

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

ENGROSSED

House Bill 5203

By Delegates Chiarelli, Crouse, McGeehan, Moore,
Rohrbach, Phillips, Hornby, Butler, Holstein,
Funkhouser, and Maynor

[Introduced February 05, 2026; referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §3-1-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 forbidding a municipality from issuing an ID for the purposes of voting in a municipal
3 election.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS.

§3-1-2a. Municipal elections.

1 (a) Notwithstanding other provisions of this code or of any special legislative or home rule
2 city charter, the provisions of: (1) Articles eight and nine of this chapter; (2) Any rules promulgated
3 under authority granted in articles eight and nine of this chapter; and (3) Any provisions of this
4 chapter making a practice or conduct unlawful shall apply to every municipal election held for any
5 purpose.

6 (b) For purposes of:

7 (1) This section;

8 (2) The application of articles eight and nine of this chapter;

9 (3) The application of the rules mentioned in this section; and

10 (4) The application of provisions of this chapter making a practice or conduct unlawful, the
11 provisions of law which impose any duty upon or define any offense or prohibition with respect to
12 the duty or authority of a county officer or county election officer or body of county election officers
13 shall be construed to and shall apply with equal force and effect to the person or persons in a
14 municipal election upon whom this code or the city charter or ordinance imposes such duty or
15 vests the same or similar authority.

16 (c) Every municipality shall by charter or ordinance designate the persons in the
17 municipality who perform the same duties as any officer in a county election. The designated
18 persons shall attend a biannual election training held and conducted by the office of the Secretary
19 of State.

20 (d) No municipality may, by ordinance, charter, or otherwise, authorize the use of a
21 municipal identification card or any other locally issued identification as a valid form of voter
22 identification if such document is not otherwise authorized by state law for use in a statewide
23 election.

24 ~~(d)~~ (e) This section shall not be construed to abrogate the applicability of other provisions
25 of this chapter to municipal elections.