

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Originating

House Bill 5685

By Anderson, Riley, Horst, Statler, Mazzocchi,
Dittman, Rohrbach, Fehrenbacher, Howell, Zatezalo,
and Toney

[Originating in the Committee on Finance; Reported
on February 26, 2026]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §29-22-18f of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to
2 amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §29-22-18h; and to amend
3 said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §31-15-16e, all relating to
4 authorizing bonds for improvements to the West Virginia Science and Culture Center and
5 any other facilities acquired to preserve any history of the State of West Virginia; clarifying
6 priority of payment of bond debt service; authorizing certain allocations from State Excess
7 Lottery Revenue Fund; requiring the Economic Development Authority to issue certain
8 bonds; creating a fund; requiring the Secretary of Tourism to provide a list of capital
9 improvements; and requiring the Governor to certify capital improvements to the Authority
10 within a certain period of time.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 22. STATE LOTTERY ACT.

§29-22-18f. Backup pledge of bonds supported by the State Lottery Fund and the State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund; payment of bond debt service.

1 (a) Any and all remaining funds in the State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund after payment
2 of debt service pursuant to sections eighteen-a, eighteen-d, ~~and eighteen-e~~ and eighteen-h of this
3 article shall be made available to pay debt service in connection with any revenue bonds issued
4 pursuant to section eighteen of this article, if and to the extent needed for such purpose from time
5 to time.

6 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, after first satisfying the
7 requirements for funds dedicated to pay debt service in accordance with bonds payable from the
8 State Lottery Fund pursuant to section eighteen of this article, any and all remaining funds in the
9 State Lottery Fund shall be made available to pay debt service in connection with revenue bonds

10 issued pursuant to sections eighteen-a, eighteen-d, ~~and eighteen-e,~~ and eighteen-h of this article,
11 if and to the extent needed for such purpose from time to time.

12 (c) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (h), section eighteen-a of this article,
13 when bonds are issued for projects under subsection (d) or (e) of section eighteen-a of this article,
14 or for the School Building Authority, infrastructure pursuant to section eighteen-d of this article,
15 higher education, ~~or state park improvements pursuant to section eighteen-e of this article,~~ or
16 improvements to the West Virginia Science and Cultural Center and any other site acquired
17 necessary to preserve any history of the State of West Virginia pursuant to section eighteen-h of
18 this article that are secured by profits from lotteries deposited in the State Excess Lottery Revenue
19 Fund, the Lottery Director shall allocate first ~~to the Economic Development Project Fund an~~
20 ~~amount equal to one tenth of the projected annual principal, interest and coverage requirements~~
21 ~~on any and all revenue bonds issued, or to be issued as certified to the Lottery Director; and~~
22 ~~second,~~ to the fund or funds from which debt service is paid on bonds issued under section
23 eighteen-a of this article for the School Building Authority, infrastructure pursuant to section
24 eighteen-d of this article, higher education, ~~and state park improvements pursuant to section~~
25 ~~eighteen-e of this article,~~ and improvements to the West Virginia Science and Cultural Center and
26 any other site acquired necessary to preserve any history of the State of West Virginia pursuant to
27 section eighteen-h of this article an amount equal to one tenth of the projected annual principal,
28 interest and coverage requirements on any and all revenue bonds issued, or to be issued as
29 certified to the Lottery Director. In the event there are insufficient funds available in any month to
30 transfer the amounts required pursuant to this subsection, the deficiency shall be added to the
31 amount transferred in the next succeeding month in which revenues are available to transfer the
32 deficiency

**§29-22-18h. Allocation to Cultural Center Improvements Revenue Debt Service Fund from
State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund to permit the issuance of bonds for
improvements to West Virginia Science and Culture Center.**

1 Notwithstanding any provision of §29-22-18a(d) of this code to the contrary, the deposit of
2 \$19 million into the Economic Development Project Fund is for the fiscal year beginning July 1,
3 2025, only. For the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and each fiscal year thereafter through the
4 fiscal year ending June 30, 2047, in lieu of the deposit required under §29-22-18a(d)(3)of this
5 code, the commission shall first deposit an amount equal to the certified debt service requirement,
6 not to exceed \$12 million in any one fiscal year, into the Cultural Center Improvements Revenue
7 Debt Service Fund created in §31-15-16e of this code, to be used in accordance with the
8 provisions of §31-15-16e of this code.

CHAPTER 31. CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 15. WEST VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

§31-15-16e. Lottery revenue bonds for the West Virginia Science and Cultural Center.

1 (a)(1) The Economic Development Authority shall, in accordance with the provisions of
2 this article, issue revenue bonds, in one or more series, from time to time, to pay for all or a portion
3 of the cost of acquiring, repairing, reconstructing, equipping, improving, or maintaining capital
4 improvement projects under this section or to refund the bonds issued for such purposes, at the
5 discretion of the authority. The principal amount of the bonds issued under this section shall not
6 exceed, in the aggregate principal amount, \$150 million. Any revenue bonds issued on or after the
7 effective date of this section which are secured by lottery proceeds shall mature at a time or times
8 not exceeding 20 years from their issuance dates. The principal of, and the interest and
9 redemption premium if any on, the bonds shall be payable solely from the Cultural Center
10 Revenue Debt Service Fund established in this section.

11 (2) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special revenue fund named the
12 Cultural Center Improvements Revenue Debt Service Fund into which shall be deposited those
13 amounts specified in §29-22-18h of this code. All amounts deposited in the fund shall be pledged
14 to the repayment of the principal, interest, and redemption premium, if any, on any revenue bonds

15 or refunding revenue bonds authorized by this section. The authority may further provide in the
16 trust agreement for priorities on the revenues paid into the Cultural Center Improvements
17 Revenue Debt Service Fund as may be necessary for the protection of the prior rights of the
18 holders of bonds issued at different times under the provisions of this section. The Cultural Center
19 Improvements Revenue Debt Service Fund shall be pledged solely for the repayment of bonds
20 issued pursuant to this section. On or prior to May 1 of each year, commencing upon issuance of
21 the bonds, the authority shall certify to the State Lottery director the principal and interest and
22 coverage ratio requirements for the following fiscal year on any revenue bonds or refunding
23 revenue bonds issued pursuant to this section, and for which moneys deposited in the Cultural
24 Center Improvements Revenue Debt Service Fund have been pledged, or will be pledged, for
25 repayment pursuant to this section; provided, that for purposes of debt service to be payable
26 during the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, such certification shall be provided by the authority to
27 the State Lottery director on the date of issuance of the bonds.

28 (3) After the authority has issued bonds authorized by this section, and after the
29 requirements of all funds have been satisfied, including coverage and reserve funds established in
30 connection with the bonds issued pursuant to this section, any balance remaining in the Cultural
31 Center Improvements Revenue Debt Service Fund may be used for the redemption of any of the
32 outstanding bonds issued under this section which, by their terms, are then redeemable or for the
33 purchase of the outstanding bonds at the market price, but not to exceed the price, if any, at which
34 redeemable, and all bonds redeemed or purchased shall be immediately canceled and shall not
35 again be issued.

36 (b) The authority shall expend the bond proceeds, net of issuance costs, reserve funds,
37 and refunding costs, for certified capital improvements at the building presently known as the West
38 Virginia Science and Culture Center and any other site acquired necessary to preserve any history
39 of the State of West Virginia. On or before September 1, 2026, the Secretary of Tourism shall
40 submit a proposed list of capital improvements to the Governor. On or before September 30, 2026,

41 the Governor shall certify to the authority at any time prior to the issuance of bonds under this
42 section, a list of those capital improvements at the building presently known as the West Virginia
43 Science and Culture Center and any other site acquired necessary to preserve any history of the
44 State of West Virginia that will receive funds from the proceeds of bonds issued pursuant to this
45 section. At any time prior to the issuance of bonds under this section, the Governor may certify to
46 the authority a revised list of capital improvements at the building presently known as the West
47 Virginia Science and Culture Center and any other site acquired necessary to preserve any history
48 of the State of West Virginia that will receive funds from the proceeds of bonds issued pursuant to
49 this section. The Governor shall consult with the Secretary of Tourism prior to certifying a revised
50 list of capital improvements to the authority.

51 (c) Except as may otherwise be expressly provided by the authority, every issue of its notes
52 or bonds shall be special obligations of the authority, payable solely from the property, revenues,
53 or other sources of, or available to, the authority pledged therefor.

54 (d) The bonds and the notes shall be authorized by the authority pursuant to this section,
55 and shall be secured, be in such denominations, may bear interest at such rate or rates, taxable or
56 tax-exempt, be in such form, either coupon or registered, carry such registration privileges, be
57 payable in such medium of payment and at such place or places and such time or times, and be
58 subject to such terms of redemption as the authority may authorize. The bonds and notes of the
59 authority may be sold by the authority, at public or private sale, at or not less than the price the
60 authority determines. The bonds and notes shall be executed by manual or facsimile signature by
61 the chairman of the board, and the official seal of the authority or a facsimile thereof shall be
62 affixed to or printed on each bond and note and attested, manually or by facsimile signature, by the
63 secretary of the board. In case any officer whose signature, or a facsimile of whose signature,
64 appears on any bonds, notes, or coupons ceases to be such officer before delivery of such bonds
65 or notes, such signature or facsimile is nevertheless sufficient for all purposes the same as if he or
66 she had remained in office until such delivery; and, in case the seal of the authority has been

67 changed after a facsimile has been imprinted on such bonds or notes, such facsimile seal will
68 continue to be sufficient for all purposes.

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