewable energy development over the past several years with more opportunity on the horizon.

As a part of this, EDF Renewables is currently developing a solar energy project in Jefferson County and recently signed an agreement to use local union construction workers. In addition, Clearway Energy has finished two major wind projects, Black Rock Wind Farm and Pinnacle Wind Farm, which both used union trades labor.

Speakers at the event included Evan Vaughn of Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition (MAREC), Tom Carlson of EDF Renewables, and Dan Hendrick of Clearway Energy.

Report: Masonry Specifications Not Met

A third-party expert concluded masonry work at the new Peterstown PK-8 school in Monroe County did not meet specifications.

At issue is the quality of masonry work performed by general contractor DCI/Shires at the \$16.7 million project, bid on April 9, 2020.

A 16-page report dated September 13, 2021, and entitled "Masonry Tolerance Evaluation", was prepared by the firm Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE).

The report noted an overall failure rate on 20 of 43 details observations.

Some areas had a failure rate as high as 85.7%.

As already reported in the ACT Report the Monroe Board of Education and their architect Williamson Shriver Inc. have been telling DCI/Shires for many months that the work was unacceptable and needed to be corrected.

On November 11, 2021, after DCS/Shires failed to correct the problems, they were informed in a letter that Monroe County Schools "is not willing to accept the Nonconforming/Rejected work in any fashion."

The letter further stated, "DCI is to remove all rejected brick and install new brick in a manner that complies with the tolerances outlined in the specifications."

The WJE report details observations made during an August 28, 2021, site visit where two wall sections were selected for the evaluation.

"Measurements were taken at approximately 24-inch spacing both vertically and horizontally to establish variations from plumb and straight along the height and length of each wall.

"Tallies of the locations out of tolerance are listed in Table 2 by

wall and type, with out-of-tolerance percentages varying from 17.6% to 85.7%."

"In addition to plumb and straight measurements, five bed joints ... and five head joints ... were measured in both Wall 1 and Wall 2.

"Each of the four sets of measurements exceeds the specified tolerance of 1/16-inch, with a maximum offset of 3/16-inch."

The report about the specifications mentions, but did not elaborate on, the architects' rejection of the work because "workmanship is not consistent with the approved mock-up."

Prior to the selection of the brick a sample or mock-up is created to give the owner a good idea of how the product will look.

Questions have been raised about the quality of the brick itself.

According to July 1, 2021, letters

from The Belden Brick Company, the brick manufacturer, a certain amount of distortion or warpage is expected for the chosen product.

Two types of brick were used and according to the letters each was within allowable tolerance for warpage and height. For length one was within tolerance and one slightly not.

"For length, the average departure from average size in the lot was measured a 3/32". For FBX allowable tolerance for a 12-inch length is +/-1/8".

However in an October 1, 2021, letter from DCI/Shires about the issue they conclude with "... it is impossible to achieve perfection when you are working with an imperfect product."

Mediation on the issue is supposed to take place later this month.

The project was originally to be completed in early October of 2021 but is still not done. ■

McKinley Unfairly Attacked on Jobs Vote

Late last year, Congressman David McKinley voted for the bi-partisan federal infrastructure bill which is bringing \$6 billion to West Virginia over the next five years.

The measure provides funds for all sorts of hard infrastructure projects but more than half, \$3.7 billion, goes to roads and bridges.

Additional dollars will be used for water and sewer, mine reclamation, broadband, plugging abandoned gas wells, airports, and similar traditional infrastructure needs.

Since that time, McKinley has been under fire from some in his own party, who falsely claim he voted for something very different, what some are referring to as a "soft" infrastructure bill.

"The attacks on Congressman McKinley are totally and completely untrue, infrastructure should not be a partisan issue," says Chuck Parker, President of the WV State Building Trades. "We all use the roads, need clean water, want highspeed internet, and to say these things are bad for

our state is just plain wrong."

McKinley is in a tough primary race against Congressman Alex Mooney.

As a result of shrinking state population the two incumbents must face off in the primary for one seat.

Mooney has attacked McKinley with ads falsely claiming the hard infrastructure vote was a vote for a social programs bill.

"Congressman Mooney, who refused to support roads, bridges and jobs, is trying to trick West Virginians into believing Dave McKinley voted for the so-called "soft" infrastructure bill and that is just a bald-faced lie," said Parker.

Mooney's attacks on the infrastructure bill have angered many construction workers to the point where many who are registered Democrats are switching to Independents so they can support McKinley in the upcoming primary.

Parker notes that McKinley has been a leader in Washington for Building Trades workers for many

years. As Chairman of the Building Trades Caucus, McKinley has led several efforts to defeat numerous pieces of legislation aimed at stripping Davis Bacon protections from federal projects.

McKinley also led a successful effort to stop legislation aimed at weakening apprenticeship standards in the construction industry.

In contracts Congressman **Cont. on p. 4>>**



Congressman David McKinley (R-WV) speaks to members of the WV State Building and Construction Trades at the headquarters in Charleston, WV.

Insulators Apprenticeship Opportunity

NAME OF PROGRAM: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 80 JATC

WHERE TO APPLY: Heat & Frost Insulators Local 80 Union Hall located at 4998 St Rt 34 Winfield, WV

WHEN TO APPLY: March 29, 2022 to April 29, 2022

HOURS TO APPLY: Monday thru Friday: 8:30 – 4:00

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

AGE: At least 18 yrs. of age

EDUCATION: High School Diploma or GED

PHYSICAL: Must be physically able to perform the work of the trade. A drug test will be required.

DRIVERS LICENSE: Must have a valid Driver's License

APTITUDE: Meet testing re-

quirements administered by the WV Job Service

RESIDENCY: Applicants must be a resident of the following counties at least 1 year prior to applying:

Ohio - Gallia, Meigs, Washington, Jackson, Pike, Lawrence or Scioto

Virginia - Allegheny, Amherst, Appomattox, Augusta, Bath, Bedford, Bland Botetourt,

Buchanan, Campbell, Carroll, Charlotte, Craig, Dickenson, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Grayson, Halifax, Henry, Highland, Montgomery, Nelson, Patrick, Pittsylvania, Pulaski, Roanoke, Rockbridge, Russell, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington or Wythe.

Kentucky - Bath, Carter, Floyd, Knott, Letcher, Martin, Owsley, Rowan, Boyd, Elliot, Greenup, Law-

rence, Lewis, Menifee, Pike, Wolfe, Breathitt, Estill, Johnson, Lee, Magoffin, Morgan or Powell.

West Virginia - Boone, Calhoun, Fayette, Jackson, Lincoln, Mason, Monroe, Pleasants, Raleigh, Roane, Webster, Wyoming, Braxton, Clay, Gilmer, Nicholas, Pocahontas, Randolph, Summers, Wirt, Wayne, Cabell, Doddridge, Greenbrier, Lewis,

Certified Birth Certificate, Copy of High School Diploma or equivalent, Copy of Valid Driver's License, Certified High School Transcript of Grades. These documents will be requested after testing qualifications are met.

The recruitment, selection, employment, and training of apprentices shall be without discrimination



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Trades Presentation on Apprenticeship



WV Senate Workforce Committee

George Capel - Government Relations Director, WV State Building and Construction Trades

West Virginia State Building and Construction Trades Government Relations Director George Capel speaks at the Senate Workforce Committee during a presentation on craft apprenticeship.

Due to the upcoming need for labor on federally funded infrastructure projects throughout the state, the trades were invited to come speak on craft apprenticeship in an attempt to get lawmakers thinking about how apprenticeship can address the potential labor shortage.

Brett Matthews, Training Coordinator for Plumbers and Pipefitters 625, and Everett Johnson, Coordinator for the WV Carpenters Training Center, were also in attendance to speak about their programs.

Lawmakers were given an overview of apprenticeship in the union construction industry as well as details surrounding individual craft programs. Senators on the committee were also given a short quiz to test their knowledge of apprenticeship.

McDowell, Mingo, Pendleton, Putnam, Ritchie, Kanawha, Logan, Mercer, Wood or Upshur.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

because of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex.

For more information call 304-586-4780 ■

McKinley Attacked

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Mooney won't even meet with representatives of the trades, has attacked Davis Bacon protections, and opposed meaningful infrastructure bills.

According to news reports Mooney misused campaign funds to support his personal lifestyle, including luxury vacations for his family, buying items like wine and cigars, and \$1,900 for meals at Chick-fil-A.

Now, Mooney is under federal investigation.

For these reasons, the WV State

Building and Construction Trades voted overwhelmingly to support David McKinley in his upcoming primary election against Alex Mooney.

"We hope members and their families will look at the candidates records on important issues for construction workers," said Parker. "It is clear David McKinley has a solid record supporting infrastructure and construction workers while Mooney has a record of attacking infrastructure and construction workers.

"The choice couldn't be clearer." ■