1	н. в. 3002
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3 4 5 6	(By Delegates Shott, Staggers, Gearheart, Canterbury, Ellington, Moore, Moye, Sumner, Iaquinta, Cooper and Ambler)
7	[Introduced March 20, 2013; referred to the
8	Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland Security then
9	Finance.]
10	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$17-16A-29$ of the Code of West
11	Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the West Virginia
12	Parkways, Economic Development and Tourism Authority and
13	requiring the Parkways Authority to provide free daily toll
14	passes for veterans traveling to the Veterans Administration
15	Hospital for treatment.
16	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
17	That §17-16A-29 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
18	amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
19	ARTICLE 16A. WEST VIRGINIA PARKWAYS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
20	TOURISM AUTHORITY.
21	\$17-16A-29. Discount program for purchasers of West Virginia EZ
22	Pass transponders.
23	(a) The Parkways Authority is hereby authorized to create a
24	discount program for purchasers of West Virginia EZ Pass
25	transponders: Provided, That prior to the fixation of any initial

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1 rates, tolls or charges or any increase in any rates, tolls or 2 charges along any portion of the parkway project, the Parkways 3 Authority shall create a discount program for purchasers of West 4 Virginia EZ Pass transponders. Any discount program created 5 pursuant to this section shall provide discounts for each class of 6 motor vehicles.

7 (b) The Authority shall provide public notice and hold public 8 hearings on any proposed discount program as required in section 9 thirteen-a of this article prior to implementation of such program. 10 (c) Annually, the Parkways Authority shall hold at least one 11 public informational session in each of the following counties: 12 Kanawha, Fayette, Raleigh and Mercer counties. The Authority is to 13 distribute educational materials and other information concerning 14 the discount program for purchasers of West Virginia EZ Pass 15 transponders described in this section.

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

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1 allows the purchaser to attach the device to his or her motor 2 vehicle and travel through a Parkways toll facility and be billed 3 for such travel by the Authority.

4 (f) The Parkways Authority shall provide to the Beckley VA 5 Medical Center a sufficient number of free daily toll passes to 6 permit a veteran who is scheduled for medical care at the center 7 during the following six months to travel over the parkway project 8 to and from the center without paying any tolls. The Authority 9 shall cooperate with the Beckley VA Center to create and implement 10 a program that will provide to the center, in advance, a sufficient 11 supply of daily toll free passes and restrict the use of the passes 12 to only those days on which a veteran needs to travel to and from 13 the center for medical care. For the purposes of this subsection, 14 the word "Veteran" has the same meaning as in section seven, 15 article one, chapter nine-a of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Parkways Authority to provide the Beckley VA Medical Center a sufficient number of free daily toll passes to permit Veterans who travel to that center for medical care to travel the West Virginia Turnpike without paying tolls.

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

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