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ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 280

(SENATORS McCABE, BAILEY, FOSTER AND PLYMALE, original sponsors)

[Passed March 8, 2008; in effect ninety days from passage.]



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AN ACT to amend and reenact §8-38-3, §8-38-5, §8-38-7, §8-38-12 and §8-38-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to the municipal economic opportunity development district act generally; adding certain remediation projects to those for which special district excise taxes may be authorized upon meeting certain requirements; clarifying the rates of the tax; authorizing the Tax Commissioner to require the

electronic filing of returns and electronic payment of the tax; providing for the sharing of tax information and confidentiality of such information; and requiring additional deposits of the tax into the general revenue fund in certain circumstances.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That \$8-38-3, \$8-38-5, \$8-38-7, \$8-38-12 and \$8-38-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 38. MUNICIPAL ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY DEVELOPMENT DISTRICTS.

§8-38-3. Definitions.

- 1 For purposes of this article, the term:
- (1) "Development expenditures" means payments for
 governmental functions, programs, activities, facility
 construction, improvements and other goods and
 services which a district board is authorized to perform
 or provide under section five of this article;
- 7 (2) "District" means an economic opportunity8 development district created pursuant to this article;
- 9 (3) "District board" means a district board created10 pursuant to section ten of this article;
- (4) "Eligible property" means any taxable or exempt
 real property located in a district established pursuant
 to this article;
- 14 (5) "Municipality" is a word of art and shall mean, for

the purposes of this article, only Class I and Class II
cities as classified in section three, article one of this
chapter:

18 (6) "Remediation" means measures undertaken to 19 bring about the reconditioning or restoration of property located within the boundaries of an economic 20 opportunity development district project that has been 2122affected by exploration, industrial operations or solid waste disposal and which measures, when undertaken, 2324will eliminate or ameliorate the existing state of the property and enable the property to be commercially 2526developed.

§8-38-5. Development expenditures.

1 Any municipality that has established an economic 2 opportunity development district under this article may 3 make, or authorize to be made by a district board and 4 other public or private parties, development 5 expenditures as will promote the economic vitality of 6 the district and the general welfare of the municipality, 7 including, but not limited to, expenditures for the 8 following purposes:

9 (1) Beautification of the district by means such as
10 landscaping and construction and erection of fountains,
11 shelters, benches, sculptures, signs, lighting,
12 decorations and similar amenities;

(2) Provision of special or additional public services
such as sanitation, security for persons and property
and the construction and maintenance of public
facilities, including, but not limited to, sidewalks,
parking lots, parking garages and other public areas;

(3) Making payments for principal, interest, issuance
costs, any of the costs described in section twenty of
this article and appropriate reserves for bonds and
other instruments and arrangements issued or entered
into by the municipality for financing the expenditures
of the district described in this section and to otherwise
implement the purposes of this article;

(4) Providing financial support for public
transportation and vehicle parking facilities open to the
general public, whether physically situate within the
district's boundaries or on adjacent land;

29Acquiring, building, demolishing, (5)razing, 30 constructing, repairing, reconstructing, refurbishing, 31renovating, rehabilitating, expanding, altering, otherwise developing, operating and maintaining real 3233 property generally, parking facilities, commercial 34structures and other capital improvements to real 35property, fixtures and tangible personal property, 36 whether or not physically situate within the district's 37boundaries: *Provided*, That the expenditure directly 38 benefits the district;

(6) Developing plans for the architectural design of
the district and portions thereof and developing plans
and programs for the future development of the district;

42 (7) Developing, promoting and supporting community
43 events and activities open to the general public that
44 benefit the district;

(8) Providing the administrative costs for a districtmanagement program;

47 (9) Providing for the usual and customary
48 maintenance and upkeep of all improvements and
49 amenities in the district as are commercially reasonable
50 and necessary to sustain its economic viability on a
51 permanent basis;

52 (10) Providing any other services that the
53 municipality or district board is authorized to perform
54 and which the municipality does not also perform to the
55 same extent on a countywide basis;

56 (11) Making grants to the owners or tenants of
57 economic opportunity development district for the
58 purposes described in this section;

59 (12) Acquiring an interest in any entity or entities that
60 own any portion of the real property situate in the
61 district and contributing capital to any entity or
62 entities;

63 (13) Remediation of publicly or privately owned
64 landfills, solid waste facilities or hazardous waste sites
65 to facilitate commercial development which would not
66 otherwise be economically feasible; and

67 (14) To do any and all things necessary, desirable or
68 appropriate to carry out and accomplish the purposes
69 of this article notwithstanding any provision of this
70 code to the contrary.

§8-38-7. Application to development office for community and economic development for approval of an economic opportunity development district project.

(a) General. — The development office shall receive
 and act on applications filed with it by municipalities
 pursuant to section six of this article. Each application
 must include:

5 (1) A true copy of the notice described in section six of6 this article;

7 (2) The total cost of the project;

8 (3) A reasonable estimate of the number of months9 needed to complete the project;

(4) A general description of the capital improvements,
additional or extended services and other proposed
development expenditures to be made in the district as
part of the project;

14 (5) A description of the proposed method of financing the development expenditures, together with a 15description of the reserves to be established for 16 financing ongoing development or redevelopment 17 expenditures necessary to permanently maintain the 18 19 optimum economic viability of the district following its inception: *Provided*, That the amounts of the reserves 2021shall not exceed the amounts that would be required by ordinary commercial capital market considerations; 22

(6) A description of the sources and anticipated
amounts of all financing, including, but not limited to,
proceeds from the issuance of any bonds or other
instruments, revenues from the special district excise
tax and enhanced revenues from property taxes and
fees;

(7) A description of the financial contribution of the
municipality to the funding of development
expenditures;

(8) Identification of any businesses that the
municipality expects to relocate their business locations
from the district to another place in the state in
connection with the establishment of the district or
from another place in this state to the district: *Provided*, That for purposes of this article, any entities
shall be designated "relocated entities";

(9) Identification of any businesses currently
conducting business in the proposed economic
opportunity development district that the municipality
expects to continue doing business there after the
district is created;

44 (10) A good faith estimate of the aggregate amount of consumers sales and service tax that was actually 45remitted to the Tax Commissioner by all business 46 47 locations identified as provided in subdivisions (8) and 48 (9) of this subsection with respect to their sales made 49and services rendered from their then current business 50 locations that will be relocated from, or to, or remain in 51 the district for the twelve full calendar months next preceding the date of the application: Provided, That 52 for purposes of this article, the aggregate amount is 53 54designated as "the base tax revenue amount";

(11) A good faith estimate of the gross annual districttax revenue amount;

57 (12) The proposed application of any surplus from all58 funding sources to further the objectives of this article;

59 (13) The Tax Commissioner's certification of: (i) The 60 amount of consumers sales and service taxes collected 61 from businesses located in the economic opportunity 62 district during the twelve calendar months preceding 63 the calendar quarter during which the application will 64 be submitted to the development office; (ii) the estimated amount of economic opportunity district 65 excise tax that will be collected during the first twelve 66 67 months after the month in which the Tax Commissioner would first begin to collect that tax; and (iii) the 68 69 estimated amount of economic opportunity district 70 excise tax that will be collected during the first 71 thirty-six months after the month in which the Tax 72 Commissioner would first begin to collect that tax; and

(14) Any additional information the developmentoffice may require.

(b) Review of applications. — The development office
shall review all project proposals for conformance to
statutory and regulatory requirements, the
reasonableness of the project's budget and timetable for
completion and the following criteria:

80 (1) The quality of the proposed project and how it
81 addresses economic problems in the area in which the
82 project will be located;

(2) The merits of the project determined by a
cost-benefit analysis that incorporates all costs and
benefits, both public and private;

86 (3) Whether the project is supported by significant
87 private sector investment and substantial credible
88 evidence that, but for the existence of sales tax

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89	increment financing, the project would not be feasible;
90	(4) Whether the economic opportunity development
91	district excise tax dollars will leverage or be the
92	catalyst for the effective use of private, other local
93	government, state or federal funding that is available;
94	(5) Whether there is substantial and credible evidence
94 95	that the project is likely to be started and completed in
95 96	a timely fashion;
90	a timely fashion,
97	(6) Whether the project will, directly or indirectly,
98	improve the opportunities in the area where the project
99	will be located for the successful establishment or
100	expansion of other industrial or commercial businesses;
101	(7) Whether the project will, directly or indirectly,
102	assist in the creation of additional long-term
103	employment opportunities in the area and the quality of
104	jobs created in all phases of the project, to include, but
105	not be limited to, wages and benefits;
106	(8) Whether the project will fulfill a pressing need for
107	the area, or part of the area, in which the economic
108	opportunity district is located;
109	(9) Whether the municipality has a strategy for
110	${\it economic} {\it development} {\it in} {\it the} {\it municipality} {\it and} {\it whether}$
111	the project is consistent with that strategy;
112	(10) Whether the project helps to diversify the local
113	economy;
114	(11) Whether the project is consistent with the goals
115	of this article;

116 (12) Whether the project is economically and fiscally

117 sound using recognized business standards of finance

118 and accounting; and

119 (13)(A) The ability of the municipality and the project 120 developer or project team to carry out the project: Provided, That no project may be approved by the 121 development office unless the amount of all 122 123development expenditures proposed to be made in the first twenty-four months following the creation of the 124 125 district results in capital investment of more than fifty 126 million dollars in the district and the municipality 127 submits clear and convincing information, to the 128 satisfaction of the development office, that such 129 investment will be made if the development office 130 approves the project and the Legislature authorizes the 131 municipality to levy an excise tax on sales of goods and 132services made within the economic opportunity development district as provided in this article. 133

134 (B) Notwithstanding any provision of paragraph (A) 135 of this subdivision to the contrary, no project involving remediation may be approved by the development 136 unless the amount of all development 137 office expenditures proposed to be made in the first forty-138 eight months following the creation of the district 139 140 results in capital investment of more than fifty million 141 dollars in the district. In addition to the remaining 142 provisions of paragraph (A) of this subdivision the development office may not approve a project involving 143 144 remediation authorized under section five of this article 145 unless the municipality submits clear and convincing information, to the satisfaction of the development 146 147 office, that the proposed remediation expenditures to be financed by the issuance of bonds or notes pursuant 148

to section sixteen of this article do not constitute more
than twenty-five percent of the total redevelopment
expenditures associated with the project.

(c) Additional criteria. — The development office may
establish other criteria for consideration when
approving the applications.

(d) Action on the application. — The Executive
Director of the Development Office shall act to approve
or not approve any application within thirty days
following the receipt of the application or the receipt of
any additional information requested by the
development office, whichever is the later.

(e) Certification of project.— If the Executive Director
of the Development Office approves a municipality's
economic opportunity district project application, he or
she shall issue to the municipality a written certificate
evidencing the approval.

166 The certificate shall expressly state a base tax 167 revenue amount, the gross annual district tax revenue amount and the estimated net annual district tax 168 169 revenue amount which, for purposes of this article, is the difference between the gross annual district tax 170 revenue amount and the base tax revenue amount, all 171 172of which the development office has determined with 173respect to the district's application based on any 174 investigation it considers reasonable and necessary, including, but not limited to, any relevant information 175176 the development office requests from the Tax Commissioner and the Tax Commissioner provides to 177 178 the development office: *Provided*, That in determining the net annual district tax revenue amount, the 179

180 development office may not use a base tax revenue amount less than that amount certified by the Tax 181 182 Commissioner but, in lieu of confirmation from the Tax 183 Commissioner of the gross annual district tax revenue 184 amount, the development office may use the estimate of 185 the gross annual district tax revenue amount provided 186 by the municipality pursuant to subsection (a) of this 187 section.

188 (f) Certification of enlargement of geographic 189 boundaries of previously certified district. — If the 190 Executive Director of the Development Office approves 191 a municipality's economic opportunity district project 192 application to expand the geographic boundaries of a 193previously certified district, he or she shall issue to the 194 municipality a written certificate evidencing the 195 approval.

The certificate shall expressly state a base tax 196 197 revenue amount, the gross annual district tax revenue 198amount and the estimated net annual district tax 199 revenue amount which, for purposes of this article, is 200 the difference between the gross annual district tax 201 revenue amount and the base tax revenue amount, all 202 of which the development office has determined with 203respect to the district's application based on any 204 investigation it considers reasonable and necessary, 205including, but not limited to, any relevant information 206 the development office requests from the Tax 207Commissioner and the Tax Commissioner provides to 208 the development office: *Provided*, That in determining 209the net annual district tax revenue amount, the 210 development office may not use a base tax revenue 211amount less than that amount certified by the Tax 212Commissioner, but, in lieu of confirmation from the Tax

Commissioner of the gross annual district tax revenue
amount, the development office may use the estimate of
the gross annual district tax revenue amount provided
by the municipality pursuant to subsection (a) of this
section.

218 (g) Promulgation of rules. — The executive director of 219the development office may promulgate rules to implement the economic opportunity development 220221 district project application approval process and to describe the criteria and procedures it has established 222223in connection therewith. These rules are not subject to the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-a of this code but 224 225shall be filed with the Secretary of State.

§8-38-12. Special district excise tax authorized.

1 (a) *General.* — The council of a municipality, 2 authorized by the Legislature to levy a special district 3 excise tax for the benefit of an economic opportunity 4 development district, may, by ordinance, impose that 5 tax on the privilege of selling tangible personal 6 property and rendering select services in the district in 7 accordance with this section.

8 (b) *Tax base*. — The base of a special district excise 9 tax imposed pursuant to this section shall be identical 10 to the base of the consumers sales and service tax 11 imposed pursuant to article fifteen, chapter eleven of 12this code on sales made and services rendered within 13the boundaries of the district. Sales of gasoline and 14special fuel are not subject to special district excise tax, 15but remain subject to the tax levied by article fifteen, 16 chapter eleven of this code. Except for the exemption 17provided in section nine-f of article fifteen, chapter

- 18 eleven of this code, all exemptions and exceptions from
- 19 the consumers sales and service tax shall also apply to
- 20 the special district excise tax.

(c) Tax rate. — The rate or rates of a special district
excise tax levied pursuant to this section shall be stated
in an ordinance enacted by the municipality and
identical to the rate or rates of the consumers sales and
service tax imposed pursuant to article fifteen, chapter
eleven of this code on sales rendered within the
boundaries of the district authorized by this section.

(d) Collection by Tax Commissioner. — The ordinance
of the municipality imposing a special district excise
tax shall provide for the tax to be collected by the Tax
Commissioner in the same manner as the tax levied by
section three, article fifteen, chapter eleven of this code
is administered, assessed, collected and enforced.

34(1) The State Tax Commissioner may require the electronic filing of returns related to the special district 35 excise tax imposed pursuant to this section and may 36 37 require the electronic payment of the special district excise tax imposed pursuant to this section. The State 38 39 Tax Commissioner may prescribe by rules promulgated 40 pursuant to article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this 41 code. administrative notices, and forms and 42instructions, the procedures and criteria to be followed 43to electronically file such returns and to electronically 44 pay the special district excise tax imposed pursuant to 45 this section.

46 (2) Any rules filed by the State Tax Commissioner
47 relating to the special district excise tax imposed
48 pursuant to this section shall set forth the following:

49 (A) Acceptable indicia of timely payment;

50 (B) Which type of electronic filing method or methods51 a particular type of taxpayer may or may not use;

52 (C) What type of electronic payment method or
53 methods a particular type of taxpayer may or may not
54 use;

(D) What, if any, exceptions are allowable and
alternative methods of payment that may be used for
any exceptions;

58 (E) Procedures for making voluntary or mandatory59 electronic payments or both;

(F) Any other provisions necessary to ensure the
timely electronic filing of returns related to the special
district excise tax and the making of payments
electronically of the special district excise tax imposed
pursuant to this section.

65 (3) (A) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 66 five-d, article ten, chapter eleven of this code: (i) So 67 long as bonds are outstanding pursuant to this article, 68 the Tax Commissioner shall provide on a monthly basis to the trustee for bonds issued pursuant to this article 69 information on returns submitted pursuant to this 70 71 article; and (ii) the trustee may share the information so 72obtained with the county commission that established 73 the economic opportunity development district that 74issued the bonds pursuant to this article and with the 75 bondholders and with bond counsel for bonds issued pursuant to this article. The Tax Commissioner and the 76 77 trustee may enter into a written agreement in order to

accomplish such exchange of information.

79 (B) Any confidential information provided pursuant 80 to this subdivision shall be used solely for the protection and enforcement of the rights and remedies 81 of the bondholders of bonds issued pursuant to this 82 article. Any person or entity that is in possession of 83 84 information disclosed by the Tax Commissioner or shared by the trustee pursuant to subdivision (a) of this 85 86 subsection is subject to the provisions of section five-d, 87 article ten, chapter eleven of this code as if such person or entity that is in possession of such tax information is 88 89 an officer, employee, agent or representative of this state or of a local or municipal governmental entity or 90 91 other governmental subdivision.

92 (e) Deposit of net tax collected. —

93 (1) The ordinance of the municipality imposing a special district excise tax shall provide that the Tax 94 Commissioner deposit the net amount of tax collected 95 96 in the special Economic Opportunity Development 97 District Fund to the credit of the municipality's 98 subaccount therein for the economic opportunity 99 development district and that the money in the subaccount may only be used to pay for development 100 101 expenditures as provided in this article except as provided in subsection (f) of this section. 102

(2)(A) The State Treasurer shall withhold from the
municipality's subaccount in the Economic Opportunity
Development District Fund and shall deposit in the
General Revenue Fund of this state, on or before the
twentieth day of each calendar month next following
the effective date of a special district excise tax, a sum

 $109 \qquad equal to one twelf th of the base tax revenue amount last$

certified by the development office pursuant to sectionseven of this article.

111 seven of this article.

112 (B) In addition to the amounts described in paragraph 113 (A) of this subdivision, the Tax Commissioner shall 114 deposit in the General Revenue Fund of this state on the dates specified in paragraph (A) not less than 115twenty percent nor more than fifty percent of the excess 116 117 of the special district excise taxes collected during the 118 preceding month above one twelfth of the base tax 119 revenue, said percentage to be fixed by the development 120 office in conjunction with its approval of an application in accordance with section seven of this article based on 121 122 the amount of state funds, if any, to be expended in 123conjunction with the respective economic opportunity 124 development district project for items including, but acquisition, construction, 125not limited to, the 126 reconstruction, improvement, enlargement or extension of roadways, rights-of-way, sidewalks, traffic signals, 127 128 water or sewer lines and other public infrastructure and 129 such other expenditures of state funds identified by the 130development office.

(f) Effective date of special district excise tax. — Any
taxes imposed pursuant to the authority of this section
shall be effective on the first day of the calendar month
that begins at least sixty days after the date of
enactment of the ordinance imposing the tax or at any
later date expressly designated in the ordinance that
begins on the first day of a calendar month.

(g) Copies of ordinance. — Upon enactment of an
ordinance levying a special district excise tax, a
certified copy of the ordinance shall be mailed to the

141 State Auditor, as ex officio the chief inspector and

142 supervisor of public offices, the State Treasurer and the

143 Tax Commissioner.

§8-38-16. Bonds issued to finance economic opportunity development district projects.

(a) General. — The municipality that established the
 economic opportunity development district may issue
 bonds or notes for the purpose of financing
 development expenditures, as described in section five
 of this article, with respect to one or more projects
 within the economic opportunity development district.

7 (b) Limited obligations. — All bonds and notes issued
8 by a municipality under the authority of this article are
9 limited obligations of the municipality.

(c) Term of obligations. — No municipality may issue
notes, bonds or other instruments for funding district
projects or improvements that exceed a repayment
schedule of thirty years: Provided, That the maximum
repayment schedule of bonds issued to finance
remediation authorized under section five of this article
may not exceed twenty years.

17 (d) *Debt service*. — The principal and interest on the 18 bonds shall be payable out of the funds on deposit in subaccount established for the economic 19 the 20opportunity development district pursuant to section 21 eight of this article, including, without limitation, any 22funds derived from the special district excise tax 23imposed by section twelve of this article or other revenues derived from the economic opportunity 2425development district to the extent pledged for the

26 purpose by the municipality in the resolution27 authorizing the bonds.

28 (e) *Surplus funds.* — To the extent that the average 29daily amount on deposit in the subaccount established for a district pursuant to section eight of this article 30 exceeds, for more than six consecutive calendar 3132months, the sum of: (1) One hundred thousand dollars: 33 plus (2) the amount required to be kept on deposit pursuant to the documents authorizing, securing or 34otherwise relating to the bonds or notes issued under 35 36 this section, then the excess shall be used by the district 37either to redeem the bonds or notes previously issued or 38 remitted to the general fund of this state.

39 (f) Debt not general obligation of municipality. — Neither the notes or bonds and any interest coupons 40 issued under the authority of this article shall ever 41 42 constitute an indebtedness of the municipality issuing 43the notes or bonds within the meaning of any constitutional provision or statutory limitation and 44 45 shall never constitute or give rise to a pecuniary 46 liability of the municipality issuing the notes or bonds.

(g) Debt not a charge general credit or taxing powers
of municipality. — Neither the bonds or notes, nor
interest thereon, is a charge against the general credit
or taxing powers of the municipality and that fact shall
be plainly stated on the face of each bond or note.

52 (h) Issuance of bonds or notes. —

(1) Bonds or notes allowed under this section may be
executed, issued and delivered at any time and, from
time to time, may be in a form and denomination, may

56 be of a tenor, must be negotiable but may be registered as to the principal thereof or as to the principal and 57 interest thereof, may be payable in any amounts and at 58 any time or times, may be payable at any place or 59 places, may bear interest at any rate or rates payable at 60 any place or places and evidenced in any manner and 61 may contain any provisions therein not inconsistent 62 63 herewith, all as provided in the ordinance of the 64 municipality whereunder the bonds or notes are authorized to be issued. 65

66 (2) The bonds may be sold by the municipality at
67 public or private sale at, above or below par as the
68 municipality authorizes.

69 (3) Bonds and notes issued pursuant to this article
70 shall be signed by the authorized representative of the
71 municipality and attested by the municipal recorder
72 and be under the seal of the municipality.

73 (4) Any coupons attached to the bonds shall bear the 74 facsimile signature of the authorized representative of 75 the municipality. In case any of the officials whose 76 signatures appear on the bonds, notes or coupons cease to be officers before the delivery of the bonds or notes, 77 their signatures shall, nevertheless, be valid and 78 sufficient for all purposes to the same extent as if they 79 80 had remained in office until the delivery.

(i) Additional bonds or notes. — If the proceeds of the
bonds or notes, by error of calculation or otherwise, are
less than the cost of the economic opportunity
development district project, or if additional real or
personal property is to be added to the district project
or if it is determined that financing is needed for

additional development or redevelopment expenditures, 87 additional bonds or notes may, in like manner, be 88 89 issued to provide the amount of the deficiency or to defray the cost of acquiring or financing any additional 90 91 real or personal property or development or redevelopment expenditures and, unless otherwise 9293provided in the trust agreement, mortgage or deed of trust, are considered to be of the same issue and shall be 94 95entitled to payment from the same fund, without preference or priority, and shall be of equal priority as 96 97 to any security.

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The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

melil President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

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