

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2720

BY DELEGATE CRISS

(BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION)

[Passed April 10, 2021; in effect January 1, 2022.]

1 AN ACT to repeal §17-2A-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend said
2 code by adding thereto a new section, designated §5F-2-8, all relating to establishing a
3 merit-based personnel administration system for the agencies, authorities, boards, and
4 commissions within the Department of Transportation; authorizing the Secretary of
5 Transportation to establish a merit-based personnel system; providing requirements and
6 effective date for the personnel system; preserving classified or classified-exempt status,
7 rights and privileges thereof, and due process protections; requiring compliance with state
8 law regarding nepotism, favoritism, discrimination, and ethics in the employment process;
9 prohibiting actions with a negative effect on federal funding; requiring inter-agency
10 cooperation by the Division of Personnel; authorizing rule-making; and removing
11 duplicative special employment procedures for Division of Highways personnel.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**CHAPTER 5F. REORGANIZATION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF
STATE GOVERNMENT.**

ARTICLE 2. TRANSFER OF AGENCIES AND BOARDS.

**§5F-2-8. Special merit-based personnel system for Department of Transportation
employees.**

1 (a) In order to attract and retain employees in the Department of Transportation, the
2 Secretary of Transportation shall establish a system of personnel administration based on merit
3 principles and scientific methods governing the appointment, promotion, transfer, layoff, removal,
4 discipline, classification, compensation, and welfare of its employees, and other incidents of state
5 employment. All appointments and promotions to positions shall be made solely on the basis of
6 merit and fitness for the position.

7 (b) The Department of Transportation personnel system shall be founded on effective
8 performance management principles that set clear goals, provide efficient and effective services
9 for our citizens, and appraise and reward employees for being responsible and performing as
10 required.

11 (c) Beginning on January 1, 2022, notwithstanding any provision of this code or any rule
12 to the contrary, employees and positions within the various agencies, boards, commissions, and
13 divisions within the Department of Transportation currently governed by the provisions of §29-6-
14 1 *et seq.* of this code shall be subject to the personnel system created pursuant to this section:
15 *Provided*, That such employees and positions shall be deemed to retain their classified or
16 classified-exempt status and all rights and privileges thereof. The employees of the Department
17 of Transportation shall be afforded due process protections through §6C-2-1 *et seq.* of this code
18 or other procedures established by the department that assure all of the protections required by
19 law.

20 (d) The Department of Transportation personnel system is not exempt from the provisions
21 of this code prohibiting nepotism, favoritism, discrimination, or unethical practices related to the
22 employment process.

23 (e) The Department of Transportation personnel system may not be applied in any manner
24 that would disqualify the department or its agencies, boards, commissions, or divisions for
25 eligibility for any federal funding or assistance.

26 (f) The Division of Personnel shall, upon request of the Secretary of Transportation, take
27 any action necessary to assist the Department of Transportation in completing the transition to
28 the department's personnel system in an orderly and efficient manner.

29 (g) The Secretary of Transportation may propose rules for legislative approval in
30 accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and may promulgate emergency
31 rules pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-15 of this code to implement the provisions of this
32 section.

CHAPTER 17. ROADS AND HIGHWAYS.

ARTICLE 2A. WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS.

§17-2A-24. Special employment procedures for Division of Highways personnel.

1 [Repealed.]

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 January 1, 2022.

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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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day of, 2021.

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Governor