

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:

ARTICLE 8. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.
§18-8-2a. Grade retention after 20 unexcused absences.

1 (a) Before report cards are completed at the end of the school year, a member of each
 2 school's administration shall meet with the school attendance officer, and any teachers who wish
 3 to participate to determine whether students with 20 or more unexcused absences under this
 4 article should be promoted to the next grade or to graduate that year.

5 (b) The school administrator shall then make a determination for each student with 20 or
 6 more unexcused absences regarding promotion to the next grade level or graduation, if
 7 applicable. The school administrator's decision cannot be overridden by parental requests for
 8 promotion to the next grade level.

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.