

SENATE RESOLUTION 21

(By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Rucker)

[Introduced March 11, 2025]

1 Designating March 12, 2025, as West Virginia Tourism Day at the Legislature.

2 Whereas, Tourism in West Virginia highlights the natural beauty of the state and what it has
3 to offer; and

4 Whereas, The Mountain State is home to four beautiful seasons that each provide unique
5 opportunities to experience West Virginia; and

6 Whereas, West Virginia's natural paradise is home to an array of world-class tourism
7 establishments that promote culture, art, and history; and

8 Whereas, West Virginia, with its rugged terrain encompassed entirely by lush Appalachian
9 Mountains, is home to some of the best trails, lakes, mountain overlooks, and rivers, which are
10 visited each year by millions; and

11 Whereas, The importance of tourism to West Virginians can be seen in small, rural towns
12 and metropolitan areas where tourism-related businesses welcome visitors each year, helping
13 their local economies flourish; and

14 Whereas, The West Virginia State Legislature has consistently, enthusiastically, and
15 generously championed tourism statewide and the industry is grateful for its continued support;
16 and

17 Whereas, Tourism industry partners, students, and educators from across the state have
18 gathered in the State's Capitol today to recognize the occasion and highlight the growing
19 statewide and regional contributions of travel and tourism; and

20 Whereas, Tourism industry partners located in all nine travel regions help to showcase the

1 best version of Almost Heaven, generating over \$8.7 billion, the highest ever recorded economic
2 impact for tourism in West Virginia last year; and

3 Whereas, Through their hard work and legendary hospitality, West Virginia's tourism
4 businesses contribute \$2 billion in annual income and support 60,000 jobs for hardworking West
5 Virginians; and

6 Whereas, Travelers spend \$17 million on average per day in the state; and

7 Whereas, The industry generates \$1 billion in tax revenue annually, and contributes \$835
8 per West Virginia household in state and local tax revenues to support maintaining government
9 services; and

10 Whereas, West Virginia's tourism industry continues to grow each year, making the state's
11 citizens proud to call this majestic destination their home; therefore, be it

12 *Resolved by the Senate:*

13 That the Senate hereby designates March 12, 2025, as West Virginia Tourism Day at the
14 Legislature; and, be it

15 *Further Resolved,* That the Senate encourages all citizens to explore West Virginia's
16 scenic beauty and cultural experiences; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
18 the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism.