

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4573

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Delegates Dittman, Pinson, Moore, Drennan,
Foggin, Hott, Campbell, Toney, Ellington, and Statler

[Introduced January 20, 2026; referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §18-5-55, relating to foster children; authorizing the development of a Foster
3 Youth Resource Guide; and requiring the Department of Education provide information to
4 foster children before graduating high school.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-55. Foster youth post-secondary transition support.

1 (a) The West Virginia Department of Education shall provide guidance or training to school
2 counselors and graduation coaches regarding post-secondary education, workforce training,
3 housing, and independent-living resources available to students with current or prior foster care
4 experience.

5 (b) Each county board of education shall ensure that eligible students are provided prior to
6 graduation, information concerning postsecondary education and training assistance, workforce
7 development, housing, and aftercare services.

8 (c) The department shall develop and maintain a Foster Youth Resource Guide.

9 (d) Nothing in this section requires disclosure of a student's foster care status.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure West Virginia students with current or former foster care experience receive clear, consistent information about education, job training, housing, healthcare, and independent-living support before graduating high school.

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