

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 5613**

By Delegates Ridenour, Jennings, Adkins, and

Mazzocchi

[Introduced February 12, 2024; Referred to the

Committee on Government Organization]



1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
2 designated §5-1-31, relating to requiring the Governor to establish crisis preparedness  
3 plans.

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

**ARTICLE 1. THE GOVERNOR.**

**§5-1-31. Crisis preparedness plans.**

1 (a) The Legislature finds that the government of West Virginia must be prepared for major  
2 crises that pose existential or major threats to the People of West Virginia.

3 (b) The Legislature finds that the global and national situations have become the most  
4 critical in decades.

5 (c) To protect West Virginia, the Governor will develop comprehensive whole-of-  
6 government plans to deal with crises that can pose existential or major threats to the People and  
7 governance of West Virginia. The following crises will be priorities:

8 (1) Nuclear war, including nuclear strikes inside West Virginia;

9 (2) Major disruptions of the energy grid, gas lines, rail systems, and river transportation in  
10 West Virginia, including disruptions resulting from high altitude electromagnetic pulse (HEMP)  
11 attacks, cyber-attacks, or physical attacks on key systems;

12 (3) Major cyber-attacks creating long term disruptions to West Virginia's communications  
13 systems;

14 (4) Invasion; and

15 (5) Insurrection.

16 (d) Plans created under subsection (c) of this section must include:

17 (1) Preventative measures the state government can take to pre-empt the impact of the  
18 crises;

19 (2) Mitigation measures;

20 (3) Immediate response;

21 (4) Remediation; and

22 (5) Recovery.

23 (e) The Department of Homeland Security will brief the Interim Committee on Veterans  
24 Affairs and Homeland Security no later than August 31, 2024, on tentative plans, and measures  
25 the state government is taking to facilitate the plans and additional mitigation measures the state  
26 government can take. Final plans should be completed by November 30, 2024. Periodic updates  
27 should be completed annually and be briefed to Interim Committee on Veterans Affairs and  
28 Homeland Security no later than each June.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Governor to establish crisis preparedness plans.

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