

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Enrolled**

### **Senate Bill 793**

BY SENATORS WILLIS AND WOELFEL

[Passed March 13, 2026; in effect 90 days from  
passage (June 11, 2026)]



1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §2-2-1, §2-2-2, and §7-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as  
2 amended, relating to courthouse closures on certain days; clarifying days considered legal  
3 holidays; clarifying applicability of rules of the Supreme Court of Appeals with regard to  
4 certain timing matters for state courts; clarifying effect of proceeding or act to take place  
5 or term of court to commence on day of local significance; defining "day of local  
6 significance"; setting forth procedures for designating day of local significance; and  
7 clarifying weekdays on which a courthouse may be closed.

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

**CHAPTER 2. COMMON LAW, STATUTES, LEGAL HOLIDAYS,  
DEFINITIONS AND LEGAL CAPACITY.**

**ARTICLE 2. LEGAL HOLIDAYS; SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAYS; CONSTRUCTION OF  
STATUTES; DEFINITIONS.**

**§2-2-1. Legal holidays; official acts or court proceedings.**

- 1 (a) The following days are legal holidays:
- 2 (1) January 1 is "New Year's Day";
- 3 (2) The third Monday of January is "Martin Luther King's Birthday";
- 4 (3) The third Monday of February is "Presidents' Day";
- 5 (4) The last Monday in May is "Memorial Day";
- 6 (5) June 20 is "West Virginia Day";
- 7 (6) July 4 is "Independence Day";
- 8 (7) The first Monday of September is "Labor Day";
- 9 (8) The second Monday of October is "Columbus Day";
- 10 (9) November 11 is "Veterans' Day";
- 11 (10) The fourth Thursday of November is "Thanksgiving Day";
- 12 (11) The day after Thanksgiving Day is "Lincoln's Day";

13 (12) December 25 is "Christmas Day";

14 (13) Any day on which a general, primary or special election is held is a holiday throughout  
15 the state, a political subdivision of the state, a district or an incorporated city, town or village in  
16 which the election is conducted;

17 (14) General election day on even years shall be designated Susan B. Anthony Day, in  
18 accordance with the provisions of §2-2-1a(b) of this code; and

19 (15) Any day proclaimed or ordered by the Governor as a day of special observance or  
20 Thanksgiving, or a day for the general cessation of business, is a holiday.

21 (b) If a holiday otherwise described in subsection (a) of this section falls on a Sunday, then  
22 the following Monday is the legal holiday. If a holiday otherwise described in subsection (a) of this  
23 section falls on a Saturday, then the preceding Friday is the legal holiday: *Provided*, That this  
24 subsection shall not apply to subdivisions (13), (14), and (15), subsection (a) of this section.

25 (c) Any day or part thereof designated by the Governor as time off, without charge against  
26 accrued annual leave, for state employees statewide may also be time off for county employees  
27 if the county commission elects to designate the day or part thereof as time off, without charge  
28 against accrued annual leave for county employees. Any entire or part statewide day off  
29 designated by the Governor may, for all courts, be treated as if it were a legal holiday.

30 (d) In computing any period of time prescribed by any applicable provision of this code or  
31 any legislative rule or other administrative rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the  
32 provisions of this code, the day of the act, event, default or omission from which the applicable  
33 period begins to run is not included. The last day of the period so computed is included, unless it  
34 is a Saturday, a Sunday, a legal holiday, or a designated day off in which event the prescribed  
35 period of time runs until the end of the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or  
36 designated day off.

37 (e) If any applicable provision of this code or any legislative rule or other administrative  
38 rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this code designates a particular date

39 on, before or after which an act, event, default or omission is required or allowed to occur, and if  
40 the particular date designated falls on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or designated day off,  
41 then the date on which the act, event, default or omission is required or allowed to occur is the  
42 next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, or designated day off.

43 (f) With regard to the courts of this state, the computation of periods of time, the specific  
44 dates or days when an act, event, default or omission is required or allowed to occur and the  
45 relationship of those time periods and dates to Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, or days  
46 designated as weather or other emergency days or as days of local significance pursuant to §2-  
47 2-2 of this code are governed by rules promulgated by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

48 (g) The provisions of this section do not increase or diminish the legal school holidays  
49 provided in §18A-5-2 of this code.

**§2-2-2. When acts to be done fall on Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, weather or other  
emergency day, or day of local significance; adjournments from day to day.**

1 (a) When a proceeding is directed to take place or any act to be done on any particular  
2 day of the month or within any period of time prescribed or allowed, including those provided by  
3 §55-2-1 et seq. of this code, if that day or the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday,  
4 weather or other emergency day, or day of local significance, the next day that is not a Saturday,  
5 Sunday, legal holiday, weather or other emergency day, or day of local significance shall be  
6 deemed to be the one intended; and when the day upon which a term of court is directed by law  
7 to commence falls on a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, weather or other emergency day, or day  
8 of local significance, the following day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, legal holiday, weather or  
9 other emergency day, or day of local significance shall be deemed to be the day intended. When  
10 an adjournment is authorized from day to day, an adjournment from Friday to Monday will be  
11 legal.

12 (b)(1) For purposes of this section, "weather or other emergency day" means a day  
13 designated for a county in accordance with the provisions of subdivision (2) of this subsection as

14 a day upon which weather or other emergency conditions in that county prevent the general  
15 transaction of court business in that county.

16 (2) A weather or other emergency day is designated by order of the chief justice of the  
17 Supreme Court of Appeals or by order of the chief judge of the circuit court of the county in which  
18 the proceeding is directed to take place or in which the act is to be done.

19 (c)(1) For the purposes of this section, "day of local significance" means a date on which  
20 a locally observed special occasion, such as a fair, festival, parade, or celebration, makes the  
21 general transaction of court business in that county impractical.

22 (2) A day of local significance must be designated by a proclamation of the county  
23 commission and corresponding order of the chief judge of the circuit court in which the county is  
24 located, both issued more than 90 days prior to the designated date: *Provided*, That within one  
25 business day following issuance, the proclamation shall be transmitted by the county commission  
26 and the order shall be transmitted by the court to the administrative office of the Supreme Court  
27 of Appeals for notice and publication.

## **CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.**

### **ARTICLE 3. COUNTY PROPERTY.**

#### **§7-3-2. Courthouse, jail and offices.**

1 (a) The county commission of every county, at the expense of the county, shall provide at  
2 the county seat thereof a suitable courthouse and jail, together with suitable offices for the judge  
3 of the circuit court and judges of courts of limited jurisdiction, clerks of circuit courts, courts of  
4 limited jurisdiction and of the county commission, assessor, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, county  
5 superintendent of schools, and surveyor, and all other offices as are or may be required by law.

6 (b) The courthouse, including any annex or other facility housing the courts and offices  
7 herein set out (excepting all facilities that are on a 24-hour basis), shall be open to the public

8 Monday through Friday during the hours prescribed by the county commission by an order duly  
9 recorded in the order book of the commission.

10 (1) The county commission in such order may, in its discretion, provide that the  
11 courthouse, including any annex or other facility housing the courts and offices herein set out, be  
12 open on Saturday and prescribe the hours during which it shall be open.

13 (2) On Monday through Friday, a courthouse may only be closed on a legal holiday as  
14 defined in §2-2-1 of this code or on a weather or other emergency day or a day of local significance  
15 as provided in §2-2-2 of this code.

16 (c) The county commission of every county having a population in excess of 200,000 may  
17 provide at the county seat or elsewhere in the county, as the county commission shall determine,  
18 a suitable jail or jails.

19 (d) The county commission of any county, regardless of population, may, as provided in  
20 §8-23-1 et seq. of this code, contract with the county commissions of one or more other counties  
21 within this state for the erection, construction, equipment, leasing, and renting of a regional  
22 correctional center for either adult or youth offenders, at a location mutually agreeable to the  
23 contracting parties and not necessarily at the county seat, which will serve each county entering  
24 into the contract.

25 (e) The county commission shall keep the courthouse, jail and other offices in constant  
26 and adequate repair, and supplied with the necessary heat, light, furniture, record books, and  
27 janitor service, and, except as to the office for the judge of the circuit court, with the necessary  
28 stationery and postage, and other things as shall be necessary; but all of the public records, books  
29 and papers belonging or appertaining to the county surveyor's office shall be delivered to the clerk  
30 of the county commission and retained by him or her in his or her official possession and under  
31 his or her control and shall constitute a part of the public records, books and papers of his or her  
32 office.

33 (f) All courthouses, jails and offices hereafter erected shall be built of stone and brick, or  
34 stone or brick, or other equally fireproof materials, and the offices shall be fireproof or be furnished  
35 with fireproof vaults or safes.

36 (g) The jails shall be well secured, and sufficient for the convenient accommodation of  
37 those who may be confined therein.

38 (h) The county commission may also provide other necessary offices and buildings, and  
39 may, by purchase or otherwise, acquire as much land as may be requisite or desirable for county  
40 purposes, and may suitably enclose, improve and embellish the lands so acquired.

41 (i) Subject to the conditions hereinabove set forth with respect to the site of the courthouse,  
42 jail, and other offices, the commission may, from time to time, as may seem to it proper, provide,  
43 at the expense of the county, a new or other building or buildings to be used for the courthouse  
44 and jail, or for either, together with suitable offices, as aforesaid, and for that purpose may acquire,  
45 by purchase or otherwise, and hold any lands, or lands and buildings, which may be necessary,  
46 and may enclose, improve and embellish the same.

47 (1) When any new or other building or buildings shall be ready for occupancy, the county  
48 commission shall make an order declaring that, on a day to be therein named, the new or other  
49 building or buildings shall become the courthouse, or jail, or both the courthouse and jail of the  
50 county, and shall cause copies of the order to be posted at the front door of the new as well as of  
51 the old courthouse, at least 20 days before the day named in the order; and on and after the day  
52 named the new or other building or buildings shall become, respectively, the courthouse, or jail,  
53 or both the courthouse and jail of the county in all respects and for all purposes.

54 (2) After the change shall have been made the county commission may sell or otherwise  
55 dispose of, as may seem to it proper, the building or buildings previously used as a courthouse  
56 and jail, or either, and the land on which they are, or either is, situated, and of the interest of the  
57 county therein.

58           (j) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, any county commission  
59 providing and maintaining a jail on the effective date of this article shall not be required to provide  
60 and maintain a jail after a regional jail becomes available pursuant to the provisions of article  
61 twenty, chapter thirty-one of this code, unless the county commission determines that such a  
62 facility is necessary: *Provided*, That such county commission may provide and maintain a holding  
63 facility which complies with the standards set forth for such holding facilities in legislative rules  
64 promulgated by the jail and correctional facility standards commission or its predecessor, the jail  
65 and prison standards commission.



The Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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*Clerk of the Senate*

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*Clerk of the House of Delegates*

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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*President of the Senate*

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*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

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The within is ..... this the.....  
Day of ....., 2026.

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*Governor*