

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2018 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 132

BY SENATORS STOLLINGS, OJEDA, PREZIOSO, TAKUBO,

AND WOELFEL

[Introduced January 10, 2018; Referred

to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the
2 balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund,
3 General Revenue, to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Health
4 – Central Office, fund 0407, fiscal year 2018, organization 0506, by supplementing and
5 amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018.

6 Whereas, The state budget that became law without the Governor’s signature for the
7 fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, contained no funding for the Tobacco Education Program; and

8 Whereas, The Division of Tobacco Prevention, which manages the Tobacco Education
9 Program, saw its efforts result in a drop in the percentage of West Virginians who smoke from
10 28.6% in 2011 to 24.8% in 2016, according to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey;
11 and

12 Whereas, The Division of Tobacco Prevention and the Tobacco Education Program is
13 responsible for major funding for the RAZE program, which is West Virginia’s only teen-led and
14 teen-implemented anti-tobacco movement that has contributed to a 32% drop in high school
15 smoking and a 19% drop in spit-tobacco use among high school boys since 1999, according to
16 the American Lung Association in West Virginia; and

17 Whereas, The Division of Tobacco Prevention operates the no-cost tobacco cessation
18 quitline services that have contributed greatly to the reduction in smoking among teens and adults;
19 and

20 Whereas, Because the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2018, contained no
21 funding for the Tobacco Education Program, there has been a significant delay in getting a RAZE
22 contract agreement in place to continue the program, meaning that youth and schools missed out
23 on tobacco prevention education during the first half of the 2017-18 school year; and

24 Whereas, RAZE, in particular, and the Tobacco Education Program, in general, are crucial
25 to the efforts to continue to reduce tobacco usage and help make West Virginia a healthier state;
26 and

