WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 426

By Senators Woodrum, Deeds, and Takubo

[Introduced January 12, 2024; referred
to the Committee on Outdoor Recreation]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §17-31-1, §17-31-2, §17-31-3, §17-31-4, §17-31-5, and §17-31-6, all relating to enacting the West Virginia Recreational Trails Development Act; providing definitions; requiring the Department of Transportation to prioritize design and construction of recreational trails in the state; assigning duties to the department for development, maintenance, and funding; establishing reporting requirements; and setting an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

Article 31. west virginia recreational Trails Development act.

§17-31-1. Short title.

This article may be cited as the West Virginia Recreational Trails Development Act.

§17-31-2. Definitions.

For the purposes of this article:

(a) "Department" means the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

(b) "Recreational trail" means a thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for recreational purposes such as bicycling, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or running, trail biking, greenway, and mountain biking.

§17-31-3. Duties of the department.

(a) The department shall prioritize the design and construction of non-motorized recreational trails in West Virginia.

(b) The department shall develop a comprehensive plan for the development of recreational trails in consultation with local governments, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders.

(c) The department shall ensure that the design and construction of recreational trails are carried out in a timely manner.

§17-31-4. Funding.

The department shall seek federal funding and grants available for recreational trail development and maintenance.

§17-31-5. Reporting requirements.

The department shall submit an annual report to the Legislature on the progress of recreational trail development.

§17-31-6. Effective date.

This article takes effect on July 1, 2024.