WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5067

By Delegate Akers

[Introduced February 03, 2026; referred to the

Committee on the Judiciary]

1   A BILL to amend and reenact §15A-2-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating

2   to the powers and duties of the director and clarifying that where federal grant programs

3   are only open to law enforcement agencies, the Director of the Division of Administrative

4   Services may enter into an agreement with such agencies within the Department of

5   Homeland Security to facilitate the application for and administration of such grants.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE   2.   DIVISION   OF   ADMINISTRATIVE   SERVICES.

1   **§15A-2-4. Criminal justice and grant administration.**

1   (a) The director shall:

2   (1) Carry out the specific duties imposed on the Governor's Committee on Crime,

3   Delinquency, and Correction under the provisions of §15-9-1 et seq. of this code, §30-29-1 *et seq*.

4   of this code, and §62-11C-1 *et seq*. of this code;

5   (2) Maintain appropriate liaison with federal, state, and local agencies and units of

6   government, or combinations thereof, in order that all programs, projects, and activities for

7   strengthening and improving law enforcement, public safety, and the administration of criminal

8   justice may function effectively at all levels of government;

9   (3) Seek sources of federal grant assistance programs that may benefit the state when

10   authorized by the Governor and manage the dispersal of those funds through grant contracts to

11   subgrantees in a manner consistent with state and federal law and with sound and accountable

12   management practices for the efficient and effective use of public funds;

13   (4) Seek sources of program or grant assistance from foundations, corporations, and

14   organizations which funding is consistent with its responsibilities and the purposes assigned to the

15   director, the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction, and any of its

16   subcommittees; and

17   (5) Serve as the Executive Director of the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency,

18   and Correction and its subcommittees: *Provided,* That notwithstanding any provision of this code

19   or a rule promulgated thereunder to the contrary, appeals to the Governor's Committee on Crime,

20   Delinquency, and Correction from an individual who has been denied entry into an entry level law-

21   enforcement certification program, a trainee who has not been allowed to continue in the entry

22   level law-enforcement training process, an officer who has made application for his or her law-

23   enforcement certification to be reactivated and that application has been denied, or an officer or

24   individual whose law-enforcement certification as a law enforcement officer or as an instructor has

25   been denied, suspended, or decertified, pursuant to a final decision of the Law-Enforcement

26   Professional Standards Subcommittee established by §30-29-2 of this code, shall be heard by the

27   Deputy Secretary of the Department of ~~Military Affairs and Public Safety~~ <u>Homeland Security</u> or his

28   or her designee.

29   (b) In discharging these duties, the director may:

30   (1) Work to bridge gaps between federal, state, and local units of government, as well as

31   private/nonprofit organizations and the general public;

32   (2) Provide staff assistance in the coordination of all facets of the criminal and juvenile

33   justice systems on behalf of the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction,

34   including, but not limited to, law enforcement, jails, corrections, community corrections, juvenile

35   justice, sexual assault forensic examinations, and victim services;

36   (3) Acquire criminal justice resources and coordinate the allocation of these resources to

37   state, local, and not-for-profit agencies;

38   (4) Maintain a web-based database for all community corrections programs;

39   (5) Collect, compile, and analyze crime and justice data in the state, generating statistical

40   and analytical products for criminal justice professionals and policy makers to establish a basis for

41   sound policy and practical considerations for the criminal justice system, make such

42   recommendations for system improvement as may be warranted by such research, and contract

43   with other persons, firms, corporations, or organizations to assist in these responsibilities; ~~and~~

44   (6) Receive and disburse federal and state grants and funding received from foundations,

45   corporations, or other entities; and

46   (7) Enter into agreements with law enforcement agencies within the Department of

47   Homeland Security, including the West Virginia State Police, to facilitate the application for and

48   administration of federal grants that are exclusively open to law enforcement agencies or are only

49   open to entities invited by the federal grant program.

50   (c) Nothing in this article authorizes the division to undertake direct operational

51   responsibilities in law enforcement or the administration of criminal justice.

52   (d) The director shall propose legislative rules for legislative approval pursuant to §29A-3-1

53   *et seq*. of this code which may be necessary to fulfill the functions and responsibilities of this article

54   and the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction. All legislative rules and

55   policies of the former Division of Justice and Community Services shall be transferred to the

56   Division of Administrative Services and remain effective until amended or terminated pursuant to

57   the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq*. of this code by the Division of Administrative Services:

58   *Provided*, That these rules shall expire on July 1, 2022, if not superseded sooner.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify the authority to enter into agreements with law-enforcement agencies of the Department of Homeland Security to seek certain grant funds.

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