

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4065**

By Delegate Crouse

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-31-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 the composition of the Hope Scholarship Board.

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

**ARTICLE 31. HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

**§18-31-3. West Virginia Hope Scholarship Board; members; terms; compensation;**

**proceedings generally.**

1 (a) The West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program shall be administered by the West  
2 Virginia Hope Scholarship Board.

3 (b) The board shall consist of nine members and include the following:

4 (1) The State Treasurer, or his or her designee;

5 (2) The State Auditor, or his or her designee;

6 (3) The State Attorney General, or his or her designee, who shall be nonvoting;

7 (4) The State Superintendent of Schools, or his or her designee, who shall be nonvoting ;

8 (5) The Chancellor of Higher Education, or his or her designee, who shall be nonvoting;

9 (6) The Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, or his or her designee;

10 and

11 (7) Three members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate  
12 who are parents of Hope Scholarship students, ~~or for the initial appointments of board members~~  
13 ~~following the effective date of this article, parents who intend to apply for the Hope Scholarship on~~  
14 ~~behalf of eligible recipients~~, to be appointed as follows:

15 (A) Only state residents are eligible for appointment to the board;

16 (B) The parent members shall reside in geographically diverse areas of the state;

17 (C) For appointments made after July 1, 2024, the parent members shall represent parents  
18 of students engaged in a diverse range of educational options, such as microschools or other  
19 individualized instruction;

20 The Governor shall make appointments necessary to satisfy the requirements of

21 subdivision (7) of this section to staggered terms as determined by the Governor. After the initial  
22 staggering of terms, appointed parent board members shall serve for three-year terms and are  
23 eligible for reappointment at the expiration of their terms; and

24 (D) If there is a vacancy among appointed members, the vacancy shall be filled by  
25 appointment to the unexpired term of a person meeting the requirements of this section by the  
26 Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the board shall serve until the  
27 later of the expiration of the term for which the member was appointed or the appointment of his or  
28 her successor.

29 (c) Members of the board shall serve without compensation. The board may reimburse  
30 members for all reasonable and necessary expenses, including travel expenses, actually incurred  
31 by board members in the conduct of their official duties. Any expense reimbursements shall be  
32 made from the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program Expense Fund at the same rate paid to  
33 state employees.

34 (d) The Treasurer is the chairman and presiding officer of the board. The Treasurer may  
35 provide office space and staff to the board upon request of the board.

36 (e) The State Superintendent of Schools may provide staff to the board, upon request of  
37 the board.

38 (f) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of the  
39 business of the board.

40 (g) Members of the board are subject to the ethical standards and financial disclosure  
41 requirements of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act in §6B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill relates generally to the composition of the Hope Scholarship Board.

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