

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 928**

By Senator Maynard

[Introduced March 24, 2025; referred  
to the Committee on Government Organization; and  
then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-6-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 eliminating the restriction to carry a firearm in and on the State Capitol Complex grounds.

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

**ARTICLE            6.            CRIMES            AGAINST            THE            PEACE.**

**§61-6-19. Willful disruption of governmental processes; offenses occurring at State Capitol  
Complex; penalties.**

1 (a) If any person willfully interrupts or molests the orderly and peaceful process of any  
2 department, division, agency, or branch of state government or of its political subdivisions, he or  
3 she is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$100, or  
4 confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined: *Provided*, That any assembly  
5 in a peaceable, lawful, and orderly manner for a redress of grievances is not a violation of this  
6 section.

7 (b) Carry of deadly weapons, nonlethal agent, disruption:

8 (1) It is unlawful for any person to bring ~~upon the~~ into any State Capitol Complex building  
9 any deadly weapon as defined in §61-7-2 of this code: *Provided*-, That a person who is licensed  
10 under 61-7-4 to carry a concealed deadly weapon, is permitted to carry concealed in the buildings  
11 of the Capitol complex: *Provided further*, That any person desiring to carry a concealed pistol or  
12 revolver within the Capitol building must show their license upon entry, if requested;

13 (2) Carry of a concealed deadly weapon is not permitted in:

14 (A) The Governor's office; and

15 (B) The chambers of the Supreme Court, including the entirety of the third and fourth floor  
16 of the East wing of the Capitol building

17 (3) The Senate and House of Delegates may develop weapons rules for the gallery and  
18 floor of their respective chambers.

19 (4) A person who may lawfully possess a firearm may keep a firearm in his or her motor

20 vehicle upon the State Capitol Complex if the vehicle is locked and the weapon is out of normal  
21 view: *Provided, however,* That a person may not carry upon the State Capitol Complex a cannister  
22 of pepper spray, as defined in §61-7-2 of this Code, that exceeds one ounce. *Provided further,*  
23 That a person who may lawfully possess a firearm may keep a firearm in his or her motor vehicle  
24 upon the State Capitol Complex if the vehicle is locked and the weapon is out of normal view:  
25 *Provided, however,* That a person may not carry upon the State Capitol Complex, a cannister of  
26 pepper spray as defined in §61-7-2 of this code that exceeds one ounce.

27       ~~(2)~~ (5) It is unlawful for any person to willfully deface any trees, wall, floor, stairs, ceiling,  
28 column, statue, monument, structure, surface, artwork, or adornment in the State Capitol  
29 Complex. It is unlawful for any person or persons to willfully block or otherwise willfully obstruct  
30 any public access, stair, or elevator in the State Capitol Complex after being asked by a law-  
31 enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity to desist: *Provided further,* That in order to  
32 preserve the constitutional right of the people to assemble, it is not willful blocking or willful  
33 obstruction for persons gathered in a group or crowd if the persons move to the side or part to  
34 allow other persons to pass by the group or crowd to gain ingress or egress: ~~*And Provided further,*~~  
35 *however,* That this subsection does not apply to a law-enforcement officer acting in his or her  
36 official capacity: *And Provided further,* That this subsection does not apply to the lawful carrying of  
37 a deadly weapon, firearm, or any size container of pepper spray on the sidewalks and streets that  
38 directly border and surround the State Capitol Complex grounds.

39       ~~(2)~~ (6) Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon  
40 conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100, or confined in jail not more than six months, or  
41 both fined and confined.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the restriction to carry a firearm on the state  
capitol complex grounds.

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