1 H. B. 2853 2 3 (By Delegate Hunt (By request)) [Introduced March 6, 2013; referred to the 4 5 Committee on the Judiciary.] 6 7 8 9 10 A BILL to amend and reenact §38-10-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 11 1931, as amended, relating to increase the amount of certain 12 exemptions of property in bankruptcy proceedings. 13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: 14 That §38-10-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, 15 be amended and reenacted to read as follows: 16 ARTICLE 10. FEDERAL TAX LIENS; ORDERS AND DECREES IN BANKRUPTCY. 17 §38-10-4. Exemptions of property in bankruptcy proceedings. Pursuant to the provisions of 11 U.S.C. §522(b)(1), this state 18 19 specifically does not authorize debtors who are domiciled in this 20 state to exempt the property specified under the provisions of 11 21 U.S.C. §522(d). Any person who files a petition under the federal bankruptcy 22 23 law may exempt from property of the estate in a bankruptcy 1 proceeding the following property:

- (a) The debtor's interest, not to exceed \$25,000 \$35,000 in value, in real property or personal property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence, in a cooperative that sowns property that the debtor or a dependent of the debtor uses as a residence or in a burial plot for the debtor or a dependent of the debtor: Provided, That when the debtor is a physician licensed to practice medicine in this state under article three or article fourteen, chapter thirty of this code, and has commenced a bankruptcy proceeding in part due to a verdict or judgment entered in a medical professional liability action, if the physician has current medical malpractice insurance in the amount of at least \$1 million for each occurrence, the debtor physician's interest that is exempt under this subsection may exceed \$25,000 sin value but may not exceed \$250,000 per household.
- 16 (b) The debtor's interest, not to exceed $\frac{$2,400}{}$ in 17 value, in one motor vehicle.
- (c) The debtor's interest, not to exceed \$400 \$600 in value in any particular item, in household furnishings, household goods, wearing apparel, appliances, books, animals, crops or musical instruments that are held primarily for the personal, family or household use of the debtor or a dependent of the debtor:

 23 Provided, That the total amount of personal property exempted under this subsection may not exceed \$8,000 \$12,000.

- 1 (d) The debtor's interest, not to exceed \$1,000 in value, in
- 2 jewelry held primarily for the personal, family or household use of
- 3 the debtor or a dependent of the debtor.
- 4 (e) The debtor's interest, not to exceed in value \$800 plus
- 5 any unused amount of the exemption provided under subsection (a) of
- 6 this section in any property.
- 7 (f) The debtor's interest, not to exceed \$1,500 \$3,000 in
- 8 value, in any implements, professional books or tools of the trade
- 9 of the debtor or the trade of a dependent of the debtor.
- 10 (g) Any unmeasured life insurance contract owned by the
- 11 debtor, other than a credit life insurance contract.
- 12 (h) The debtor's interest, not to exceed in value \$8,000 less
- 13 any amount of property of the estate transferred in the manner
- 14 specified in 11 U.S.C. §542(d), in any accrued dividend or interest
- 15 under, or loan value of, any unmeasured life insurance contract
- 16 owned by the debtor under which the insured is the debtor or an
- 17 individual of whom the debtor is a dependent.
- 18 (I) Professionally prescribed health aids for the debtor or a
- 19 dependent of the debtor.
- 20 (j) The debtor's right to receive:
- 21 (1) A social security benefit, unemployment compensation or a
- 22 local public assistance benefit;
- 23 (2) A veterans' benefit;
- 24 (3) A disability, illness or unemployment benefit;

- 1 (4) Alimony, support or separate maintenance, to the extent
- 2 reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any
- 3 dependent of the debtor;
- 4 (5) A payment under a stock bonus, pension, profit sharing,
- 5 annuity or similar plan or contract on account of illness,
- 6 disability, death, age or length of service, to the extent
- 7 reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any
- 8 dependent of the debtor, and funds on deposit in an individual
- 9 retirement account (IRA), including a simplified employee pension
- 10 (SEP) regardless of the amount of funds, unless:
- 11 (A) The plan or contract was established by or under the
- 12 auspices of an insider that employed the debtor at the time the
- 13 debtor's rights under the plan or contract arose;
- 14 (B) The payment is on account of age or length of service;
- 15 (C) The plan or contract does not qualify under Section
- 16 401(a), 403(a), 403(b), 408 or 409 of the Internal Revenue Code of
- 17 1986; and
- 18 (D) With respect to an individual retirement account,
- 19 including a simplified employee pension, the amount is subject to
- 20 the excise tax on excess contributions under Section 4973 and/or
- 21 Section 4979 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, or any successor
- 22 provisions, regardless of whether the tax is paid.
- 23 (k) The debtor's right to receive or property that is 24 traceable to:

- 1 (1) An award under a crime victim's reparation law;
- 2 (2) A payment on account of the wrongful death of an
- 3 individual of whom the debtor was a dependent, to the extent
- 4 reasonably necessary for the support of the debtor and any
- 5 dependent of the debtor;
- 6 (3) A payment under a life insurance contract that insured the
- 7 life of an individual of whom the debtor was a dependent on the
- 8 date of the individual's death, to the extent reasonably necessary
- 9 for the support of the debtor and any dependent of the debtor;
- 10 (4) A payment, not to exceed \$15,000 \\$25,000 on account of
- 11 personal bodily injury, not including pain and suffering or
- 12 compensation for actual pecuniary loss, of the debtor or an
- 13 individual of whom the debtor is a dependent;
- 14 (5) A payment in compensation of loss of future earnings of
- 15 the debtor or an individual of whom the debtor is or was a
- 16 dependent, to the extent reasonably necessary for the support of
- 17 the debtor and any dependent of the debtor;
- 18 (6) Payments made to the prepaid tuition trust fund or to the
- 19 savings plan trust fund, including earnings, in accordance with
- 20 article thirty, chapter eighteen of this code on behalf of any
- 21 beneficiary.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the amount of certain exemptions of property in bankruptcy proceedings.

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