

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 425**

By Senator Morris

[Introduced January 15, 2026; referred

to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-2-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 requiring a minimum time to be served upon a conviction of first degree murder with a  
3 sentence of life with mercy.

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

**Article 2. CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON.**

**§61-2-2. Penalty for murder of first degree.**

1 Murder of the first degree shall be punished by confinement in the penitentiary for life.  
2 Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, a person imprisoned for a conviction  
3 under this section with a sentence of life with mercy is not eligible for parole prior to having served  
4 a minimum of 30 years of his or her sentence.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require a minimum time to be served upon a conviction of first degree murder with a sentence of life with mercy.

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