

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4607

By Delegate Hornby

[Introduced January 20, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-28-8, relating to ensuring equal treatment of private and parochial schools
3 for school building construction.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 28. PRIVATE, PAROCHIAL OR CHURCH SCHOOLS, OR SCHOOLS OF A
RELIGIOUS ORDER.**

**§18-28-8. Equal treatment of private and parochial schools for school building
construction.**

1 (a) Legislative findings. – The Legislature finds that private and parochial schools have
2 recently been treated differently and held to more rigorous restraints than public schools in this
3 state relating to the process of the construction and building of schools. The standards are very
4 different between public schools and private schools for the process of the build of these facilities.

5 (b) Implementation. – Any state permitting agency, county regulations, or municipality
6 regulations for construction must treat private and parochial schools the same as public schools
7 are treated. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: building permits, fees charged, safety
8 standards, wastewater management, septic systems, the timeliness of permitting processes, and
9 associated build requirements.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure equal treatment of private and parochial schools
for school building construction.

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