

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4595**

By Delegates Burkhammer, Crouse, Chiarelli, J.

Cannon, Willis, Holstein, Street, Drennan, Clark,

Dittman, and Kyle

[Introduced January 20, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,  
2 designated §5B-12-1, §5B-12-2, §5B-12-3, §5B-12-4, and §5B-12-5, relating to approving  
3 short-term training programs for eligibility for federal Workforce Pell Grants.

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

**ARTICLE 12. WORKFORCE PELL GRANTS.**

**§5B-12-1. Definitions.**

1 For the purposes of this article:

2 (1) "Eligible workforce training programs" are programs that meet applicable requirements  
3 in section 83002 of Public Law No. 119-21.

4 (2) "High-skill industry sectors or occupations" are sectors or occupations requiring  
5 postsecondary education, experience, or training beyond a high school diploma.

6 (3) "High-wage industry sectors or occupations" are sectors or occupations with earnings  
7 above 150% of the Federal Poverty Level for individual earners.

8 (4) "In-demand industry sectors or occupations" are sectors or occupations identified in  
9 state, regional, or local workforce development or labor market projections as growing, emerging,  
10 or having projected shortages or hiring demand.

**§5B-12-2. Duty and authority of the Governor to approve programs.**

1 The governor shall, in consultation with the West Virginia Workforce Development Board,  
2 approve eligible workforce training programs for eligibility for federal Workforce Pell Grants if they  
3 satisfy at least one of the following criteria:

4 (1) The program prepares students for a high-skill industry sector or occupation;  
5 (2) The program prepares students for a high-wage industry sector or occupation; or  
6 (3) The program prepares students for an in-demand industry sector or occupation.

**§5B-12-3. Rulemaking.**

1 The West Virginia Workforce Development Board shall propose rules for Legislative  
2 approval pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

**§5B-12-4. Compliance with federal rules.**

1       All provisions under this Act shall be consistent with applicable federal rules governing the  
2       Workforce Pell Grant program. If any provision of this Act is found to conflict with federal law or  
3       regulation, the federal requirement shall govern.

**§5B-12-5. Effective date.**

1       This act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is approval of short-term training programs for eligibility for federal Workforce Pell Grants.

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