1	н. в. 3121
2	
3	(By Delegates Cowles, Folk and Azinger)
4	[Introduced March 25, 2013; referred to the
5	Committee on Health and Human Resources then the
6	Judiciary.]
7	
8	
9	
10	A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11	adding thereto a new article, designated §44-10A-1, §44-10A-2,
12	\$44-10A-3, $$44-10A-4$ and $$44-10A-5$, all relating to the
13	codification of a Parents' Bill of Rights.
14	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
15	That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
16	by adding thereto a new article, designated \$44-10A-1, \$44-10A-2,
17	\$44-10A-3, $$44-10A-4$ and $$44-10A-5$, all to read as follows:
18	ARTICLE 10A. PARENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS.
19	§44-10A-1. Short title.
20	This article shall be known and may be cited as the "Parents'
21	Bill of Rights".
22	§44-10A-2. Fundamental rights of parents; definition.
23	(a) The liberty of parents to direct the upbringing,

- 1 education, health care and mental health of their children is a
- 2 fundamental right.
- 3 (b) This state, a political subdivision of this state or other
- 4 governmental unit may not infringe on the fundamental rights
- 5 without demonstrating that a compelling governmental interest as
- 6 applied to the child involved is of the highest order, is narrowly
- 7 tailored and is not otherwise served by a less restrictive means.
- 8 (c) Unless a parents' fundamental rights have been legally
- 9 waived or legally terminated, parents have inalienable rights that
- 10 are more comprehensive than those identified in section three of
- 11 this article. The Parents' Bill of Rights does not prescribe all
- 12 rights of parents. Unless otherwise required by law, the rights of
- 13 parents of minor children shall not be limited or denied.
- 14 (d) As used in this article, "parent" means the natural or
- 15 adoptive parent or legal guardian of a minor child.
- 16 §44-10A-3. Specific parental rights.
- 17 All parental rights are reserved to a parent of a minor child
- 18 without obstruction or interference from this state, a political
- 19 subdivision of this state, other governmental entity or other
- 20 institution including, but not limited to, the following rights:
- 21 (1) The right to direct the education of the minor child;
- 22 (2) All rights of parents identified in chapter eighteen of
- 23 this code including the right to access and review all school
- 24 records relating to the minor child;

- 1 (3) The right to direct the upbringing of the minor child;
- 2 (4) The right to direct the moral or religious training of
- 3 the minor child;
- 4 (5) The right to make health care decisions for the minor
- 5 child unless otherwise prohibited by law;
- 6 (6) The right to access and review all medical records of the
- 7 minor child unless otherwise prohibited by law or the parent is the
- 8 subject of an investigation of a crime committed against the minor
- 9 child and a law-enforcement official requests that the information
- 10 not be released;
- 11 <u>(7)</u> The right to consent in writing before a biometric scan
- 12 of the minor child is made;
- 13 (8) The right to consent in writing before a record of the
- 14 minor child's blood or deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) is created,
- 15 stored or shared;
- 16 (9) The right to consent in writing before the state or its
- 17 political subdivisions make a video or voice recording of the minor
- 18 child unless the video or voice recording is made during or as a
- 19 part of a court proceeding, by law-enforcement officers during or
- 20 as part of a law-enforcement investigation, during or as part of a
- 21 forensic interview in a criminal or child protective services
- 22 investigation or to be used solely for any of the following:
- 23 (A) Safety demonstrations including the maintenance of order
- 24 and discipline in the common areas of a school or on student

- 1 transportation vehicles;
- 2 (B) A purpose related to a legitimate academic or
- 3 extracurricular activity;
- 4 (C) A purpose related to regular classroom instruction;
- 5 (D) Security or surveillance of buildings or grounds; or
- 6 (E) A photo identification card; and
- 7 (10) The right to be notified promptly if an employee of this
- 8 state, a political subdivision of this state, other governmental
- 9 entity or other institution suspects that a criminal offense has
- 10 been committed against the minor child by someone other than a
- 11 parent unless the incident has first been reported to law
- 12 enforcement and notification of the parent would impede a law
- 13 enforcement or child protective services investigation.
- 14 §44-10A-4. Limitations of article.
- 15 (a) This article does not authorize or allow a parent to
- 16 engage in conduct that is unlawful or to abuse or neglect a child
- 17 in violation of the laws of this state and does not apply to a
- 18 parental action or decision that would end life. This article does
- 19 not prohibit courts, law-enforcement officers or employees of a
- 20 government agency responsible for child welfare from acting in
- 21 their official capacity within the reasonable and prudent scope of
- 22 their authority, and does not prohibit a court from issuing an
- 23 order that is otherwise permitted by law.
- 24 (b) This article does not create a new obligation for schools

- 1 to report misconduct between students at school, such as fighting
- 2 or aggressive play, that is routinely addressed as a student
- 3 disciplinary matter by the school.
- 4 §44-10A-5. Discipline of state employee for interference.
- 5 An attempt to encourage or coerce a minor child to withhold
- 6 information from the child's parent is grounds for discipline of an
- 7 employee of this state, a political subdivision of this state or
- 8 other governmental entity except for law-enforcement personnel.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to codify a Parents' Bill of Rights.

This article is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.