1	H. B. 3117
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3	(By Delegate Manchin)
4	[Introduced March 25, 2013; referred to the
5	Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]
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10	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$3-1-34$ of the Code of West Virginia,
11	1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new
12	section, designated $3-1-51$; and to amend and reenact $17B-2-1$
13	of said code, all relating to voter photo identification;
14	types of acceptable photo identification; authorization of the
15	execution of voter identity affidavits for qualified voters
16	without photo identification; procedure for the execution of
17	voter identity affidavit; recording voter identity affidavits;
18	authorizing the Secretary of State to propose for promulgation
19	necessary rules; procedures to verify the identity of voters
20	executing voter identity affidavit; providing for the issuance
21	of identification cards; and requiring the state to provide
22	the identification cards without charge to any qualified
23	voter.

24 Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

2013R3014

1 That §3-1-34 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, 2 be amended and reenacted; that said code be amended by adding 3 thereto a new section, designated §3-1-51; and that §17B-2-1 of 4 said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

5

CHAPTER 3. ELECTIONS.

6 ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS.

7~ §3-1-34. Voting procedures generally; assistance to voters; voting

8

records; penalties.

9 (a) Any person desiring to vote in an election shall, upon 10 entering the election room, clearly state his or her name and 11 residence to one of the poll clerks who shall thereupon announce 12 the same in a clear and distinct tone of voice. If that person is 13 found to be duly registered as a voter at that precinct, he or she 14 shall sign his or her name in the designated location provided at 15 the precinct. If that person is physically or otherwise unable to 16 sign his or her name, his or her mark shall be affixed by one of 17 the poll clerks in the presence of the other and the name of the 18 poll clerk affixing the voter's mark shall be indicated immediately 19 under the affixation. No ballot may be given to the person until 20 he or she signs his or her name on the designated location or his 21 or her signature is affixed thereon.

22 (b) (1) One of the poll clerks shall request that the person 23 desiring to vote present a valid photo identification meeting the

1 requirements of subdivision (2) of this subsection. If the person 2 desiring to vote does not have a valid photo identification, a poll 3 clerk shall inform the voter that he or she may execute a voter 4 identity affidavit.

5 (2) A valid photo identification shall show the name of the 6 individual to whom the identification was issued, and the name 7 shall substantially conform to the name in the individual's voter 8 registration record; it also shall show a photograph of the 9 individual to whom the identification was issued; and it shall also 10 have an expiration date that has not been exceeded by a period of 11 more than five years from the current date. The following forms of 12 identification bearing a photograph of the voter shall satisfy the 13 identification requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection: 14 (A) A driver's license issued by the State of West Virginia or 15 any other state. 16 (B) An identification card issued by the Division of Motor 17 Vehicles pursuant to section one, article two, chapter seventeen-b

18 of this code or an identification card issued by any other state.

19 (C) A United States armed services identification card.

20 (D) A United States passport.

(E) Any other valid photo identification issued by federal,
 state, county, or municipal government.

23 (F) A valid student identification card.

24 (G) A photo identification not authorized by paragraphs (A)

1 through (F) but determined to be legitimate by the election
2 officials, provided that if any person authorized to challenge a
3 voter under section forty-one of this article objects to the use of
4 such photo identification, the voter shall be required to execute
5 a voter identity affidavit as if no identification was presented.
6 (3) If the person desiring to vote produces a photo
7 identification that is an out-of state driver's license or
8 nondriver's identification card, the poll clerk shall record the
9 state of issuance in accordance with uniform procedures developed
10 by the Secretary of State and the clerk of the county commission or
11 designee shall submit the information to the Secretary of State

13 <u>(4) A person desiring to vote who does not have a valid photo</u> 14 <u>identification, shall receive an explanatory document prepared by</u> 15 <u>the Secretary of State explaining the proof of identity</u> 16 <u>requirements. If the person desiring to vote executes a voter</u> 17 <u>identity affidavit, the poll clerk shall document the execution of</u> 18 <u>the affidavit in accordance with uniform procedures developed by</u> 19 the Secretary of State.

20 <u>(A) The voter identity affidavit shall be in the following</u> 21 form:

- 22 <u>"State of West Virginia</u>
- 23 <u>County of</u>
- 24 <u>I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that my name is</u>

1	; that I reside
2	at and that I am the person listed in
3	the precinct pollbook under this name and at this address.
4	I understand that knowingly providing false information is a
5	violation of law and subjects me to fine of up to \$1,000 and/or
6	confinement in jail for up to 1 year.
7	<u></u>
8	Signature of voter
9	Subscribed and affirmed before me this day of
10	<u>, 20</u>
11	<u></u>
12	Name of Election Official
13	<u></u>
14	Signature of Election Official".
15	(B) If the person desiring to vote executes a voter identity
16	affidavit, a poll clerk shall take a photograph of the voter and
17	immediately print and attach the photograph to, and thus make it a
18	part of, the affidavit form. The photograph shall be 2 inches by 2
19	inches, or larger, and be in color. The poll clerk who took the
20	photograph and the voter shall then sign the voter identity
21	affidavit. The poll clerk shall delete the photograph from the
22	camera in the presence of the voter. If the poll clerk is unable to
23	take the voter's photograph due to equipment failure or other cause
24	beyond the poll clerk's reasonable control, the voter may execute

1 a voter identity affidavit without a photograph.

2 (C) If the voter objects to the photograph requirement because 3 of religious beliefs, he or she may execute an affidavit of 4 religious exemption that shall be in the following form: 5 "State of West Virginia <u>County of</u> 6 I,.... residing at 7 8 do hereby swear or affirm 9 that because of my religious beliefs, I object to having my 10 photograph taken and that I do not possess a form of identification 11 that meets the requirements of the election laws of this state 12 showing my photograph. I understand that knowingly providing false information is a 13 14 violation of law and subjects me to fine of up to \$1,000 and/or 15 confinement in jail for up to 1 year. 16 I hereby swear or affirm, under the penalties for providing 17 false information, that I am the identical person whom I represent 18 myself to be and that to the best of my knowledge and belief the 19 information above is true and correct. 20 21 Signature of voter 22 Subscribed and affirmed before me this day of 23, 20....

24 _____

1 Name of Election Official

2 _....

3 <u>Signature of Election Official".</u>

4 <u>(D) The person entering voter information into the centralized</u> 5 <u>voter registration database shall cause the records to indicate</u> 6 <u>when a voter has not presented a valid photo identification and has</u> 7 <u>executed a voter identity affidavit.</u>

8 (E) If a voter participating in the Address Confidentiality 9 Program established by section one hundred three, article twenty-10 eight-a, chapter forty-eight of this code, executes a voter 11 identity affidavit, the program participant's residential or 12 mailing address is subject to the confidentiality provisions of 13 section one hundred eight article twenty-eight-a, chapter forty-14 eight of this code and shall be used only for those statutory and 15 administrative purposes authorized by this section.

16 (5) The Secretary of State shall propose for promulgation in 17 accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code 18 emergency and legislative rules necessary to effectuate the 19 purposes of this subsection.

(b) (c) The clerk of the county commission is authorized, upon 21 verification that the precinct at which a handicapped person is 22 registered to vote is not handicap accessible, to transfer that 23 person's registration to the nearest polling place in the county 24 which is handicap accessible. A request by a handicapped person

1 for a transfer of registration must be received by the county clerk 2 no later than thirty days prior to the date of the election. Any 3 handicapped person who has not made a request for a transfer of 4 registration at least thirty days prior to the date of the election 5 may vote a provisional ballot at a handicap accessible polling 6 place in the county of his or her registration. If during the 7 canvass the county commission determines that the person had been 8 registered in a precinct that is not handicap accessible, the voted 9 ballot, if otherwise valid, shall be counted. The handicapped 10 person may vote in the precinct to which the registration was 11 transferred only as long as the disability exists or the precinct 12 from which the handicapped person was transferred remains 13 inaccessible to the handicapped. To ensure confidentiality of the 14 transferred ballot, the county clerk processing the ballot shall 15 provide the voter with an unmarked envelope and an outer envelope 16 designated "provisional ballot/handicapped voter". After 17 validation of the ballot at the canvass, the outer envelope shall 18 be destroyed and the handicapped voter's ballot shall be placed 19 with other approved provisional ballots prior to removal of the 20 ballot from the unmarked envelope.

21 (c) (d) When the voter's signature is properly marked, and 22 having presented a valid photo identification verifying the voter's 23 identify or executed a voter identity affidavit, the two poll 24 clerks shall sign their names in the places indicated on the back

1 of the official ballot and deliver the ballot to the voter to be 2 voted by him or her without leaving the election room. If he or 3 she returns the ballot spoiled to the clerks, they shall 4 immediately mark the ballot "spoiled" and it shall be preserved and 5 placed in a spoiled ballot envelope together with other spoiled 6 ballots to be delivered to the board of canvassers and deliver to 7 the voter another official ballot, signed by the clerks on the 8 reverse side. The voter shall thereupon retire alone to the booth 9 or compartment prepared within the election room for voting 10 purposes and there prepare his or her ballot. In voting for 11 candidates in general and special elections, the voter shall comply 12 with the rules and procedures prescribed in section five, article 13 six of this chapter.

(d) (e) It is the duty of a poll clerk, in the presence of the other poll clerk, to indicate by a check mark, or by other means, inserted in the appropriate place on the registration record of each voter the fact that the voter voted in the election. In primary elections the clerk shall also insert thereon a distinguishing initial or initials of the political party for whose candidates the voter voted. If a person is challenged at the polls, the challenge shall be indicated by the poll clerks on the registration record, together with the name of the challenger. The subsequent removal of the challenge shall be recorded on the registration record by the clerk of the county commission.

1 (e) (f) (1) No voter may receive any assistance in voting 2 unless, by reason of blindness, disability, advanced age or 3 inability to read and write, that voter is unable to vote without 4 assistance. Any voter qualified to receive assistance in voting 5 under the provisions of this section may:

6 (A) Declare his or her choice of candidates to an Election 7 Commissioner of each political party who, in the presence of the 8 voter and in the presence of each other, shall prepare the ballot 9 for voting in the manner hereinbefore provided and, on request, 10 shall read to the voter the names of the candidates selected on the 11 ballot;

12 (B) Require the Election Commissioners to indicate to him or 13 her the relative position of the names of the candidates on the 14 ballot, whereupon the voter shall retire to one of the booths or 15 compartments to prepare his or her ballot in the manner 16 hereinbefore provided;

17 (C) Be assisted by any person of the voter's choice, other 18 than the voter's present or former employer or agent of that 19 employer, the officer or agent of a labor union of which the voter 20 is a past or present member or a candidate on the ballot or an 21 official write-in candidate; or

(D) If he or she is handicapped, vote from an automobile outside the polling place or precinct by the absentee balloting the method provided in subsection (e), section five, article three of

1 this chapter in the presence of an Election Commissioner of each
2 political party if all of the following conditions are met:

3 (i) The polling place is not handicap accessible; and
4 (ii) No voters are voting or waiting to vote inside the
5 polling place.

6 (2) The voted ballot shall then be returned to the precinct 7 officials and secured in a sealed envelope to be returned to the 8 clerk of the county commission with all other election materials. 9 The ballot shall then be tabulated using the appropriate method 10 provided in section eight of this chapter as it relates to the 11 specific voting system in use.

12 (3) Any voter who requests assistance in voting but who is 13 believed not to be qualified for assistance under the provisions of 14 this section shall nevertheless be permitted to vote a provisional 15 ballot with the assistance of any person herein authorized to 16 render assistance.

17 (4) Any one or more of the election commissioners or poll 18 clerks in the precinct may challenge the ballot on the ground that 19 the voter thereof received assistance in voting it when in his, her 20 or their opinion the person who received assistance in voting is 21 not so illiterate, blind, disabled or of such advanced age as to 22 have been unable to vote without assistance. The Election 23 Commissioner or poll clerk or commissioners or poll clerks making 24 the challenge shall enter the challenge and reason therefor on the

1 form and in the manner prescribed or authorized by article three of 2 this chapter.

3 (5) An Election Commissioner or other person who assists a 4 voter in voting:

5 (A) May not in any manner request or seek to persuade or 6 induce the voter to vote any particular ticket or for any 7 particular candidate or for or against any public question and must 8 not keep or make any memorandum or entry of anything occurring 9 within the voting booth or compartment and must not, directly or 10 indirectly, reveal to any person the name of any candidate voted 11 for by the voter or which ticket he or she had voted or how he or 12 she had voted on any public question or anything occurring within 13 the voting booth or compartment or voting machine booth except when 14 required pursuant to law to give testimony as to the matter in a 15 judicial proceeding; and

(B) Shall sign a written oath or affirmation before assisting (B) Shall sign a written oath or affirmation before assisting the voter on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State stating that he or she will not override the actual preference of the voter peing assisted, attempt to influence the voter's choice or mislead the voter into voting for someone other than the candidate of the voter's choice. The person assisting the voter shall also swear or affirm that he or she believes that the voter is voting free of intimidation or manipulation: *Provided*, That no person providing assistance to a voter is required to sign an oath or affirmation

1 where the reason for requesting assistance is the voter's inability 2 to vote without assistance because of blindness as defined in 3 section three, article fifteen, chapter five of this code and the 4 inability to vote without assistance because of blindness is 5 certified in writing by a physician of the voter's choice and is on 6 file in the office of the clerk of the county commission.

7 (6) In accordance with instructions issued by the Secretary of 8 State, the clerk of the county commission shall provide a form 9 entitled "list of assisted voters", the form of which list shall 10 likewise be prescribed by the Secretary of State. The 11 commissioners shall enter the name of each voter receiving 12 assistance in voting the ballot, together with the poll slip number 13 of that voter and the signature of the person or the commissioner 14 from each party who assisted the voter. If no voter has been 15 assisted in voting, the commissioners shall likewise make and 16 subscribe to an oath of that fact on the list.

17 (f) (g) After preparing the ballot, the voter shall fold the 18 ballot so that the face is not exposed and so that the names of the 19 poll clerks thereon are seen. The voter shall announce his or her 20 name and present his or her ballot to one of the commissioners who 21 shall hand the same to another commissioner, of a different 22 political party, who shall deposit it in the ballot box if the 23 ballot is the official one and properly signed. The commissioner 24 of election may inspect every ballot before it is deposited in the

1 ballot box to ascertain whether it is single, but without unfolding 2 or unrolling it so as to disclose its content. When the voter has 3 voted, he or she shall retire immediately from the election room 4 and beyond the sixty-foot limit thereof and may not return except 5 by permission of the commissioners.

6 (g) (h) Following the election, the oaths or affirmations 7 required by this section from those assisting voters, together with 8 the "list of assisted voters", shall be returned by the Election 9 Commissioners to the clerk of the county commission along with the 10 election supplies, records and returns. The clerk of the county 11 commission shall make the oaths, affirmations and list available 12 for public inspection and shall preserve them for a period of 13 twenty-two months or until disposition is authorized or directed by 14 the Secretary of State or court of record: *Provided*, That the 15 clerk may use these records to update the voter registration 16 records in accordance with subsection (d), section eighteen, 17 article two of this chapter.

(h) (i) Any person making an oath or affirmation required 19 under the provisions of this section who knowingly swears falsely 20 or any person who counsels, advises, aids or abets another in the 21 commission of false swearing under this section is guilty of a 22 misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more 23 than \$1,000 or confined in jail for a period of not more than one 24 year, or both fined and confined.

1 (i) (j) Any Election Commissioner or poll clerk who authorizes 2 or provides unchallenged assistance to a voter when the voter is 3 known to the Election Commissioner or poll clerk not to require 4 assistance in voting is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction 5 thereof, shall be fined not more than \$5,000 or imprisoned in a 6 state correctional facility for a period of not less than one year 7 nor more than five years, or both fined and imprisoned.

8 §3-1-51. Identity Verification of Voters Executing a Voter Identity 9 Affidavit.

(a) The clerk of the county commission shall cause a letter of identity verification to be mailed by first class mail to each voter who executed a voter identity affidavit pursuant to section thirty-four of this article. The letter shall be mailed within sixty days after the election. The clerk shall mark the envelope with instructions to the United States Post Office not to forward the letter and to provide address correction information. The letter shall notify the addressee that a person who did not present valid photo identification voted using his or her name and address and instruct the addressee to contact the clerk immediately if he or she did not vote. The letter shall also inform the addressee of the procedure for obtaining a nondriver's picture identification card for voting purposes.

23 (b) The clerk of the county commission shall cause letters 24 mailed pursuant to subsection (a) that are returned as

1 undeliverable by the United States Post Office to be referred to
2 the Secretary of State. The clerk shall also prepare and forward to
3 the Secretary of State a list of all persons who were mailed
4 letters under subsection (a) and who notified the clerk that they
5 did not vote. Upon receipt of notice from a person who receives a
6 letter of identity verification that the person did not vote, or
7 upon receipt of a referral from the clerk, the Secretary of State
8 shall cause an investigation to be made to determine whether
9 fraudulent voting occurred.

10 <u>(c) Within sixty days after a general election, the Secretary</u> 11 <u>of State shall compile a report of the number of voters that did</u> 12 <u>not present valid photo identification at each election occurring</u> 13 <u>since the previous state general election, and forward the report</u> 14 <u>to the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and the President of the</u> 15 <u>Senate.</u>

16 CHAPTER 17B. MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSES.

17 ARTICLE 2. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL.

18 §17B-2-1. Drivers must be licensed; types of licenses; licensees

19

20

need not obtain local government license; motorcycle driver license; identification cards.

(a) (1) No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted,
22 may drive any motor vehicle upon a street or highway in this state
23 or upon any subdivision street used by the public generally unless

1 the person has a valid driver's license issued pursuant to this
2 code for the type or class of vehicle being driven.

3 (2) Any person licensed to operate a motor vehicle pursuant to 4 this code may exercise the privilege thereby granted in the manner 5 provided in this code and, except as otherwise provided by law, is 6 not required to obtain any other license to exercise the privilege 7 by any county, municipality or local board or body having authority 8 to adopt local police regulations.

9 (b) The division, upon issuing a driver's license, shall 10 indicate on the license the type or general class or classes of 11 vehicles the licensee may operate in accordance with this code, 12 federal law or rule. Licenses shall be issued in different colors 13 for those drivers under age eighteen, those drivers age eighteen to 14 twenty-one and adult drivers. The commissioner is authorized to 15 select and assign colors to the licenses of the various age groups. 16 (c) The following drivers licenses classifications are hereby 17 established:

(1) A Class A, B or C license shall be issued to those persons ighteen years of age or older with two years of driving experience who have qualified for the commercial driver's license established by chapter seventeen-e of this code and the federal Motor Carrier Safety and Improvement Act of 1999 and subsequent rules, and have paid the required fee.

24 (2) A Class D license shall be issued to those persons

1 eighteen years and older with one year of driving experience who 2 operate motor vehicles other than those types of vehicles which 3 require the operator to be licensed under the provisions of chapter 4 seventeen-e of this code and federal law and rule and whose primary 5 function or employment is the transportation of persons or property 6 for compensation or wages and have paid the required fee. For the 7 purpose of regulating the operation of motor vehicles, wherever the 8 term "chauffeur's license" is used in this code, it shall be 9 construed to mean the Class A, B, C or D license described in this 10 section or chapter seventeen-e of this code or federal law or rule: 11 Provided, That anyone not required to be licensed under the 12 provisions of chapter seventeen-e of this code and federal law or 13 rule and who operates a motor vehicle registered or required to be 14 registered as a Class A motor vehicle, as that term is defined in 15 section one, article ten, chapter seventeen-a of this code, with a 16 gross vehicle weight rating of less than eight thousand one pounds, 17 is not required to obtain a Class D license.

(3) A Class E license shall be issued to those persons who have qualified for a driver's license under the provisions of this chapter and who are not required to obtain a Class A, B, C or D license and who have paid the required fee. The Class E license may be endorsed under the provisions of section seven-b of this article for motorcycle operation. The Class E or (G) license for any person under the age of eighteen may also be endorsed with the

1 appropriate graduated driver license level in accordance with the 2 provisions of section three-a of this article.

3 (4) A Class F license shall be issued to those persons who 4 successfully complete the motorcycle examination procedure provided 5 by this chapter and have paid the required fee, but who do not 6 possess a Class A, B, C, D or E driver's license.

7 (5) A Class G driver's license or instruction permit shall be 8 issued to a person using bioptic telescopic lenses who has 9 successfully completed an approved driver training program and 10 complied with all other requirements of article two-b of this 11 chapter.

(d) All licenses issued under this section may contain information designating the licensee as a diabetic, organ donor, as deaf or hard-of-hearing, or as having any other handicap or disability, or that the licensee is an honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States according to rcriteria established by the division, if the licensee requests this information on the license. An honorably discharged veteran may be sued a replacement license without charge if the request is made before the expiration date of the current license and the only purpose for receiving the replacement license.

(e) No person, except those hereinafter expressly exempted,24 may drive any motorcycle upon a street or highway in this state or

1 upon any subdivision street used by the public generally unless the 2 person has a valid motorcycle license, a valid license which has 3 been endorsed under section seven-b of this article for motorcycle 4 operation or a valid motorcycle instruction permit.

5 (f) (1) An identification card may be issued to any person 6 who:

7 (A) Is a resident of this state in accordance with the 8 provisions of section one-a, article three, chapter seventeen-a of 9 this code;

10 (B) Has reached the age of two years. The division may also 11 issue an identification card to a person under the age of two years 12 for good cause shown;

13 (C) Has paid the required fee of two dollars and fifty cents 14 per year: *Provided*, That the fee is not required <u>no fees or</u> 15 <u>charges</u>, including renewal fees, are required if the applicant is 16 (i) Sixty-five years or older; or

17 <u>(ii)</u> Is legally blind; or

18 (iii) Will be at least eighteen years of age at the next 19 general, municipal, or special election and intends to use this 20 identification card as a form of identification for voting; and 21 (D) Presents a birth certificate or other proof of age and 22 identity acceptable to the division with a completed application on

23 a form furnished by the division.

24 (2) The identification card shall contain the same information

1 as a driver's license except that the identification card shall be 2 clearly marked as an identification card. The division may issue 3 an identification card with less information to persons under the 4 age of sixteen. An identification card may be renewed annually on 5 application and payment of the fee required by this section.

6 (A) Every identification card issued to a person who has 7 attained his or her twenty-first birthday expires on the licensee's 8 birthday in those years in which the licensee's age is evenly 9 divisible by five. Except as provided in paragraph (B) of this 10 subdivision, no identification card may be issued for less than 11 three years or for more than seven years and expires on the 12 licensee's birthday in those years in which the licensee's age is 13 evenly divisible by five.

(B) Every identification card issued to a person who has not attained his or her twenty-first birthday expires thirty days after the licensee's twenty-first birthday.

17 (C) Every identification card issued to persons under the age 18 of sixteen shall be issued for a period of two years and shall 19 expire on the last day of the month in which the applicant's 20 birthday occurs.

(3) The division may issue an identification card to an 22 applicant whose privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been 23 refused, canceled, suspended or revoked under the provisions of 24 this code.

1 (g) Any person violating the provisions of this section is 2 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not 3 more than \$500 ; and upon a second or subsequent conviction, shall 4 be fined not more than \$500 or confined in jail not more than six 5 months, or both fined and confined.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require voters to provide a photo identification when voting, to provide for the execution of an affidavit by voters without photo identification. The bill also provides for complimentary photo identification cards to be issued to any voter who requests one.

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