

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 179**

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced February 12, 2025; referred

to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §18-8-2a, relating to granting school administrators the ability to refuse to  
3 promote a student to the next grade if the child has missed 20 or more days of school.

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

<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>8.</b>	<b>COMPULSORY</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>ATTENDANCE.</b>
<b><u>§18-8-2a.</u></b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>retention</b>	<b>after</b>	<b>20</b>
				<b>unexcused</b>
1		<u>(a) Before report cards are completed at the end of the school year, a member of each</u>		
2		<u>school's administration shall meet with the school attendance officer, and any teachers who wish</u>		
3		<u>to participate to determine whether students with 20 or more unexcused absences under this</u>		
4		<u>article should be promoted to the next grade or to graduate that year.</u>		
5		<u>(b) The school administrator shall then make a determination for each student with 20 or</u>		
6		<u>more unexcused absences regarding promotion to the next grade level or graduation, if</u>		
7		<u>applicable. The school administrator's decision cannot be overridden by parental requests for</u>		
8		<u>promotion to the next grade level.</u>		

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to grant school administrators the ability to refuse to promote a student to the next grade if the child has missed 20 or more days of school. This is in an effort to curb unexcused absences.

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