

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2406

DELEGATES COOPER, PACK, HIGGINBOTHAM, KUMP AND

CADLE

[Introduced January 15, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17B-2-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to exempting persons with valid religious objections from having their photographs taken
3 and placed on government licenses or other identification cards.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL.

§17B-2-8. Issuance and contents of licenses; fees.

1 (a) The division shall, upon payment of the required fee, issue to every applicant qualifying
2 therefor a driver's license, which shall indicate the type or general class or classes of vehicle or
3 vehicles the licensee may operate in accordance with this chapter or chapter seventeen-e of this
4 code, or motorcycle-only license. Each license shall contain a coded number assigned to the
5 licensee, the full legal name, date of birth, residence address, a brief description and a color
6 photograph of the licensee and either a facsimile of the signature of the licensee or a space upon
7 which the signature of the licensee is written with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the
8 license. No license is valid until it has been so signed by the licensee. A person with a valid
9 religious objection is exempt from having his or her picture taken and placed on this license or
10 any other identification card authorized or required by any provision of this code.

11 (b) A driver's license which is valid for operation of a motorcycle shall contain a motorcycle
12 endorsement. A driver's license which is valid for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle
13 shall be issued in accordance with chapter seventeen-e of this code.

14 (c) The division shall use such process or processes in the issuance of licenses that will,
15 insofar as possible, prevent any identity theft, alteration, counterfeiting, duplication, reproduction,
16 forging or modification of, or the superimposition of a photograph on, the license.

17 (d) The fee for the issuance of a Class E driver's license is \$5 per year for each year the
18 license is valid. The Division of Motor Vehicles may adjust this fee every five years on September
19 1, based on the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Consumer
20 Price Index: *Provided*, That an increase in such fee may not exceed 10 percent of the total fee

21 amount in a single year. The fee for issuance of a Class D driver's license is \$6.25 per year for
22 each year the license is valid. An additional fee of 50 cents shall be collected from the applicant
23 at the time of original issuance or each renewal and the additional fee shall be deposited in the
24 Combined Voter Registration and Driver's Licensing Fund established pursuant to the provisions
25 of §3-2-12 of this code. The additional fee for adding a motorcycle endorsement to a driver's
26 license is \$1 per year for each year the license is issued.

27 (e) The fee for issuance of a motorcycle-only license is \$2.50 for each year for which the
28 motorcycle license is valid. The fees for the motorcycle endorsement or motorcycle-only license
29 shall be paid into a special fund in the State Treasury known as the Motorcycle Safety Fund as
30 established in §17B-1D-7 of this code.

31 (f) The fee for the issuance of either the level one or level two graduated driver's license
32 as prescribed in §17B-2-3a of this code is \$5.

33 (g) The fee for issuance of a federally compliant driver's license or identification card for
34 federal use is \$10 in addition to any other fee required by this chapter. Any fees collected under
35 the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Fees Fund established
36 in accordance with §17A-2-21 of this code.

37 (h) The division may use an address on the face of the license other than the applicant's
38 address of residence if:

39 (1) The applicant has a physical address or location that is not recognized by the post
40 office for the purpose of receiving mail;

41 (2) The applicant is enrolled in a state address confidentiality program or the alcohol test
42 and lock program;

43 (3) The applicant's address is entitled to be suppressed under a state or federal law or
44 suppressed by a court order; or

45 (4) At the discretion of the commissioner, the applicant's address may be suppressed to
46 provide security for classes of applicants such as law-enforcement officials, protected witnesses

47 and members of the state and federal judicial systems.

48 (i) Notwithstanding any provision in this article to the contrary, a valid military identification
49 card with an expiration date issued by the United States Department of Defense for active duty,
50 reserve or retired military personnel containing a digitized photo and the holder's full legal name
51 may be used to establish current full legal name and legal presence. The commissioner may at
52 his or her discretion expand the use of military identification cards for other uses as permitted
53 under this code or federal rule.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to exempt a person with a valid religious objection from the requirement that his or her picture be taken and placed on a driver's license or other identification card authorized or required under any provision of the code.

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