

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 625

By Senator Woodrum

[Introduced January 27, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §16-13A-18a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
2 relating to the responsibility of a board of a public service district to cooperate with a county
3 commission in the sale of assets of a public service district that is being dissolved, sold, or
4 merged with another public service district.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13A. PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICTS.

**§16-13A-18a. Sale, lease or rental of water, sewer, stormwater or gas system by district;
distribution of proceeds.**

1 (a) In any case where a public service district owns a water, sewer, stormwater or gas
2 system, and a majority of not less than ~~sixty~~ 60 percent of the members of the public service board
3 thereof deem it for the best interests of the district to sell, lease or rent such water, sewer,
4 stormwater or gas system to any municipality or privately-owned water, sewer, stormwater or gas
5 system, or to any water, sewer, stormwater or gas system owned by an adjacent public service
6 district, the board may so sell, lease or rent such water, sewer, stormwater or gas system upon
7 such terms and conditions as said board, in its discretion, considers in the best interests of the
8 district. ~~Provided, That such sale, leasing~~

9 (b) A sale, lease, or rental authorized by subsection (a) of this section may be made only
10 upon:

11 (1) The publication of notice of a hearing before the board of the public service district, as a
12 Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of
13 this code, in a newspaper published and of general circulation in the county or counties wherein
14 the district is located, such publication to be made not earlier than twenty days and not later than
15 seven days prior to the hearing;

16 (2) approval by the county commission or commissions of the county or counties in which
17 the district operates; and

18 (3) approval by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

19 (c) If the county commission or commissions of the county or counties in which the district
20 operates have previously ordered the dissolution and sale or merger of a water or sewer public
21 service district system to any other public service district, municipality or privately-owned public
22 utility system, and has received approval of the dissolution, sale, or merger from the Public Service
23 Commission, the notice, hearing, and approval of the board of the public district that is to be
24 dissolved, sold, or merged is not required. The board of a public service district that is being
25 dissolved or merged with another public utility shall cooperate with the county commission in the
26 sale of district assets and shall execute, or cause to be executed, any necessary documents
27 related to the sale and transfer of such assets.

28 (d) In the event of any such sale, the proceeds thereof, if any, remaining after payment of
29 all outstanding bonds and other obligations of the district, shall be ratably distributed to any
30 persons who have made contributions in aid of construction of such water, sewer, stormwater or
31 gas system, such distribution not to exceed the actual amount of any such contribution, without
32 interest, and any balance of funds thereafter remaining shall be paid to the county commission of
33 the county in which the major portion of such water, sewer, stormwater or gas system is located to
34 be placed in the general funds of such county commission: *Provided*, That no such distribution
35 shall be required in the case of a sale between political subdivisions of the state.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the board of a public service district to cooperate with a county commission when the county commission has authorized the dissolution, sale or merger of the district with another public service district.

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