

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4452**

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Chiarelli, Coop-Gonzalez,  
and Martin

[Introduced January 16, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §35-1-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
 2 removing "Mortmain" restrictions on religious organizations.

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

**ARTICLE 1. RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.**

**§35-1-8. ~~Quantity of real estate trustee may take and hold~~ Real estate for a trustee or trustees of a church, parish, congregation or branch.**

1 The trustee or trustees of any individual church, parish, congregation or branch of any  
 2 religious sect, society or denomination within this state may take and hold at any one time for each  
 3 church, parish or congregation ~~not to exceed ten acres of land in any incorporated city, town or~~  
 4 ~~village, and not to exceed sixty acres out of such city, town or village.~~

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove "Mortmain" restrictions on religious organizations.

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