

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 561

FISCAL
NOTE

BY SENATORS STOLLINGS AND OJEDA

[Introduced March 8, 2017; Referred
to the Committee on Energy, Industry and Mining; 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 §11-13A-6b, relating to allowing a severely economically depressed county to
 3 retain fifty percent of coal severance tax collected in that county for economic development
 4 and education.

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 §11-13A-6b, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 13A. SEVERANCE AND BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX ACT.

§11-13A-6b. Retention of coal severance tax proceeds by severely economically depressed counties.

1 (a) The State Department of Revenue shall return fifty percent of the money collected as
 2 coal severance tax in a county which has become severely economically depressed due to the
 3 loss of coal mining severance and property tax revenue and coal mining jobs. Money shall be
 4 allocated to the county commission and county school board in the same ratio as is done with
 5 other taxes collected in the county.

6 (b) A county is considered to be severely economically depressed if the county has lost at
 7 least forty percent of its tax revenue and at least one-fifth of the local labor force has lost their
 8 jobs within the last five years.

9 (c) All revenue provided to a county under the provisions of this section must be spent for
 10 economic development and education.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow a severely economically depressed county to retain fifty percent of coal severance tax collected in that county for economic development and education.

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