

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 4769

By Delegates Ridenour, Butler, Mazzocchi, Jennings,
Mallow, Dillon, Masters, Foggin, T. Howell, Jeffries,
and B. Ward

[Originating in the Subcommittee on Government
Administration; Reported on February 10, 2026]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §5-1-31, relating to requiring the Governor to establish crisis preparedness
3 plans.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. THE GOVERNOR.

§5-1-31. Crisis preparedness plans.

1 (a) To protect West Virginia, the Governor will develop comprehensive whole-of-
2 government plans to deal with crises that can pose existential or major threats to the people and
3 governance of West Virginia. The following types of crises will be priorities:

4 (1) Nuclear war, including nuclear strikes inside West Virginia;

5 (2) Major disruptions of the energy grid in West Virginia, including disruptions resulting
6 from high altitude electromagnetic pulse (HEMP) attacks, solar coronal mass ejections, cyber-
7 attacks, or physical attacks on key grid systems;

8 (3) Major cyber-attacks creating long term disruptions to West Virginia's communications
9 systems;

10 (4) Invasion; and

11 (5) Insurrection.

12 (b) Plans created under subsection (a) of this section must include:

13 (1) Preventative measures the state government can take to preempt the impact of the
14 crises;

15 (2) Mitigation measures;

16 (3) Immediate response;

17 (4) Remediation; and

18 (5) Recovery.

19 (c) The Department of Homeland Security will brief the Interim Joint Standing Committee
20 on Government Organization no later than its first interim meeting of 2027, on tentative plans, and

- 21 measures the state government is taking to facilitate the plans and additional mitigation measures
22 the state government can take. Final plans should be completed by July 30, 2027. Periodic
23 updates should be completed annually and be briefed to the Interim Joint Standing Committee on
24 Government Organization no later than each June.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Governor to establish crisis preparedness plans.

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