

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 5410**

By Delegate Kyle

[Introduced February 10, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Energy and Public Works]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding four new sections,  
 2 designated §8-19-1a, §8-20-1d, §16-13-18b, and §16-13A-1d, relating to requiring  
 3 quarterly reporting by political subdivisions of their water and wastewater utilities to their  
 4 governing bodies; and requiring annual continuing education for board members and  
 5 senior management.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.**

**ARTICLE 19. MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY WATERWORKS AND ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEMS.**

**§8-19-1a. Municipality or county commission to require specialized utility related training.**

1 (a) The Legislature finds that municipal and county waterworks provide critical water utility  
 2 services to West Virginians. Proper oversight by governing bodies and board member training are  
 3 necessary to ensure financial accountability, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency.

4 (b) Any municipal governing body or county commission that is operating or has oversight  
 5 of a waterworks system shall require all board members and senior managers of the municipal or  
 6 county waterworks systems to complete 12 hours of certified utility management training within six  
 7 months following appointment or election to their position and obtain six hours of refresher training  
 8 within six months of re-appointment or re-election, provided by the WV Public Service  
 9 Commission in collaboration with non-profit organizations, and select state agencies, focusing on  
 10 financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best practices.

11 The qualifying non-profit organizations shall be a member driven association with at least  
 12 five years of experience in providing on-site training and technical assistance to small systems.

13 (c) A municipal governing body or county commission that is operating or has oversight of  
 14 a waterworks system that provides utility management training to their board members and senior  
 15 managers, focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best

16 practices, will not be required to participate in formalized training outlined in §8-19-1a(b).

**ARTICLE 20. COMBINED SYSTEMS.**

**§8-20-1d. Municipality to require specialized utility related training.**

1 (a) The Legislature finds that combined municipal waterworks and sewerage systems  
2 provide critical utility services to West Virginians. Proper oversight by governing bodies and board  
3 member training are necessary to ensure financial accountability, regulatory compliance, and  
4 operational efficiency.

5 (b) Any municipal governing body that is operating or has oversight of a combined  
6 waterworks and sewerage systems shall require all combined municipal waterworks and  
7 sewerage systems board members and senior management to complete 12 hours of certified  
8 utility management training within six months following appointment or election to their position  
9 and obtain six hours of refresher training within six months of re-appointment or re-election,  
10 provided by provided by the provided by the WV Public Service Commission in collaboration with  
11 non-profit organizations, and select state agencies. focusing on financial management, regulatory  
12 compliance, and operational best practices.

13 The qualifying non-profit driven organizations shall be a member driven association with at  
14 least five years of experience in providing on-site training and technical assistance to small  
15 systems.

16 (c) A municipal governing body that is operating or has oversight of a combined  
17 waterworks and sewerage systems that provides utility management training to their board  
18 members and senior managers, focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and  
19 operational best practices will not be required to participate in formalized training outlined in §8-20-  
20 1a(b).

**CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.**

**ARTICLE 13. SEWAGE WORKS AND STORMWATER WORKS.**

**§16-13-18b. Municipality to require specialized utility related training.**

1           (a) The Legislature finds that municipal sanitary boards provide critical wastewater utility  
 2 services to West Virginians. Proper oversight by governing bodies and board member training are  
 3 necessary to ensure financial accountability, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency.

4           (b) A municipal governing body that is operating or has oversight of a sanitary sewer  
 5 system or sanitary board shall require all municipal sanitary board members and senior  
 6 management to complete 12 hours of certified utility management training within six months  
 7 following appointment or election to their position and obtain six hours of refresher training within  
 8 six months of re-appointment or re-election, provided by provided by the WV Public Service  
 9 Commission in collaboration with non-profit organizations, and select state agencies. focusing on  
 10 financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best practices.

11           The qualifying non-profit organizations shall be a member driven association with at least  
 12 five years of experience in providing on-site training and technical assistance to small systems.

13           (c) A municipal governing body that is operating or has oversight of a sanitary sewer  
 14 system or sanitary board that provides utility management training to their board members and  
 15 senior managers, focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best  
 16 practices will not be required to participate in formalized training outlined in §16-13-18b(b).

**ARTICLE           13A.           PUBLIC           SERVICE           DISTRICTS.****§16-13A-1d. County commission to require specialized utility related training.**

1           (a) The Legislature finds that public service districts provide critical utility services to West  
 2 Virginians, including water and sewer. Proper oversight by governing bodies and board member  
 3 training are necessary to ensure financial accountability, regulatory compliance, and operational  
 4 efficiency.

5           (b) Every county commission shall require all board members and senior managers of any  
 6 public service district whose principal offices are within the county to complete 12 hours of certified  
 7 utility management training within six months following appointment or election to their position

8 and obtain six hours of refresher training within six months of re-appointment or re-election,  
9 provided by the WV Public Service Commission in collaboration with non-profit organizations, and  
10 select state agencies. focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational  
11 best practices.

12 The qualifying non-profit driven organizations shall be a member driven association with at  
13 least five years of experience in providing on-site training and technical assistance to small  
14 systems.

15 (c) A County Commission that is operating or has oversight of a waterworks or wastewater  
16 system that provides utility management training to their board members and senior managers,  
17 focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best practices will not  
18 be required to participate in formalized training outlined in §16-13A-1d(b).

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require quarterly reporting by political subdivisions of their water and wastewater utilities to their governing bodies, and require annual continuing education for board members and senior management.

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