WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2018 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 125

FISCAL NOTE

By SENATOR KARNES

[Introduced January 10, 2018; Referred

to the Committee on Tax Reform; and then to the

Committee on Finance]

A BILL to repeal §11-8-6e and §11-8-6g of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §11-8-6f of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-13A-26; to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §11-13EE-1, §11-13EE-2, §11-13EE-3, and §11-13EE-4; to amend and reenact §11-15-3, §11-15-3a, §11-15-8, and §11-15-9 of said code; to amend and reenact §11-15A-2 of said code; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-21-4g, all relating generally to the 2018 Tax Reform Act; repealing certain procedures relating to increased tax assessments; reducing the rate of the severance tax on certain coal; providing a refundable credit based on the fixed income of low-income senior citizens; increasing the rate of the consumers sales and service tax; eliminating certain exemptions from the consumers sales and service tax; increasing the rate of the use tax; reducing the rate of the personal income tax; and establishing effective dates.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 8. LEVIES.

§11-8-6e. Effect on regular levy rate when appraisal results in tax increase; public hearings. [Repealed.]

§11-8-6f. Regular school board levy rate; creation and implementation of Growth County School Facilities Act; creation of Growth County School Facilities Act Fund.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, where any annual appraisal, triennial appraisal or general valuation of property would produce a statewide aggregate assessment that would cause an increase of two percent or more in the total property tax revenues that would be realized were the then current regular levy rates of the county boards of education to be imposed, the rate of levy for county boards of education shall be reduced uniformly statewide and proportionately for all classes of property for the forthcoming tax year so as to cause the rate of levy to produce no more than one hundred two percent of the previous year's projected statewide aggregate property tax revenues from extending the county board of education levy rate, unless

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subsection (b) of this section is complied with. The reduced rates of levy shall be calculated in the following manner: (1) The total assessed value of each class of property as it is defined by section five of this article for the assessment period just concluded shall be reduced by deducting the total assessed value of newly created properties not assessed in the previous year's tax book for each class of property; (2) the resulting net assessed value of Class I property shall be multiplied by .01; the value of Class II by .02; and the values of Classes III and IV, each by .04; (3) total the current year's property tax revenue resulting from regular levies for the boards of education throughout this state and multiply the resulting sum by one hundred two percent: Provided, That the one hundred two percent figure shall be increased by the amount the boards of education's increased levy provided for in subsection (b), section eight, article one-c of this chapter; (4) divide the total regular levy tax revenues, thus increased in subdivision (3) of this subsection, by the total weighted net assessed value as calculated in subdivision (2) of this subsection and multiply the resulting product by one hundred; the resulting number is the Class I regular levy rate, stated as cents-per-one hundred dollars of assessed value; and (5) the Class II rate is two times the Class I rate; Classes III and IV, four times the Class I rate as calculated in the preceding subdivision.

An additional appraisal or valuation due to new construction or improvements, including beginning recovery of natural resources, to existing real property or newly acquired personal property shall not be an annual appraisal or general valuation within the meaning of this section, nor shall the assessed value of the improvements be included in calculating the new tax levy for purposes of this section. Special levies shall not be included in any calculations under this section.

(b) After conducting a public hearing, the Legislature may, by act, increase the rate above the reduced rate required in subsection (a) of this section if an increase is determined to be necessary.

(c) The State Tax Commissioner shall report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance and the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability by March 1 of

each year on the progress of assessors in each county in assessing properties at the Constitutionally required sixty percent of market value and the effects of increasing the limit on the increase in total property tax revenues set forth in this section to two percent

(d) Growth County School Facilities Act. — Legislative findings. —

- (a) The Legislature finds and declares that there has been, overall, a statewide decline in enrollment in the public schools of this state; due to this decline, most public schools have ample space for students, teachers and administrators; however, some counties of this state have experienced significant increases in enrollment due to significant growth in those counties; that those counties experiencing significant increases do not have adequate facilities to accommodate students, teachers and administrators. Therefore, the Legislature finds that county boards of education in those high-growth counties should have the authority to designate revenues generated from the application of the regular school board levy due to new construction or improvements placed in a Growth County School Facilities Act Fund be used for school facilities in those counties to promote the best interests of this state's students.
- (1) (b) For the purposes of this subsection section "growth county" means any county that has experienced an increase in second month net enrollment of fifty or more during any three of the last five years, as determined by the state Department of Education.
- (2) (c) The provisions of this subsection shall section only apply to any growth county, as defined in subdivision (1) of this subsection this section, that, by resolution of its county board of education, chooses to use the provisions of this subsection section.
- (3) (d) For any growth county, as defined in subdivision (1) of this subsection this section that adopts a resolution choosing to use the provisions of this subsection, pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection section, assessed values resulting from additional appraisal or valuation due to new construction or improvements to existing real property shall be designated as new property values and identified by the county assessor. The statewide regular school board levy rate as established by the Legislature shall be applied to the assessed value designated as new

property values and the resulting property tax revenues collected from application of the regular school board levy rate shall be placed in a separate account designated as the Growth County School Facilities Act Fund. Revenues deposited in the Growth County School Facilities Act Fund shall be appropriated by the county board of education for construction, maintenance or repair of school facilities. Revenues in the fund may be carried over for an indefinite length of time and may be used as matching funds for the purpose of obtaining funds from the School Building Authority or for the payment of bonded indebtedness incurred for school facilities. For any growth county choosing to use the provisions of this section, estimated school board revenues generated from application of the regular school board levy rate to new property values are not to be considered as local funds for purposes of the computation of local share under the provisions of \$18-9A-11 of this code.

(e) This section, as amended during the legislative session in the year 2004, shall be effective as to any regular levy rate imposed for the county boards of education for taxes due and payable on or after July 1, 2004. If any provision of this section is held invalid, the invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this section which can be given effect without the invalid provision or its application and to this end the provisions of this section are declared to be severable

§11-8-6g. Effect on special levy rates when appraisal results in tax revenue increase; public hearings.

[Repealed.]

ARTICLE 13A. SEVERANCE AND BUSINESS PRIVILEGE TAX ACT.

§11-13A-26. Prospective balancing of tax rate on coal production.

(a) Notwithstanding anything contained in this article to the contrary, the tax on the production of coal under §11-13A-3 of this code shall, from the effective date of this section, be imposed at the following rates: All coal production taxed at five percent under section §11-13A-3

of this code shall be reduced by five equal parts annually beginning on July 1, 2018, until the coal

production is taxed at two and five tenths percent under that section.

(b) In the case of all coal production, the applicable rate of tax includes the thirty-five one hundredths of one percent additional severance tax on coal imposed by the state for the benefit of counties and municipalities as provided in §11-13A-6 of this code.

(c) Effective date. – Notwithstanding any other sections of this article, this section applies to gross proceeds derived from the production of coal beginning on July 1, 2018. The language of §11-13A-3 of this code, in effect on the passage of the bill enacting this section in the year 2018, applies to gross proceeds derived from the production of coal prior to July 1, 2018, and, with respect to such gross proceeds, shall be fully and completely preserved.

<u>ARTICLE 13EE. FIXED INCOME CREDIT FOR LOW INCOME SENIOR CITIZENS.</u> §11-13EE-1 Fixed income credit for low income senior citizens.

For the tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, any resident of this state who is a low income senior citizen shall be allowed a credit equal to the adjusted credit amount determined in this article.

§11-13EE-2. Procedure for claiming credit; Limitation of amount paid.

(a) The credit available under this article may be claimed each year, and payment of the same requested by a low-income senior citizen, by filing, within ninety days following the filing of his or her federal income tax return for the year, a claim for credit on forms furnished by the State Tax Commissioner who shall process a requisition for remittance by the State Treasurer of the correct amounts of credit shown on properly completed and filed claims within the same time and according to the same procedures, including the payment of applicable interest, as provided in §11-10-14c of this code for refunds of personal income tax.

(b) No person may receive a credit pursuant to this section in excess of \$200: *Provided*,

That any person entitled to the credits against personal income tax authorized in §11-21-21 of
this code, §11-21-22 of this code or §11-21-23 of this code, may also receive the credits

authorized by this article. The maximum amount of the credit authorized by this article shall be
 reviewed annually by the Legislature to determine if an adjustment is necessary.

(c) Due to the administrative cost of processing, the credit authorized by this section may not be paid if the amount of the credit is determined to be less than \$10.

§11-13EE-3. Definitions.

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For the purposes of this article, the term:

"Adjusted credit amount" means the amount which is equal to one percent of the person's adjusted gross income for the year, reduced by four percent of that amount for every one percentage point by which such person's adjusted gross income exceeds one hundred twenty-five percent of the federal poverty guideline applicable to such person as provided in this section.

"Adjusted gross income" has the meaning as used in the Internal Revenue Code.

"Low income" means adjusted gross income for the tax year that is one hundred fifty percent or less of the federal poverty guideline, based upon the number of individuals in the family unit of which the low income senior citizen is a member, all as determined annually by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"Low income senior citizen" means a resident of this state whose federal adjusted gross income for the tax year meets the definition of "low income" as defined in this section, and who has attained the age of sixty-five years: *Provided*, That for all purposes of this article, the term "low income senior citizen" also means and includes, as one person, those individuals who file joint federal income tax returns with their spouses, whether one or both spouses is a low income senior citizen, and whether either or both spouses have attained the age of sixty-five years.

§11-13EE-4. Effective date.

This article takes effect on January 1, 2018.

ARTICLE 15. CONSUMERS SALES AND SERVICE TAX.

§11-15-3. Amount of tax; allocation of tax and transfers.

(a) Vendor to collect. -- For the privilege of selling tangible personal property or custom

software and for the privilege of furnishing certain selected services defined in §11-15-2 of this code and §11-15-8 of this code, the vendor shall collect from the purchaser the tax as provided under this article and §11-15B-1 *et seq.* of this code, and shall pay the amount of tax to the Tax Commissioner in accordance with the provisions of this article or §11-15B-1 *et seq.* of this code.

- (b) Amount of tax. -- The general consumer sales and service tax imposed by this article shall be at the rate of 6¢ on the dollar of sales or services, excluding gasoline and special fuel sales, which remain taxable at the rate of 5¢ on the dollar of sales: <u>Provided</u>, That for periods beginning on and after October 1, 2018, the rate of the tax shall be 7¢ on the dollar of sale or services, excluding gasoline and special fuel sales.
- (c) Calculation tax on fractional parts of a dollar until January 1, 2004. -- There shall be no tax on sales where the monetary consideration is 5¢ or less. The amount of the tax shall be computed as follows:
 - (1) On each sale, where the monetary consideration is from 6ϕ to 16ϕ , both inclusive, 1ϕ .
 - (2) On each sale, where the monetary consideration is from 17¢ to 33¢, both inclusive, 2¢.
 - (3) On each sale, where the monetary consideration is from 34¢ to 50¢, both inclusive, 3¢.
 - (4) On each sale, where the monetary consideration is from 51¢ to 67¢, both inclusive, 4¢.
 - (5) On each sale, where the monetary consideration is from 68¢ to 84¢, both inclusive, 5¢.
- 19 (6) On each sale, where the monetary consideration is from 85¢ to \$1, both inclusive, 6¢.
 - (7) If the sale price is in excess of \$1, 6¢ on each whole dollar of sale price, and upon any fractional part of a dollar in excess of whole dollars as follows: 1¢ on the fractional part of the dollar if less than 17¢; 2¢ on the fractional part of the dollar if in excess of 16¢ but less than 34¢; 3¢ on the fractional part of the dollar if in excess of 33¢ but less than 51¢; 4¢ on the fractional part of the dollar if in excess of 50¢ but less than 68¢; 5¢ on the fractional part of the dollar if in excess of 67¢ but less than 85¢; and 6¢ on the fractional part of the dollar if in excess of 84¢. For example, the tax on sales from \$1.01 to \$1.16, both inclusive, 7¢; on sales from \$1.17 to \$1.33, both inclusive, 8¢; on sales from \$1.51 to \$1.67,

both inclusive, 10¢; on sales from \$1.68 to \$1.84, both inclusive, 11¢ and on sales from \$1.85 to \$2, both inclusive, 12¢: *Provided,* That beginning January 1, 2004, tax due under this article shall be calculated as provided in subsection (d) of this subsection and this subsection (c) does not apply to sales made after December 31, 2003.

- (d) Calculation of tax on fractional parts of a dollar after December 31, 2003. -- Beginning January 1, 2004, the tax computation under subsection (b) of this section shall be carried to the third decimal place, and the tax rounded up to the next whole cent whenever the third decimal place is greater than four and rounded down to the lower whole cent whenever the third decimal place is four or less. The vendor may elect to compute the tax due on a transaction on a per item basis or on an invoice basis provided the method used is consistently used during the reporting period.
- (e) No aggregation of separate sales transactions, exception for coin-operated devices. Separate sales, such as daily or weekly deliveries, shall not be aggregated for the purpose of computation of the tax even though the sales are aggregated in the billing or payment therefor.
 Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, coin-operated amusement and vending machine sales shall be aggregated for the purpose of computation of this tax.
- (f) Rate of tax on certain mobile homes. -- Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, after December 31, 2003, the tax levied on sales of mobile homes to be used by the owner thereof as his or her principal year-round residence and dwelling shall be an amount equal to six percent of fifty percent of the sales price: *Provided*, That on and after October 1, 2018, the tax levied on sales of mobile homes, regardless of the use thereof by the purchaser, shall be imposed at the rate of 7¢ on each dollar of the sales price.
- (g) Construction; custom software. -- After December 31, 2003, whenever the words "tangible personal property" or "property" appear in this article, the same shall also include the words "custom software".
 - (h) Computation of tax on sales of gasoline and special fuel. -- The method of computation

of tax provided in this section does not apply to sales of gasoline and special fuel.

§11-15-3a. Rate of tax on food and food ingredients intended for human consumption; reductions and cessations of tax.

- (a) Rate of tax on food and food ingredients. -- Notwithstanding any provision of this article or §11-15A-1 et seq. of this code to the contrary:
- (1) Rate reduction. -- The rate of tax on sales, purchases and uses of food and food ingredients intended for human consumption after June 30, 2008, shall be three percent of its sales price, as defined in §11-15B-2 of this code.
- (2) Additional rate reduction. -- The rate of tax on sales, purchases and uses of food and food ingredients as defined in that section that is intended for human consumption after December 31, 2011, shall be two percent of its sales price, as defined in that section. After June 30, 2012, the rate of tax on sales, purchases and uses of food and food ingredients as defined in that section that is intended for human consumption shall be one percent of its sales price, as defined in that section.
- (3) Contingent termination of tax on food. -- The tax on sales, purchases and uses of food and food ingredients as defined in §11-15B-2 of this code that is intended for human consumption shall cease after June 30, 2013, and no such tax shall be imposed on sales, purchases and uses of food and food ingredients so defined: *Provided*, That the cessation of tax after June 30, 2013, authorized by this subsection shall be suspended if the balance of funds as of December 31, 2012, in the Revenue Shortfall Reserve Fund established in §11B-2-20 of this code does not equal or exceed twelve and one-half percent of the General Revenue Fund budgeted for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2012. Such suspension shall terminate, and the cessation of tax shall proceed, beginning on July 1 of any calendar year beginning after December 31, 2013, in which the balance of funds as of December 31 of the preceding fiscal year in said the Revenue Shortfall Reserve Fund equals or exceeds twelve and one-half percent of the General Revenue Fund budgeted for the immediately succeeding fiscal year: *Provided, however*, That on and after

October 1, 2018, the tax imposed under this article and under §11-15A-1 *et seq.* of this code, shall apply to sales, purchases and uses of food and food ingredients intended for human consumption at the rate of three and one-half percent.

- (b) Calculation of tax on fractional parts of a dollar. -- The tax computation under this section shall be carried to the third decimal place and the tax rounded up to the next whole cent whenever the third decimal place is greater than four and rounded down to the lower whole cent whenever the third decimal place is four or less. The seller may elect to compute the tax due on a transaction on a per item basis or on an invoice basis provided the method used is consistently used during the reporting period.
- (c) Federal Food Stamp and Women, Infants and Children programs, other exemptions.
 Nothing in this section affects application of the exemption from tax provided in §11-15-9 of this code for food purchased by an eligible person using food stamps, electronic benefits transfer cards or vouchers issued by or pursuant to authorization of the United States Department of Agriculture to individuals participating in the Federal Food Stamp Program, by whatever name called, or the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, or application of any other exemption from tax set forth in this article or §11-15A-1 et seq. of this code.

§11-15-8. Furnishing of services included; exceptions.

The provisions of this article apply not only to selling tangible personal property and custom software, but also to the furnishing of all services, except professional and personal services, and except those services furnished by businesses subject to the control of the Public Service Commission when the service or the manner in which it is delivered is subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission: *Provided*, That notwithstanding anything in this code to the contrary, on and after October 1, 2018, the regulated service of solid waste disposal, the licensed services of barbering, manicuring, cosmetology, embalming and funeral directing, non-medical personal care services and the providing of telecommunications services as defined in §11-15B-1 et seq. of this code, are subject to the tax imposed under this article. *Provided, however*, That

for the purpose of this section "non-medical personal care services" does not mean any services funded or reimbursed by Medicaid or Medicare.

§11-15-9. Exemptions.

- (a) Exemptions for which exemption certificate may be issued. -- A person having a right or claim to any exemption set forth in this subsection may, in lieu of paying the tax imposed by this article and filing a claim for refund, execute a certificate of exemption, in the form required by the Tax Commissioner, and deliver it to the vendor of the property or service in the manner required by the Tax Commissioner. However, the Tax Commissioner may, by rule, specify those exemptions authorized in this subsection for which exemption certificates are not required. The following sales of tangible personal property and services are exempt as provided in this subsection:
- (1) Sales of gas, steam and water delivered to consumers through mains or pipes and sales of electricity;
- (2) Sales of textbooks required to be used in any of the schools of this state or in any institution in this state which qualifies as a nonprofit or educational institution subject to the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, the board of Trustees of the University System of West Virginia or the board of directors for colleges located in this state Higher Education Policy Commission or the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education;
- (3) Sales of property or services to this state, its institutions or subdivisions, governmental units, institutions or subdivisions of other states: *Provided*, That the law of the other state provides the same exemption to governmental units or subdivisions of this state and to the United States, including agencies of federal, state or local governments for distribution in public welfare or relief work;
- (4) Sales of vehicles which are titled by the Division of Motor Vehicles and which are subject to the tax imposed by §17A-3-4 of this code or like tax;
 - (5) Sales of property or services to churches which make no charge whatsoever for the

services they render: *Provided*, That the exemption granted in this subdivision applies only to services, equipment, supplies, food for meals and materials directly used or consumed by these organizations and does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel;

- (6) Sales of tangible personal property or services to a corporation or organization which has a current registration certificate issued under §11-12-1 *et seq.* of this code, which is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and which is:
- (A) A church or a convention or association of churches as defined in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
- (B) An elementary or secondary school which maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and has a regularly enrolled body of pupils or students in attendance at the place in this state where its educational activities are regularly carried on;
- (C) A corporation or organization which annually receives more than one half of its support from any combination of gifts, grants, direct or indirect charitable contributions or membership fees;
- (D) An organization which has no paid employees and its gross income from fundraisers, less reasonable and necessary expenses incurred to raise the gross income (or the tangible personal property or services purchased with the net income), is donated to an organization which is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
- (E) A youth organization, such as the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Boy Scouts of America or the YMCA Indian Guide/Princess Program and the local affiliates thereof, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and has as its primary purpose the nonsectarian character development and citizenship training of its members;
 - (F) For purposes of this subsection:
 - (i) The term "support" includes, but is not limited to:

(I) Gifts, grants, contributions or membership fees;

(II) Gross receipts from fundraisers which include receipts from admissions, sales of merchandise, performance of services or furnishing of facilities in any activity which is not an unrelated trade or business within the meaning of Section 513 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

- (III) Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the activities are carried on regularly as a trade or business;
- (IV) Gross investment income as defined in Section 509(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;
- (V) Tax revenues levied for the benefit of a corporation or organization either paid to or expended on behalf of the organization; and
- (VI) The value of services or facilities (exclusive of services or facilities generally furnished to the public without charge) furnished by a governmental unit referred to in Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to an organization without charge. This term does not include any gain from the sale or other disposition of property which would be considered as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset or the value of an exemption from any federal, state or local tax or any similar benefit;
- (ii) The term "charitable contribution" means a contribution or gift to or for the use of a corporation or organization, described in Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and
- (iii) The term "membership fee" does not include any amounts paid for tangible personal property or specific services rendered to members by the corporation or organization;
- (G) The exemption allowed by this subdivision does not apply to sales of gasoline or special fuel or to sales of tangible personal property or services to be used or consumed in the generation of unrelated business income as defined in Section 513 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The exemption granted in this subdivision applies only to services,

equipment, supplies and materials used or consumed in the activities for which the organizations qualify as tax-exempt organizations under the Internal Revenue Code and does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel;

- (7) An isolated transaction in which any taxable service or any tangible personal property is sold, transferred, offered for sale or delivered by the owner of the property or by his or her representative for the owner's account, the sale, transfer, offer for sale or delivery not being made in the ordinary course of repeated and successive transactions of like character by the owner or on his or her account by the representative: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this subdivision may be construed to prevent an owner who sells, transfers or offers for sale tangible personal property in an isolated transaction through an auctioneer from availing himself or herself of the exemption provided in this subdivision, regardless of where the isolated sale takes place. The Tax Commissioner may propose a legislative rule for promulgation pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code which he or she considers necessary for the efficient administration of this exemption;
- (8) Sales of tangible personal property or of any taxable services rendered for use or consumption in connection with the commercial production of an agricultural product the ultimate sale of which is subject to the tax imposed by this article or which would have been subject to tax under this article: *Provided*, That sales of tangible personal property and services to be used or consumed in the construction of or permanent improvement to real property and sales of gasoline and special fuel are not exempt: *Provided*, *however*, That nails and fencing may not be considered as improvements to real property;
- (9) Sales of tangible personal property to a person for the purpose of resale in the form of tangible personal property: *Provided*, That sales of gasoline and special fuel by distributors and importers is taxable except when the sale is to another distributor for resale: *Provided*, *however*, That sales of building materials or building supplies or other property to any person engaging in the activity of contracting, as defined in this article, which is to be installed in, affixed to or incorporated by that person or his or her agent into any real property, building or structure is not

exempt under this subdivision;

(10) Sales of newspapers when delivered to consumers by route carriers

(11) (10) Sales of drugs, durable medical goods, mobility-enhancing equipment and prosthetic devices dispensed upon prescription and sales of insulin to consumers for medical purposes. The amendment to this subdivision shall apply applies to sales made after December 31, 2003;

(12) (11) Sales of radio and television broadcasting time, preprinted advertising circulars and newspaper and outdoor advertising space for the advertisement of goods or services;

(13) (12) Sales and services performed by day care centers;

(14) (13) Casual and occasional sales of property or services not conducted in a repeated manner or in the ordinary course of repetitive and successive transactions of like character by a corporation or organization which is exempt from tax under subdivision (6) of this subsection on its purchases of tangible personal property or services. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "casual and occasional sales not conducted in a repeated manner or in the ordinary course of repetitive and successive transactions of like character" means sales of tangible personal property or services at fundraisers sponsored by a corporation or organization which is exempt, under subdivision (6) of this subsection, from payment of the tax imposed by this article on its purchases when the fundraisers are of limited duration and are held no more than six times during any twelve-month period and "limited duration" means no more than eighty-four consecutive hours: *Provided*, That sales for volunteer fire departments and volunteer school support groups, with duration of events being no more than eighty-four consecutive hours at a time, which are held no more than eighteen times in a twelve-month period for the purposes of this subdivision are considered "casual and occasional sales not conducted in a repeated manner or in the ordinary course of repetitive and successive transactions of a like character":

(15) (14) Sales of property or services to a school which has approval from the board of Trustees of the University System of West Virginia or the board of Directors of the state College

System Higher Education Policy Commission or the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education to award degrees, which has its principal campus in this state and which is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended: *Provided,* That sales of gasoline and special fuel are taxable;

- (16) (15) Sales of lottery tickets and materials by licensed lottery sales agents and lottery retailers authorized by the State Lottery Commission, under the provisions of §29-22-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- (17) (16) Leases of motor vehicles titled pursuant to the provisions of §17A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to lessees for a period of thirty or more consecutive days;
- (18) (17) Notwithstanding §11-15-18 of this code or §11-15-18b of this code, or any other provision of this article to the contrary, sales of propane to consumers for poultry house heating purposes, with any seller to the consumer who may have prior paid the tax in his or her price, to not pass on the same to the consumer, but to make application and receive refund of the tax from the Tax Commissioner pursuant to rules which are promulgated after being proposed for legislative approval in accordance with §29A-1-1 through §29A-7-4 of this code by the Tax Commissioner;
- (19) (18) Any sales of tangible personal property or services purchased and lawfully paid for with food stamps pursuant to the federal food stamp program codified in 7 U. S. C. §2011, et seq., as amended, or with drafts issued through the West Virginia special supplement food program for women, infants and children codified in 42 U. S. C. §1786;
- (20) (19) Sales of tickets for activities sponsored by elementary and secondary schools located within this state;
- (21) Sales of electronic data processing services and related software: *Provided*, That, for the purposes of this subdivision, "electronic data processing services" means:
 - (A) The processing of another's data, including all processes incident to processing of data

such as keypunching, keystroke verification, rearranging or sorting of previously documented data for the purpose of data entry or automatic processing and changing the medium on which data is sorted, whether these processes are done by the same person or several persons; and

(B) Providing access to computer equipment for the purpose of processing data or examining or acquiring data stored in or accessible to the computer equipment;

(22) Tuition charged for attending educational summer camps

(23) (20) Dispensing of services performed by one corporation, partnership or limited liability company for another corporation, partnership or limited liability company when the entities are members of the same controlled group or are related taxpayers as defined in Section 267 of the Internal Revenue Code. "Control" means ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock, equity interests or membership interests possessing fifty percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of a corporation, equity interests of a partnership or membership interests of a limited liability company entitled to vote or ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock, equity interests or membership interests possessing fifty percent or more of the value of the corporation, partnership or limited liability company;

(24) (21) Food for the following are exempt:

- (A) Food purchased or sold by a public or private school, school-sponsored student organizations or school-sponsored parent-teacher associations to students enrolled in the school or to employees of the school during normal school hours; but not those sales of food made to the general public;
- (B) Food purchased or sold by a public or private college or university or by a student organization officially recognized by the college or university to students enrolled at the college or university when the sales are made on a contract basis so that a fixed price is paid for consumption of food products for a specific period of time without respect to the amount of food product actually consumed by the particular individual contracting for the sale and no money is paid at the time the food product is served or consumed;

(C) Food purchased or sold by a charitable or private nonprofit organization, a nonprofit organization or a governmental agency under a program to provide food to low-income persons at or below cost;

- (D) Food sold by a charitable or private nonprofit organization, a nonprofit organization or a governmental agency under a program operating in West Virginia for a minimum of five years to provide food at or below cost to individuals who perform a minimum of two hours of community service for each unit of food purchased from the organization;
- (E) Food sold in an occasional sale by a charitable or nonprofit organization, including volunteer fire departments and rescue squads, if the purpose of the sale is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue obtained is actually expended for that purpose;
- (F) Food sold by any religious organization at a social or other gathering conducted by it or under its auspices, if the purpose in selling the food is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue obtained from selling the food is actually used in carrying out those functions and activities: *Provided*, That purchases made by the organizations are not exempt as a purchase for resale; or
- (G) Food sold by volunteer fire departments and rescue squads that are exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, when the purpose of the sale is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue obtained is exempt from federal income tax and actually expended for that purpose;
- (25) (22) Sales of food by little leagues, midget football leagues, youth football or soccer leagues, band boosters or other school or athletic booster organizations supporting activities for grades kindergarten through twelve and similar types of organizations, including scouting groups and church youth groups, if the purpose in selling the food is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenues obtained from selling the food is actually used

in supporting or carrying on functions and activities of the groups: *Provided,* That the purchases made by the organizations are not exempt as a purchase for resale;

(26) (23) Charges for room and meals by fraternities and sororities to their members: Provided, That the purchases made by a fraternity or sorority are not exempt as a purchase for resale;

(27) Sales of or charges for the transportation of passengers in interstate commerce

(28) (24) Sales of tangible personal property or services to any person which this state is prohibited from taxing under the laws of the United States or under the Constitution of this state;

(29) (25) Sales of tangible personal property or services to any person who claims exemption from the tax imposed by this article or §11-15A 1 *et seq.* of this code pursuant to the provision of any other chapter of this code;

(30) (26) Charges for the services of opening and closing a burial lot;

(31) (27) Sales of livestock, poultry or other farm products in their original state by the producer of the livestock, poultry or other farm products or a member of the producer's immediate family who is not otherwise engaged in making retail sales of tangible personal property; and sales of livestock sold at public sales sponsored by breeders or registry associations or livestock auction markets: *Provided,* That the exemptions allowed by this subdivision may be claimed without presenting or obtaining exemption certificates provided the farmer maintains adequate records;

(32) (28) Sales of motion picture films to motion picture exhibitors for exhibition if the sale of tickets or the charge for admission to the exhibition of the film is subject to the tax imposed by this article and sales of coin-operated video arcade machines or video arcade games to a person engaged in the business of providing the machines to the public for a charge upon which the tax imposed by this article is remitted to the Tax Commissioner: *Provided,* That the exemption provided in this subdivision may be claimed by presenting to the seller a properly executed exemption certificate;

(33) (29) Sales of aircraft repair, remodeling and maintenance services when the services are to an aircraft operated by a certified or licensed carrier of persons or property, or by a governmental entity, or to an engine or other component part of an aircraft operated by a certificated or licensed carrier of persons or property, or by a governmental entity and sales of tangible personal property that is permanently affixed or permanently attached as a component part of an aircraft owned or operated by a certificated or licensed carrier of persons or property, or by a governmental entity, as part of the repair, remodeling or maintenance service and sales of machinery, tools or equipment directly used or consumed exclusively in the repair, remodeling or maintenance of aircraft, aircraft engines or aircraft component parts for a certificated or licensed carrier of persons or property or for a governmental entity;

- (34) Charges for memberships or services provided by health and fitness organizations relating to personalized fitness programs;
- (35) (30) Sales of services by individuals who babysit for a profit: *Provided,* That the gross receipts of the individual from the performance of baby-sitting services do not exceed \$5,000 in a taxable year;
- (36) (31) Sales of services by public libraries or by libraries at academic institutions or by libraries at institutions of higher learning;
 - (37) (32) Commissions received by a manufacturer's representative;
- (38) Sales of primary opinion research services when:
- 251 (A) The services are provided to an out-of-state client;

- (B) The results of the service activities, including, but not limited to, reports, lists of focus group recruits and compilation of data are transferred to the client across state lines by mail, wire or other means of interstate commerce, for use by the client outside the State of West Virginia; and
- (C) The transfer of the results of the service activities is an indispensable part of the overall service.

For the purpose of this subdivision, the term "primary opinion research" means original research in the form of telephone surveys, mall intercept surveys, focus group research, direct mail surveys, personal interviews and other data collection methods commonly used for quantitative and qualitative opinion research studies

(39) (33) Sales of property or services to persons within the state when those sales are for the purposes of the production of value-added products: *Provided*, That the exemption granted in this subdivision applies only to services, equipment, supplies and materials directly used or consumed by those persons engaged solely in the production of value-added products: *Provided*, *however*, That this exemption may not be claimed by any one purchaser for more than five consecutive years, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

For the purpose of this subdivision, the term "value-added product" means the following products derived from processing a raw agricultural product, whether for human consumption or for other use. For purposes of this subdivision, the following enterprises qualify as processing raw agricultural products into value-added products: Those engaged in the conversion of:

- (A) Lumber into furniture, toys, collectibles and home furnishings;
- 273 (B) Fruits into wine;

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- 274 (C) Honey into wine;
- 275 (D) Wool into fabric:
- 276 (E) Raw hides into semifinished or finished leather products;
- 277 (F) Milk into cheese;
- (G) Fruits or vegetables into a dried, canned or frozen product:
- 279 (H) Feeder cattle into commonly accepted slaughter weights;
- 280 (I) Aquatic animals into a dried, canned, cooked or frozen product; and
- 281 (J) Poultry into a dried, canned, cooked or frozen product;
 - (40) Sales of music instructional services by a music teacher and artistic services or artistic performances of an entertainer or performing artist pursuant to a contract with the owner or

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operator of a retail establishment, restaurant, inn, bar, tavern, sports or other entertainment facility or any other business location in this state in which the public or a limited portion of the public may assemble to hear or see musical works or other artistic works be performed for the enjoyment of the members of the public there assembled when the amount paid by the owner or operator for the artistic service or artistic performance does not exceed \$3,000: Provided, That nothing contained herein may be construed to deprive private social gatherings, weddings or other private parties from asserting the exemption set forth in this subdivision. For the purposes of this exemption, artistic performance or artistic service means and is limited to the conscious use of creative power, imagination and skill in the creation of aesthetic experience for an audience present and in attendance and includes, and is limited to, stage plays, musical performances, poetry recitations and other readings, dance presentation, circuses and similar presentations and does not include the showing of any film or moving picture, gallery presentations of sculptural or pictorial art, nude or strip show presentations, video games, video arcades, carnival rides, radio or television shows or any video or audio taped presentations or the sale or leasing of video or audio tapes, air shows or any other public meeting, display or show other than those specified herein: Provided, however, That nothing contained herein may be construed to exempt the sales of tickets from the tax imposed in this article. The State Tax Commissioner shall propose a legislative rule pursuant to article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code establishing definitions and eligibility criteria for asserting this exemption which is not inconsistent with the provisions set forth herein: Provided further, That nude dancers or strippers may not be considered as entertainers for the purposes of this exemption

(41) (34) Charges to a member by a membership association or organization which is exempt from paying federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for membership in the association or organization, including charges to members for newsletters prepared by the association or organization for distribution primarily to its members, charges to members for continuing education seminars, workshops,

conventions, lectures or courses put on or sponsored by the association or organization, including charges for related course materials prepared by the association or organization or by the speaker or speakers for use during the continuing education seminar, workshop, convention, lecture or course, but not including any separate charge or separately stated charge for meals, lodging, entertainment or transportation taxable under this article: *Provided,* That the association or organization pays the tax imposed by this article on its purchases of meals, lodging, entertainment or transportation taxable under this article for which a separate or separately stated charge is not made. A membership association or organization which is exempt from paying federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, may elect to pay the tax imposed under this article on the purchases for which a separate charge or separately stated charge could apply and not charge its members the tax imposed by this article or the association or organization may avail itself of the exemption set forth in subdivision (9) of this subsection relating to purchases of tangible personal property for resale and then collect the tax imposed by this article on those items from its member;

(42) (35) Sales of governmental services or governmental materials by county assessors, county sheriffs, county clerks or circuit clerks in the normal course of local government operations;

(43) (36) Direct or subscription sales by the Division of Natural Resources of the magazine currently entitled *Wonderful West Virginia* and by the Division of Culture and History of the magazine currently entitled *Goldenseal* and the journal currently entitled *West Virginia History*;

(44) (37) Sales of soap to be used at car wash facilities;

(45) Commissions received by a travel agency from an out-of-state vendor

(46) (38) The service of providing technical evaluations for compliance with federal and state environmental standards provided by environmental and industrial consultants who have formal certification through the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection or the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health or both. For purposes of this exemption, the service of providing technical evaluations for compliance with federal and state environmental standards includes

those costs of tangible personal property directly used in providing such services that are separately billed to the purchaser of such services and on which the tax imposed by this article has previously been paid by the service provider;

- (47) (39) Sales of tangible personal property and services by volunteer fire departments and rescue squads that are exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if the sole purpose of the sale is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue obtained is exempt from federal income tax and actually expended for that purpose;
- (48) (40) Lodging franchise fees, including royalties, marketing fees, reservation system fees or other fees assessed after December 1, 1997, that have been or may be imposed by a lodging franchiser as a condition of the franchise agreement; and
- (49) (41) Sales of the regulation size United States flag and the regulation size West Virginia flag for display.
- (b) Refundable exemptions. -- Any person having a right or claim to any exemption set forth in this subsection shall first pay to the vendor the tax imposed by this article and then apply to the Tax Commissioner for a refund or credit, or as provided in §11-15-9d of this code, give to the vendor his or her West Virginia direct pay permit number. The following sales of tangible personal property and services are exempt from tax as provided in this subsection:
- (1) Sales of property or services to bona fide charitable organizations who make no charge whatsoever for the services they render: *Provided*, That the exemption granted in this subdivision applies only to services, equipment, supplies, food, meals and materials directly used or consumed by these organizations and does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel;
- (2) Sales of services, machinery, supplies and materials directly used or consumed in the activities of manufacturing, transportation, transmission, communication, production of natural resources, gas storage, generation or production or selling electric power, provision of a public utility service or the operation of a utility service or the operation of a utility business, in the

businesses or organizations named in this subdivision and does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel;

- (3) Sales of property or services to nationally chartered fraternal or social organizations for the sole purpose of free distribution in public welfare or relief work: *Provided*, That sales of gasoline and special fuel are taxable;
- (4) Sales and services, firefighting or station house equipment, including construction and automotive, made to any volunteer fire department organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of West Virginia: *Provided*, That sales of gasoline and special fuel are taxable;
- (5) Sales of building materials or building supplies or other property to an organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which are to be installed in, affixed to or incorporated by the organization or its agent into real property or into a building or structure which is or will be used as permanent low-income housing, transitional housing, an emergency homeless shelter, a domestic violence shelter or an emergency children and youth shelter if the shelter is owned, managed, developed or operated by an organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and
- (6) Sales of construction and maintenance materials acquired by a second party for use in the construction or maintenance of a highway project: *Provided,* That in lieu of any refund or credit to the person that paid the tax imposed by this article, the Tax Commissioner shall pay to the Division of Highways for deposit into the State Road Fund of the state reimbursement for the tax in the amount estimated under the provisions of this subdivision: *Provided, however,* That by June 15 of each fiscal year, the division shall provide to the Tax Department an itemized listing of highways projects with the amount of funds expended for highway construction and maintenance. The Commissioner of Highways shall request reimbursement of the tax based on an estimate that forty percent of the total gross funds expended by the agency during the fiscal period were for the acquisition of materials used for highway construction and maintenance. The amount of the

reimbursement shall be calculated at six percent of the forty percent.

ARTICLE 15A. USE TAX.

§11-15A-2. Imposition of tax; six percent tax rate; inclusion of services as taxable; transition rules; allocation of tax and transfers.

- (a) An excise tax is hereby levied and imposed on the use in this state of tangible personal property, custom software or taxable services, to be collected and paid as provided in this article or §11-15B-1 *et seq.* of this code, at the rate of six percent of the purchase price of the property or taxable services, except as otherwise provided in this article: *Provided*, That for sales occurring and services provided on and after October 1, 2018, the rate of tax imposed by this article is seven percent of the purchase price of the property or taxable services, except as otherwise provided in this article.
- (b) Calculation of tax on fractional parts of a dollar. The tax computation under subsection (a) of this section shall be carried to the third decimal place and the tax rounded up to the next whole cent whenever the third decimal place is greater than four and rounded down to the lower whole cent whenever the third decimal place is four or less. The vendor may elect to compute the tax due on a transaction on a per item basis or on an invoice basis provided the method used is consistently used during the reporting period.
- (c) "Taxable services," for the purposes of this article, means services of the nature that are subject to the tax imposed by §11-15-1 *et seq.* of this code. In this article, wherever the words "tangible personal property" or "property" appear, the same shall include the words "or taxable services," where the context so requires.
- (d) <u>A</u> use tax is hereby imposed upon every person using tangible personal property, custom software or taxable service within this state. That person's liability is not extinguished until the tax has been paid. A receipt with the tax separately stated thereon issued by a retailer engaged in business in this state, or by a foreign retailer who is authorized by the Tax Commissioner to collect the tax imposed by this article, relieves the purchaser from further liability

for the tax to which the receipt refers.

(e) Purchases of tangible personal property or taxable services made for the government of the United States or any of its agencies by ultimate consumers is subject to the tax imposed by this section. Industrial materials and equipment owned by the federal government within the State of West Virginia of a character not ordinarily readily obtainable within the state, is not subject to use tax when sold, if the industrial materials and equipment would not be subject to use taxes if sold outside of the state for use in West Virginia.

(f) This article does not apply to purchases made by counties or municipal corporations.

ARTICLE 21. PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

§11-21-4g. Rate of tax — Taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019.

(a) Rate of tax on individuals (except married individuals filing separate returns).		
individuals filing joint returns, heads of households, estates and trusts. For tax years beginning		
on and after January 1, 2019, the tax imposed by §11-21-3 of this code on the West Virginia		
taxable income of every individual (except married individuals filing separate returns); every		
individual who is a head of a household in the determination of his or her federal income tax for		
the taxable year; every husband and wife who file a joint return under this article; every individual		
who is entitled to file his or her federal income tax return for the taxable year as a surviving spouse;		
and every estate and trust shall be determined in accordance with the following table:		
If the West Virginia taxable income is: The tax is:		
Not over \$20,000 1.85% of the taxable income		
Over \$20,000 but not over \$35,000 \$370.00 plus 3.65% of excess		
Over \$35,000 \$917.50 plus 5.45% of excess.		
(b) Rate of tax on married individuals filing separate returns For tax years beginning on		
and after January 1, 2019, in the case of husband and wife filing separate returns under this article		
for the taxable year, the tax imposed by §11-21-3 of this code on the West Virginia taxable income		
of each spouse shall be determined in accordance with the following table:		

17	If the West Virginia taxable income is:	The tax is:
18	Not over \$10,000	1.85% of the taxable income
19	Over \$10,000 but not over \$17,500	\$185.00 plus 3.65% of excess
20	Over \$17,500	\$458.75 plus 5.45% of excess.
21	(c) For the tax years beginning on and after January 1, 2020, the rates of tax imposed by	
22	this article, in each of the income brackets shown in subsections (a) and (b) of this section, shall	
23	be reduced by one-tenth of one percentage point for each \$50 million by which the actual	
24	combined collections of the consumers sales and service tax imposed under §11-15-1 et seq. of	
25	this code and of the use tax, imposed under §11-15A-1 et seq. of this code, exceed \$1.8 billion	
26	for the fiscal year ending six months prior to January 1 of each tax year, until the rates of the tax	
27	imposed by this article are each zero percent: Provided, That once the rate of the tax imposed by	
28	this article has been reduced pursuant to this subsection	on, that rate shall not again be raised:
29	Provided, however, That each and every provision of this	is article is repealed for all tax periods
30	beginning on and after January 1 of the first year in which	the rate of the tax in each of the income
31	brackets shown in subsections (a) and (b) of this section i	s zero percent: Provided, further, That
32	tax liabilities, if any, arising for taxable periods prior to the	e date the tax is thus repealed, shall be
33	determined, administered, assessed and collected as if the tax imposed by this article had not	
34	been repealed, and the rights and duties of taxpayers and	d the state shall be fully and completely

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to enact the 2018 Tax Reform Act.

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preserved.

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