

January 17, 2011

***Dear Colleagues in NASW West Virginia Chapter,***

**THE 2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION HAS BEGUN!**

**Includes Info on Finding:**

How a Bill Becomes a Law  
Finding and Contacting Senators and Delegates  
Searching / Reading / Tracking Bills  
Streaming Audio of Committee and Floor Sessions  
Legislative Services' Blog and Newsletter  
TV and Radio Public WV Broadcasting Programs

The 2011 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature convened January 12 at noon. Day one began with the introduction of 504 bills! Most of these were cross-over bills that did not survive last year's session.

The NASW WV Chapter will again be very involved with a variety of bills and issues during the Session. We are ably represented by CEO Sam Hickman, ACSW, LCSW, as well as by consulting lobbyist Frank Hartman, JD. Please watch for updates on legislation of importance to the Social Work profession and the people we serve.

**PLEASE REALIZE WHAT AN ESSENTIAL ROLE YOU PLAY IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR EFFORTS!**

Unlike the "old days" when you had to be in Charleston to reliably follow legislative activity, there are now a variety of ways to track legislation through the Legislature's excellent website: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us>

**Bulletin Board**

Prompt information during legislative sessions through the Legislature's Calendars, Meetings, Abstracts, Indexes and Journals. Click in the 'Bulletin Board' link on the page bottom menu bar.

**Bills**

Find out what bills have been introduced, who are the sponsors, what committee/s they have been assigned to, amendments made, where they are in the process, etc.

**Legislative Services' Blog: 'Today in the Legislature'**

Read an up-to-date summary of daily legislative activities.

**Legislative Services' Newsletter: Wrap-up**

The Legislature's official newsletter is published weekly throughout the regular session. It contains summaries of bills and other legislative actions.

**Streaming Audio**

Listen to the Legislature live! Streaming audio is available for House and Senate floor sessions as well as for meetings held in the House Education, Finance, Judiciary and Government Organization Committee rooms, and in the Senate Finance and Judiciary Committee Rooms.

**The Legislature Today: WV Public Television – 6:30pm Monday – Tuesday, Fridays @ 8:00pm**

Tune in to West Virginia Public Television at 6:30pm (repeated at 11:30pm) Monday through Thursday for 'The Legislature Today', a review of the day's happenings at the Legislature, usually including a featured interview on a major issue of the day. On Fridays this report is incorporated into the program 'This Week in West Virginia' at 8:00 pm (repeated at 11:30pm).

**West Virginia Morning: West Virginia Public Radio – 7:30am Monday – Friday**

West Virginia Public Radio's weekday 7:30am morning new program, 'West Virginia Morning' is not restricted to legislative news but will feature much information from the State Capitol.

**Other Information Available at <http://www.legis.state.wv.us>**

You can keep abreast of all activity on bills by using the **Bill Tracking** and **Bill Status** features.

**Legislators' addresses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses** are available at the site.

**Don't know who your representatives are?** Just type in your zip code on the user-friendly home page.

**Capitol maps, history, "How a Bill Becomes a Law"** and other information can be found at this site.

The Legislature also has a **toll free number** where Legislative Services staff can help with questions you may have, or direct you to your elected representative; call: [1-877-565-3447](tel:1-877-565-3447).

The website has improved each year and you can now be anywhere in the world and follow legislative activities as they happen. ***It's easier than ever to let your voice be heard by your representatives.***

Note: There has been a lot of discussion recently regarding the role of Senate President and Acting Governor Earl Ray Tomblin (D-Logan). The Senate re-elected Tomblin as Senate president and, in order for him to continue his duties as acting governor, elected Senator Jeff Kessler (D-Marshall) as Acting President of the Senate. A detailed account can be found at: <http://www.dailymail.com/News/statehouse/201101121054>

The NASW, West Virginia Chapter looks forward to an active legislative session. **STAY TUNED!**

**Note: Our 2011 Legislative Action Priorities can be found on our website at [www.NASWWV.org](http://www.NASWWV.org)**

**THANK YOU!**

**BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD  
THE POWER OF SOCIAL WORK!**

**Susan Sobkoviak, BSSW, Consultant  
National Association of Social Workers, West Virginia Chapter**

