

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Introduced**

## **House Bill 4851**

By Delegates Dillon and T. Howell

[Introduced January 27, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §18-5-13e, relating to creating a moratorium on school closures and  
3 consolidations pending a West Virginia Department of Education ("WVDE") school aid  
4 formula proposal.

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

## **ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.**

### **§18-5-13e. Moratorium on school closures and consolidations pending WVDE school aid formula proposal.**

- 1 (a) The West Virginia Department of Education ("WVDE") shall review the closures and  
2 consolidations of schools that are under consideration during the current year, and previous four  
3 fiscal years, and propose to the Legislature such changes to the School Aid Formula as would be,  
4 or would have been, likely to prevent the closure of no fewer than 80% of those under current or  
5 previous consideration, regardless of any decisions rendered to date by school districts, when  
6 such justification for closure was predicated on financial and operational factors.
- 7 (b) There shall be a statewide moratorium on all public-school closures and consolidations  
8 for all reasons other than catastrophic structural failure or ongoing, unresolvable safety and health  
9 hazards, until a proposal to revise the School Aid Formula is received by Legislature, and  
10 subsequent action be taken by Legislature directly related to implementation or rejection of such  
11 recommendations.
- 12 (c) This section shall take effect from passage.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide a moratorium on school closures and consolidations pending a WVDE school aid formula proposal.

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