

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 145

BY SENATORS GRADY, AZINGER, KARNES, RUCKER,

TRUMP, OLIVERIO, STUART, CLEMENTS, PHILLIPS,

ROBERTS, AND SMITH

[Introduced January 11, 2023]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2B-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to
2 amend and reenact §18-9D-19 of said code, all relating to allowing a county board of
3 education participating in the operation of a multicounty vocational center to withdraw;
4 allowing any county board participating in a multicounty vocational center to determine
5 that a career technical education program be part of the local high school; and modifying
6 provisions pertaining to construction of a comprehensive vocational facility by a county
7 board served by a multicounty vocational technical facility.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2B. AREA VOCATIONAL PROGRAM.

§18-2B-2a. ~~Withdrawal from multicounty vocational center prohibited~~ Allowing career technical education program to be a part of the local high school.

1 ~~Any county which participates in the operation of a multicounty vocational center shall not~~
2 ~~be permitted to withdraw from such participation.~~ Any county board of education participating in a
3 multicounty vocational center may determine that a career technical education program be part
4 of the local high school in order to better serve students. The program may be a state-approved
5 program of study (required by 20 U.S.C §2342) or a locally created program of study.

ARTICLE 9D. SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY.

§18-9D-19. Comprehensive high schools.

1 (a) The Legislature finds the following:
2 (1) The decline in student enrollment over the last 20 years has necessitated consolidation
3 of schools in many counties;
4 (2) It is projected that the decline in student enrollment during the period 2002 through
5 2012 may be as great as 18 percent and will continue the necessity to consolidate schools;
6 (3) The new consolidated school buildings now being built across the state provide an
7 opportunity for communities to have comprehensive high schools that include space for

8 vocational-technical courses, community college courses, and other workforce-related courses
9 for the students and the public at large;

10 (4) Requiring students to be bused to remote vocational centers has sometimes deterred
11 student participation in vocational courses and has sometimes been considered a stigma upon
12 those students attending vocational courses;

13 (5) Offering vocational, community college, and workforce programs in close proximity to
14 each other compliment the high school and the programs; and

15 (6) The change in the season for girls' basketball to coincide with boys' basketball has
16 placed significant pressures on the availability of gymnasium space and often has caused
17 practices to be scheduled late in the evenings and on weekends, interfering with time needed for
18 studying and rest.

19 (b) When planning the construction of a high school which has been approved by the
20 authority and which meets the required authority efficiencies, the authority shall provide funding
21 for comprehensive vocational facilities to be located, when feasible, on the same site as the high
22 school and may, in cooperation with the Higher Education Policy Commission, established in
23 §18B-1B-1 of this code, provide funding for facilities for community and technical college
24 education. When building in conjunction with the Higher Education Policy Commission, an
25 educational specification must be developed for the proposed new facility by the appropriate
26 institutional governing board as defined in §18B-1-2 of said code. The county board is the fiscal
27 agent for construction. All planning, design, bidding and construction must be completed with
28 authority guidelines and under the supervision of the authority.

29 (c) When planning the construction of a high school which has been approved by the
30 authority and meets the required authority efficiencies, the authority shall provide funding
31 sufficient for the construction of at least one auxiliary gymnasium. The authority may establish
32 standards for the auxiliary gymnasium.

33 (d) Upon application of a county board to construct comprehensive vocational facilities at
34 an existing high school, the authority will provide technical assistance to the county in developing
35 a plan for construction of the comprehensive vocational facility. The facility may, in cooperation
36 with the Higher Education Policy Commission in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b)
37 of this section, include facilities for community and technical college education. Upon
38 development of the plan, the authority shall consider funding based on the following criteria:

- 39 (1) The distance of any existing vocational facilities from the high schools it serves;
40 (2) The time required to travel to and from the vocational facility to the high schools it
41 serves;
42 (3) The ability of the county board to provide local funds for the construction of new
43 comprehensive vocational facilities;
44 (4) The size of the existing high schools and the demand for vocational technical courses;
45 (5) The age and physical condition of the existing vocational facilities; and
46 (6) Such other criteria as the authority shall consider appropriate.

47 (e) When planning the construction of a high school in a county which is served by a
48 multicounty vocational technical facility, the county may not be required to include the construction
49 of a comprehensive vocational facility in the plan. If the county board elects to construct a
50 comprehensive vocational facility pursuant to this section, the board ~~shall include the multicounty~~
51 ~~center director and board in planning programs to be offered at the vocational facility which~~
52 ~~complement the programs offered at the multicounty center and~~ may as part of the plan include
53 facilities for career education secondary offerings and community and technical college education.
54 ~~at the multicounty center. The programs offered at the vocational facility may not replace the~~
55 ~~programs offered at the multicounty vocational technical center without the consent of the center~~
56 ~~board~~

57 (f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this section to the contrary, the county board
58 in which there is an existing comprehensive vocational center, may eliminate any vocational
59 offering from a new comprehensive high school if the county board:

60 (1) Completes a comprehensive vocational curriculum study, as required by the authority,
61 including an evaluation of both the programmatic and physical facilities of the existing center and
62 coordinates the county's vocational curriculum; and

63 (2) Submits the plan to the authority for review and obtains the authority's approval.