

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Engrossed**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 4620**

By Delegate Foster

[Originating in the Committee on Health and Human

Resources; Reported on January 16, 2024]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-2-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 food handler permit; removing the expiration date of a food handler permit; requiring local  
3 health departments to adopt the minimum guidelines adopted by the bureau; and  
4 permitting continuing education.

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

**ARTICLE 2. LOCAL BOARDS OF HEALTH.**

**§16-2-16. Food handler examinations and cards.**

1 A food handler permit or card issued pursuant to the procedures put in place by a local  
2 ~~county board of health department shall be valid for at least one year but not longer than three~~  
3 ~~years. does not expire.~~ The permit or card shall be valid in all counties of this state, if the applicant  
4 pays an additional fee not to exceed \$10. ~~If required,~~ A permit or card shall be obtained within thirty  
5 days of a person being hired in a restaurant or other applicable food establishment; Provided, That  
6 this requirement does not apply to individuals that serve at a nonprofit food preparation and/or  
7 distribution site twelve times or less in one calendar year if an individual with a food handler's card  
8 is present when the individual is volunteering. The Bureau for Public Health shall ~~develop~~ adopt  
9 minimum guidelines for training programs for individuals seeking a food handler permit or card that  
10 ~~may~~ shall be adopted by local ~~county~~ health departments. A local board of health may require  
11 continuing education, if food handling guidelines change, but may not charge a fee. ~~In lieu of state~~  
12 ~~guidelines a local health department may use training courses developed by the American~~  
13 ~~National Standards Institute or other nationally recognized entities for food safety training.~~

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NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove the expiration date of a food handler permit, and make all trainings uniform.

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