

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2018 REGULAR SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 4180**

BY DELEGATES HAMILTON, A. EVANS, R. ROMINE, LOVE,

ELDRIDGE, JENNINGS, LYNCH, HOLLEN AND WAGNER

[Passed March 3, 2018; in effect ninety days from passage.]



1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-1-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to wildlife resources; and authorizing the Director of the Division of Natural Resources to  
3 establish procedures and a fee schedule for individuals applying for limited permit hunts.

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

**ARTICLE 1. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.**

**§20-1-7. Additional powers, duties and services of director.**

1 In addition to all other powers, duties and responsibilities granted and assigned to the  
2 director in this chapter and elsewhere by law, the director may:

3 (1) With the advice of the commission, prepare and administer, through the various  
4 divisions created by this chapter, a long-range comprehensive program for the conservation of  
5 the natural resources of the state which best effectuates the purpose of this chapter and which  
6 makes adequate provisions for the natural resources laws of the state;

7 (2) Sign and execute in the name of the state by the Division of Natural Resources any  
8 contract or agreement with the federal government or its departments or agencies, subdivisions  
9 of the state, corporations, associations, partnerships or individuals: *Provided*, That  
10 intergovernmental cooperative agreements and agreements with nongovernmental organizations  
11 in furtherance of providing a comprehensive program for the exploration, conservation,  
12 development, protection, enjoyment and use of the natural resources of the state are exempt from  
13 the provisions of §5A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided, however*, That repair and related  
14 construction contracts necessary to protect public health or safety or to provide uninterrupted  
15 enjoyment and public use of state parks, state forests, wildlife management areas and state  
16 natural areas under the jurisdiction of the Division of Natural Resources are exempt from the  
17 provisions of §5A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. Nothing in this section authorizes the construction or  
18 replacement of capital improvements without complying with the provisions of §5A-3-1 *et seq.* of  
19 this code.

20 (3) Conduct research in improved conservation methods and disseminate information  
21 matters to the residents of the state;

22 (4) Conduct a continuous study and investigation of the habits of wildlife and, for purposes  
23 of control and protection, to classify by regulation the various species into such categories as may  
24 be established as necessary;

25 (5) Prescribe the locality in which the manner and method by which the various species of  
26 wildlife may be taken, or chased, unless otherwise specified by this chapter.

27 (6) Hold at least six meetings each year at such time and at such points within the state,  
28 as in the discretion of the Natural Resources Commission may appear to be necessary and proper  
29 for the purpose of giving interested persons in the various sections of the state an opportunity to  
30 be heard concerning open season for their respective areas, and report the results of the meetings  
31 to the Natural Resources Commission before the season and bag limits are fixed by it;

32 (7) Suspend open hunting season upon any or all wildlife in any or all counties of the state  
33 with the prior approval of the Governor in case of an emergency such as a drought, forest fire  
34 hazard or epizootic disease among wildlife. The suspension shall continue during the existence  
35 of the emergency and until rescinded by the director. Suspension, or reopening after such  
36 suspension, of open seasons may be made upon twenty-four hours' notice by delivery of a copy  
37 of the order of suspension or reopening to the wire press agencies at the state capitol;

38 (8) Supervise the fiscal affairs and responsibilities of the division;

39 (9) Designate such localities as he or she shall determine to be necessary and desirable  
40 for the perpetuation of any species of wildlife;

41 (10) Enter private lands to make surveys or inspections for conservation purposes, to  
42 investigate for violations of provisions of this chapter, to serve and execute warrants and  
43 processes, to make arrests and to otherwise effectively enforce the provisions of this chapter;

44 (11) Acquire for the state in the name of the Division of Natural Resources by purchase,  
45 condemnation, lease or agreement, or accept or reject for the state, in the name of the Division

46 of Natural Resources, gifts, donations, contributions, bequests or devises of money, security or  
47 property, both real and personal, and any interest in such property, including lands and waters,  
48 which he or she deems suitable for the following purposes:

49 (a) For state forests for the purpose of growing timber, demonstrating forestry, furnishing  
50 or protecting watersheds or providing public recreation;

51 (b) For state parks or recreation areas for the purpose of preserving scenic, aesthetic,  
52 scientific, cultural, archaeological or historical values or natural wonders, or providing public  
53 recreation;

54 (c) For public hunting, trapping or fishing grounds or waters for the purpose of providing  
55 areas in which the public may hunt, trap or fish, as permitted by the provisions of this chapter and  
56 the rules issued hereunder;

57 (d) For fish hatcheries, game farms, wildlife research areas and feeding stations;

58 (e) For the extension and consolidation of lands or waters suitable for the above purposes  
59 by exchange of other lands or waters under his or her supervision;

60 (f) For such other purposes as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

61 (12) Capture, propagate, transport, sell or exchange any species of wildlife as may be  
62 necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

63 (13) Sell timber for not less than the value thereof, as appraised by a qualified appraiser  
64 appointed by the director, from all lands under the jurisdiction and control of the director, except  
65 those lands that are designated as state parks and those in the Kanawha State Forest. The  
66 appraisal shall be made within a reasonable time prior to any sale, reduced to writing, filed in the  
67 office of the director and shall be available for public inspection. The director must obtain the  
68 written permission of the Governor to sell timber when the appraised value is more than \$5,000.  
69 The director shall receive sealed bids therefor, after notice by publication as a Class II legal  
70 advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication  
71 area for the publication shall be each county in which the timber is located. The timber so

72 advertised shall be sold at not less than the appraised value to the highest responsible bidder,  
73 who shall give bond for the proper performance of the sales contract as the director shall  
74 designate; but the director may reject any and all bids and readvertise for bids. If the foregoing  
75 provisions of this section have been complied with and no bid equal to or in excess of the  
76 appraised value of the timber is received, the director may, at any time, during a period of six  
77 months after the opening of the bids, sell the timber in such manner as he or she deems  
78 appropriate, but the sale price may not be less than the appraised value of the timber advertised.  
79 No contract for sale of timber made pursuant to this section may extend for a period of more than  
80 ten years. And all contracts heretofore entered into by the state for the sale of timber may not be  
81 validated by this section if a contract is otherwise invalid. The proceeds arising from the sale of  
82 the timber so sold shall be paid to the Treasurer of the State of West Virginia and shall be credited  
83 to the division and used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter: *Provided*, That nothing  
84 contained herein may prohibit the sale of timber which otherwise would be removed from right-of-  
85 way's necessary for and strictly incidental to the extraction of minerals;

86 (14) Sell or lease, with the approval in writing of the Governor, coal, oil, gas, sand, gravel  
87 and any other minerals that may be found in the lands under the jurisdiction and control of the  
88 director, except those lands that are designated as state parks. The director, before making sale  
89 or lease thereof, shall receive sealed bids therefor, after notice by publication as a Class II legal  
90 advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, and the  
91 publication area for such publication shall be each county in which such lands are located. The  
92 minerals so advertised shall be sold or leased to the highest responsible bidder, who shall give  
93 bond for the proper performance of the sales contract or lease as the director shall designate; but  
94 the director may reject any and all bids and readvertise for bids. The proceeds arising from any  
95 such sale or lease shall be paid to the Treasurer of the State of West Virginia and shall be credited  
96 to the division and used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter;

97           (15) Exercise the powers granted by this chapter for the protection of forests and regulate  
98 fires and smoking in the woods or in their proximity at such times and in such localities as may be  
99 necessary to reduce the danger of forest fires;

100           (16) Cooperate with departments and agencies of state, local and federal governments in  
101 the conservation of natural resources and the beautification of the state;

102           (17) Report to the Governor each year all information relative to the operation and  
103 functions of the division and the director shall make such other reports and recommendations as  
104 may be required by the Governor, including an annual financial report covering all receipts and  
105 disbursements of the division for each fiscal year, and he or she shall deliver the report to the  
106 Governor on or before December 1, next after the end of the fiscal year so covered. A copy of the  
107 report shall be delivered to each house of the Legislature when convened in January next  
108 following;

109           (18) Keep a complete and accurate record of all proceedings, record and file all bonds  
110 and contracts taken or entered into and assume responsibility for the custody and preservation of  
111 all papers and documents pertaining to his or her office, except as otherwise provided by law;

112           (19) Offer and pay, in his or her discretion, rewards for information respecting the violation,  
113 or for the apprehension and conviction of any violators, of any of the provisions of this chapter;

114           (20) Require such reports as he or she may determine to be necessary from any person  
115 issued a license or permit under the provisions of this chapter, but no person may be required to  
116 disclose secret processes or confidential data of competitive significance;

117           (21) Purchase as provided by law all equipment necessary for the conduct of the division;

118           (22) Conduct and encourage research designed to further new and more extensive uses  
119 of the natural resources of this state and to publicize the findings of the research;

120           (23) Encourage and cooperate with other public and private organizations or groups in  
121 their efforts to publicize the attractions of the state;

122           (24) Accept and expend, without the necessity of appropriation by the Legislature, any gift  
123 or grant of money made to the division for all purposes specified in this chapter and he or she  
124 shall account for and report on all such receipts and expenditures to the Governor;

125           (25) Cooperate with the state historian and other appropriate state agencies in conducting  
126 research with reference to the establishment of state parks and monuments of historic, scenic  
127 and recreational value and to take such steps as may be necessary in establishing the  
128 monuments or parks as he or she deems advisable;

129           (26) Maintain in his or her office at all times, properly indexed by subject matter and also  
130 in chronological sequence, all rules made or issued under the authority of this chapter. The  
131 records shall be available for public inspection on all business days during the business hours of  
132 working days;

133           (27) Delegate the powers and duties of his or her office, except the power to execute  
134 contracts not related to land and stream management, to appointees and employees of the  
135 division, who shall act under the direction and supervision of the director and for whose acts he  
136 or she shall be responsible;

137           (28) Conduct schools, institutions and other educational programs, apart from or in  
138 cooperation with other governmental agencies, for instruction and training in all phases of the  
139 natural resources programs of the state;

140           (29) Authorize the payment of all or any part of the reasonable expenses incurred by an  
141 employee of the division in moving his or her household furniture and effects as a result of a  
142 reassignment of the employee: *Provided*, That no part of the moving expenses of any one such  
143 employee may be paid more frequently than once in twelve months;

144           (30) Establishing procedures and fee schedule for individuals applying for limited permit  
145 hunts; and

146           (31) Promulgate rules, in accordance with the provisions of §29A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code,  
147 to implement and make effective the powers and duties vested in him or her by the provisions of

148 this chapter and take such other steps as may be necessary in his or her discretion for the proper  
149 and effective enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.



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

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*Chairman, House Committee*

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*Chairman, Senate Committee*

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

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*Clerk of the House of Delegates*

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*Clerk of the Senate*

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*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

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*President of the Senate*

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The within ..... this the.....  
day of ....., 2018.

.....  
*Governor*