

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 4704

By Delegate Linville

[Originating in the Committee on Technology and
Infrastructure; Reported on February 2, 2024]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
2 designated §5B-2P-1 §5B-2P-2, and §5B-2P-3, relating to establishing Infrastructure
3 Ready Jurisdictions; establishing the requirement for this designation; establishing
4 rulemaking for these Infrastructure Ready Jurisdictions for the Department of Economic
5 Development; awarding an additional five percent preferential scoring for entities on
6 projects within these jurisdictions on all permissible grants; and providing that this is not
7 available within an uncertified municipality even if the surrounding county or counties are
8 certified.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2P. INFRASTRUCTURE READY JURISDICTIONS.

§5B-2P-1. Process.

1 (a) Any political subdivision of this state which refrains from enacting any permitting
2 requirements other than those contained in this Code and the Code of State Regulations may
3 apply to the Department of Economic Development for a designation as an Infrastructure Ready
4 Jurisdiction.

5 (b) The Department of Economic Development is hereby authorized to promulgate
6 rules governing the process for certification as an Infrastructure Ready Jurisdiction.

§5B-2P-2. Benefits.

1 Any grant application for an infrastructure project, whether public or private, which is made
2 by any entity within the corporate boundaries of a political subdivision of this state which is certified
3 as an Infrastructure Ready Jurisdiction, shall receive 5 percent of the maximum score as
4 preferential scoring on all grants permitted by or mandated by any provision of this Code, or by any
5 portion of the Code of State Regulations, unless such preferential scoring is explicitly forbidden by
6 Federal laws or regulations, or by any provision of this Code. A total score may exceed one
7 hundred percent of the otherwise maximum achievable score if it results from the award of such
8 preference as computed.

§5B-2P-3. **Multiple** **Subdivisions.**

- 1 The provisions of this article may not be utilized by applicants for projects situated within a
- 2 municipality which has not been certified as an Infrastructure Ready Jurisdiction, even if a
- 3 surrounding county or counties are so certified.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish Infrastructure Ready Jurisdictions; establish rulemaking; and award an additional five percent preferential scoring for projects within these jurisdictions on all permissible grants.

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