

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Introduced**

## **House Bill 4729**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Delegates Sheedy, Dittman, Drennan, Petitto,  
Crouse, White, Stephens, Bell, Jordan, and Foggin

[Introduced January 22, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §31D-1-131 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
2 relating to requiring the West Virginia Secretary of State to obtain and issue state tax  
3 identification numbers to businesses and ensure businesses have a valid tax identification  
4 number.

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

**ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

**§31D-1-131. One-stop electronic state business portal.**

1 (a) The Secretary of State shall establish a web-based business portal to facilitate  
2 interaction among businesses and governmental agencies in West Virginia. The web-based  
3 business portal shall provide a single point-of-entry to state government for businesses based in  
4 the state and for businesses looking to establish a presence in the state. The web-based business  
5 portal shall:

6 (1) Provide guidance to users who want to start, operate or expand a business in the state;

7 (2) Permit e-payments and provide businesses information about transaction statuses in a  
8 paperless environment;

9 (3) Provide business owners with the option to electronically:

10 (A) Make application, including the payment of fees, for permits and licenses;

11 (B) Make application, including the payment of fees, for the renewal of permits and  
12 licenses;

13 (C) File annual reports;

14 (D) Pay unemployment taxes;

15 (E) Pay sales and use taxes through a link to the web-based portal maintained by the Tax  
16 Division of the Department of Revenue for electronic payment; and

17 (F) Pay any other fees or remittances that the business owners are subject to under state  
18 law;

19 (4) Provide businesses with downloadable access to all editable forms that are necessary

for compliance with all reporting and filing requirements with the following agencies:

(A) West Virginia State Tax Department;

(B) Workforce West Virginia;

(C) West Virginia Division of Labor; and

(D) West Virginia Secretary of State;

(5) Provide for the electronic filing of documents by city, county and local governments:

*Provided*, That nothing in this section shall be construed to permit the Secretary of State to receive tax returns, or any other documents required to be filed with the State Tax Commissioner, or to require any taxpayer to file tax returns, or any other documents required to be filed with the State Tax Commissioner, with the Secretary of State. Nor shall the Secretary of State be permitted to receive payments for taxes, including interest, penalties or additions to tax, that are required to be collected by the Tax Commissioner. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Secretary of State and the Tax Commissioner may develop policies and procedures allowing the Secretary of State to accept applications and renewals, and to collect the appropriate fee, for Business Registration Certificates. *Provided, further*, That nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring the State Tax Commissioner or the Tax Division of the Department of Revenue to disclose confidential taxpayer information to the Secretary of State.

(b) The Secretary of State shall establish a consolidated call center to be staffed by trained and knowledgeable persons who are able to assist businesses obtain information and services relating to compliance with state law.

(c) The Secretary of State shall:

(1) Develop the requirements of the web-based business portal by August 31, 2015, including but not limited to:

(A) Establishing, through cooperative efforts, the standards and requirements necessary to design, build, implement and maintain the business portal; and

(B) Establishing the standards and requirements necessary for a state or local agency to

46 participate in the business portal;

47 (2) Coordinate and cooperate with the appropriate entities to facilitate the payment by

48 businesses of any payments or remittances made pursuant to this section, via the web-based

49 business portal; and

50 (3) Propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with the provisions of ~~article three,~~

51 ~~chapter twenty-nine-a §29A-3-1 et seq.~~ of this code, to implement the provisions of this article; and

52 (4) After July 1, 2026, obtain from the West Virginia State Tax Department a state tax

53 identification number and issue it to a business and further check existing business to ensure that

54 said business has a valid state tax identification number.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the West Virginia Secretary of State to obtain and issue tax identification numbers for businesses.

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