

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 804

By Senator Grady

[Introduced February 6, 2026; referred

to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18-2-7a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 providing that students participating in good standing in an extracurricular sport are not
3 required to comply with the statutory middle school and high school physical education
4 requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-7a. Legislative findings; required physical education; program in physical fitness.

1 (a) The Legislature hereby finds that obesity is a problem of epidemic proportions in this
2 state. There is increasing evidence that all segments of the population, beginning with children,
3 are becoming more sedentary, more overweight and more likely to develop health risks and
4 diseases including Type II Diabetes, high blood cholesterol and high blood pressure. The
5 Legislature further finds that the promotion of physical activity during the school day for school
6 children is a crucial step in combating this growing epidemic and in changing the attitudes and
7 behavior of the residents of this state toward health promoting physical activity.

8 (b) As a result of these findings, the state Department of Education shall establish the
9 requirement that each child enrolled in the public schools of this state actively participates in
10 physical education classes during the school year to the level of his or her ability as follows:

11 (1) *Elementary school grades.* — Not less than thirty minutes of physical education,
12 including physical exercise and age-appropriate physical activities, for not less than three days a
13 week.

14 (2) *Middle school grades.* — Not Subject to subdivision (4) of this subsection, not less than
15 one full period of physical education, including physical exercise and age-appropriate physical
16 activities, each school day of one semester of the school year.

17 (3) *High school grades.* — Not Subject to subdivision (4) of this subsection, not less than
18 one full course credit of physical education, including physical exercise and age-appropriate
19 physical activities, which shall be required for graduation and the opportunity to enroll in an

20 elective lifetime physical education course.

21 (4) At the end of each season for every extracurricular sport, the coach of the sport shall
22 provide the principal with a full list of students participating in good standing, as determined by the
23 coach, in the extracurricular sport he or she is coaching. The physical education requirements of
24 subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection do not apply to any student in any year the student is
25 included on a list required by this subdivision.

26 (c) Enrollment in physical education classes and activities required by the provisions of this
27 section shall not exceed, and shall be consistent with, state guidelines for enrollment in all other
28 subjects and classes: *Provided*, That schools which do not currently have the number of certified
29 physical education teachers, do not currently have the required physical setting or would have to
30 significantly alter academic offerings to meet the physical education requirements may develop
31 alternate programs that will enable current staff, physical settings and offerings to be used to meet
32 the physical education requirements established herein. These alternate programs shall be
33 submitted to the state Department of Education and the Healthy Lifestyle Council for approval.
34 Those schools needing to develop alternate programs shall not be required to implement this
35 program until the school year commencing two thousand six.

36 (d) The state board shall prescribe a program within the existing health and physical
37 education program which incorporates fitness testing, reporting, recognition, fitness events and
38 incentive programs which requires the participation in grades four through eight and the required
39 high school course. The program shall be selected from nationally accepted fitness testing
40 programs designed for school-aged children that test cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength
41 and endurance, flexibility and body composition: *Provided*, That nothing in this subsection shall be
42 construed to prohibit the use of programs designed under the auspices of the President's Council
43 on Physical Fitness and Sports. The program shall include modified tests for exceptional students.
44 Each school in the state shall participate in National Physical Fitness and Sports Month in May of
45 each year and shall make every effort to involve the community it serves in the related events.

46 (e) The state board shall promulgate a rule in accordance with the provisions article three-
47 b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code that includes at least the following provisions to provide for
48 the collection, reporting and use of body mass index data in the public schools:

49 (1) The data shall be collected using the appropriate methodology for assessing the body
50 mass index from student height and weight data;

51 (2) The data shall be collected on a scientifically drawn sample of students;

54 (4) The data shall be reported to the Department of Education; and

55 (5) All body mass index data shall be reported in aggregate to the Governor, the state
56 Board of Education, the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition and the Legislative Oversight Commission on
57 Health and Human Resources Accountability for use as an indicator of progress toward promoting
58 healthy lifestyles among school-aged children.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide that students participating in good standing in an extracurricular sport are not required to comply with the statutory middle school and high school physical education requirements.

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