

Senate Bill No. 611

(By Senators Palumbo, Browning, Foster, Klempa, Minard,
Snyder, Tucker, Williams, Wills and Nohe)

[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;
reported February 25, 2011.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §17-16A-29 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to extending the discount for West Virginia EZ Pass transponders to all other toll roads; and requiring an annual public informational session in the affected counties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §17-16A-29 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 16A. WEST VIRGINIA PARKWAYS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM AUTHORITY.

§17-16A-29. Discount program for purchasers of West Virginia EZ Pass transponders.

1 (a) The Parkways Authority ~~is hereby authorized to~~ shall
2 create a discount program for purchasers of West Virginia
3 EZ Pass transponders for all current and future toll roads.
4 ~~Provided, That~~ prior to the fixation of any initial rates, tolls
5 or charges or any increase in any rates, tolls or charges along
6 any portion of ~~the a~~ parkway project, ~~the Parkways Author-~~
7 ~~ity shall create a discount program for purchasers of West~~
8 ~~Virginia EZ Pass transponders.~~ Any discount program
9 created pursuant to this section shall provide discounts for
10 each class of motor vehicles.

11 (b) The Authority shall provide public notice and hold
12 public hearings on any proposed discount program as
13 required in section thirteen-a of this article prior to imple-
14 mentation of such program.

15 (c) Annually, the Parkways Authority shall hold at least
16 one public informational session in each ~~of the following~~
17 ~~counties: Kanawha, Fayette, Raleigh and Mercer counties~~
18 county that has or is proposed to have a parkways toll road
19 or a portion of a parkways toll road. The Authority is to
20 distribute educational materials and other information
21 concerning the discount program for purchasers of West
22 Virginia EZ Pass transponders described in this section.

23 (d) ~~Upon the effective date of the amendments to this~~
24 ~~section enacted during the regular session of the Legislature~~
25 ~~in the year 2010, the The Authority shall make available~~
26 West Virginia EZ Pass transponders to the public without
27 the payment of any monetary security deposit. The Authority
28 shall credit any individual that has paid a security deposit
29 for a West Virginia EZ Pass transponder prior to July 1,
30 2010, on the individual's next billing statement.

31 (e) For purposes of this section, a "West Virginia EZ Pass
32 transponder" means a device sold by the Parkways Authority
33 which allows the purchaser to attach the device to his or her
34 motor vehicle and travel through a Parkways toll facility and
35 be billed for such travel by the Authority.

(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is extend the discount program currently available to EZ Pass transponders on the West Virginia Turnpike to all future toll roads.)