

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

ENGROSSED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2551

By Delegates Foggin, Roop, and Pritt

[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;

Reported on March 28, 2025]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §19-18-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 criminal penalties for trespassing livestock; increasing the criminal penalties for the second
3 and subsequent misdemeanor offenses of negligently permitting livestock to run at large
4 and trespass on the property of other landowners which injures a person or destroys the
5 property of another person; extending the period of time in which a person may be charged
6 with a violation of the section; and creating criminal penalties.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 18. GENERAL STOCK LAW.

§19-18-3. Criminal penalties for trespassing livestock.

1 (a) While livestock may escape enclosures due to accident or unforeseen circumstances, it
2 is unlawful for the owner of livestock to negligently permit livestock to run at large and trespass on
3 the property of other landowners.

4 (b) If livestock injures a person or destroys the property of another person while negligently
5 trespassing, the owner of the livestock shall be given an oral or written warning for the first offense.
6 For a second offense within ~~six~~ 12 months of the first, the owner is guilty of a misdemeanor and,
7 upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than ~~\$50~~ \$100 nor more than ~~\$100~~ \$200. For a third
8 or subsequent offense within ~~six~~ 12 months of the second or subsequent offense, the owner is
9 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than ~~\$100~~ \$200 nor
10 more than ~~\$1,000~~ \$2000.