

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2488

By Delegate Rowe

[Introduced January 11, 2023; Referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §18-5-15h, relating to requiring county boards of education to provide days
 3 prior to early voting during primary and general elections for registering eligible students to
 4 vote and being transported to vote.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-15h. Providing school days to register and transport students to vote.

1 (a) School Day for Registration to Vote. -- Each county board of education shall schedule a
 2 school day for eligible students to register to vote. This day shall be at least 30 days prior to the
 3 commencement of early voting for a primary, general or special election occurring during a school
 4 term. The board shall give notice through school principals of the opportunity for students to
 5 register to vote at schools where students are of an age to be eligible to vote. The notice shall be at
 6 least seven to 10 days prior to the day scheduled for students to register to vote at their schools.
 7 The board or its school principals may coordinate, if they choose, with the clerk of the county
 8 commission or with an employee of the clerk's office, who are not then candidates for office, to
 9 assist with or conduct registration at the schools.

10 (b) School Day For Early Voting. -- Each county board of education shall select a school
 11 day during the early voting periods before each primary, general or special election occurring
 12 during a school term on which the board shall provide transportation to an appropriate voting place
 13 for students who are eligible and registered to vote. This voting transportation day shall be
 14 selected with notice to the clerk of the county commission. The board shall give notice through its
 15 principals of the transportation day in all schools with eligible registered students at least seven to
 16 10 days before the scheduled voting transportation date. Students who elect to be transported by
 17 their parents or guardians for the purpose of voting in an election during a school term may do so
 18 as an excused absence or tardy on any appropriate school day including without limitation a day
 19 scheduled by the board for voting transportation.

20 (c) Educational Purpose With No Electioneering. -- The activities of registering and voting
21 by students shall be considered for an educational purpose and shall be done without
22 electioneering by faculty or staff.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require county boards of education to provide days prior to early voting during primary, general and special elections for registering eligible students to vote and for the transportation of registered students to appropriate voting places during early voting periods.

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