

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4420**

By Delegates Gearheart, Ellington, Hall, Brooks, Pritt,

Butler, Campbell, Moore, and Criss

[Introduced January 16, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17-16A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to modifying the composition of the West Virginia Parkways Authority.

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

**ARTICLE 16A. WEST VIRGINIA PARKWAYS AUTHORITY.**

**§17-16A-3. West Virginia Parkways Authority.**

1 (a) The West Virginia Parkways, Economic Development, and Tourism Authority is  
 2 continued as an agency of the state, and commencing July 1, 2010, it shall be known as the West  
 3 Virginia Parkways Authority. Any reference to the West Virginia Parkways, Economic  
 4 Development, and Tourism Authority within this code shall mean the West Virginia Parkways  
 5 Authority.

6 (b) The authority shall consist of the following ~~seven~~ 11 members:

7 (1) The Governor or a designee;

8 (2) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation or a designee;

9 ~~(3) Two public members representing the first congressional district;~~

10 ~~(4) Two public members representing the second congressional district;~~

11 and

12 ~~(5) (3) One at-large public member;~~

13 (4) Two members from Kanawha County

14 (5) Two members from Fayette County;

15 (6) Two members from Raleigh County; and

16 (7) Two members from Mercer County.

17 (c) The term for the public members shall be five years. All public members' appointments  
 18 shall be made by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

19 (d) A public member may not serve more than two consecutive full five-year terms. A public  
 20 member may continue to serve until a successor has been appointed and has qualified.

21 (e) Each public member shall be a resident of this state during the appointment term and

22 shall have been a qualified elector for a period of at least one year next preceding the  
23 appointment.

24 (f) A vacancy on the authority shall be filled by appointment by the Governor for the  
25 unexpired term of the public member whose office is vacant and the appointment shall be made  
26 within 60 days of the vacancy.

27 (g) The Governor may remove any public member from the authority for neglect of duty,  
28 incompetency, or official misconduct.

29 (h) A public member immediately and automatically forfeits membership to the authority if  
30 he or she is convicted of a felony under the laws of any jurisdiction, or becomes a nonresident of  
31 this state.

32 (i) The Governor or designee shall serve as chair of the authority. The authority shall  
33 annually elect one of the public members as vice chair, and shall also elect a secretary and  
34 treasurer who need not be members of the authority.

35 (j) The Governor shall appoint an executive director of the authority, by and with the advice  
36 and consent of the Senate. The executive director serves at the will and pleasure of the Governor.  
37 The executive director is responsible for managing and administering the daily functions of the  
38 authority and performing all other functions necessary to the effective operation of the authority.  
39 The compensation of the executive director is annually set by the Governor.

40 (k) The public members of the authority are not entitled to compensation for their services,  
41 but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the  
42 performance of their duties in a manner consistent with guidelines of the Travel Management  
43 Office of the Department of Administration.

44 (l) ~~Four~~ Seven members of the authority constitutes a quorum and the vote of a majority of  
45 members present shall be necessary for any action taken by the authority. No vacancy in the  
46 membership of the authority shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and perform  
47 all the duties of the authority.

48 (m) The authority shall meet at least monthly. The chair or any ~~four~~ seven members of the  
49 authority may call a special meeting: *Provided*, That notice shall be given to all members of the  
50 authority not less than 10 days prior to any special meeting.

51 (n) Prior to commencing his or her duties as a member of the authority, each public  
52 member shall take and subscribe to the oath required by section five, article IV of the Constitution  
53 of this state.

54 (o) Before the issuance of any revenue bonds or revenue refunding bonds under the  
55 provisions of this article, each public member of the authority shall execute a surety bond in the  
56 penal sum of \$25,000. The secretary and treasurer of the authority shall execute a surety bond in  
57 the penal sum of \$50,000. Each surety bond shall be conditioned upon the faithful performance of  
58 the duties of his or her office, shall be executed by a surety company authorized to transact  
59 business in West Virginia as a surety, shall be approved by the Governor and filed in the Office of  
60 the Secretary of State.

61 (p) All expenses incurred in carrying out the provisions of this article shall be paid solely  
62 from funds provided under this article and no liability or obligation shall be incurred by the authority  
63 beyond the extent to which moneys shall have been provided under this article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to modify the composition of the West Virginia Parkways Authority.

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