

1 **Senate Bill No. 653**

2 (By Senators Kessler (Mr. President), Unger, Plymale, Snyder,
3 Prezioso, Edgell, Palumbo, Facemire, Cann, Jenkins, Williams and
4 Stollings)

5 _____
6 [Introduced March 25, 2013; referred to the Committee on Economic
7 Development.]
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11 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
12 adding thereto a new article, designated §4-2B-1, relating to
13 authorizing the establishment of job creation work groups to
14 obtain information to assist the Legislature's efforts to take
15 effective action to increase and attract jobs in West
16 Virginia.

17 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

18 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
19 by adding thereto a new article, designated §4-2B-1, to read as
20 follows:

21 **ARTICLE 2B. WORK GROUPS.**

22 **§4-2B-1. Job creation work groups.**

23 (a) (1) The Legislature finds that an array of economic

1 development initiatives have been taken by the Legislature, the
2 Governor and various agencies of the Executive to promote the
3 growth of job opportunities for residents of the state, including,
4 but not limited to:

5 (A) An extensive reduction of business tax burdens, workers'
6 compensation reform and significant investment in university
7 research;

8 (B) Providing new and expanding businesses with technical and
9 financial assistance to train, retrain and upgrade the skills of
10 their employees;

11 (C) Providing the curricula of an expanding community and
12 technical college system that is highly responsive to business and
13 workforce needs; and

14 (D) Broad based nationwide and global marketing of the
15 advantages of West Virginia as a place to do business, to work and
16 to live.

17 (2) These efforts are promoting a positive business climate
18 and continued business growth in the state. The Legislature finds,
19 however, that more can be done. The Legislature expects to
20 continuously examine and consider legislative proposals for further
21 actions that can be taken to increase jobs available in this state
22 by encouraging the expansion of existing industries and business,
23 both large and small, in this state, and by attracting to this
24 state new industries and businesses that will complement the

1 state's ongoing efforts to compete in the national and global
2 economies. The Legislature further finds that it can promote the
3 effectiveness of its consideration of these proposals as well as
4 provide a source of other ideas for the same by authorizing the
5 formation of job creation work groups to gather information in
6 person at locations within and outside the state in order to
7 observe first hand the best practices for job creation developed
8 elsewhere.

9 (b) The President of the Senate may establish one or more
10 Senate job creation work groups, composed of one or more members of
11 the Senate. The Speaker of the House of Delegates may establish
12 one or more House of Delegates job creation work groups, composed
13 of one or more members of the House of Delegates.

14 (c) Each job creation work group shall conduct its activities
15 under the direction of the appointing presiding officer,
16 independently or in cooperation with the Department of Commerce,
17 the West Virginia Development Office or other executive office or
18 agency of the state. The work group shall conduct meetings and
19 visitations as it is directed by the appointing presiding officer
20 for the purposes of obtaining information available to assist the
21 Legislature's efforts to take effective action to increase and
22 attract jobs in West Virginia. The primary purpose of a job
23 creation workgroup is to become a resource for other members of its
24 respective house of the Legislature. The work group shall also meet

1 with existing businesses and organizations to further develop
2 resources currently available to expand upon and grow job
3 opportunities within the state. Each member of a job creation work
4 group may make proposals or recommendations on this subject as an
5 individual member of the Legislature. The work group exists until
6 terminated by the appointing presiding officer.

7 (d) The expenses of a job creation work group shall be paid
8 from the funds of the respective house in which it is established.
9 The members of the work group may receive no compensation for their
10 services other than actual expenses incurred in the discharge of
11 their duties as members of work group, subject to the limitations
12 provided for the reimbursement of travel and other expenses
13 incurred in the performance of duties as a member of the
14 Legislature under article two-a of this chapter.

15 (e) The provisions of this section expire and are of no force
16 and effect after December 31, 2014.

(NOTE: The purpose of the bill is to authorize the establishment of job creation work groups to obtain information available to assist the Legislature's efforts to take effective action to increase and attract jobs in West Virginia.

This article is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.)