

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

## **House Bill 3272**

BY DELEGATES CRISS, HARDY, HOUSEHOLDER, BARNHART,  
WESTFALL, JEFFRIES, HOTT, CAPITO, C. PRITT, ESPINOSA AND  
RILEY

[Passed February 22, 2023; in effect ninety days from passage.]



1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new chapter,  
2 designated §311-1-1, §311-1-2, §311-1-3, §311-1-4, §311-1-5, §311-1-6, §311-1-7, §311-1-8,  
3 §311-1-9, §311-1-10, §311-1-11, §311-1-12, and §311-1-13; and to amend and reenact §36-  
4 1A-1 of said code, all relating to the operation of private trust companies; creating the  
5 West Virginia Private Trust Company Act; setting forth purposes and findings; defining  
6 terms; specifying requirements and limitations for and powers of private trust companies  
7 and licensed private trust companies; requiring a nonrefundable application fee; creating  
8 a special account in the State Treasury; specifying responsibilities and rule-making  
9 authority of the State Auditor; and modifying statutory rule against perpetuities.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

## **CHAPTER 31I. TRUST COMPANIES.**

### **ARTICLE 1. PRIVATE TRUST COMPANIES AND PRIVATE TRUST BUSINESS.**

#### **§311-1-1. Short title.**

1 This article may be cited as the "Private Trust Company Act".

#### **§311-1-2. Purposes; findings.**

1 (a) The purpose of the article is to establish requirements for licensing private trust  
2 companies, to regulate persons who provide fiduciary services to family members of no more than  
3 three families and their related interests as a private trust company, and to establish the degree  
4 of regulatory oversight required of the State Auditor over such companies. The public interest  
5 served by this article is to ensure that fiduciary activities performed by a private trust company  
6 are restricted to family members and their related interests and as otherwise provided in this  
7 article.

8 (b) The Legislature finds that:

9 (1) A private trust company is not a financial institution, and licensure of such a company  
10 is not required.

11 (2) A private trust company may elect to be a licensed private trust company under this  
12 article if the company desires to be subject to the regulatory oversight of the State Auditor, as  
13 provided in this article, notwithstanding that the company restricts its services to family members.

14 (3) With respect to a licensed private trust company, the State Auditor is responsible for  
15 regulating, supervising, and examining the company as provided under this article.

16 (4) With respect to a private trust company that does not elect to be licensed, the State  
17 Auditor's role is limited to ensuring that fiduciary services provided by the company are restricted  
18 to family members and authorized related interests and not to the general public. The State  
19 Auditor is not responsible for examining a private trust company regarding the safety or  
20 soundness of its operations.

**§311-1-3. Definitions.**

1 As used in this article, unless the context requires a different meaning:

2 (1) "Applicant" means the corporation or limited liability company on whose behalf an  
3 application for a license to operate as a licensed private trust company is submitted under §311-  
4 1-4(e) of this code.

5 (2) "Capital account" means the aggregate value of unimpaired capital stock based on the  
6 par value of the shares, plus any unimpaired surplus and undivided profits or retained earnings  
7 of a private trust company organized as a corporation; or the initial cash investment remitted for  
8 membership interests in a private trust company organized as a limited liability company, plus any  
9 undivided profits or retained earnings of the limited liability company.

10 (3) "Capital stock" means the shares of stock issued to create nonwithdrawable capital for  
11 a corporation, or membership interests issued to create nonwithdrawable capital for a limited  
12 liability company.

13 (4) "Collateral kinship" means a relationship that is not lineal but derives from a common  
14 ancestor.

15 (5) "Degrees of kinship" means, with respect to two persons:

16 (A) Degrees of lineal kinship computed by counting one degree for each person in the line  
17 of ascent or descent, exclusive of the person from whom the computing begins; and

18 (B) Degrees of collateral kinship computed by commencing with one of the persons and  
19 ascending from that person to a common ancestor, descending from that ancestor to the other  
20 person, and counting one degree for each person in the line of ascent and in the line of descent,  
21 exclusive of the person from whom the computation begins, the total to represent the degree of  
22 such kinship.

23 (6) "Designated relative" means a common ancestor of a family, who may be a living or  
24 deceased person, who is the individual to or through whom the family members are related, and  
25 who is so designated in the application for a license.

26 (7) "Family" means a designated relative and family members of that designated relative.

27 (8) "Family affiliate" means a company or other entity in which one or more family  
28 members own, control, or have the power, directly or indirectly, to vote all of the capital stock,  
29 partnership interests, membership interests, or other equity interests of the entity.

30 (9) "Family member" means a designated relative and:

31 (A) Any individual within: (i) the fifth degree of lineal kinship to a designated relative of a  
32 private trust company, or the sixth degree of lineal kinship to a designated relative of a licensed  
33 private trust company, or (ii) the seventh degree of collateral kinship to a designated relative of a  
34 private trust company, or the ninth degree of collateral kinship to a designated relative of a  
35 licensed private trust company;

36 (B) The present or past spouse of any individual qualifying as a family member and an  
37 individual who is within the fifth degree of lineal kinship to such spouse or former spouse;

38 (C) A trust established by: (i) a family member if the trust is funded exclusively by one or  
39 more family members and, for these purposes, a trust to which property has been transferred as  
40 a result of a family member's exercise of a power of appointment shall be considered established  
41 by that family member if all qualified beneficiaries of the appointee trust are family members, or

42 (ii) an individual who is not a family member if all of the noncharitable qualified beneficiaries of  
43 the trust are family members, except that a trust composed exclusively of nonindividual qualified  
44 beneficiaries is considered to be a family member if all of the nonindividual qualified beneficiaries  
45 are charitable foundations or other charitable entities as described in paragraph (F) of this  
46 subdivision;

47 (D) A family affiliate or officer or former officer of a family affiliate: *Provided*, That in the  
48 case of a former officer, such officer must have qualified as an officer of the family affiliate at any  
49 time within the past three years;

50 (E) The estate of a family member or the estate of an individual who is not a family member  
51 if all of the noncharitable beneficiaries of such estate are family members, except that an estate  
52 composed exclusively of nonindividual beneficiaries is considered to be a family member if all of  
53 the nonindividual beneficiaries are charitable foundations or other charitable entities as  
54 described in paragraph (F) of this subdivision; or

55 (F) A charitable foundation or other charitable entity that either: (i) was created by a family  
56 member, or (ii) has a governing body consisting mostly of family members.

57 (10) "Fiduciary" means executor, administrator, conservator, guardian, committee, or  
58 trustee.

59 (11) "Licensed private trust company" means a private trust company that operates in  
60 accordance with this article and has been issued a license that has not been revoked or  
61 suspended by the State Auditor.

62 (12) "Lineal kinship" means a family member who is in the direct line of ascent or descent  
63 from a designated relative.

64 (13) "Officer" of a family affiliate means an individual, regardless of whether the individual  
65 has an official title or receives a salary or other compensation, who may participate in the major  
66 policymaking functions of a family affiliate, other than as a director. The term does not include an  
67 individual who may have an official title and exercise discretion in the performance of duties and

68 functions, but who does not participate in determining the major policies of the family affiliate and  
69 whose decisions are limited by policy standards established by other officers, regardless of  
70 whether the policy standards have been adopted by the board of directors or other members of  
71 management. The chair of the board of directors, the president, the chief officer, the chief financial  
72 officer, the senior trust officer, and all executive vice presidents of a family affiliate, and all  
73 managers if organized as a limited liability company, are presumed to be officers unless such  
74 officer is excluded by resolution of the board of directors or members or by the bylaws or operating  
75 agreement of the family affiliate, other than in the capacity of a director, from participating in major  
76 policymaking functions of the family affiliate, and such excluded officer does not actually  
77 participate therein.

78 (14) "Operating plan" means a plan that establishes the policies and procedures a private  
79 trust company will have in effect when the institution opens for business and thereafter:

80 (A) To ensure that trust accounts are handled in accordance with recognized standards of  
81 fiduciary conduct; and

82 (B) To assure compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

83 (15) "Private trust business" means acting as or performing the duties of a fiduciary in the  
84 regular course of its business for family members. A person does not engage in private trust  
85 business by:

86 (A) Rendering services as an attorney-at-law in the performance of duties as a fiduciary;

87 (B) Rendering services as a certified or registered public accountant in the performance  
88 of duties as such;

89 (C) Acting as trustee under a deed of trust made only as security for the payment of money  
90 or for the performance of another act;

91 (D) Acting as a trustee in bankruptcy or as a receiver;

92 (E) Holding trusts of real estate for the primary purpose of subdivision, development, or  
93 sale, or to facilitate any business transaction with respect to such real estate;

94 (F) Engaging in the business of an escrow agent;

95 (G) Holding assets as trustee of a trust created for charitable purposes if:

96 (i) The trustee is an entity exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the  
97 Internal Revenue Code; and

98 (ii) The trust is: (I) exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the  
99 Internal Revenue Code, (II) a charitable remainder trust described in Section 664 of the Internal  
100 Revenue Code, (III) a pooled income fund described in Section 642(c)(5) of the Internal Revenue  
101 Code, or (IV) a trust the charitable interest in which is either a guaranteed annuity or a fixed  
102 percentage distributed yearly of the fair market value of the trust property, described in Section  
103 2055(e)(2)(B) or Section 2522(c)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code;

104 (H) Receiving rents and proceeds of sale as a licensed real estate broker on behalf of the  
105 principal; or

106 (I) Engaging in securities transactions as a broker-dealer or salesman.

107 (16) "Private trust company" means a corporation or limited liability company that:

108 (A) Is exclusively owned by one or more family members;

109 (B) Is organized or qualified to do business in this state;

110 (C) Engages or proposes to engage in private trust business under this article with one or  
111 more family members;

112 (D) Does not serve as a fiduciary for a person, entity, trust, or estate that is not a family  
113 member, except that it may serve as a fiduciary for up to 35 individuals who are not family  
114 members if the individuals are current or former employees of the private trust company or one  
115 or more trusts, companies, or other entities that are family members; and

116 (E) Does not transact business with the general public.

117 (17) "Qualified beneficiary" has the meaning provided in §44D-1-103(r) of this code.

118 (18) "State Auditor" means the West Virginia State Auditor.



119 (19) "Tax" includes, but is not limited to, federal, state, or local income, gift, estate,  
120 generation-skipping transfer, or inheritance tax.

121 (20) "Trust institution" means a bank or trust company chartered by a state bank  
122 supervisory agency or by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency.

**§311-1-4. Organization; minimum capital requirements; notice to State Auditor; control;  
application for license.**

1 (a) No person other than a corporation or limited liability company organized under the  
2 laws of this state to engage exclusively in the private trust business shall act as a private trust  
3 company or licensed private trust company.

4 (b) A licensed private trust company that has one designated relative may not be  
5 organized or operated with an owners' capital account of less than \$250,000. The minimum  
6 capital account is \$350,000 if two designated relatives of the licensed private trust company are  
7 named in the application for a license or in the annual license renewal. The minimum capital  
8 account is \$450,000 if three designated relatives of the licensed private trust company are named  
9 in the application for a license or in the annual license renewal. A private trust company may not  
10 be organized or operated with a capital account of less than \$250,000.

11 (c) No person shall engage in business as a private trust company or licensed private trust  
12 company without first giving written notice to the State Auditor. The notice shall identify at least  
13 one designated relative for any private trust company, and up to three designated relatives for  
14 any licensed private trust company, whose relationship to other individuals determines whether  
15 the individuals are family members. The notice shall identify the location of the principal office and  
16 additional office, if any, within this state. The notice shall be accompanied by an operating plan  
17 and such other books, records, documents, or information as the State Auditor may require. The  
18 notice shall also certify that:

19 (1) All provisions of law have been complied with;

20 (2) The private trust company or licensed private trust company is formed for no other  
21 reason than to engage in the private trust business;

22 (3) Family members have subscribed for capital stock, surplus, and a reserve for operation  
23 in an amount equal to or in excess of \$250,000; and

24 (4) The private trust company or licensed private trust company is serving or will serve as  
25 trustee for one or more trusts having an aggregate of at least \$50,000,000 in trust assets as  
26 further specified in §311-1-10 of this code.

27 (d) All of the capital stock, membership interests, or other equity interests of a private trust  
28 company or licensed private trust company shall be and shall remain owned by, and under the  
29 voting control of, family members, including any spouses, trusts, stock corporations, limited  
30 partnerships, limited liability companies, or estates that qualify under §311-1-3(9)(B) through (E)  
31 of this code of one or more families.

32 (e) An applicant seeking to operate as a licensed private trust company must file an  
33 application with the State Auditor on forms prescribed by the State Auditor, accompanied by a  
34 nonrefundable \$10,000 application fee to be deposited into a special account in the State  
35 Treasury to be known as the Private Trust Company Application Fund. Expenditures from the  
36 fund shall be for the purpose of the State Auditor administering this article. Expenditures are not  
37 authorized from collections but are to be made only in accordance with appropriation by the  
38 Legislature and in accordance with the provisions of §12-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and upon  
39 fulfillment of the provisions of §11B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That for the fiscal year  
40 ending June 30, 2024, expenditures are authorized from collections rather than pursuant to  
41 appropriation by the Legislature. The application to operate as a licensed private trust company  
42 must also contain or be accompanied by:

43 (1) The name of the proposed licensed private trust company;

44 (2) A copy of the articles of incorporation or articles of organization and the bylaws or  
45 operating agreement of the proposed licensed private trust company;

46 (3) The physical address and mailing address of the proposed licensed private trust  
47 company, which must be located in this state;

48 (4) A statement describing in detail the services that will be provided to family members  
49 by the proposed licensed private trust company;

50 (5) The name and biographical information of each individual who will initially serve as a  
51 director, officer, manager, or member acting in a managerial capacity of the proposed licensed  
52 private trust company;

53 (6) The name and biographical information of each individual who owns or has the ability  
54 or power to directly or indirectly vote at least 10 percent or more of the outstanding shares,  
55 membership interest, or membership units of the proposed licensed private trust company;

56 (7) The names of the designated relatives;

57 (8) The amount of the initial capital account of the proposed licensed private trust company  
58 and the form in which the capital was paid and will be maintained;

59 (9) The type and amount of bonds or insurance that will be procured and maintained on  
60 directors, officers, managers, or members acting in a managerial capacity or employees pursuant  
61 to §311-1-12 of this code;

62 (10) A statement signed by the applicant, or by the individual signing on behalf of the  
63 proposed licensed private trust company, under penalty of perjury, affirming that the following  
64 statements are true:

65 (A) The proposed licensed private trust company is not currently transacting business with  
66 the general public;

67 (B) No director, officer, manager, or member served as a director, officer, or manager, or  
68 acted in a managerial capacity, for a trust company or any other financial institution that had a  
69 license issued under the financial institutions codes or by the Federal Government or any other  
70 state, the District of Columbia, a territory of the United States, or a foreign country that was  
71 suspended or revoked within the 10 years preceding the date of the application;

72 (C) No director, officer, manager, or member acting in a managerial capacity has been  
73 convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere, regardless of whether adjudication of guilt is  
74 entered by the court, to a violation of the financial institutions codes, or other similar state or  
75 federal laws or related rules, or to a crime involving fraud, misrepresentation, or moral turpitude;

76 (D) No director, officer, manager, or member acting in a managerial capacity has had a  
77 professional license suspended or revoked within the 10 years preceding the date of the  
78 application;

79 (E) All information contained in the application is true and correct to the best knowledge  
80 of the individual signing the application on behalf of the proposed licensed private trust company;  
81 and

82 (11) Any other additional information reasonably required by the State Auditor.

**§311-1-5. Operation and powers.**

1 Every private trust company and licensed private trust company shall conduct its business  
2 in accordance with an operating plan and in accordance with generally accepted fiduciary  
3 standards. A private trust company or licensed private trust company when engaging in a private  
4 trust business shall have the same rights, powers, and privileges as a banking or trust institution  
5 pursuant to §31A-4-14 of this code, including the power to act as executor under the last will and  
6 testament or administrator of the estate of any deceased family member.

**§311-1-6. Reacquisition of shares or interests; dividends.**

1 A private trust company or licensed private trust company shall not buy, redeem, or  
2 otherwise reacquire shares of stock or membership interests that the private trust company or  
3 licensed private trust company has issued, or declare a dividend or other distribution to its  
4 stockholders, members, or holders of equity interests, to the extent that such purchase,  
5 redemption, reacquisition, dividend, or distribution shall cause the private trust company's or  
6 licensed private trust company's paid-in capital, retained surplus, and reserves to be reduced  
7 below \$250,000.

**§311-1-7. Offices.**

1 (a) The office at which a private trust company or licensed private trust company begins  
2 business shall be designated initially as its principal office. The board of directors or managers of  
3 a private trust company or licensed private trust company may thereafter redesignate as the  
4 principal office another authorized office of the private trust company or licensed private trust  
5 company in this state.

6 (b) The board of directors or managers of a private trust company or licensed private trust  
7 company may designate, and from time to time redesignate, one additional office at which the  
8 private trust company or licensed private trust company may conduct business in this state.

9 (c) The private trust company or licensed private trust company shall notify the State  
10 Auditor of any such redesignation of its principal office or designation or redesignation of an  
11 additional office not later than 30 days before its effective date and shall confirm to the State  
12 Auditor any such designation or redesignation within 10 days of its occurrence.

**§311-1-8. Directors or managers.**

1 The affairs of every private trust company or licensed private trust company shall be  
2 directed by a board of directors if a corporation, or managers if a limited liability company,  
3 consisting of not less than five nor more than 25 persons. At least one director or manager shall  
4 be a resident of this state.

**§311-1-9. Limitation on powers.**

1 (a) In the exercise of any power held by a private trust company or licensed private trust  
2 company in its capacity as a fiduciary, the private trust company or licensed private trust company  
3 shall have a duty not to exercise any power in such a way as to deprive the estate, trust, or other  
4 entity for which it acts as a fiduciary of an otherwise available tax exemption, deduction, or credit  
5 for tax purposes, or deprive a donor of trust assets of a tax exemption, deduction, or credit or  
6 operate to impose a tax upon a donor or other person as owner of any portion of the estate, trust,  
7 or otherwise.

8 (b) Without limitation to subsection (a) of this section, no family member who is a  
9 stockholder or member or who otherwise holds an equity interest in, or is serving as a director,  
10 officer, manager, or employee of, a private trust company or licensed private trust company shall  
11 participate in or otherwise have a voice in any discretionary decision by the private trust company  
12 or licensed private trust company to distribute income or principal of any trust in order to discharge  
13 a legal obligation of a family member or for a family member's pecuniary benefit, unless:

14 (1) The exercise of the discretion is limited by an ascertainable standard relating to the  
15 health, education, support, or maintenance of that family member;

16 (2) The distribution is necessary for that family member's support, health, or education; or

17 (3) The instrument governing the administration of that trust clearly so provides.

**§311-1-10. Minimum trust assets under management certification.**

1 As part of the notice to the State Auditor required of any private trust company or licensed  
2 private trust company that is required under §311-1-4 of this code, an affidavit must also be  
3 submitted by the applicant, signed under penalty of perjury, certifying that the private trust  
4 company or licensed private trust company serves or will serve as trustee for one or more trusts  
5 having at least \$50,000,000 in aggregate trust assets under management as of the date of such  
6 affidavit.

**§311-1-11. Unlawful to advertise services.**

1 A private trust company or licensed private trust company may not advertise its services  
2 to the public.

**§311-1-12. Fidelity bonds; insurance.**

1 (a) The directors or managers of a licensed private trust company shall procure and  
2 maintain fidelity bonds on all active officers, directors, managers, members acting in a managerial  
3 capacity, and employees of the company, regardless of whether they receive a salary or other  
4 compensation from the company, in order to indemnify the company against loss because of a

5 dishonest, fraudulent, or criminal act or omission on their part, whether acting alone or in  
6 combination with other persons.

7 (b) Each fidelity bond shall be issued in an amount of at least \$1,000,000.

8 (c) In lieu of the fidelity bonds required under subsection (a) of this section, a licensed  
9 private trust company may increase its capital account required under §311-1-4(b) of this code by  
10 \$1,000,000 so that if it has:

11 (1) One designated relative, then it is organized or operated with a capital account of at  
12 least \$1,250,000;

13 (2) Two designated relatives, then it is organized or operated with a capital account of at  
14 least \$1,350,000; or

15 (3) Three designated relatives, then it is organized or operated with a capital account of  
16 at least \$1,450,000.

17 (d) The licensed private trust company shall also procure and maintain an errors and  
18 omissions insurance policy of at least \$1,000,000 in which it is listed as the insured to cover the  
19 acts and omissions of officers, directors, managers, and members acting in a managerial  
20 capacity, regardless of whether the person receives a salary or other compensation from the  
21 company.

22 (e) A private trust company or licensed private trust company may also procure and  
23 maintain other insurance policies necessary or desirable in connection with the business of the  
24 company, including, but not limited to, one or more casualty insurance policies.

25 (f) A private trust company that is not a licensed private trust company may procure and  
26 maintain fidelity bonds as described in this section.

27 (g) A private trust company that is not a licensed private trust company may procure and  
28 maintain errors and omissions insurance coverage as described in this section.

**§311-1-13. Rule-making authority by State Auditor.**

1           The State Auditor shall promulgate emergency rules pursuant to the provisions of §29A-  
2 3-15 of this code and may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions  
3 of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement the provisions of this article.

**CHAPTER 36. ESTATES AND PROPERTY.**

**ARTICLE 1A. UNIFORM STATUTORY RULE AGAINST PERPETUITIES.**

**§36-1A-1. Statutory rule against perpetuities.**

1           (a) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a nonvested property interest is  
2 invalid unless:

3           (1) When the interest is created, it is certain to vest or terminate no later than 21 years  
4 after the death of an individual then alive; or

5           (2) The interest either vests or terminates within 90 years after its creation.

6           (b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a general power of appointment  
7 not presently exercisable because of a condition precedent is invalid unless:

8           (1) When the power is created, the condition precedent is certain to be satisfied or become  
9 impossible to satisfy no later than 21 years after the death of an individual then alive; or

10           (2) The condition precedent either is satisfied or becomes impossible to satisfy within 90  
11 years after its creation.

12           (c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a nongeneral power of appointment  
13 or a general testamentary power of appointment is invalid unless:

14           (1) When the power is created, it is certain to be irrevocably exercised or otherwise to  
15 terminate no later than 21 years after the death of an individual then alive; or

16           (2) The power is irrevocably exercised or otherwise terminates within 90 years after its  
17 creation.



18           (d) In determining whether a nonvested property interest or a power of appointment is  
19 valid under the provisions of this section, the possibility that a child will be born to an individual  
20 after the individual's death is disregarded.

21           (e) As to any trust administered by a private trust company pursuant to §311-1-1 *et seq.* of  
22 this code on or after July 1, 2023, this subsection shall apply to a nonvested property interest or  
23 power of appointment contained in a trust by substituting 1,000 years in place of "90 years" in  
24 each place such term appears in this section, unless the terms of the trust require that all  
25 beneficial interests in the trust vest or terminate within a lesser period.



The Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

.....  
*Clerk of the House of Delegates*

.....  
*Clerk of the Senate*

Originated in the House of Delegates.

In effect ninety days from passage.

.....  
*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

.....  
*President of the Senate*

\_\_\_\_\_

The within is ..... this the.....  
Day of ....., 2023.

.....  
*Governor*