

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 524

BY SENATORS RUCKER, AZINGER, BLAIR, BOLEY, BOSO,

CLEMENTS, CLINE, FERNS, GAUNCH, HALL, KARNES,

MANN, MARONEY, MAYNARD, MULLINS, SMITH, SWOPE,

SYPOLT, TAKUBO AND TRUMP

[Introduced March 6, 2017; referred

to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-2E-11, relating to West Virginia academic standards; defining “academic
3 standards”; setting forth finding; prohibiting implementation of Common Core academic
4 standards; requiring adoption and implementation of certain other academic standards;
5 requiring academic standards be effective for a minimum of five school years after date of
6 implementation; requiring any proposed changes to academic standards for public schools
7 comply with certain section of code requiring notice, written comments and public hearings
8 in certain instances; and requiring withdrawal from the memorandum of agreement which
9 required that Common Core represent eighty-five percent of the state’s standards in
10 English language arts and mathematics.

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 §18-2E-11, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2E. HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

§18-2E-11. West Virginia academic standards.

1 (a) For purposes of this section, “academic standards” means concise, written descriptions
2 of what students are expected to know and be able to do at a specific stage of their education.
3 Academic standards describe what students should have learned by the end of a course, grade
4 level or grade span.

5 (b) The Legislature finds that sections one and two, article twelve of the Constitution of
6 the State of West Virginia impose a duty on the Legislature to provide, by general law, for a
7 thorough and efficient system of free schools and the ability to impose “duties as may be
8 prescribed by law” on the West Virginia Board of Education.

9 (c) Effective July 1, 2017, the state board is prohibited from implementing Common Core
10 academic standards.

11 (d) Effective July 1, 2017, the state board shall adopt and implement the following
12 academic standards for public schools:

13 (1) For mathematics, in grades kindergarten through twelve, the state board shall adopt
14 and implement the Mathematics Content Standards for California Public Schools, adopted by the
15 California State Board of Education in December, 1997, and the Mathematics Framework for
16 California Public Schools, adopted by the California State Board of Education in March, 2005;
17 and

18 (2) For English language arts, the state board shall adopt and implement the
19 Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks, implemented by the Massachusetts Department of
20 Elementary and Secondary Education as the mandatory curriculum frameworks for English
21 language arts in 2001, and any associated educational frameworks for supplementation:
22 Provided, That any English language arts standard related to authors or literary works from the
23 State of Massachusetts may be substituted with appropriate authors or literary works from the
24 State of West Virginia.

25 (e) The academic standards required by subsection (d) of this section shall be effective
26 for a minimum of five school years after the date of implementation.

27 (f) Effective immediately, any proposed changes to academic standards for public schools
28 shall comply with section two, article two-h, chapter eighteen of this code, which in part requires
29 a sixty-day written comment period and at least four public hearings in various locations in the
30 state.

31 (g) The state board shall withdraw from the memorandum of agreement entered into with
32 the Council of Chief State School Officers and the National Governors Association Center for Best
33 Practices which required the state board to agree that Common Core represents eighty-five
34 percent of West Virginia's standards in English language arts and mathematics.

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NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit implementation of Common Core academic standards; require adoption and implementation of certain other academic standards; require academic standards be effective for a minimum of five school years after date of implementation; require any proposed changes to academic standards for public schools comply with §18-2H-2 which requires notice, written comments and public hearings in certain instances; and require withdraw from the memorandum of agreement which required that Common Core represent eighty-five percent of the state's standards in English language arts and mathematics.

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