

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2021 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2874**

BY DELEGATES YOUNG, WAMSLEY, COOPER, DOYLE,  
LONGANACRE, STEELE, J. KELLY, MCGEEHAN, WORRELL,  
KIMBLE AND ZUKOFF

[Introduced March 3, 2021; referred to the Committee  
on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland Security then  
Finance]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §59-1-2 and §59-1-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as  
2 amended, relating to extending waiver of veterans' initial business registration fees and  
3 annual business fees to active-duty military members, their spouses, and immediate  
4 family.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 1. FEES AND ALLOWANCES.**

**§59-1-2. Fees to be charged by Secretary of State.**

1 (a) Except as may be otherwise provided in this code, the Secretary of State shall charge  
2 for services rendered in his or her office the following fees to be paid by the person to whom the  
3 service is rendered at the time it is done:

4 (1) For filing, recording, indexing, preserving a record of, and issuing a certificate relating  
5 to, the formation, amendment, change of name, registration of trade name, merger, consolidation,  
6 conversion, renewal, dissolution, termination, cancellation, withdrawal, revocation, and  
7 reinstatement of business entities organized within the state, as follows:

8 (A) Articles of incorporation of for-profit corporation, \$100;

9 (B) Articles of incorporation of nonprofit corporation, \$25;

10 (C) Articles of organization of limited liability company, \$100;

11 (D) Agreement of a general partnership, \$50;

12 (E) Certificate of a limited partnership, \$100;

13 (F) Agreement of a voluntary association, \$50;

14 (G) Articles of organization of a business trust, \$50;

15 (H) Amendment or correction of articles of incorporation, including change of name or  
16 increase of capital stock, in addition to any applicable license tax, \$25;

17 (I) Amendment or correction, including change of name, of articles of organization of  
18 business trust, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, ~~or~~ professional limited liability  
19 company, ~~or~~ of certificate of limited partnership or agreement of voluntary association, \$25;

20 (J) Amendment and restatement of articles of incorporation, certificate of limited  
21 partnership, agreement of voluntary association or articles of organization of limited liability  
22 partnership, limited liability company or professional limited liability company or business trust,  
23 \$25;

24 (K) Registration of trade name, otherwise designated as a true name, fictitious name or  
25 D. B. A. (doing business as) name for any domestic business entity as permitted by law, \$25;

26 (L) Articles of merger of two corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability  
27 partnerships, limited liability companies or professional limited liability companies, voluntary  
28 associations or business trusts, \$25;

29 (M) Plus for each additional party to the merger in excess of two, \$15;

30 (N) Statement of conversion, when permitted, from one business entity into another  
31 business entity, in addition to the cost of filing the appropriate documents to organize the surviving  
32 entity, \$25;

33 (O) Articles of dissolution of a corporation, voluntary association or business trust, or  
34 statement of dissolution of a general partnership, \$25;

35 (P) Revocation of voluntary dissolution of a corporation, voluntary association or business  
36 trust, \$15;

37 (Q) Articles of termination of a limited liability company, cancellation of a limited  
38 partnership or statement of withdrawal of limited liability partnership, \$25;

39 (R) Reinstatement of a limited liability company or professional limited liability company  
40 after administrative dissolution, \$25.

41 (2) For filing, recording, indexing, preserving a record of and issuing a certificate relating  
42 to the registration, amendment, change of name, merger, consolidation, conversion, renewal,  
43 withdrawal or termination within this state of business entities organized in other states or  
44 countries, as follows:

45 (A) Certificate of authority of for-profit corporation, \$100;

- 46 (B) Certificate of authority of nonprofit corporation, \$50;
- 47 (C) Certificate of authority of foreign limited liability companies, \$150;
- 48 (D) Certificate of exemption from certificate of authority, \$25;
- 49 (E) Registration of a general partnership, \$50;
- 50 (F) Registration of a limited partnership, \$150;
- 51 (G) Registration of a limited liability partnership for two-year term, \$500;
- 52 (H) Registration of a voluntary association, \$50;
- 53 (I) Registration of a trust or business trust, \$50;
- 54 (J) Amendment or correction of certificate of authority of a foreign corporation, including  
55 change of name or increase of capital stock, in addition to any applicable license tax, \$25;
- 56 (K) Amendment or correction of certificate of limited partnership, limited liability  
57 partnership, limited liability company or professional limited liability company, voluntary  
58 association or business trust, \$25;
- 59 (L) Registration of trade name, otherwise designated as a true name, fictitious name or D.  
60 B. A. (doing business as) name for any foreign business entity as permitted by law, \$25;
- 61 (M) Amendment and restatement of certificate of authority or of registration of a  
62 corporation, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company or  
63 professional limited liability company, voluntary association or business trust, \$25;
- 64 (N) Articles of merger of two corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability  
65 partnerships, limited liability companies or professional limited liability companies, voluntary  
66 associations or business trusts, \$25;
- 67 (O) Plus, for each additional party to the merger in excess of two, \$5;
- 68 (P) Statement of conversion, when permitted, from one business entity into another  
69 business entity, in addition to the cost of filing the appropriate articles or certificate to organize  
70 the surviving entity, \$25;

71 (Q) Certificate of withdrawal or cancellation of a corporation, limited partnership, limited  
72 liability partnership, limited liability company, voluntary association or business, trust \$25;

73 Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, after June 30, 2008,  
74 the fees described in this subdivision that are collected for the issuance of a certificate relating to  
75 the initial registration of a corporation, limited partnership, domestic limited liability company or  
76 foreign limited liability company shall be deposited in the general administrative fees account  
77 established by this section.

78 (3) For receiving, filing and recording a change of the principal or designated office,  
79 change of the agent of process and/or change of officers, directors, partners, members or  
80 managers, as the case may be, of a corporation, limited partnership, limited liability partnership,  
81 limited liability company or other business entity as provided by law, \$15.

82 (4) For receiving, filing and preserving a reservation of a name for each 120 days or for  
83 any other period in excess of seven days prescribed by law for a corporation, limited partnership,  
84 limited liability partnership or limited liability company, \$15;

85 (5) For issuing a certificate relating to a corporation or other business entity, as follows:

86 (A) Certificate of good standing of a domestic or foreign corporation, \$10;

87 (B) Certificate of existence of a domestic limited liability company and certificate of  
88 authorization foreign limited liability company, \$10;

89 (C) Certificate of existence of any business entity, trademark or service mark registered  
90 with the Secretary of State, \$10;

91 (D) Certified copy of corporate charter or comparable organizing documents for other  
92 business entities, \$15;

93 (E) Plus, for each additional amendment, restatement or other additional document, \$5;

94 (F) Certificate of registration of the name of a foreign corporation, limited liability company,  
95 limited partnership or limited liability partnership, \$25;

96 (G) And for the annual renewal of the name registration, \$10;

97 (H) Any other certificate not specified in this subdivision, \$10.

98 (6) For issuing a certificate other than those relating to business entities, as provided in  
99 this subsection, as follows:

100 (A) Certificate or apostille relating to the authority of certain public officers, including the  
101 membership of boards and commissions, \$10;

102 (B) Plus, for each additional certificate pertaining to the same transaction, \$5;

103 (C) Any other certificate not specified in this subdivision, \$10;

104 (D) For acceptance, indexing and recordation of service of process any corporation,  
105 limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, voluntary association,  
106 business trust, insurance company, person or other entity as permitted by law, \$15;

107 (E) For shipping and handling expenses for execution of service of process by certified  
108 mail upon any defendant within the United States, which fee is to be deposited to the special  
109 revenue account established in this section for the operation of the office of the Secretary of State,  
110 \$5;

111 (F) For shipping and handling expenses for execution of service of process upon any  
112 defendant outside the United States by registered mail, which fee is to be deposited to the special  
113 revenue account established in this section for the operation of the office of the Secretary of State,  
114 \$15;

115 (7) For a search of records of the office conducted by employees of or at the expense of  
116 the Secretary of State upon request, as follows:

117 (A) For any search of archival records maintained at sites other than the office of the  
118 Secretary of State no less than, \$10;

119 (B) For searches of archival records maintained at sites other than the office of the  
120 Secretary of State which require more than one hour, for each hour or fraction of an hour  
121 consumed in making a search, \$10;

122 (C) For any search of records maintained on site for the purpose of obtaining copies of  
123 documents or printouts of data, \$5;

124 (D) For any search of records maintained in electronic format which requires special  
125 programming to be performed by the state information services agency or other vendor any actual  
126 cost, but not less than, \$25;

127 (E) The cost of the search is in addition to the cost of any copies or printouts prepared or  
128 any certificate issued pursuant to or based on the search.

129 (F) For recording any paper for which no specific fee is prescribed, \$5.

130 (8) For producing and providing photocopies or printouts of electronic data of specific  
131 records upon request, as follows:

132 (A) For a copy of any paper or printout of electronic data, if one sheet, \$1;

133 (B) For each sheet after the first, 50 cents;

134 (C) For sending the copies or lists by fax transmission, \$5;

135 (D) For producing and providing photocopies of lists, reports, guidelines and other  
136 documents produced in multiple copies for general public use, a publication price to be  
137 established by the Secretary of State at a rate approximating \$2 plus 10 cents per page and  
138 rounded to the nearest dollar;

139 (E) For electronic copies of records obtained in data format on disk, the cost of the record  
140 in the least expensive available printed format, plus, for each required disk, which shall be  
141 provided by the Secretary of State, \$5.

142 (b) The Secretary of State may propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with  
143 the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, for charges for online electronic access to  
144 database information or other information maintained by the Secretary of State.

145 (c) For any other work or service not enumerated in this section, the fee prescribed  
146 elsewhere in this code or a rule promulgated under the authority of this code.



147 (d) The records maintained by the Secretary of State are prepared and indexed at the  
148 expense of the state and those records shall not be obtained for commercial resale without the  
149 written agreement of the state to a contract including reimbursement to the state for each instance  
150 of resale.

151 (e) The Secretary of State may provide printed or electronic information free of charge as  
152 he or she considers necessary and efficient for the purpose of informing the general public or the  
153 news media.

154 (f) There is hereby continued in the State Treasury a special revenue account to be known  
155 as the Service Fees and Collections Account. Expenditures from the account shall be used for  
156 the operation of the office of the Secretary of State and are not authorized from collections, but  
157 are to be made only in accordance with appropriation by the Legislature and in accordance with  
158 the provisions of §12-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and upon the fulfillment of the provisions set forth in  
159 §5A-2-1 *et seq.* of this code. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary,  
160 except as provided in subsection (h) of this section and §59-1-2a of this code, one half of all the  
161 fees and service charges established in the following sections and for the following purposes shall  
162 be deposited by the Secretary of State or other collecting agency to that special revenue account  
163 and used for the operation of the office of the Secretary of State:

164 (1) The annual attorney-in-fact fee for corporations and limited partnerships established in  
165 §11-12C-5 of this code;

166 (2) The fees received for the sale of the State Register, Code of State Rules and other  
167 copies established by rule and authorized by §29A-2-7 of this code;

168 (3) The registration fees, late fees and legal settlements charged for registration and  
169 enforcement of the charitable organizations and professional solicitations established in §29-19-  
170 5, §29-19-9, and §29-19-15b of this code;

171 (4) The annual attorney-in-fact fee for limited liability companies as designated in §31B-1-  
172 108 of this code and established in §31B-2-211 of this code: *Provided*, That after June 30, 2008,

173 the annual report fees designated in §31B-1-108 of this code shall upon collection, be deposited  
174 in the General Administrative Fees Account described in subsection (h) of this section;

175 (5) The filing fees and search and copying fees for uniform commercial code transactions  
176 established by §46-9-525 of this code;

177 (6) The annual attorney-in-fact fee for licensed insurers established in §33-4-12 of this  
178 code;

179 (7) The fees for the application and record maintenance of all notaries public established  
180 by §39-4-20 of this code;

181 (8) The fees for registering credit service organizations as established by §46-6C-5 of this  
182 code;

183 (9) The fees for registering and renewing a West Virginia limited liability partnership as  
184 established by §47B-10-1 of this code;

185 (10) The filing fees for the registration and renewal of trademarks and service marks  
186 established in §47-2-17 of this code;

187 (11) All fees for services, the sale of photocopies and data maintained at the expense of  
188 the Secretary of State as provided in this section; and

189 (12) All registration, license and other fees collected by the Secretary of State not specified  
190 in this section.

191 (g) Any balance in the service fees and collections account established by this section  
192 which exceeds \$500,000 as of June 30, 2003, and each year thereafter, shall be expired to the  
193 state fund, General Revenue Fund.

194 (h)(1) Effective July 1, 2008, there is hereby created in the State Treasury a special  
195 revenue account to be known as the General Administrative Fees Account. Expenditures from  
196 the account shall be used for the operation of the office of the Secretary of State and are not  
197 authorized from collections, but are to be made only in accordance with appropriation by the  
198 Legislature and in accordance with the provisions of §12-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and upon the

199 fulfillment of the provisions set forth in §11B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That for the fiscal  
200 year ending June 30, 2009, expenditures are authorized from collections rather than pursuant to  
201 an appropriation by the Legislature. Any balance in the account at the end of each fiscal year  
202 shall not revert to the General Revenue Fund, but shall remain in the fund and be expended as  
203 provided by this subsection.

204 (2) After June 30, 2008, all the fees and service charges established in §59-1-2a of this  
205 code for the following purposes shall be collected and deposited by the Secretary of State or other  
206 collecting agency in the general administrative fees account and used for the operation of the  
207 office of the Secretary of State:

208 (A) The annual report fees paid to the Secretary of State by corporations, limited  
209 partnerships, domestic limited liability companies and foreign limited liability companies;

210 (B) The fees for the issuance of a certificate relating to the initial registration of a  
211 corporation, limited partnership, domestic limited liability company or foreign limited liability  
212 company described in subdivision (a)(2) of this section; and

213 (C) The fees for the purchase of date and updates related to the state's Business  
214 Organizations Database described in §59-1-2a of this code.

215 (i) There is continued in the office of the Secretary of State a noninterest-bearing, escrow  
216 account to be known as the Prepaid Fees and Services Account. This account shall be for the  
217 purpose of allowing customers of the Secretary of State to prepay for services, with payment to  
218 be held in escrow until services are rendered. Payments deposited in the account shall remain in  
219 the account until services are rendered by the Secretary of State and at that time the fees will be  
220 reallocated to the appropriate general or special revenue accounts. There shall be no fee charged  
221 by the Secretary of State to the customer for the use of this account and the customer may request  
222 the return of any moneys maintained in the account at any time without penalty. The assets of the  
223 prepaid fees and services account do not constitute public funds of the state and are available  
224 solely for carrying out the purposes of this section.

225 (j) A veteran-owned business, as defined in paragraph thirteen, subsection (a), section  
226 two-a of this article, commenced on or after July 1, 2015, or a business owned by an active-duty  
227 member of any branch of the United States military, or a business owned by any veteran's or  
228 active-duty member's spouse or immediate family member, commenced on or after July 1, 2021,  
229 is exempt from paying the fees prescribed in paragraphs (a)(1)(A), (a)(1)(B), (a)(1)(C), (a)(1)(D),  
230 (a)(1)(E), (a)(1)(F), and(a)(1)(G) of this section.

231 (k) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, after July 1, 2017, the Secretary of  
232 State may offer a fee for expedited services which shall not exceed, \$500.

233 (l) The fees provided for in this section shall remain in effect until such time as the  
234 Legislature has approved rules promulgated by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the  
235 provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, establishing a schedule of fees for services.

**§59-1-2a. Annual business fees to be paid to the Secretary of State; filing of annual reports;  
purchase of data.**

1 (a) *Definitions.* — As used in this section:

2 (1) “Annual report fee” means the fee described in §59-1-2a(c) of this code that is to be  
3 paid to the Secretary of State each year by corporations, limited partnerships, domestic limited  
4 liability companies, and foreign limited liability companies. After June 30, 2008, any reference in  
5 this code to a fee paid to the Secretary of State for services as a statutory attorney in fact shall  
6 mean the annual report fee described in this section.

7 (2) “Business activity” means all activities engaged in or caused to be engaged in with the  
8 object of gain or economic benefit, direct or indirect, but does not mean any of the activities of  
9 foreign corporations enumerated in §31D-15-1501(b) of this code, except for the activity of  
10 conducting affairs in interstate commerce when activity occurs in this state, nor does it mean any  
11 of the activities of foreign limited liability companies enumerated in §31B-10-1003(a) of this code,  
12 except for the activity of conducting affairs in interstate commerce when activity occurs in this  
13 state.

14           (3) "Corporation" means a "domestic corporation", a "foreign corporation", or a "nonprofit  
15 corporation".

16           (4) "Deliver or delivery" means any method of delivery used in conventional commercial  
17 practice, including, but not limited to, delivery by hand, mail, commercial delivery, and electronic  
18 transmission.

19           (5) "Domestic corporation" means a corporation for profit which is not a foreign corporation  
20 incorporated under or subject to Chapter 31D of this code.

21           (6) "Domestic limited liability company" means a limited liability company which is not a  
22 foreign limited liability company under or subject to chapter 31B of this code.

23           (7) "Foreign corporation" means a for-profit corporation incorporated under a law other  
24 than the laws of this state.

25           (8) "Foreign limited liability company" means a limited liability company organized under  
26 a law other than the laws of this state.

27           (9) "Limited partnership" means a partnership as defined by §47-9-1 of this code.

28           (10) "Nonprofit corporation" means a nonprofit corporation as defined by §31E-1-150 of  
29 this code.

30           (11) "Registration fee" means the fee for the issuance of a certificate relating to the initial  
31 registration of a corporation, limited partnership, domestic limited liability company or foreign  
32 limited liability company described in §59-1-2(a)(2) of this code. The term "initial registration" also  
33 means the date upon which the registration fee is paid.

34           (12) "Veteran" means any person who has served as an active member of the armed  
35 forces of the United States, the National Guard, or a reserve component as described in 38 U. S.  
36 C. §101. Notwithstanding any provision in this code to the contrary, a veteran must be honorably  
37 discharged or under honorable conditions as described in 38 U. S. C. §101.

38           (13) "Veteran-owned business" means a business that meets the following criteria:

39           (A) Is at least 51 percent unconditionally owned by one or more veterans; or

40 (B) In the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51 percent of the stock is  
41 unconditionally owned by one or more veterans.

42 (b) *Required payment of annual report fee and filing of annual report.* — After June 30,  
43 2008, no corporation, limited partnership, domestic limited liability company, or foreign limited  
44 liability company may engage in any business activity in this state without paying the annual report  
45 fee and filing the annual report as required by this section.

46 (c) *Annual report fee.* — After June 30, 2008, each corporation, limited partnership,  
47 domestic limited liability company, and foreign limited liability company engaged in or authorized  
48 to do business in this state shall pay an annual report fee of \$25 for the services of the Secretary  
49 of State as attorney-in-fact for the corporation, limited partnership, domestic limited liability  
50 company, or foreign limited liability company and for such other administrative services as may  
51 be imposed by law upon the Secretary of State. The fee is due and payable each year after the  
52 initial registration of the corporation, limited partnership, domestic limited liability company, or  
53 foreign limited liability company with the annual report described in §59-1-2a(d) of this code on or  
54 before the dates specified in §59-1-2a(e) of this code. The fee is due and payable each year with  
55 the annual report from corporations, limited partnerships, domestic limited liability companies, and  
56 foreign limited liability companies that paid the registration fee prior to July 1, 2008, on or before  
57 the dates specified in §59-1-2a(e) of this code. The annual report fees received by the Secretary  
58 of State pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited by the Secretary of State in the general  
59 administrative fees account established by §59-1-2 of this code.

60 (d) *Annual report.* —

61 (1) After June 30, 2008, each corporation, limited partnership, domestic limited liability  
62 company, and foreign limited liability company engaged in or authorized to do business in this  
63 state shall file an annual report. The report is due each year after the initial registration of the  
64 corporation, limited partnership, domestic limited liability company, or foreign limited liability  
65 company with the annual report fee described in §59-1-2a(c) of this code on or before the dates

66 specified in §59-1-2a(e) of this code. The report is due each year from corporations, limited  
67 partnerships, domestic limited liability companies, and foreign limited liability companies that paid  
68 the registration fee prior to July 1, 2008, on or before the dates specified in §59-1-2a(e) of this  
69 code.

70 (2)(A) The annual report shall be filed with the Secretary of State on forms provided by  
71 the Secretary of State for that purpose. The annual report shall, in the case of corporations,  
72 contain: (i) The address of the corporation's principal office; (ii) the names and mailing addresses  
73 of its officers and directors; (iii) the name and mailing address of the person on whom notice of  
74 process may be served; (iv) the name and address of the corporation's parent corporation and of  
75 each subsidiary of the corporation licensed to do business in this state; (v) in the case of limited  
76 partnerships, domestic limited liability companies, and foreign limited liability companies, similar  
77 information with respect to their principal or controlling interests as determined by the Secretary  
78 of State or otherwise required by law to be reported to the Secretary of State; (vi) the county or  
79 county code in which the principal office address or mailing address of the company is located;  
80 (vii) business class code; and (viii) any other information the Secretary of State considers  
81 appropriate.

82 (B) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the Secretary of State shall,  
83 upon request of any person, disclose, with respect to corporations: (i) The address of the  
84 corporation's principal office; (ii) the names and addresses of its officers and directors; (iii) the  
85 name and mailing address of the person on whom notice of process may be served; (iv) the name  
86 and address of each subsidiary of the corporation and the corporation's parent corporation; (v)  
87 the county or county code in which the principal office address or mailing address of the company  
88 is located; and (vi) the business class code. The Secretary of State shall provide similar  
89 information with respect to information in its possession relating to limited partnerships, domestic  
90 limited liability companies, and foreign limited liability companies, similar information with respect  
91 to their principal or controlling interests.

92           (e) *Annual reports and fees due July 1.* — Each domestic and foreign corporation, limited  
93 partnership, limited liability company, and foreign limited liability company shall file with the  
94 Secretary of State the annual report and pay the annual report fee by July 1 of each year.

95           (f) *Deposit of fees.* — The annual report fees received by the Secretary of State pursuant  
96 to this section shall be deposited by the Secretary of State in the general administrative fees  
97 account established by §59-1-2 of this code.

98           (g)(1) *Duty to pay.* — It shall be the duty of each corporation, limited partnership, limited  
99 liability company, and foreign limited liability company required to pay the annual report fees  
100 imposed under this article to remit them with a properly completed annual report to the Secretary  
101 of State, and if it fails to do so it shall be subject to the late fees prescribed in §59-1-2a(h) of this  
102 code and dissolution or revocation, pursuant to this code: *Provided*, That before dissolution or  
103 revocation for failure to pay fees may occur, the Secretary of State shall notify the entity by  
104 certified mail, return receipt requested, of its failure to pay, all late fees or bad check fees  
105 associated with the failure to pay, and the date upon which dissolution or revocation will occur if  
106 all fees are not paid in full. The certified mail required by this subdivision shall be postmarked at  
107 least 30 days before the dissolution or revocation date listed in the notice.

108           (2) *Bad check fee.* — If any corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, or  
109 foreign limited liability company submits payment by check or money order for the annual report  
110 fee imposed under this article and the check or money order is rejected because there are  
111 insufficient funds in the account or the account is closed, the Secretary of State shall assess a  
112 bad check fee to the corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, or foreign limited  
113 liability company that is equivalent to the service charge paid by the Secretary of State due to the  
114 rejected check or money order. The bad check fee assessed under this subdivision shall be  
115 deposited into the account or accounts from which the Secretary of State paid the service charge.

116           (h) *Late fees.* —



117 (1) The following late fees shall be in addition to any other penalties and remedies  
118 available elsewhere in this code:

119 (A) *Administrative late fee.* — The Secretary of State shall assess upon each corporation,  
120 limited partnership, limited liability company, and foreign limited liability company delinquent in  
121 the payment of an annual report fee or the filing of an annual report an administrative late fee in  
122 the amount of \$50.

123 (B) *Administrative late fees for nonprofit corporations.* — The Secretary of State shall  
124 assess each nonprofit corporation delinquent in the payment of an annual report fee or the filing  
125 of an annual report an administrative late fee in the amount of \$25.

126 (2) The Secretary of State shall deposit the first \$25,000 of fees collected under this  
127 subsection into the General Administrative Fees Account established in §59-1-2(h) of this code  
128 and shall deposit any additional fees collected under this section into the General Revenue Fund  
129 of the state.

130 (i) *Reports to Tax Commissioner; suspension, cancellation or withholding of business*  
131 *registration certificate.* —

132 (1) The Secretary of State shall, within 20 days after the close of each month, make a  
133 report to the Tax Commissioner for the preceding month, in which he or she shall set out the  
134 name of every business entity to which he or she issued a certificate to conduct business in the  
135 State of West Virginia during that month. The report shall set out the names and addresses of all  
136 corporations, limited partnerships, limited liability companies, and foreign limited liability  
137 companies to which he or she issued certificates of change of name or of change of location of  
138 principal office, dissolution, withdrawal, or merger. If the Secretary of State fails to make the  
139 report, it shall be the duty of the Tax Commissioner to report such failure to the Governor. A writ  
140 of mandamus shall lie for correction of such failure.

141 (2) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code to the contrary, upon receipt of notice  
142 from the Secretary of State that a corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, and

143 foreign limited liability company is more than 30 days delinquent in the payment of annual report  
144 fees or in the filing of an annual report required by this section, the Tax Commissioner may  
145 suspend, cancel or withhold a business registration certificate issued to or applied for by the  
146 delinquent corporation, limited partnership, limited liability company, or foreign limited liability  
147 company until the same is paid and filed in the manner provided for the suspension, cancellation  
148 or withholding of business registration certificates for other reasons under §11-12-1 *et seq.* of this  
149 code.

150 (j) *Purchase of data.* — The Secretary of State will provide electronically, for purchase,  
151 any data maintained in the Secretary of State’s Business Organizations Database. For the  
152 electronic purchase of the entire Business Organizations Database, the cost is \$12,000. For the  
153 purchase of the monthly updates of the Business Organizations Database, the cost is \$1,000 per  
154 month. The fees received by the Secretary of State pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited  
155 by the Secretary of State in the general administrative fees account established by §59-1-2 of this  
156 code.

157 (k) The Secretary of State is authorized to collect the service fee per transaction, if any,  
158 charged for an online service from any customer who purchases data or conducts transactions  
159 through an online service.

160 (l) *Rules.* — The Secretary of State may propose rules for legislative approval, in  
161 accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, to implement this article.

162 (m) A veteran-owned business, as defined in subdivision (a)(13) of this section,  
163 commenced on or after July 1, 2015, a business owned by an active-duty member of any branch  
164 of the United States military, or a business owned by any veteran’s or active-duty member’s  
165 spouse or immediate family member, commenced on or after July 1, 2021, is exempt from paying  
166 the annual report fee, required by this section, for the first four years after its initial registration:  
167 *Provided,* That a veteran-owned business is not exempt from any filing deadlines or other fees  
168 required by this section.

## Introduced HB 2874

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to extend the current veteran's business fee waivers to active-duty military members, their spouses, and immediate family members.

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