

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2488

By Delegates Pritt, Brooks, Dittman, Clay, Moore, T.

Clark, Chiarelli, Roop, T. Howell, and Adkins

[Introduced February 17, 2025; referred to the

Committee on Energy and Public Works]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by inserting a new section,
2 designated §17-3-11; relating to requiring the Secretary of Transportation to undertake a
3 study to determine the feasibility, effectiveness, and costs of installing suicide prevention
4 and safety measures to the New River Gorge Bridge; requiring a report to the Joint
5 Committee on Government and Finance; and authorizing the Secretary of Transportation
6 to allocate funds from the State Road Fund, to seek grants, and to enter agreements and
7 contracts to conduct the study and prepare the report.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. STATE ROAD FUND.

§17-3-11. New River Gorge Bridge Suicide Prevention and Safety Study.

1 (a) The Secretary of Transportation is hereby directed to undertake a study to determine
2 the feasibility, anticipated effectiveness, and potential costs involved to install and maintain suicide
3 prevention and safety measures to the New River Gorge Bridge.

4 (b) In conducting the study required by this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall:
5 (1) Consult with the Bridge Day Commission to consider whether the subject measures
6 can be installed and maintained in a manner that will permit Bridge Day activities to continue and,
7 if so, the extent to which the potential costs of the subject measures would differ if they were
8 installed in a manner that would not permit Bridge Day activities to continue; and

9 (2) Determine the availability and extent of federal funding to incorporate the subject
10 measures.

11 (c) The Secretary of Transportation shall submit a report of the study required by this
12 section to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance by December 31, 2025.

13 (d) In order to create the report required by this section, the Secretary of Transportation
14 may allocate funds from the State Road Fund; seek or obtain grants to facilitate the study; enter
15 into agreements with other governmental agencies, committees, and educational institutions for
16 the collection and analysis of information; and contract with private persons or companies.

17 (e) This section is self-terminating and shall be automatically repealed upon the Joint

18 Committee on Government and Finance's receipt of the report required by this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to direct the Department of Transportation to conduct a safety study about suicide deaths on the New River Gorge Bridge and a study on the potential cost and effectiveness of suicide safety nets and a suicide safety system installed on the Bridge.

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