

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 768

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Senator M. Maynard

[Introduced February 5, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure; 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 §17-2F-1, §17-2F-1a, §17-2F-2, §17-2F-3, §17-2F-4, §17-2F-5, §17-2F-6,
3 §17-2F-7, §17-2F-8, and §17-2F-9, relating to creating the Country Roads Act, which will
4 permit counties to request the Division of Highways map all scenic and back roads within
5 the county for tourism purposes; establishing an application process for counties;
6 establishing reporting and review; providing funding; requiring the creation of an app; and
7 requiring road surface classification.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2F. THE COUNTRY ROADS MAPPING AND MARKETING ACT.

§17-2F-1. Short Title.

1 This act shall be known as the "West Virginia Country Roads Mapping and Marketing Act".

§17-2F-1a. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 "Division" means the West Virginia Division of Highways.

§17-2F-2. Legislative findings.

1 (a) West Virginia's back roads are a valuable asset for tourism, economic development,
2 and local businesses.

3 (b) Counties should have a tool to promote scenic and recreational travel routes while
4 ensuring accurate and accessible mapping.

5 (c) Providing an interactive mapping system will benefit both local residents and visitors by
6 improving navigation and awareness of unique travel opportunities.

§17-2F-3. County application process.

1 (a) Counties may apply to the Division for an exhaustive mapping process of their back
2 roads and secondary routes.

3 (b) The Division shall develop a standardized application process for counties to request
4 mapping services.

5 (c) Approved counties shall have their roads digitally mapped, with routes identified for
6 scenic, historic, and recreational value.

§17-2F-4. Road surface classification.

1 (a) The Division shall classify all mapped roads according to existing division standards,
2 including but not limited to:

- 3 (1) Paved (Asphalt or Concrete):
- 4 (2) Gravel or Aggregate; and
- 5 (3) Dirt/Unimproved.

6 (b) In addition to existing classifications, the division shall designate roads that require
7 high-clearance, four-wheel-drive (4x4) vehicles due to rough terrain, stream crossings, or steep
8 grades.

9 (c) The interactive map and app shall clearly display surface classifications and 4x4-only
10 designations to assist travelers in route selection.

§17-2F-5. Interactive mapping and public input.

1 (a) The division shall create an interactive, publicly accessible map of approved counties.
2 (b) The map shall be editable by the public to allow for notes, route recommendations,
3 points of interest, and road condition updates, subject to moderation by the county commission.
4 (c) Data from the mapping project shall be integrated into a Geographic Information
5 System (GIS) compatible format and made available to counties.

§17-2F-6. Application development.

1 (a) The division shall work with technology partners to develop a mobile application that
2 allows users to navigate mapped routes and view user-added notes.
3 (b) The app shall serve as a marketing tool for counties to promote tourism, travel, and
4 outdoor recreation on back roads.

§17-2F-7. Funding and implementation.

1 (a) The division shall issue a request for proposals (RFP) to develop the mapping

2 technology and app infrastructure.

3 (b) Funding for this program shall be provided through the division tourism and
4 infrastructure budget, with potential for grant partnerships.

§17-2F-8. Reporting and review.

1 (a) The division shall submit an annual report to the Legislature detailing county
2 participation, app usage, and the program's impact on tourism.

3 (b) Counties may provide feedback and request updates or modifications to the mapping
4 system.

§17-2F-9. Effective date.

1 This act shall take effect immediately on passage.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Country Roads Mapping and Marketing Act.

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