WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 298

By Senators Trump, Woodrum, Plymale, and Deeds

[Introduced January 19, 2023; referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

A BILL to amend and reenact §15-5-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying in instances of non-federally declared emergencies and in instances of non-states of emergency that mutual aid agreements can be entered into for reciprocal aid in bordering counties of other states for day-to-day support for fire and emergency medical service calls without the need for approval by the Governor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. division of homeland security and emergency management.

§15-5-9. Mutual aid agreements.

The director of each local organization for emergency services may, in collaborating with other public and private agencies within this state, develop or cause to be developed mutual aid agreements for reciprocal aid and assistance in case of disaster too great to be dealt with unassisted. Such agreements shall be made in conformity with the state plan and program for emergency services and, in time of emergency, it shall be the duty of each local organization to render assistance in accordance therewith.

The director of each local organization may, ~~subject to the approval of the Governor~~ in instances of non-federally declared emergencies and in instances of non-states of emergency, enter into mutual aid agreements with emergency service and civil defense agencies or organizations in other states for reciprocal aid and assistance in case of disaster too great to be dealt with unassisted specifically in bordering counties of other states for day-to-day mutual aid support for fire and emergency medical services calls.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify that in instances of non-federally declared emergencies and in instances of non-states of emergency that mutual aid agreements can be entered into for reciprocal aid in bordering counties of other states for day-to-day support for fire and emergency medical service calls without the need for approval by the Governor.

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