

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 426**

BY SENATORS WOODRUM, DEEDS, AND TAKUBO

[Introduced January 12, 2024; referred  
to the Committee on Outdoor Recreation]



1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
2 designated §17-31-1, §17-31-2, §17-31-3, §17-31-4, §17-31-5, and §17-31-6, all relating  
3 to enacting the West Virginia Recreational Trails Development Act; providing definitions;  
4 requiring the Department of Transportation to prioritize design and construction of  
5 recreational trails in the state; assigning duties to the department for development,  
6 maintenance, and funding; establishing reporting requirements; and setting an effective  
7 date.

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

**ARTICLE 31. WEST VIRGINIA RECREATIONAL TRAILS DEVELOPMENT ACT.**

**§17-31-1. Short title.**

1 This article may be cited as the West Virginia Recreational Trails Development Act.

**§17-31-2. Definitions.**

1 For the purposes of this article:

2 (a) "Department" means the West Virginia Department of Transportation.

3 (b) "Recreational trail" means a thoroughfare or track across land or snow, used for  
4 recreational purposes such as bicycling, day hiking, equestrian activities, jogging or running, trail  
5 biking, greenway, and mountain biking.

**§17-31-3. Duties of the department.**

1 (a) The department shall prioritize the design and construction of non-motorized  
2 recreational trails in West Virginia.

3 (b) The department shall develop a comprehensive plan for the development of  
4 recreational trails in consultation with local governments, non-profit organizations, and other  
5 stakeholders.

6 (c) The department shall ensure that the design and construction of recreational trails are  
7 carried out in a timely manner.

**§17-31-4. Funding.**

1           The department shall seek federal funding and grants available for recreational trail  
2 development and maintenance.

**§17-31-5. Reporting requirements.**

1           The department shall submit an annual report to the Legislature on the progress of  
2 recreational trail development.

**§17-31-6. Effective date.**

1           This article takes effect on July 1, 2024.