

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

H. B. 2187

(BY DELEGATE(S) OVERINGTON, HANSHAW,
GEARHEART, FRICH, SOBONYA, HOUSEHOLDER, MOFFATT,
KELLY, ROWAN, BUTLER AND CADLE)

(Originating in the House Committee on Finance)
[February 18, 2015]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §5-6-17, relating to patriotic displays at public buildings; allowing for the national motto, “In God We Trust”, to be displayed on public buildings; allowing for the display of the POW-MIA flag at public buildings; and requiring the State Building Commission to develop guidelines for appropriate display of the motto and flag.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §5-6-17, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 6. STATE BUILDINGS.

§5-6-17. Display of the national motto and POW-MIA flag.

1 (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the national motto
2 of “In God We Trust,” is an important part of our country’s
3 history and heritage. Additionally, the POW-MIA flag is a
4 symbol of citizen concern for U.S. military personnel taken as
5 prisoners of war (POW) or listed as missing in action (MIA).
6 These patriotic displays enhance our national pride and aware-
7 ness, both of the sacrifices made by service members and our
8 heritage as Americans.

9 (b) The governing authority of any public property, public
10 buildings and any building, designed, constructed and main-
11 tained with public funds from the state, a county or a municipal-
12 ity may prominently display on such property or building, the
13 American national motto, “In God We Trust.” Costs associated
14 with the display of the motto may be paid for with any private

15 donations, gifts, grants and bequests received by the governing
16 authority.

17 (c) The governing authority of any public property, public
18 buildings and any building, designed, constructed and main-
19 tained with public funds from the state, a county or a municipal-
20 ity may prominently display on such property or building, the
21 POW-MIA flag in the same manner as prescribed by this code
22 for the required display of national and state flags. Costs
23 associated with the display of the POW-MIA flag may be paid
24 for with any private donations, gifts, grants and bequests
25 received by the governing authority.

26 (d) The State Building Commission shall develop guidelines
27 for the display of the motto and POW-MIA flag.

