

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2018 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 4361

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R. ROMINE, DEAN, LONGSTRETH, BYRD, ROBINSON,

HORNBUCKLE AND BOGGS

[Originating in the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and

Homeland Security; February 12, 2018.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §9A-1-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to requiring the Veterans' Council to annually honor each West Virginian graduating from
3 the U. S. Military Academy, the U. S. Naval Academy, the U. S. Air Force Academy and
4 the U. S. Coast Guard Academy with the highest grade point average by bestowing upon
5 him or her the West Augusta Award.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. DIVISION OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS.

**§9A-1-4. Duties and functions of Veterans' Council; appointment of secretary; honoring
academic achievement at military academies.**

1 (a) It is the duty and function of the Veterans' Council to advise the secretary on the
2 general administrative policies of the department, to select, at their first meeting in each fiscal
3 year commencing on July 1, a chairperson to serve one year, to advise the secretary on rules as
4 may be necessary, to advise the Governor and the Legislature with respect to legislation affecting
5 the interests of veterans, their widows, widowers, dependents and orphans and to make annual
6 reports to the Governor respecting the service of the department. The secretary has the same
7 eligibility and qualifications prescribed for members of the Veterans' Council. The secretary ex
8 officio shall maintain all records of the Veterans' Council.

9 (b) The Veterans' Council ~~may~~ shall annually honor each West Virginian graduating from
10 the U. S. Military Academy, the U. S. Naval Academy, the U. S. Air Force Academy and the U. S.
11 Coast Guard Academy with the highest grade point average by bestowing upon him or her the
12 West Augusta Award. The award shall be in a design and form established by the council and
13 include the famous Revolutionary War phrase from which the award's name is derived: "Leave
14 me but a banner to plant upon the mountains of West Augusta and I will rally around me men who
15 will lift our bleeding Nation from the dust and set her free." and the inscription "Once again our
16 brethren from West Augusta have answered the call to duty." The council shall coordinate the
17 manner of recognition of the recipient at graduation ceremonies with each academy.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Veterans' Council to annually honor each West Virginian graduating from the U. S. Military Academy, the U. S. Naval Academy, the U. S. Air Force Academy and the U. S. Coast Guard Academy with the highest grade point average by bestowing upon him or her the West Augusta Award.

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