

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2016 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

### **House Bill 4225**

(BY DELEGATES OVERINGTON, SOBONYA, HANSHAW,  
GEARHEART, CADLE, HOUSEHOLDER, BUTLER, MOFFATT,  
FRICH, ROWAN AND KELLY)

[Introduced January 22, 2016; Referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary.]



1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
2 designated §5-6-17, relating to patriotic displays at public buildings; providing legislative  
3 findings; allowing for the national motto, "In God We Trust", to be displayed on public  
4 buildings; allowing for the display of the POW-MIA flag at public buildings; authorizing  
5 costs associated with display of national motto or POW-MIA flag may be paid with any  
6 private donation, gifts, grants and bequests received by the governing authority; and  
7 requiring the Department of Administration to develop guidelines for appropriate display  
8 of the motto and flag.

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

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new  
2 section, designated §5-6-17, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 6. STATE BUILDINGS.**

**§5-6-17. Display of the national motto and POW-MIA flag.**

1 (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the national motto of "In God We Trust," is an  
2 important part of our country's history and heritage. Additionally, the POW-MIA flag is a symbol  
3 of citizen concern for U.S. military personnel taken as prisoners of war (POW) or listed as missing  
4 in action (MIA). These patriotic displays enhance our national pride and awareness, both of the  
5 sacrifices made by service members and our heritage as Americans.

6 (b) The governing authority of any public property, public buildings and any building,  
7 designed, constructed and maintained with public funds from the state, a county or a municipality  
8 may prominently display on the property or building, the American national motto, "In God We  
9 Trust." Costs associated with the display of the motto may be paid with any private donations,  
10 gifts, grants and bequests received by the governing authority.

11 (c) The governing authority of any public property, public buildings and any building,  
12 designed, constructed and maintained with public funds from the state, a county or a municipality  
13 may prominently display on the property or building, the POW-MIA flag in the same manner as

14 prescribed by this code for the required display of national and state flags. Costs associated with  
15 the display of the POW-MIA flag may be paid with any private donations, gifts, grants and  
16 bequests received by the governing authority.

17 (d) The Department of Administration shall develop guidelines for display of the motto and  
18 POW-MIA flag.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to encourage public officials to display the national motto on public property.

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