

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 3031

**FISCAL
NOTE**

BY DELEGATES MILEY, IAQUINTA, LONGSTRETH, WARD

CAPUTO, R. ROMINE AND QUEEN

[Introduced March 14, 2017; referred to the committee
on Education then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §18-2-41, relating to creating a state program allowing high school students
 3 advance to getting a college degree or technical training while in high school; authorizing
 4 the board of education to enter into agreements with colleges, career and technical
 5 schools; and providing scholarship and financial support for eligible students.

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 §18-2-41, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-41. Advancing Students Towards Technical and College Education Initiative.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that innovative initiatives to prepare our children to compete in
 2 our rapidly changing economy require new approaches to education and the use of our limited
 3 state dollars to prepare our students in an efficient manner that uses existing resources. The
 4 Legislature recognizes a need to look for innovative ways that provide opportunity for all our
 5 children graduating from our public school system to compete in our economy, and further
 6 recognizes a need to provide for struggling students the ability to tailor their education toward a
 7 rewarding career. The purpose of this section is to provide an alternative approach to high school
 8 and post high school education that allows for flexibility and an innovative education opportunity,
 9 through a collaborative approach by and between the West Virginia Community and Technical
 10 College System (CTCS) and the state Career and Technical Education Centers (CTE), to best
 11 prepare students for success in a cost efficient and focused manner.

12 (b) The state board shall establish and administer an early college education program for
 13 students who wish to accelerate completion of their high school program and better prepare our
 14 students for success in the twenty-first century economy.

15 (c) The program is to provide for a course of study that enables a participating student to
 16 combine high school courses and college-level courses during grade levels nine through twelve

17 and allow a participating student to complete high school and receive a high school diploma and
18 up to sixty semester credit hours toward an associates or two-year degree or certification from a
19 community and technical college or a career and technical education center.

20 (d) The state board shall create articulation agreements with CTCS and the CTEs to
21 provide a participating student access to post-secondary educational and training opportunities
22 at a community and technical college, in collaboration with career and technical education
23 centers, and may authorize county school boards to enter into agreements with these institutions
24 for this alternative education initiative.

25 (e) The state board shall provide guidelines for participating students to have flexibility in
26 class scheduling and academic mentoring.

27 (f) Any articulation agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (d) of this section shall
28 include at a minimum:

29 (1) curriculum alignment;

30 (2) instructional materials;

31 (3) the instructional calendar;

32 (4) courses of study;

33 (5) eligibility of students for higher education financial assistance;

34 (6) student enrollment and attendance;

35 (7) grading periods and policies; and

36 (8) administration of statewide assessment instruments.

37 (g) A student participating in the program is entitled to the benefits of the PROMISE
38 Scholarship Foundation pursuant to article seven, chapter eighteen-c of this code, in proportion
39 to the amount of time spent by the student on advanced education or training, in accordance with
40 rules adopted by the state board, while completing the course of study established by the
41 applicable articulation agreement as provided in this section. The state board may promulgate
42 rules establishing eligibility and performance requirements for students to participate by use of

43 the PROMISE Scholarship Program. Further, the state board shall redirect as is appropriate and
44 lawful, other funding for technical and secondary education to this program to facilitate its
45 implementation. The state board shall collaborate with CTCD and the CTEs to develop this
46 program.

47 (h) The state board may accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes expressed in
48 this section from any source, including private and nonprofit organizations. Further, the state
49 board shall implement a strategic plan to enhance private industry participation under this section,
50 which includes facilitating recruitment and developing specialized training for private industry job
51 and development of incentives for businesses and nonprofit organizations that choose to make
52 donations and work with high schools that participate in a program under this section, to maximize
53 job placement opportunities for program graduates.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a new state program that allows high school students to enter into early specialized training to prepare them for careers while attending high school; allowing the State Board of Education to create agreements with colleges and community and technical schools to allow high school students to complete a one-year or two-year program while in high school; and gives discretion to the state board on implementing and funding this program.

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