

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 84**

By Senator Thorne

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §62-1A-12, relating to search and seizure; clarifying when a surveillance or  
3 game camera may be placed on private land; providing an exception; and providing  
4 definitions.

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

**ARTICLE                    1A.                    SEARCH                    AND                    SEIZURE.**

**§62-1A-12. Prohibitions on surveillance cameras on private property.**

1 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, no law-enforcement officer  
2 may place any surveillance camera or game camera on private land without first obtaining consent  
3 from the owner, lessee, or other person entitled to possession of the private land or a valid search  
4 warrant: *Provided*, That nothing in this subsection may prohibit a law-enforcement officer from  
5 placing a camera in an area where the law-enforcement officer has a lawful right to be and facing a  
6 location on any land that is open to public view without first obtaining consent or a search warrant.  
7 (b) For purposes of this section, "private land" means posted land, cultivated land, or  
8 fenced land, as those terms are defined in §61-3B-1 of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit law enforcement officers from placing a surveillance camera or game camera on certain private land; providing an exception; and defining "private land".

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