

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2551

By Delegate Foster

[Introduced January 13, 2023; Referred to the Committee
on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §18-8-1b, relating to ensuring that qualified homeschool graduates are given
 3 the same postsecondary educational and career opportunities as those in public, private,
 4 or parochial schools.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 8. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

§18-8-1b. Homeschool Credential Recognition Act.

1 (a) Legislative findings. - Qualified homeschool graduates are missing out on
 2 postsecondary educational and career opportunities because state and local government policies
 3 fail to recognize a homeschool diploma and transcript as sufficiently documenting a high school
 4 level education.

5 (b) Issuance of a diploma or other appropriate credential. - A diploma or credential issued
 6 by a person who administers a program of secondary education in a home school setting that
 7 qualifies as an exemption from compulsory requirements is legally sufficient to demonstrate that
 8 the recipient meets the requirement of having a high school diploma or its equivalent. No state or
 9 local agency or institution of higher learning in this state may reject or otherwise treat a person
 10 differently based solely on the source of such a diploma or credential.

11 (c) Verification of enrollment. - The parent or guardian shall have the authority to execute
 12 any document required by law, rule, regulation, or policy to evidence the enrollment of a child in an
 13 educational program provided in a home school setting that qualifies as an exemption from
 14 compulsory attendance requirements, the student’s full-time or part-time status, the student’s
 15 grades, or any other required educational information.

16 (d) Effective date. - The provisions of this section apply beginning after July 31, 2023.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide the same postsecondary and educational opportunities to homeschool high school graduates as those in public, private, or parochial schools.

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