

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 948**

By Senator M. Maynard

[Introduced February 16, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-6-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 allowing the carry of firearms on Capitol grounds and in buildings, with exceptions.

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

**ARTICLE 6. CRIMES AGAINST THE PEACE.**

**§61-6-19. Willful disruption of governmental processes; offenses occurring at State Capitol Complex; penalties.**

1 (a) If any person willfully interrupts or molests the orderly and peaceful process of any  
2 department, division, agency, or branch of state government or of its political subdivisions, he or  
3 she is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$100, or  
4 confined in jail not more than six months, or both fined and confined: *Provided*, That any assembly  
5 in a peaceable, lawful, and orderly manner for a redress of grievances is not a violation of this  
6 section.

7 (b) Carry of deadly weapons, nonlethal agent, disruption:

8 (1) It is unlawful for any person to bring upon the into any State Capitol Complex building  
9 any deadly weapon as defined in §61-7-2 of this code: *Provided*, That a person who may lawfully  
10 possess a firearm may keep a firearm in his or her motor vehicle upon the State Capitol Complex if  
11 the vehicle is locked and the weapon is out of normal view: *Provided, however*, That a person may  
12 not carry upon the State Capitol Complex, a cannister of pepper spray as defined in §61-7-2 of this  
13 code that exceeds one ounce.

14 (2)(A) A person, who is licensed under §61-7-4 of this code to carry a concealed deadly  
15 weapon, is permitted to carry concealed in the buildings of the Capitol complex: *Provided*, That,  
16 any person desiring to carry a concealed pistol or revolver within the Capitol building must show  
17 their license upon entry, if requested;

18 (B) Carry of a concealed deadly weapon is not permitted in:

19 (1) The Governor's office; and

20 (2) The chambers of the Supreme Court, including the entirety of the third and fourth floor  
21 of the East wing.

22 (C) The State Senate and House of Delegates may develop weapons rules for the gallery  
23 and floor of their respective chambers.

24 (3) It is unlawful for any person to willfully deface any trees, wall, floor, stairs, ceiling,  
25 column, statue, monument, structure, surface, artwork, or adornment in the State Capitol  
26 Complex. It is unlawful for any person or persons to willfully block or otherwise willfully obstruct  
27 any public access, stair, or elevator in the State Capitol Complex after being asked by a law-  
28 enforcement officer acting in his or her official capacity to desist: *Provided further*, That in order to  
29 preserve the constitutional right of the people to assemble, it is not willful blocking or willful  
30 obstruction for persons gathered in a group or crowd if the persons move to the side or part to  
31 allow other persons to pass by the group or crowd to gain ingress or egress: *And Provided further*,  
32 *however*, That this subsection does not apply to a law-enforcement officer acting in his or her  
33 official capacity: *And Provided further*, That this subsection does not apply to the lawful carrying of  
34 a deadly weapon, firearm or any size container of pepper spray on the sidewalks and streets that  
35 directly border and surround the State Capitol Complex grounds.

36 ~~(2)~~ (4) Any person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon  
37 conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100, or confined in jail not more than six months, or  
38 both fined and confined.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to change West Virginia code to allow for the carry of a firearm or deadly weapon on the Capitol grounds and surrounding streets and sidewalks that border the capitol complex and the carrying of a firearm in the Capitol Building with certain exceptions.

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