

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4475

By Delegates G. Howell, Canterbury, Cooper,
Dittman, Burkhammer, Hite, Green, Masters,
Ridenour, Ellington, and Campbell

[Introduced; referred
to the Committee on]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,
2 designated §29-37-1, relating to the creation of the Disaster Recovery Acceleration Act.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 37. DISASTER RECOVERY ACCELERATION ACT.

§29-37-1. Restoration of private property by an individual following a natural disaster.

1 (a) Short title. – This article may be referred to and referenced as the "Disaster Recovery
2 Acceleration Act."

3 (b) Definition. – "Disaster restoration" means the repair or restoration, or both, other than
4 normal maintenance, or the replacement of, real property of an individual, that is damaged or
5 destroyed by a disaster.

6 (c) Conditions. –

7 (1) An individual who undergoes disaster restoration is entitled to rebuild his or her new
8 home up to 125% of the original square footage without triggering new development standards or
9 extensive environmental reviews.

10 (2) Existing home or building codes shall be followed by an individual undergoing disaster
11 restoration to his or her property: *Provided*, That if an existing home was grandfathered into any
12 existing rules or regulations of a city, municipality, or county, those shall continue to exist during a
13 disaster restoration.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for the creation of the Disaster Recovery Acceleration Act.

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