

SENATE RESOLUTION 19

(By Senators Smith (Mr. President), Hamilton, and
Clements)

[Introduced January 28, 2026]

- 1 Designating January 28, 2026, as West Virginia Tourism and History Day at the Legislature.
- 2 Whereas, Tourism in West Virginia highlights the natural beauty of the state and what it has
- 3 to offer, while also sharing the Mountain State's rich and varied history; and
- 4 Whereas, West Virginia is home to four distinct seasons, each providing unique
- 5 opportunities for visitors and residents alike to experience the state's scenic beauty, cultural
- 6 traditions, historic communities, and heritage sites; and
- 7 Whereas, West Virginia is home to an array of world-class tourism establishments, historic
- 8 attractions, museums, and cultural organizations that promote art, culture, and history, connecting
- 9 past and present for future generations; and
- 10 Whereas, West Virginia's rugged terrain, encompassed entirely by the lush Appalachian
- 11 Mountains, offers renowned trails, rivers, lakes, mountain overlooks, and historic landscapes that
- 12 are visited by millions each year; and
- 13 Whereas, Tourism plays a vital role in both small rural towns and metropolitan areas,
- 14 where tourism and heritage-related businesses and organizations welcome visitors, strengthen
- 15 local economies, and foster pride of place; and
- 16 Whereas, Tourism industry partners located in all nine travel regions help to showcase the
- 17 best version of Almost Heaven, generating over \$9 billion in economic impact for West Virginia last
- 18 year, while also elevating the state's unique stories, traditions, and historic assets; and
- 19 Whereas, Through hard work, legendary hospitality, and commitment to preservation,

1 West Virginia's tourism and history partners contribute over \$2 billion in annual income, support
2 more than 60,000 jobs, and generate over \$1.1 billion in tax revenue annually, contributing \$859
3 per West Virginia household in state and local tax revenues that help support essential
4 government services; and

5 Whereas, Travelers spend an average of \$18 million per day in West Virginia, benefitting
6 tourism businesses, historic sites, museums, and cultural organizations that rely on visitation to
7 sustain their missions; and

8 Whereas, The State of West Virginia has a rich and varied history that provides a
9 wellspring of pride in the accomplishments of its people and serves as a foundation and
10 springboard for future generations; and

11 Whereas, The preservation, interpretation, and promotion of West Virginia's history is
12 made possible through the generous work of volunteers, educators, students, and professionals,
13 often referred to as History Heroes, who dedicate hundreds of hours each year to educating the
14 public and safeguarding the state's heritage; and

15 Whereas, Tourism and history industry partners, students, educators, and volunteers from
16 across the state have gathered at the Capitol today to recognize the combined impact of travel,
17 tourism, and heritage preservation on West Virginia's economy, identity, and quality of life;
18 therefore, be it

19 *Resolved by the Senate:*

20 That the Senate hereby designates January 28, 2026, as West Virginia Tourism and
21 History Day at the Legislature; and, be it

22 *Further Resolved*, That the Senate recognizes and commends all tourism and history
23 organizations, businesses, volunteers, educators, and partners throughout the state who work to
24 promote West Virginia's culture, educate its citizens, preserve its heritage, and strengthen its
25 communities; and, be it

1 *Further Resolved*, That the Senate encourages all citizens and visitors to explore West
2 Virginia's scenic beauty, historic places, and cultural experiences; and, be it
3 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
4 the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Tourism.