

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4707

By Delegates Holstein and Chiarelli

[Introduced January 21, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Government Organization

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
2 designated §7-28-1; to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §8-
3 40-1; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-15-26,
4 relating to hotel and motel housing vouchers; prohibiting city or town from requiring hotel or
5 motel participation in housing voucher programs; prohibiting county from requiring hotel or
6 motel participation in housing voucher programs; and prohibiting a housing authority from
7 requiring hotel or motel participation in housing voucher programs.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 28. HOTEL AND MOTEL HOMELESS HOUSING VOUCHERS.

§7-28-1. Hotel and motel homeless housing vouchers; participation; prohibition; definitions.

1 (a) A county may not require a hotel or motel to participate in any program that houses
2 homeless individuals or families in an unoccupied hotel or motel guest rooms through the use of a
3 housing voucher.

4 (b) For purposes of this section:

5 "Homeless individuals or families" means individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate
6 nighttime residence or who have a primary nighttime residence in a shelter, on the street, in a park,
7 in a vehicle, or in an enclosure that is not authorized for human habitation.

8 "Hotel" or "motel" means an establishment that provides payment for temporary lodging in
9 the form of overnight accommodations in guest rooms to transient patrons.

CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 40. HOTEL AND MOTEL HOMELESS HOUSING VOUCHERS.

§8-40-1. Hotel and motel homeless housing vouchers; participation; prohibition; definitions.

1 (a) A city or town may not require a hotel or motel to participate in any program that houses
2 homeless individuals or families in an unoccupied hotel or motel guest rooms through the use of a
3 housing voucher.

4 (b) For purposes of this section:

5 "Homeless individuals or families" means individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate
6 nighttime residence or who have a primary nighttime residence in a shelter, on the street, in a park,
7 in a vehicle, or in an enclosure that is not authorized for human habitation.

8 "Hotel" or "motel" means an establishment that provides payment for temporary lodging in
9 the form of overnight accommodations in guest rooms to transient patrons.

CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTICLE 15. STATE HOUSING LAW.

§16-15-26. Hotel and motel homeless housing vouchers; participation; prohibition; **definitions.**

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other law, the department may not require a hotel or motel to
2 participate in any program that houses homeless individuals or families in an unoccupied hotel or
3 motel guest rooms through the use of a housing voucher.

4 (b) For purposes of this section:

5 "Homeless individuals or families" means individuals who lack fixed, regular, and adequate
6 nighttime residence or who have a primary nighttime residence in a shelter, on the street, in a park,
7 in a vehicle, or in an enclosure that is not authorized for human habitation.

8 "Hotel" or "motel" means an establishment that provides payment for temporary lodging in
9 the form of overnight accommodations in guest rooms to transient patrons.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill relates to hotel and motel housing vouchers programs; prohibiting city or town from requiring hotel or motel participation in housing voucher programs; prohibiting county from requiring hotel or motel participation in housing voucher programs; and prohibiting a housing authority from requiring hotel or motel participation in housing voucher programs.

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