

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **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.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to forbid any municipality from issuing an ID for the purposes of voting in a municipal election.

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