

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 3535**

By Delegate Ridenour

[Introduced February 14, 2023; Referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
 2 designated §61-17-1, §61-17-2, and §61-17-3, all relating to political prisoners;  
 3 providing for the Prohibition on Political Prisoners in West Virginia Act; providing  
 4 definition; declaring certain transport unlawful; providing for codification. This act  
 5 shall be known and may be cited as the "Prohibition on Political Prisoners in West  
 6 Virginia Act".

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

**ARTICLE 17. PROHIBITION AGAINST POLITICAL PRISONERS WITHIN THE STATE  
 OF WEST VIRGINIA.**

**§61-17-1. Short title.**

1 This Act shall be known as the "prohibition on Political Prisoners in West Virginia."

**§61-17-2. Definition.**

1 For the purposes of this article, "Political prisoner" is defined as a citizen of the United  
 2 States of America who has been arrested, charged or convicted of any crime, other than a felony,  
 3 relating to the United States Capitol building on January 6, 2021.

**§61-17-3. Prohibition against political prisoners, generally.**

1 It shall be unlawful for any agency, entity or agent of the federal government of the United  
 2 States to transport any political prisoner through the State of West Virginia via any means, which  
 3 shall include but not be limited to the use of any roads, conveyances, highways, interstates,  
 4 airspace or any other points of transit. It shall be unlawful for any agency, entity or agent of the  
 5 federal government of the United States to keep any political prisoner in the State of West Virginia  
 6 for any reason.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the transportation of political prisoners through or above West Virginia and the prohibit the incarceration of these political prisoners within the state.

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