

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 503

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Senators Taylor, Azinger, Bartlett, Helton, M.

Maynard, and Rucker

[Introduced January 19, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization; and
then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,
2 designated §5-10-1, §5-10-2, §5-10-3, §5-10-4, §5-10-5, §5-10-6, and §5-10-7, relating to
3 requiring the display of the national motto, "In God We Trust", in state office buildings;
4 defining terms; requiring display in conspicuous public areas of state office buildings and
5 within individual agency offices; establishing display specifications; limiting funding to
6 private donations; authorizing administrative guidance; and providing an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. DISPLAY OF THE NATIONAL MOTTO IN STATE BUILDINGS.

§5-10-1. Short Title.

1 This act may be cited as the "State Buildings National Motto Display Act."

§5-10-2.

Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 (1) "Agency office" means the individual office, suite, division space, or departmental area
3 within a state office building that is assigned to or occupied by a specific state agency, division,
4 board, commission, or office.

5 (2) "National motto" means the official motto of the United States of America, "In God We
6 Trust."

7 (3) "State office building" means any building owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the
8 State of West Virginia that is used for the conduct of official state business and that houses one or
9 more state agencies, divisions, boards, commissions, or offices.

§5-10-3. Required display in state office buildings.

1 (a) Each state office building shall display the national motto in a conspicuous public
2 location.

3 (b) The display shall be visible to members of the public.

§5-10-4. Required display within agency offices.

1 (a) Each agency office shall display the national motto in a conspicuous location.

2 (b) Each agency office shall be independently responsible for compliance.

§5-10-5. Display specifications.

1 (a) Displays shall be durable, no smaller than eight and one-half inches by eleven inches
2 and may include a depiction of the United States flag.

3 (b) No additional language or imagery is permitted.

§5-10-6. Funding restrictions.

1 (a) No state funds may be expended.
2 (b) Agencies may accept private donations.

§5-10-7. Administrative guidance.

1 (a) The Department of Administration may issue nonbinding guidance.
2 (b) Effective Date: July 1, 2026.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the display of the national motto, "In God We Trust," in state office buildings.

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