

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

### **Senate Bill 625**

BY SENATOR WOODRUM

[Reported February 4, 2026, from the Committee on  
Government Organization]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-13A-18a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
2 relating to the responsibility of a board of a public service district to cooperate with a county  
3 commission in the sale of assets of a public service district that is being dissolved, sold,  
4 or merged with another public service district.

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

**ARTICLE 13A. PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICTS.**

**§16-13A-18a. Sale, lease, or rental of water, sewer, stormwater, or gas system by district;  
distribution of proceeds.**

1 (a) In any case where a public service district owns a water, sewer, stormwater, or gas  
2 system, and a majority of not less than 60 percent of the members of the public service board  
3 thereof deem it for the best ~~interests~~ interest of the district to sell, lease, or rent such water, sewer,  
4 stormwater, or gas system to any municipality or privately owned water, sewer, stormwater, or  
5 gas system, or to any water, sewer, stormwater, or gas system owned by an adjacent public  
6 service district, the board may so sell, lease, or rent such water, sewer, stormwater, or gas system  
7 upon such terms and conditions as said board, in its discretion, considers in the best ~~interests~~  
8 interest of the district. ~~Provided, That such sale, leasing~~

9 (b) A sale, lease, or rental authorized by subsection (a) of this section may be made only  
10 upon:

11 (1) The publication of notice of a hearing before the board of the public service district, as  
12 a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, in  
13 a newspaper published and of general circulation in the county or counties wherein the district is  
14 located, such publication to be made not earlier than 20 days and not later than seven days prior  
15 to the hearing;

16 (2) Approval by the county commission or commissions of the county or counties in which  
17 the district operates; and

18 (3) Approval by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

19       (c) If the county commission or commissions of the county or counties in which the district  
20 operates have previously ordered the dissolution and sale or merger of a water or sewer public  
21 service district system to any other public service district, municipality, or privately owned public  
22 utility system, and has received approval of the dissolution, sale, or merger from the Public  
23 Service Commission, the notice, hearing, and approval of the board of the public district that is to  
24 be dissolved, sold, or merged is not required. The board of a public service district that is being  
25 dissolved, sold, or merged with another public utility shall cooperate with the county commission  
26 in the sale of district assets and shall execute, or cause to be executed, any necessary documents  
27 related to the sale and transfer of such assets.

28       (d) In the event of any such sale, the proceeds thereof, if any, remaining after payment of  
29 all outstanding bonds and other obligations of the district, shall be ratably distributed to any  
30 persons who have made contributions in aid of construction of such water, sewer, stormwater, or  
31 gas system, such distribution not to exceed the actual amount of any such contribution, without  
32 interest, and any balance of funds thereafter remaining shall be paid to the county commission of  
33 the county in which the major portion of such water, sewer, stormwater, or gas system is located  
34 to be placed in the general funds of such county commission: *Provided*, That no such distribution  
35 shall be required in the case of a sale between political subdivisions of the state.