

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2528

FISCAL
NOTE

2015 Carryover

(BY DELEGATE REYNOLDS)

[Introduced January 13, 2016; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §18C-1-6, relating to providing scholarships for certain former coal miners; and
 3 granting rule-making authority.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
 2 section, designated §18C-1-6, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GENERALLY.

**§18C-1-6. Tuition and fees for state resident coal miners to receive training at state
 community colleges; rule making.**

1 (a) Any resident of this state who has been employed as a coal miner for ten years or
 2 more, and has been laid off from the industry for three or more years in the last ten year period,
 3 is eligible to receive a scholarship for tuition and fees at any accredited community and technical
 4 college in the state to be retrained in another skill or profession.

5 (b) The Higher Education Policy Commission shall promulgate rules in accordance with
 6 article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to establishing eligibility and guidelines for
 7 unemployed or underemployed coal miners as defined in subsection (a) to attend any accredited
 8 community and technical college in the state for two years as a full time student or a longer
 9 period as a part time student to receive an education in a trade, technical field or other profession.

10 The Higher Education Policy Commission may prescribe criteria for eligibility for payment of tuition
 11 and fees. The offer of a scholarship is contingent upon appropriations being made by the
 12 Legislature for the express purpose of this section. A resident unemployed or underemployed
 13 coal miner deemed to be eligible pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the rules of the
 14 Higher Education Policy Commission, may receive payment for only one certificate, associate
 15 degree, or other certificate provided at an approved accredited community and technical college

16 pursuant to this section.

17 (c) For any eligible coal miner who is participating in the PROMISE Scholarship program
18 provided in article seven of this chapter, the rules of the Higher Education Policy Commission
19 may pay directly to the recipient an amount equal to the amount of tuition and fees which
20 otherwise would have been paid to the school.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide scholarships for certain former coal miners.
The bill grants rule-making authority.

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