

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4870**

By Delegates G. Howell, Hornbuckle, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Akers, Willis, Dittman, Ellington, McCormick, Rohrbach, Browning, and J. Cannon

[Introduced January 28, 2026; referred to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §3-8-5h, relating to elections; providing legislative findings; and extending the  
3 deadlines for filing campaign finance reports.

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

## **ARTICLE 8. REGULATION AND CONTROL OF ELECTIONS.**

### **§3-8-5h. Campaign finance report deadlines during legislative sessions.**

1 (a) Legislative findings. – The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) Members of the Legislature are required to be physically present at the seat of  
3 government during regular sessions, extraordinary sessions, and special sessions to fulfill their  
4 constitutional and statutory duties;

5 (2) During such sessions, many members reside a significant distance from the Capitol  
6 and are temporarily away from their homes, businesses, and personal records necessary to  
7 accurately prepare campaign finance reports;

8 (3) It is often impractical, unreasonable, and burdensome for members to travel back to  
9 their home districts during session solely to prepare and file campaign finance reports;

10 (4) Campaign finance reporting deadlines that fall during legislative sessions may create  
11 unnecessary conflicts between compliance obligations and official legislative responsibilities; and

12 (5) Providing a reasonable extension of time for filing campaign finance reports when the  
13 Legislature is in session promotes accuracy, fairness, and compliance without diminishing  
14 transparency or accountability.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, if a campaign finance  
16 reporting deadline applicable to a member of the legislature falls during a regular session,  
17 extraordinary session, or special session of the Legislature, the due date for that report is  
18 extended.

19           (c) Under the circumstances described in subsection (b) of this section, the campaign  
20    finance report shall be due seven days after the final adjournment of the applicable legislative  
21   session.

22           (d) A campaign finance report filed in accordance with subsection (c) of this section shall  
23    not be considered late, and no civil penalty, late fee, or enforcement action may be imposed based  
24   solely on the original statutory due date.

25           (e) This section applies only to members of the Legislature and only to reporting deadlines  
26    that occur while the Legislature is in session.

27           (f) The Secretary of State may issue guidance or notices regarding adjusted filing  
28    deadlines under this section; however, no guidance may reduce, limit, or negate the filing  
29   extension provided herein.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to extend the deadlines for filing campaign finance reports.

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