

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 324

BY SENATORS BEACH AND ROMANO

[Introduced February 15, 2017; Referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §4-1-2a; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated
 3 §5-1A-6, all relating to prohibiting the Governor and Legislature from administering equal
 4 across-the-board budget cuts to all higher education; and protecting community colleges
 5 from disproportionate budget cuts.

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 §4-1-2a; and that said code be amended by adding thereto a new section,
 3 designated §5-1A-6, all to read as follows:

CHAPTER 4. THE LEGISLATURE.

**ARTICLE 1. OFFICERS, MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES; APPROPRIATIONS;
 INVESTIGATIONS; DISPLAY OF FLAGS; RECORDS; USE OF CAPITOL
 BUILDING; PREFILING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS; STANDING
 COMMITTEES; INTERIM MEETINGS; NEXT MEETING OF THE SENATE.**

§4-1-2a. Limitations on certain budget cuts to higher education.

1 (a) Prohibition. -- The Legislature is prohibited from administering equal across-the-board
 2 budget cuts to all higher education.

3 (b) Community college protections. -- Budget cuts to community colleges shall not exceed
 4 fifty percent of the budget cuts imposed upon four-year institutions within the same fiscal year.

**CHAPTER 5. GENERAL POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE
 GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL;
 BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS; MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES,
 COMMISSIONS, OFFICES, PROGRAMS, ETC.**

ARTICLE 1A. ITEMIZATION OF PROPOSED APPROPRIATIONS IN BUDGET BILL

SUBMITTED BY GOVERNOR TO LEGISLATURE.

§5-1A-6. Limitations on certain budget cuts to higher education.

- 1 (a) Prohibition. -- The Governor is prohibited from administering equal across-the-board
- 2 budget cuts to all higher education.
- 3 (b) Community college protections. -- Budget cuts to community colleges shall not exceed
- 4 fifty percent of the budget cuts imposed upon four-year institutions within the same fiscal year.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the Governor and Legislature from administering equal across-the-board budget cuts to all higher education and to protect community colleges from disproportionate budget cuts.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.