

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 262

BY SENATORS PHILLIPS, GRADY, MARTIN, MAYNARD,

KARNES, HAMILTON, AND WOODRUM

[Introduced January 13, 2022; referred
to the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by creating a new section,
 2 designated §12-1-15, relating generally to financial institutions engaged in boycotts of
 3 energy companies; defining terms; authorizing the State Treasurer to prepare, maintain,
 4 and publish a list of financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies;
 5 requiring the Treasurer to post the list on his or her website and submit the list to certain
 6 public officials; setting forth sources of information on which the Treasurer may rely on
 7 preparing the list; requiring the Treasurer to send written notice to a financial institution of
 8 its inclusion on the list; requiring the Treasurer to remove a financial institution from the
 9 list if it presents information demonstrating that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy
 10 companies; authorizing the Treasurer to exclude financial institutions on the list from the
 11 selection process for state banking contracts; authorizing the Treasurer to refuse to enter
 12 into a banking contract with a financial institution on the list; authorizing the Treasurer to
 13 require, as a term of a banking contract, an agreement by the financial institution not to
 14 engage in a boycott of energy companies; and limiting liability of public officials, public
 15 employees, and members or employees of financial institutions for actions taken in
 16 compliance with the new code section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. STATE DEPOSITORIES.

§12-1-15. Financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies.

1 (a) Definitions. – For the purposes of this section:

2 (1) “Banking contract” means a contract entered into by the Treasurer and a financial
 3 institution pursuant to this chapter, to provide banking goods or services to a spending unit.

4 (2) “Boycott of energy companies” means, without an ordinary business purpose, refusal
 5 to deal with a company, termination of business activities with a company, or another action that
 6 is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company
 7 because the company:

8 (A) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or
9 manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy;

10 (B) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or
11 manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental
12 standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or

13 (C) Does business with a company that engages in the exploration, production, utilization,
14 transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy.

15 (3) "Company" means any sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation,
16 partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company,
17 or other entity or business association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries, majority-owned
18 subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or business associations, that exist
19 for the purpose of making profit.

20 (4) "Financial institution" means a bank, national banking association, non-bank financial
21 institution, a bank and trust company, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building
22 and loan association, a mutual savings bank, a credit union, or a savings bank.

23 (5) "Restricted financial institution" means a financial institution included in the most
24 recently updated Restricted Financial Institution List.

25 (6) "Restricted Financial Institution List" means the list that the Treasurer is authorized to
26 prepare, maintain, and publish pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

27 (7) "Treasurer" refers to the West Virginia State Treasurer.

28 (b) *Restricted Financial Institutions List.* –

29 (1) The Treasurer is authorized to prepare and maintain a list of financial institutions that
30 are engaged in a boycott of energy companies. A list prepared pursuant to this subsection shall
31 be known and cited as the "Restricted Financial Institution List."

32 (2) In preparing the Restricted Financial Institution List, the Treasurer may review and rely
33 on publicly available information regarding financial institutions, including public statements by a

34 company, information published or provided by nonprofit organizations, research firms,
35 international organizations, and other state or federal governmental entities.

36 (3) Upon preparation of the Restricted Financial Institution List, the Treasurer must comply
37 with the following requirements:

38 (A) The Treasurer must publicly post the Restricted Financial Institution List on the
39 Treasurer's website and submit a copy of the list to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
40 and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.

41 (B) The Treasurer must update the Restricted Financial Institution List annually, or more
42 often as the Treasurer considers necessary.

43 (C) For each newly identified restricted financial institution, the Treasurer must send a
44 written notice informing the institution of its restricted financial institution status and that it may be
45 ineligible to enter into, or remain in, banking contracts with the State of West Virginia. If, following
46 the receipt of the written notice, the restricted financial institution provides information
47 demonstrating, to the Treasurer's satisfaction, that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy
48 companies or that it has ceased all activity that boycotts energy companies, the Treasurer must
49 remove the company from the Restricted Financial Institution List.

50 (c) Treasurer authority with regard to restricted financial institutions. –

51 (1) In selecting a financial institution to enter into a banking contract, the Treasurer is
52 authorized to disqualify restricted financial institutions from the competitive bidding process or
53 from any other official selection process.

54 (2) The Treasurer is authorized to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a restricted
55 financial institution based on its restricted financial institution status.

56 (3) The Treasurer is authorized to require, as a term of any banking contract, an
57 agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies for the
58 duration of the contract.

59 (d) Limitation on liability. – With respect to actions taken in compliance with this section, a

- 60 public agency, public official, public employee, or member or employee of a financial institution is
61 immune from liability.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Treasurer to restrict state banking contracts with financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies.

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