

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

### **House Bill 5063**

By Delegates D. Cannon and McGeehan

[Originating in the Committee on Government

Administration; Reported on February 25, 2026]



20 revenues to salaries and personnel shall be considered to have satisfied the budget allocation  
21 requirement;

22 (4) The convention and visitor's bureau has a full-time executive director that maintains the  
23 minimum number of continuing education hours recommended annually by industry standards;

24 (5) The convention and visitor's bureau has a physical office and/or visitor center that is  
25 accessible at least 40 hours per week and has a dedicated phone line;

26 (6) The convention and visitor's bureau maintains a website and appropriate marketing  
27 materials;

28 (7) The convention and visitor's bureau has received accreditation from an accrediting  
29 body; and

30 (8) The convention and visitor's bureau submits an annual report to all of its funding  
31 entities, which shall include, but not be limited to, the information provided for in this subsection:  
32 and .

33 Nothing in this section may be construed as to interfere with the ability of a county or  
34 municipality to enter into any agreements or partnerships with convention and visitor's bureaus in  
35 neighboring counties or municipalities for the purposes of distributing net tax proceeds pursuant to  
36 §7-18-14 of this code, so long as all other requirements of this section are met.

37 (c) At least once every three years, any bureau that receives any appropriation of hotel  
38 occupancy tax from one or more counties or municipalities shall cause an audit or financial review,  
39 in a form as is appropriate to the particular bureau, to be made by an independent certified public  
40 accountant of all its books, accounts, and records relating to all receipts and expenditures of any  
41 hotel occupancy tax appropriations for the three prior fiscal years of the bureau. A copy of the  
42 audit or financial review shall be filed with each county or municipality from which the bureau  
43 received an appropriation of hotel occupancy tax, the State Auditor, the Joint Committee on  
44 Government and Finance, and the West Virginia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus.  
45 After July 1, 2024, a bureau that has not caused such an audit or financial review to be made is

46 ineligible to receive an appropriation of hotel occupancy tax proceeds pursuant to §7-18-14 of this  
47 code.

48 (d) In order to encourage counties and municipalities to work within the existing framework  
49 of convention and visitor's bureaus, there shall be a moratorium on the authorization of new  
50 convention and visitors bureaus until June 30, 2026. A county or municipality may not appropriate  
51 any net proceeds of hotel occupancy taxes, pursuant to §7-18-14 of this code, to any convention  
52 or visitor's bureau created on or after the amendments to this section enacted during the regular  
53 session of the Legislature, 2021, and prior to the end of the moratorium imposed by this  
54 subsection. On or after June 30, 2026, any new convention and visitor's bureau which meets all of  
55 the requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall qualify for a distribution of net proceeds  
56 pursuant to §7-18-14 of this code.

57 (e) No county commission of a county in which a convention and visitor's bureau is located  
58 shall be prohibited from appointing one county commissioner as a voting member of the county  
59 convention and visitor's bureau. If there is a multi-county convention and visitor's bureau, each  
60 county commission associated with that facility shall be allowed, in its discretion, to have a voting-  
61 member seat on the multi-county convention and visitor's bureau board: *Provided*, That the  
62 absence of any county commissioner member from any timely noticed and scheduled business  
63 meeting of the county convention and visitor's bureau shall not be considered for suggesting the  
64 absence of a quorum for the conducting of the business to be considered on the county convention  
65 and visitor's bureau's meeting agenda.

66 ~~(e)~~ (f) Nothing in this section may prohibit either the State Auditor or the Legislative Auditor  
67 from conducting regular reviews or audits of the operations or finances of a convention and  
68 visitor's bureau to ensure compliance with this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit the county commission to appoint a county commissioner to a convention and visitor's bureau as a voting member.

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