

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4764

By Delegates White, Parsons, Coop-Gonzalez,
Petitto, Anders, Dean, Martin, Pritt, Brooks, B. Ward,
and Dillon

[Introduced January 23, 2026; referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend §6B-2-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the filing
2 requirements of a disclosure of financial interest by a candidate for public office; and
3 providing that if the disclosure reveals that a candidate for public office has delinquent
4 unpaid taxes, that person may not run for office.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA ETHICS COMMISSION; POWERS AND DUTIES;
DISCLOSURE OF FINANCIAL INTEREST BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND
EMPLOYEES; APPEARANCES BEFORE PUBLIC AGENCIES; CODE OF
CONDUCT FOR ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES.**

§6B-2-6. Financial disclosure statement; filing requirements.

1 (a) The financial disclosure statement shall be filed on February 1 of each calendar year to
2 cover the period of the preceding calendar year, except insofar as may be otherwise provided
3 herein. The following persons must file the financial disclosure statement required by this section
4 with the Ethics Commission:

5 (1) All elected officials in this state, including, but not limited to, all persons elected
6 statewide, all county elected officials, municipal elected officials in municipalities which have, by
7 ordinance, opted to be covered by the disclosure provisions of this section, all members of the
8 several county or district boards of education and all county or district school board
9 superintendents;

10 (2) All members of state boards, commissions and agencies appointed by the Governor;
11 and

12 (3) Secretaries of departments, commissioners, deputy commissioners, assistant
13 commissioners, directors, deputy directors, assistant directors, department heads, deputy
14 department heads and assistant department heads.

15 A person who is required to file a financial disclosure statement under this section by virtue
16 of becoming an elected or appointed public official whose office is described in subdivision (1), (2)
17 or (3) of this subsection, and who assumes the office less than ten days before a filing date
18 established herein or who assumes the office after the filing date, shall file a financial disclosure
19 statement for the previous twelve months no later than thirty days after the date on which the
20 person assumes the duties of the office, unless the person has filed a financial disclosure
21 statement with the commission during the twelve-month period before he or she assumed office.

22 (b) A candidate for public office shall file a financial disclosure statement for the previous
23 calendar year with the state Ethics Commission no later than ten days after he or she files a
24 certificate of announcement, unless he or she has previously filed a financial disclosure statement
25 with the state Ethics Commission for the previous calendar year. The financial disclosure
26 statement by a candidate shall include whether the candidate is delinquent in the payment of any
27 city, county, state, or federal taxes. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the
28 contrary, that person may not be a candidate for public office until all unpaid tax obligations are
29 met.

30 The Ethics Commission shall file a duplicate copy of the financial disclosure statement
31 required in this section in the following offices within ten days of the receipt of the candidate's
32 statement of disclosure:

33 (1) Municipal candidates in municipalities which have opted, by ordinance, to be covered
34 by the disclosure provisions of this section, in the office of the clerk of the municipality in which the
35 candidate is seeking office;

36 (2) Legislative candidates in single county districts and candidates for a county office or
37 county school board in the office of the clerk of the county commission of the county in which the
38 candidate is seeking office;

39 (3) Legislative candidates from multi-county districts and congressional candidates in the
40 office of the clerk of the county commission of the county of the candidate's residence.

41 After a ninety-day period following any election, the clerks who receive the financial
42 disclosure statements of candidates may destroy or dispose of those statements filed by
43 candidates who were unsuccessful in the election.

44 (c) No candidate for public office may maintain his or her place on a ballot and no public
45 official may take the oath of office or enter or continue upon his or her duties or receive
46 compensation from public funds unless he or she has filed a financial disclosure statement with
47 the state Ethics Commission as required by the provisions of this section.

48 (d) The Ethics Commission may, upon request of any person required to file a financial
49 disclosure statement, and for good cause shown, extend the deadline for filing such statement for
50 a reasonable period of time: *Provided*, That no extension of time shall be granted to a candidate
51 who has not filed a financial disclosure statement for the preceding filing period.

52 (e) No person shall fail to file a statement required by this section.

53 (f) No person shall knowingly file a materially false statement that is required to be filed
54 under this section.

55 (g) The Ethics Commission shall publish either on the Internet or by printed document
56 made available to the public, a list of all persons who have violated any Ethics Commission's
57 financial disclosure statement filing deadline.

58 (h) The Ethics Commission shall, in addition to making all financial disclosure statements
59 available for inspection upon request:

60 (1) Publish on the Internet all financial disclosure statements filed by members of the
61 Legislature and candidates for legislative office, elected members of the executive department
62 and candidates for the offices that constitute the executive department, and members of the
63 Supreme Court of Appeals and candidates for the Supreme Court of Appeals, commencing with
64 those reports filed on or after January 1, 2012; and

65 (2) Publish on the Internet all financial disclosure statements filed by any other person
66 required to file such financial disclosure statements, as the commission determines resources are

67 available to permit the Ethics Commission to make such publication on the Internet. The
68 commission shall redact financial disclosure statements published on the Internet to exclude from
69 publication personal information such as signatures, home addresses and mobile and home
70 telephone numbers.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prohibit a person from running for public office if the required financial disclosure statement reveals delinquent unpaid taxes.

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