

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 651

FISCAL
NOTE

BY SENATORS PREZIOSO AND PLYMALE

[Introduced March 18, 2017; Referred
to the Committee on Government Organization; 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 §18B-1B-14, relating generally to creating direct affiliation between state
 3 universities and research, development and technology parks within the state; transferring
 4 ownership of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park to Marshall University;
 5 establishing requirement for private investment and funding; and directing the Higher
 6 Education Policy Commission to research and report to the Legislature.

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 §18B-1B-14, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1B. HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION.

**§18B-1B-14. Research, development and technology parks; transfer of property; funding
 requirement; commission to study and report additional acquisition.**

1 (a) (1) Commencing with the effective date of this section, the Higher Education Policy
 2 Commission shall undertake all measures necessary to, and shall complete, transfer of ownership
 3 of the West Virginia Regional Technology Park in South Charleston, West Virginia, to the
 4 governing board of Marshall University by July 1, 2018.

5 (2) The governing board of the university shall thereafter manage development and
 6 participation in the Regional Technology Park in a manner whereby fifty percent or more of the
 7 investment and funding for the operation, administration and additional development of the facility
 8 shall originate from private sources.

9 (b) The Higher Education Policy Commission shall research and investigate the potential
 10 for acquiring an interest in the I-79 Technology Park on behalf of West Virginia University for
 11 development and management that would result in either inclusion within the WVU Center for
 12 Economic Development and Technology Advancement, a separate public-private partnership, or
 13 other form of development and technology institution directly affiliated with the university. The
 14 commission shall submit a report of its investigation and findings to the Legislature on or before

15 December 31, 2017.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for direct affiliation of technology and development parks with the state's universities.

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