

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2853

FISCAL
NOTE

BY DELEGATES HIGGINBOTHAM, JENNINGS, SKAFF,
QUEEN, PHILLIPS, BIBBY, WILSON, ATKINSON AND BYRD

[Introduced February 6, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Education.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §10-1-14a, relating to establishing the West Virginia Program for Open
 3 Education Resources; defining open education resource materials; providing duties of
 4 Library Commission; and requiring annual report.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

§10-1-14a. West Virginia Program for Open Education Resources; material description.

1 (a)(1) The State Library Commission shall establish the West Virginia Program for Open
 2 Education Resources to encourage and facilitate the use of open education resource materials in
 3 both higher education and kindergarten through 12th grade in West Virginia schools.

4 (2) "Open education resource materials" means teaching, learning and resource materials
 5 in any medium, digital or otherwise, that reside in the public domain or have been released under
 6 an open license that permits low cost access, use, adaptation and redistribution by others with no
 7 or limited restrictions.

8 (b) The Library Commission, in consultation with the Higher Education Policy Commission,
 9 the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education and the State
 10 Superintendent of Schools, or his or her designee, shall:

11 (1) Ascertain what institutions or faculty are currently using OER material.

12 (2) Identify material currently associated with core general education courses and readily
 13 available for use by faculty and institutions;

14 (3) Identify any statutory or other impediments which interfere with selection and use of
 15 OER material by administrators or teachers at all levels of instruction in West Virginia schools;

16 (4) Identify sources of potential grants for funding for teachers and institutions to use open
 17 education resources for classes and courses, and propose a competitive application system to
 18 award grant funding for those faculty and institutions seeking to use the materials;

19 (5) Establish a digital clearing house that will function as a publicly-accessible database

20 for material;

21 (6) Develop strategies to leverage further open resource material to benefit higher
22 education institutions and school systems, as well as private and foundation support for the
23 project; and

24 (7) Report no later than July 1st of each year the program's findings, progress and
25 recommendations to the Legislative Manager, the Governor, and the chairs of the Legislature's
26 House and Senate Committees on Education.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a council to facilitate and encourage the use of open education resource materials in both higher education and kindergarten through 12th grade in West Virginia schools.

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