

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4891**

By Delegates Bridges, Roop, Dean, Vance, and Pritt

[Introduced January 28, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Energy and Public Works]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §24-3-3b, relating to requiring all utility companies to absorb the costs of  
3 maintenance, upgrades, and repairs for the infrastructure used in delivering services and  
4 prohibiting the cost of said maintenance and upgrades being passed on to the consumer.

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

**ARTICLE 3. DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF PUBLIC UTILITIES SUBJECT TO  
REGULATIONS OF COMMISSION.**

**§24-3-3b. Maintenance and upgrades of utility infrastructure.**

1 (a) Any business entity who provides utility services to West Virginians shall maintain the  
2 infrastructure necessary to provide said services in serviceable, working condition and shall  
3 absorb the cost of said maintenance or upgrades.

4 (b) Any business entity performing the maintenance or upgrades described in this section  
5 shall not pass the cost burden on to customers and shall maintain records that conclusively show  
6 that these costs were not included in any justification for a rate increase or any other increased  
7 financial burden upon the customer.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure that utility companies absorb the costs associated with maintenance and upgrades without passing that cost on to customers.

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