

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 880

By Senators Rucker, Azinger, and Willis

[Introduced February 9, 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 article,
 2 designated §2-4-1, §2-4-2, and §2-4-3, relating to creating the Recognizing Judea and
 3 Samaria Act; and prohibiting state agencies from using the term "West Bank" in official
 4 government materials.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4. RECOGNIZING JUDEA AND SAMARIA ACT.

§2-4-1. Legislative Intent.

1 It is the intent of the Legislature to:
 2 (a) Refer to the land controlled by Israel from Jordan during the Six-Day War by its
 3 historical name of "Judea and Samaria", with the land south of Jerusalem being considered
 4 "Judea" and the land north of Jerusalem being considered "Samaria"; and no longer use the term
 5 "West Bank" in official government materials.
 6 (b) Prohibit the use of materials that use the term "West Bank"

§2-4-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this section:
 2 "Official government material" means a guidance, rule, material, briefing, press release, or
 3 communication prepared by a state agency; and
 4 "State agency" means every department, division, office, board, commission, and
 5 institution of this state.

§2-4-3. Prohibitions and exceptions.

1 (a) Except as provided under subsection (c) of this section, a state agency shall not use the
 2 term "West Bank" to refer to Judea and Samaria in an official government material.
 3 (b) A state agency shall not use state moneys to create an official government material that
 4 refers to Judea and Samaria as "West Bank".
 5 (c) The executive head of a state agency may waive the prohibition under subsection (a) of
 6 this section if the executive head:

- 7 (1) Determines that it is in the interests of the state to do so; and
- 8 (2) Submits a written explanation of the waiver no later than thirty days after the date on
- 9 which the executive head of the state agency makes a determination under subdivision (c) of this
- 10 section to the:
- 11 (A) Legislature if the Legislature is in session; or
- 12 (B) Governor if the Legislature is not in session.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the "Recognizing Judea and Samaria Act" and to prohibit state agencies from using the term "West Bank" in official government materials.

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