Τ	Senate Bill No. 451
2	(By Senator Beach)
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4	[Introduced March 5, 2013; referred to the Committee on the
5	Judiciary.]
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10	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$29-3-16a$ of the Code of West Virginia,
11	1931, as amended, relating to carbon monoxide detectors in
12	residential units; and clarifying that carbon monoxide
13	detectors are not required unless a structure contains fuel-
14	burning appliances or equipment that emit carbon monoxide
15	byproducts.
16	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
17	That §29-3-16a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
18	be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
19	ARTICLE 3. FIRE PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT.
20	§29-3-16a. Smoke detectors in one- and two-family dwellings;
21	carbon monoxide detectors in residential units;
22	penalty.
23	(a) An operational smoke detector shall be installed in the

- 1 immediate vicinity of each sleeping area within all one and two
 2 family dwellings, including any "manufactured home" as that term is
 3 defined in subsection (j), section two, article nine, chapter
 4 twenty-one of this code. The smoke detector shall be capable of
 5 sensing visible or invisible particles of combustion and shall meet
 6 the specifications and be installed as provided in the current
 7 edition of the National Fire Protection Association Standard 72,
 8 "Standard for the Installation, Maintenance and Use of Household
 9 Fire Warning Equipment" and in the manufacturer's specifications.
 10 When activated, the smoke detector shall provide an alarm suitable
- (b) The owner of each dwelling described in subsection (a) of this section shall provide, install and replace the operational smoke detectors required by this section. So as to assure that the smoke detector continues to be operational, in each dwelling described in subsection (a) of this section which is not occupied by the owner thereof, the tenant in any dwelling shall perform routine maintenance on the smoke detectors within the dwelling.

11 to warn the occupants of the danger of fire.

(c) Where a dwelling is not occupied by the owner and is 20 occupied by an individual who is deaf or hearing impaired, the 21 owner shall, upon written request by or on behalf of the 22 individual, provide and install a smoke detector with a light 23 signal sufficient to warn the deaf or hearing-impaired individual 24 of the danger of fire.

- 1 (d) An automatic fire sprinkler system installed in accordance
- 2 with the current edition of the National Fire Protection
- 3 Association Standard 13D, "Standard for the Installation of
- 4 Sprinkler Systems in Residential Occupancies" may be provided in
- 5 lieu of smoke detectors.
- 6 (e) After investigating a fire in any dwelling described in
- 7 subsection (a) of this section, the local investigating authority
- 8 shall issue to the owner a smoke detector installation order in the
- 9 absence of the required smoke detectors.
- 10 (f) An operational single station carbon monoxide detector
- 11 with a suitable alarm or a combination smoke detector and carbon
- 12 monoxide detector, which shall be alternating current (AC) powered,
- 13 either plugged directly in to an electrical outlet that is not
- 14 controlled by a switch or hardwired into an alternating current
- 15 (AC) electrical source, with battery back up, and be installed,
- 16 maintained, tested, repaired or replaced, if necessary, in
- 17 accordance with the manufacturer's direction:
- 18 (1) In any newly constructed residential unit which has a
- 19 fuel-burning heating or cooking source including, but not limited
- 20 to, an oil or gas furnace or stove;
- 21 (2) In any residential unit which is connected to a newly
- 22 constructed building, including, but not limited to, a garage,
- 23 storage shed or barn, which has a fuel-burning heating or cooking
- 24 source, including, but not limited to, an oil or gas furnace or

1 stove;

- 2 (3) Effective September 1, 2012, in either a common area where
 3 the general public has access or all rooms in which a person will
 4 be sleeping that are adjoining to and being directly below and
 5 above all areas or rooms that contain permanently installed fuel6 burning appliances and equipment that emit carbon monoxide as a
 7 byproduct of combustion located within all apartment buildings,
 8 boarding houses, dormitories, long-term care facilities, adult or
 9 child care facilities, assisted living facilities, one- and two10 family dwellings intended to be rented or leased, hotels and
 11 motels.
- (g) Effective January 1, 2013, all single station carbon monoxide detectors with a suitable alarm or a combination smoke detector and carbon monoxide detectors shall be hardwired into an alternating current (AC) electrical source, with battery backup, when installed in all newly constructed apartment buildings, boarding houses, dormitories, hospitals, long-term care facilities, adult or child care facilities, assisted living facilities, one- and two-family dwellings intended to be rented or leased, hotels and motels that contain fuel-burning appliances and equipment that emit carbon monoxide byproducts.
- (h) In any long-term care facility that is staffed on a 23 twenty-four hour, seven day a week basis, the single station carbon 24 monoxide detector with a suitable alarm or a combination smoke

- 1 detector and carbon monoxide detector shall only be required to be
- 2 installed in an area of the facility that permits the detector to
- 3 be audible to the staff on duty.
- 4 (i) Any person installing a carbon monoxide detector in a
- 5 residential unit shall inform the owner, lessor or the occupant or
- 6 occupants of the residential unit of the dangers of carbon monoxide
- 7 poisoning and instructions on the operation of the carbon monoxide
- 8 detector installed.
- 9 (j) When repair or maintenance work is undertaken on a fuel-
- 10 burning heating or cooking source or a venting system in an
- 11 existing residential unit, the person making the repair or
- 12 performing the maintenance shall inform the owner, lessor or the
- 13 occupant or occupants of the unit being served by the fuel-burning
- 14 heating or cooking source or venting system of the dangers of
- 15 carbon monoxide poisoning and recommend the installation of a
- 16 carbon monoxide detector.
- 17 (k) Any person who violates any provision of this section is
- 18 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, for a first
- 19 offense, shall be fined \$250. For a second offense, the person is
- 20 quilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
- 21 fined \$750. For a third and subsequent offenses, the person is
- 22 quilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be
- 23 fined \$2000.
- 24 (1) A violation of this section may not be considered by

- 1 virtue of the violation to constitute evidence of negligence or
- 2 contributory negligence or comparative negligence in any civil
- 3 action or proceeding for damages.
- 4 (m) A violation of this section may not constitute a defense
- 5 in any civil action or proceeding involving any insurance policy.
- 6 (n) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the
- 7 rights of any political subdivision in this state to enact laws
- 8 imposing upon owners of any dwelling or other building described in
- 9 subsection (a) or (f) of this section a greater duty with regard to
- 10 the installation, repair and replacement of the smoke detectors or
- 11 carbon monoxide detectors than is required by this section.

⁽NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify that carbon monoxide detectors are not required unless a structure contains fuel burning appliances or equipment that emit carbon monoxide byproducts.

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