

SENATE RESOLUTION 18

(By Senators Chapman, Charnock, Grady, Rucker,
and Hamilton)

[Introduced January 27, 2026]

- 1 Designating January 27, 2026, as Sexual Violence Awareness Day at the Legislature.
- 2 Whereas, Sexual violence is recognized as one of the costliest crimes in human and
- 3 societal impact; and
- 4 Whereas, The 2023-2024 National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey rank
- 5 West Virginia women fifth in the country in lifetime prevalence for sexual coercion victimizations,
- 6 with nearly one third of female residents affected; and
- 7 Whereas, The number one reason for incarceration in West Virginia's prisons is forcible
- 8 sex offenses, with an annual cost of over \$48 million for incarcerating offenders for sex-related
- 9 offenses in the state's prisons alone; and
- 10 Whereas, Victim services began in 1972 with the state's first regional rape crisis center,
- 11 and expanded to meet the need through 11 additional regional centers and the state sexual
- 12 assault coalition, the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services; therefore, be it
- 13 *Resolved by the Senate:*
- 14 That the Senate hereby designates January 27, 2026, as Sexual Violence Awareness Day
- 15 at the Legislature; and, be it
- 16 *Further Resolved,* That the Senate recognizes the scope of sexual violence in the state,
- 17 supports those agencies and advocates working to address the problem, and renews its
- 18 commitment to stand with survivors, hold offenders accountable, and work to create a state where
- 19 all West Virginians can live safely from the threat of sexual violence; and, be it

1 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
2 the appropriate representative of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services.