

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2843

**FISCAL
NOTE**

BY DELEGATES FAST, KESSINGER, HILL, HOWELL AND

WARD

[Introduced March 8, 2017; Referred
to the Committee on Political Subdivisions then
Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §7-11B-3, §7-11B-4 and §7-11B-7 of the Code of West Virginia,
2 1931, as amended, all relating to permitting Class III and Class IV municipalities to be
3 included in the West Virginia Tax Increment Act.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §7-11B-3, §7-11B-4 and §7-11B-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
2 be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 11B. WEST VIRGINIA TAX INCREMENT FINANCING ACT.

§7-11B-3. Definitions.

1 (a) *General.* -- When used in this article, words and phrases defined in this section have
2 the meanings ascribed to them in this section unless a different meaning is clearly required either
3 by the context in which the word or phrase is used or by specific definition in this article.

4 (b) *Words and phrases defined.* --

5 “Agency” includes a municipality, a county or municipal development agency established
6 pursuant to authority granted in section one, article twelve of this chapter, a port authority, an
7 airport authority or any other entity created by this state or an agency or instrumentality of this
8 state that engages in economic development activity or the Division of Highways.

9 “Base assessed value” means the taxable assessed value of all real and tangible personal
10 property, excluding personal motor vehicles, having a tax situs within a development or
11 redevelopment district as shown upon the landbooks and personal property books of the assessor
12 on July 1 of the calendar year preceding the effective date of the order or ordinance creating and
13 establishing the development or redevelopment district: *Provided,* That for any development or
14 redevelopment district approved after the effective date of the amendments to this section
15 enacted during the regular session of the Legislature in 2014, personal trailers, personal boats,
16 personal campers, personal motor homes, personal ATVs and personal motorcycles having a tax
17 situs within a development or redevelopment district are excluded from the base assessed value.

18 “Blighted area” means an area within the boundaries of a development or redevelopment

19 district located within the territorial limits of a municipality or county in which the structures,
20 buildings or improvements, by reason of dilapidation, deterioration, age or obsolescence,
21 inadequate provision for access, ventilation, light, air, sanitation, open spaces, high density of
22 population and overcrowding or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property, are
23 detrimental to the public health, safety, morals or welfare. "Blighted area" includes any area which,
24 by reason of the presence of a substantial number of substandard, slum, deteriorated or
25 deteriorating structures, predominance of defective or inadequate street layout, faulty lot layout in
26 relation to size, adequacy, accessibility or usefulness, unsanitary or unsafe conditions,
27 deterioration of site or other improvements, diversity of ownership, defective or unusual conditions
28 of title or the existence of conditions which endanger life or property by fire and other causes, or
29 any combination of such factors, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of a
30 municipality, retards the provision of housing accommodations or constitutes an economic or
31 social liability and is a menace to the public health, safety, morals or welfare in its present
32 condition and use, or any area which is predominantly open and which because of lack of
33 accessibility, obsolete platting, diversity of ownership, deterioration of structures or of site
34 improvements, or otherwise, substantially impairs or arrests the sound growth of the community.

35 "Commissioner of Highways" means the Commissioner of the Division of Highways.

36 "Conservation area" means any improved area within the boundaries of a development or
37 redevelopment district located within the territorial limits of a municipality or county in which fifty
38 percent or more of the structures in the area have an age of thirty-five years or more. A
39 conservation area is not yet a blighted area but is detrimental to the public health, safety, morals
40 or welfare and may become a blighted area because of any one or more of the following factors:
41 Dilapidation; obsolescence; deterioration; illegal use of individual structures; presence of
42 structures below minimum code standards; abandonment; excessive vacancies; overcrowding of
43 structures and community facilities; lack of ventilation, light or sanitary facilities; inadequate
44 utilities; excessive land coverage; deleterious land use or layout; depreciation of physical

45 maintenance; and lack of community planning. A conservation area shall meet at least three of
46 the factors provided in this subdivision.

47 “County commission” means the governing body of a county of this state and, for purposes
48 of this article only, includes the governing body of a Class I, ~~or~~ Class II, Class III or Class IV
49 municipality in this state.

50 “Current assessed value” means the annual taxable assessed value of all real and tangible
51 personal property, excluding personal motor vehicles, having a tax situs within a development or
52 redevelopment district as shown upon the landbook and personal property records of the
53 assessor: *Provided*, That for any development or redevelopment district approved after the
54 effective date of the amendments to this section enacted during the regular session of the
55 Legislature in 2014, personal trailers, personal boats, personal campers, personal motor homes,
56 personal ATVs and personal motorcycles having a tax situs within a development or
57 redevelopment district are excluded from the current assessed value.

58 “Development office” means the West Virginia Development Office created in section one,
59 article two, chapter five-b of this code.

60 “Development project” or “redevelopment project” means a project undertaken in a
61 development or redevelopment district for eliminating or preventing the development or spread of
62 slums or deteriorated, deteriorating or blighted areas, for discouraging the loss of commerce,
63 industry or employment, for increasing employment or for any combination thereof in accordance
64 with a tax increment financing plan. A development or redevelopment project may include one or
65 more of the following:

66 (A) The acquisition of land and improvements, if any, within the development or
67 redevelopment district and clearance of the land so acquired; or

68 (B) The development, redevelopment, revitalization or conservation of the project area
69 whenever necessary to provide land for needed public facilities, public housing or industrial or
70 commercial development or revitalization, to eliminate unhealthful, unsanitary or unsafe

71 conditions, to lessen density, mitigate or eliminate traffic congestion, reduce traffic hazards,
72 eliminate obsolete or other uses detrimental to public welfare or otherwise remove or prevent the
73 spread of blight or deterioration;

74 (C) The financial or other assistance in the relocation of persons and organizations
75 displaced as a result of carrying out the development or redevelopment project and other
76 improvements necessary for carrying out the project plan, together with those site improvements
77 that are necessary for the preparation of any sites and making any land or improvements acquired
78 in the project area available, by sale or lease, for public housing or for development,
79 redevelopment or rehabilitation by private enterprise for commercial or industrial uses in
80 accordance with the plan;

81 (D) The construction of capital improvements within a development or redevelopment
82 district designed to increase or enhance the development of commerce, industry or housing within
83 the development project area; or

84 (E) Any other projects the county commission or the agency deems appropriate to carry
85 out the purposes of this article.

86 "Development or redevelopment district" means an area proposed by one or more
87 agencies as a development or redevelopment district which may include one or more counties,
88 one or more municipalities or any combination thereof, that has been approved by the county
89 commission of each county in which the project area is located if the project is located outside the
90 corporate limits of a municipality, or by the governing body of a municipality if the project area is
91 located within a municipality, or by both the county commission and the governing body of the
92 municipality when the development or redevelopment district is located both within and without a
93 municipality.

94 "Division of Highways" means the state Department of Transportation, Division of
95 Highways.

96 "Economic development area" means any area or portion of an area within the boundaries

97 of a development or redevelopment district located within the territorial limits of a municipality or
98 county that is neither a blighted area nor a conservation area and for which the county commission
99 finds that development or redevelopment will not be solely used for development of commercial
100 businesses that will unfairly compete in the local economy and that development or
101 redevelopment is in the public interest because it will:

102 (A) Discourage commerce, industry or manufacturing from moving their operations to
103 another state;

104 (B) Result in increased employment in the municipality or county, whichever is applicable;
105 or

106 (C) Result in preservation or enhancement of the tax base of the county or municipality.

107 "Governing body of a municipality" means the city council of a Class I, ~~or~~ Class II, Class
108 III or Class IV municipality in this state.

109 "Incremental value", for any development or redevelopment district, means the difference
110 between the base assessed value and the current assessed value. The incremental value will be
111 positive if the current value exceeds the base value and the incremental value will be negative if
112 the current value is less than the base assessed value.

113 "Includes" and "including", when used in a definition contained in this article, shall not
114 exclude other things otherwise within the meaning of the term being defined.

115 "Intergovernmental agreement" means any written agreement that may be entered into by
116 and between two or more county commissions, or between two or more municipalities, or between
117 a county commission and a municipality, in the singular and the plural, or between two or more
118 government entities and the Commissioner of Highways: *Provided*, That any intergovernmental
119 agreement shall not be subject to provisions governing intergovernmental agreements set forth
120 in other provisions of this code, including, but not limited to, article twenty-three, chapter eight of
121 this code, but shall be subject to the provisions of this article.

122 "Local levying body" means the county board of education and the county commission

123 and includes the governing body of a municipality when the development or redevelopment district
124 is located, in whole or in part, within the boundaries of the municipality.

125 “Obligations” or “tax increment financing obligations” means bonds, loans, debentures,
126 notes, special certificates or other evidences of indebtedness issued by a county commission or
127 municipality pursuant to this article to carry out a development or redevelopment project or to
128 refund outstanding obligations under this article.

129 “Order” means an order of the county commission adopted in conformity with the
130 provisions of this article and as provided in this chapter.

131 “Ordinance” means a law adopted by the governing body of a municipality in conformity
132 with the provisions of this article and as provided in chapter eight of this code.

133 “Payment in lieu of taxes” means those estimated revenues from real property and
134 tangible personal property having a tax situs in the area selected for a development or
135 redevelopment project which revenues, according to the development or redevelopment project
136 or plan, are to be used for a private use, which levying bodies would have received had a county
137 or municipality not adopted one or more tax increment financing plans and which would result
138 from levies made after the date of adoption of a tax increment financing plan during the time the
139 current assessed value of all taxable real and tangible personal property in the area selected for
140 the development or redevelopment project exceeds the total base assessed value of all taxable
141 real and tangible personal property in the development or redevelopment district until the
142 designation is terminated as provided in this article.

143 “Person” means any natural person, and any corporation, association, partnership, limited
144 partnership, limited liability company or other entity, regardless of its form, structure or nature,
145 other than a government agency or instrumentality.

146 “Private project” means any project that is subject to ad valorem property taxation in this
147 state or to a payment in lieu of tax agreement that is undertaken by a project developer in
148 accordance with a tax increment financing plan in a development or redevelopment district.

149 “Project” means any capital improvement, facility or both, as specifically set forth and
150 defined in the project plan, requiring an investment of capital including, but not limited to,
151 extensions, additions or improvements to existing facilities, including water or wastewater
152 facilities, and the remediation of contaminated property as provided for in article twenty-two,
153 chapter twenty-two of this code, but does not include performance of any governmental service
154 by a county or municipal government.

155 “Project area” means an area within the boundaries of a development or redevelopment
156 district in which a development or redevelopment project is undertaken as specifically set forth
157 and defined in the project plan.

158 “Project costs” means expenditures made in preparation of the development or
159 redevelopment project plan and made, or estimated to be made, or monetary obligations incurred,
160 or estimated to be incurred, by the county commission which are listed in the project plan as
161 capital improvements within a development or redevelopment district, plus any costs incidental
162 thereto. “Project costs” include, but are not limited to:

163 (A) Capital costs, including, but not limited to, the actual costs of the construction of public
164 works or improvements, capital improvements and facilities, new buildings, structures and
165 fixtures, the demolition, alteration, remodeling, repair or reconstruction of existing buildings,
166 structures and fixtures, environmental remediation, parking and landscaping, the acquisition of
167 equipment and site clearing, grading and preparation;

168 (B) Financing costs, including, but not limited to, an interest paid to holders of evidences
169 of indebtedness issued to pay for project costs, all costs of issuance and any redemption
170 premiums, credit enhancement or other related costs;

171 (C) Real property assembly costs, meaning any deficit incurred resulting from the sale or
172 lease as lessor by the county commission of real or personal property having a tax situs within a
173 development or redevelopment district for consideration that is less than its cost to the county
174 commission;

175 (D) Professional service costs including, but not limited to, those costs incurred for
176 architectural planning, engineering and legal advice and services;

177 (E) Imputed administrative costs including, but not limited to, reasonable charges for time
178 spent by county employees or municipal employees in connection with the implementation of a
179 project plan;

180 (F) Relocation costs including, but not limited to, those relocation payments made
181 following condemnation and job training and retraining;

182 (G) Organizational costs including, but not limited to, the costs of conducting
183 environmental impact and other studies and the costs of informing the public with respect to the
184 creation of a development or redevelopment district and the implementation of project plans;

185 (H) Payments made, in the discretion of the county commission or the governing body of
186 a municipality, which are found to be necessary or convenient to creation of development or
187 redevelopment districts or the implementation of project plans; and

188 (I) That portion of costs related to the construction of environmental protection devices,
189 storm or sanitary sewer lines, water lines, amenities or streets or the rebuilding or expansion of
190 streets, or the construction, alteration, rebuilding or expansion of which is necessitated by the
191 project plan for a development or redevelopment district, whether or not the construction,
192 alteration, rebuilding or expansion is within the area or on land contiguous thereto.

193 "Project developer" means any person who engages in the development of projects in the
194 state.

195 "Project plan" means the plan for a development or redevelopment project that is adopted
196 by a county commission or governing body of a municipality in conformity with the requirements
197 of this article and this chapter or chapter eight of this code.

198 "Real property" means all lands, including improvements and fixtures on them and
199 property of any nature appurtenant to them or used in connection with them and every estate,
200 interest and right, legal or equitable, in them, including terms of years and liens by way of

201 judgment, mortgage or otherwise, and indebtedness secured by the liens.

202 “Redevelopment area” means an area designated by a county commission or the
203 governing body of a municipality in respect to which the commission or governing body has made
204 a finding that there exist conditions which cause the area to be classified as a blighted area, a
205 conservation area, an economic development area or a combination thereof, which area includes
206 only those parcels of real property directly and substantially benefitted by the proposed
207 redevelopment project located within the development or redevelopment district or land
208 contiguous thereto.

209 “Redevelopment plan” means the comprehensive program under this article of a county
210 or municipality for redevelopment intended by the payment of redevelopment costs to reduce or
211 eliminate those conditions, the existence of which qualified the redevelopment area as a blighted
212 area, conservation area, economic development area or combination thereof, and to thereby
213 enhance the tax bases of the levying bodies which extend into the redevelopment area. Each
214 redevelopment plan shall conform to the requirements of this article.

215 “Tax increment” means the amount of regular levy property taxes attributable to the
216 amount by which the current assessed value of real and tangible personal property having a tax
217 situs in a development or redevelopment district exceeds the base assessed value of the property.

218 “Tax increment financing fund” means a separate fund for a development or
219 redevelopment district established by the county commission or governing body of the
220 municipality into which all tax increment revenues and other pledged revenues are deposited and
221 from which projected project costs, debt service and other expenditures authorized by this article
222 are paid.

223 “This code” means the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by the Legislature.

224 “Total ad valorem property tax regular levy rate” means the aggregate levy rate of all
225 levying bodies on all taxable property having a tax situs within a development or redevelopment
226 district in a tax year but does not include excess levies, levies for general obligation bonded

227 indebtedness or any other levies that are not regular levies.

§7-11B-4. Powers generally.

1 In addition to any other powers conferred by law, a county commission or governing body
2 of a Class I, ~~or~~ Class II, Class III or Class IV municipality may exercise any powers necessary
3 and convenient to carry out the purpose of this article, including the power to:

4 (1) Create development and redevelopment areas or districts and to define the boundaries
5 of those areas or districts;

6 (2) Cause project plans to be prepared, to approve the project plans, and to implement
7 the provisions and effectuate the purposes of the project plans;

8 (3) Establish tax increment financing funds for each development or redevelopment
9 district;

10 (4) Issue tax increment financing obligations and pledge tax increments and other
11 revenues for repayment of the obligations;

12 (5) Deposit moneys into the tax increment financing fund for any development or
13 redevelopment district;

14 (6) Enter into any contracts or agreements, including, but not limited to, agreements with
15 project developers, consultants, professionals, financing institutions, trustees and bondholders
16 determined by the county commission to be necessary or convenient to implement the provisions
17 and effectuate the purposes of project plans;

18 (7) Receive from the federal government or the state loans and grants for, or in aid of, a
19 development or redevelopment project and to receive contributions from any other source to
20 defray project costs;

21 (8) Exercise the right of eminent domain to condemn property for the purposes of
22 implementing the project plan. The rules and procedures set forth in chapter fifty-four of this code
23 shall govern all condemnation proceedings authorized in this article;

24 (9) Make relocation payments to those persons, businesses, or organizations that are

25 displaced as a result of carrying out the development or redevelopment project;

26 (10) Clear and improve property acquired by the county commission pursuant to the
27 project plan and construct public facilities on it or contract for the construction, development,
28 redevelopment, rehabilitation, remodeling, alteration or repair of the property;

29 (11) Cause parks, playgrounds or water, sewer or drainage facilities or any other public
30 improvements, including, but not limited to, fire stations, community centers and other public
31 buildings, which the county commission is otherwise authorized to undertake to be laid out,
32 constructed or furnished in connection with the development or redevelopment project. When the
33 public improvement of the county commission is to be located, in whole or in part, within the
34 corporate limits of a municipality, the county commission shall consult with the mayor and the
35 governing body of the municipality regarding the public improvement and shall pay for the cost of
36 the public improvement from the tax increment financing fund;

37 (12) Lay out and construct, alter, relocate, change the grade of, make specific repairs upon
38 or discontinue public ways and construct sidewalks in, or adjacent to, the project area: *Provided,*
39 That when the public way or sidewalk is located within a municipality, the governing body of the
40 municipality shall consent to the same and if the public way is a state road, the consent of the
41 commissioner of highways shall be necessary;

42 (13) Cause private ways, sidewalks, ways for vehicular travel, playgrounds or water, sewer
43 or drainage facilities and similar improvements to be constructed within the project area for the
44 particular use of the development or redevelopment district or those dwelling or working in it;

45 (14) Construct, or cause to be constructed, any capital improvements of a public nature;

46 (15) Construct capital improvements to be leased or sold to private entities in connection
47 with the goals of the development or redevelopment project;

48 (16) Cause capital improvements owned by one or more private entities to be constructed
49 within the development or redevelopment district;

50 (17) Designate one or more official or employee of the county commission to make

51 decisions and handle the affairs of development and redevelopment project areas or districts
52 created by the county commission pursuant to this article;

53 (18) Adopt orders, ordinances or bylaws or repeal or modify such ordinances or bylaws or
54 establish exceptions to existing ordinances and bylaws regulating the design, construction and
55 use of buildings within the development or redevelopment district created by a county commission
56 or governing body of a municipality under this article;

57 (19) Enter orders, adopt bylaws or repeal or modify such orders or bylaws or establish
58 exceptions to existing orders and bylaws regulating the design, construction and use of buildings
59 within the development or redevelopment district created by a county commission or governing
60 body of a municipality under this article;

61 (20) Sell, mortgage, lease, transfer or dispose of any property or interest therein, by
62 contract or auction, acquired by it pursuant to the project plan for development, redevelopment or
63 rehabilitation in accordance with the project plan;

64 (21) Expend project revenues as provided in this article;

65 (22) Enter into one or more intergovernmental agreements or memorandums of
66 understanding with the Commissioner of Highways or with other county commissions or
67 municipalities regarding development or redevelopment districts;

68 (23) Designate one or more officials or employees of the county commission or
69 municipality that created the development or redevelopment district to sign documents, to make
70 decisions and handle the affairs of the development or redevelopment district. When two or more
71 county commissions, or municipalities, or any combination thereof, established the development
72 or redevelopment district, the government entities shall enter into one or more intergovernmental
73 agreements regarding administration of the development or redevelopment district and the
74 handling of its affairs; and

75 (24) Do all things necessary or convenient to carry out the powers granted in this article.

§7-11B-7. Creation of a development or redevelopment or district.

1 (a) County commissions and the governing bodies of Class I, ~~or~~ Class II, Class III or Class
2 IV municipalities, upon their own initiative or upon application of an agency or a developer, may
3 propose creation of a development or redevelopment district and designate the boundaries of the
4 district: *Provided*, That a district may not include noncontiguous land.

5 (b) The county commission or municipality proposing creation of a development or
6 redevelopment district shall then hold a public hearing at which interested parties are afforded a
7 reasonable opportunity to express their views on the proposed creation of a development or
8 redevelopment district and its proposed boundaries.

9 (1) Notice of the hearing shall be published as a Class II legal advertisement in accordance
10 with section two, article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code.

11 (2) The notice shall include the time, place and purpose of the public hearing, describe in
12 sufficient detail the tax increment financing plan, the proposed boundaries of the development or
13 redevelopment district and, when a development or redevelopment project plan is being
14 proposed, the proposed tax increment financing obligations to be issued to finance the
15 development or redevelopment project costs.

16 (3) Prior to the first day of publication, a copy of the notice shall be sent by first-class mail
17 to the director of the Development Office and to the chief executive officer of all other local levying
18 bodies having the power to levy taxes on real and tangible personal property located within the
19 proposed development or redevelopment district.

20 (4) All parties who appear at the hearing shall be afforded an opportunity to express their
21 views on the proposal to create the development or redevelopment district and, if applicable, the
22 development or redevelopment project plan and proposed tax increment financing obligations.

23 (c) After the public hearing, the county commission, or the governing body of the
24 municipality, shall finalize the boundaries of the development or redevelopment district, the
25 development or redevelopment project plan, or both, and submit the same to the director of the
26 Development Office for his or her review and approval. The director, within sixty days after receipt

27 of the application, shall approve the application as submitted, reject the application or return the
28 application to the county commission or governing body of the municipality for further
29 development or review in accordance with instructions of the director of the Development Office.
30 A development or redevelopment district or development or redevelopment project plan may not
31 be adopted by the county commission or the governing body of a municipality until after it has
32 been approved by the executive director of the Development Office.

33 (d) Upon approval of the application by the Development Office, the county commission
34 may enter an order and the governing body of the municipality proposing the district or
35 development or redevelopment project plan may adopt an ordinance, that:

36 (1) Describes the boundaries of a development or redevelopment district sufficiently to
37 identify with ordinary and reasonable certainty the territory included in the district, which
38 boundaries shall create a contiguous district;

39 (2) Creates the development or redevelopment district as of a date provided in the order
40 or ordinance;

41 (3) Assigns a name to the development or redevelopment district for identification
42 purposes.

43 (A) The name may include a geographic or other designation, shall identify the county or
44 municipality authorizing the district and shall be assigned a number, beginning with the number
45 one.

46 (B) Each subsequently created district in the county or municipality shall be assigned the
47 next consecutive number;

48 (4) Contains findings that the real property within the development or redevelopment
49 district will be benefitted by eliminating or preventing the development or spread of slums or
50 blighted, deteriorated or deteriorating areas, discouraging the loss of commerce, industry or
51 employment, increasing employment or any combination thereof;

52 (5) Approves the development or redevelopment project plan, if applicable;

53 (6) Establishes a tax increment financing fund as a separate fund into which all tax
54 increment revenues and other revenues designated by the county commission, or governing body
55 of the municipality, for the benefit of the development or redevelopment district shall be deposited,
56 and from which all project costs shall be paid, which may be assigned to and held by a trustee for
57 the benefit of bondholders if tax increment financing obligations are issued by the county
58 commission or the governing body of the municipality; and

59 (7) Provides that ad valorem property taxes on real and tangible personal property having
60 a tax situs in the development or redevelopment district shall be assessed, collected and allocated
61 in the following manner, commencing upon the date of adoption of such order or ordinance and
62 continuing for so long as any tax increment financing obligations are payable from the tax
63 increment financing fund, hereinafter authorized, are outstanding and unpaid:

64 (A) For each tax year, the county assessor shall record in the land and personal property
65 books both the base assessed value and the current assessed value of the real and tangible
66 personal property having a tax situs in the development or redevelopment district;

67 (B) Ad valorem taxes collected from regular levies upon real and tangible personal
68 property having a tax situs in the district that are attributable to the lower of the base assessed
69 value or the current assessed value of real and tangible personal property located in the
70 development project area shall be allocated to the levying bodies in the same manner as
71 applicable to the tax year in which the development or redevelopment project plan is adopted by
72 order of the county commission or by ordinance adopted by the governing body of the
73 municipality;

74 (C) The tax increment with respect to real and tangible personal property in the
75 development or redevelopment district shall be allocated and paid into the tax increment financing
76 fund and shall be used to pay the principal of and interest on tax increment financing obligations
77 issued to finance the costs of the development or redevelopment projects in the development or
78 redevelopment district. Any levying body having a development or redevelopment district within

79 its taxing jurisdiction shall not receive any portion of the annual tax increment except as otherwise
80 provided in this article; and

81 (D) In no event shall the tax increment include any taxes collected from excess levies,
82 levies for general obligation bonded indebtedness or any levies other than the regular levies
83 provided for in article eight, chapter eleven of this code.

84 (e) Proceeds from tax increment financing obligations issued under this article may only
85 be used to pay for costs of development and redevelopment projects to foster economic
86 development in the development or redevelopment district or land contiguous thereto.

87 (f) Notwithstanding subsection (e) of this section, a county commission may not enter an
88 order approving a development or redevelopment project plan unless the county commission
89 expressly finds and states in the order that the development or redevelopment project is not
90 reasonably expected to occur without the use of tax increment financing.

91 (g) Notwithstanding subsection (e) of this section, the governing body of a municipality
92 may not adopt an ordinance approving a development or redevelopment project plan unless the
93 governing body expressly finds and states in the ordinance that the development or
94 redevelopment project is not reasonably expected to occur without the use of tax increment
95 financing.

96 (h) No county commission shall establish a development or redevelopment district any
97 portion of which is within the boundaries of a Class I, II, III or IV municipality without the formal
98 consent of the governing body of such municipality.

99 (i) A tax increment financing plan that has been approved by a county commission or the
100 governing body of a municipality may be amended by following the procedures set forth in this
101 article for adoption of a new development or redevelopment project plan.

102 (j) The county commission may modify the boundaries of the development or
103 redevelopment district, from time to time, by entry of an order modifying the order creating the
104 development or redevelopment district.

105 (k) The governing body of a municipality may modify the boundaries of the development
106 or redevelopment district, from time to time, by amending the ordinance establishing the
107 boundaries of the district.

108 (l) Before a county commission or the governing body of a municipality may amend such
109 an order or ordinance, the county commission or municipality shall give the public notice, hold a
110 public hearing and obtain the approval of the director of the Development Office, following the
111 procedures for establishing a new development or redevelopment district. In the event any tax
112 increment financing obligations are outstanding with respect to the development or
113 redevelopment district, any change in the boundaries shall not reduce the amount of tax increment
114 available to secure the outstanding tax increment financing obligations.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit Class III and Class IV municipalities to be included in the West Virginia Tax Increment Act.

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