ACTS

OF THE

LEGISLATURE

OF

WEST VIRGINIA

Regular Session, 2020
First Extraordinary Session, 2019
Second Extraordinary Session, 2019

Volume II
Chapters 209 - 351
Chapters 1 - 47
Chapters 1 - 3

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

HONORABLE ROGER HANSHAW

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

* *

COMPILED AND PUBLISHED
UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF

STEPHEN J. HARRISON

CLERK OF THE HOUSE

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

212 MAIN UNIT
STATE CAPITOL
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA

* *

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Lynn Lewis

Anne Landgrebe Lori Skull

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OFFICERS

Speaker: Roger Hanshaw - Wallback
Clerk: Stephen J. Harrison - Cross Lanes
Sergeant-at-Arms: [1]Marshall Clay - Fayetteville
Doorkeeper: Robert Stewart - Cross Lanes

Name	District	City	Occupation	Term
Anderson, Bill (R)	8th	Williamstown	Educator	71st - 84th
Angelucci, Michael (D)	50th	Farmington	Administrator	84th
Atkinson III, Martin "Rick" (R)	11th	Reedy	Director of Sales	82nd - 84th
Azinger, Tom (R)	10th	Vienna	Retired Insurance Agent	72nd - 81st; 84th
[2]Barnhart, Trenton (R)	7th	St. Marys	Community Banker	Appt. Sept. 17, 2019, 84th
Barrett, Jason (D)	61st	Martinsburg	Restaurant owner	81st; 83rd - 84th
[3]Bartlett, T. Kevan (R)	39th	Sissonville	Minister	Appt. Oct. 21, 2019, 84th
Bates, Mick (D)	30th	Beckley	Physical therapist/Small Business Owner	82nd - 84th
Bibby, Tom (R)	62nd	Falling Waters	Retired, U.S. Air Force	84th
Boggs, Brent (D)	34th	Gassaway	Railroad Engineer	73rd - 84th
Brown, Nathan (D)	20th	Williamson	Attorney	84th
Brown, Sammi (D)	65th	Charles Town	Community Organizer/Consultant	84th
Butler, Jim (R)	14th	Henderson	Excavating Contractor	81st - 84th
Byrd, Andrew (D)	35th	South Charleston	Attorney/Small Business Owner	82nd - 84th
Cadle, Scott (R)	13th	Letart	Trucking/Excavating	81st - 82nd; 84th
Campbell, Jeff (D)	42nd	Lewisburg	Teacher/Broadcaster	Appt. Oct. 30, 2017, 83rd; 84th
Canestraro, Joe (D)	4th	Benwood	Lawyer	83rd - 84th
Capito, Moore (R)	35th	Charleston	Attorney	83rd - 84th
Caputo, Mike (D)	50th	Rivesville	UMWA, District 31 Vice President	73rd - 84th
Cooper, Roy (R)	28th	Wayside	Retired U.S. Navy	81st - 84th
Cowles, Daryl (R)	58th	Berkeley Springs	Businessman	78th - 84th
Criss, Vernon (R)	10th	Parkersburg	Executive	69th; 83rd - 84th
Dean, Mark (R)	21st	Verner	Principal	83rd - 84th
Diserio, Phillip W. (D)	2nd	Follansbee	Retired Electrician	81st; 83rd - 84th
Doyle, John (D)	67th	Shepherdstown	Realtor	66th; 71st - 80th; 84th
Ellington, Joe (R)	27th	Princeton	Physician	80th - 84th
Espinosa, Paul (R)	66th	Charles Town	Public Affairs Manager	81st - 84th
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Evans, Ed (D)	26th	Welch	Retired Science Teacher	83rd - 84th
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Fluharty, Shawn (D)	3rd	Wheeling	Attorney	82nd - 84th
Foster, Geoff (R)	15th	Winfield	Construction Supply	82nd - 84th
Graves, Dianna (R)	38th	Cross Lanes	Auditor	Appt. Sept. 19, 2017, 83rd; 84th
Hamrick, Danny (R)	48th	Lost Creek	Consulting, Media Production	81st - 84th
Hanna, Caleb (R)	44th	Richwood	Full-time student	84th
Hansen, Evan (D)	51st	Morgantown	President, Downstream Strategies	84th
Hanshaw, Roger (R)	33rd	Wallback	Attorney	82nd - 84th
Hardy, John (R)	63rd	Shepherdstown	Businessman	84th
Hartman, William G. (D)	43rd	Elkins	Retired Independent Insurance Agent	76th - 84th
Hicks, Kenneth P. (D)	19th	Kenova	Attorney	82nd - 84th
Higginbotham, Joshua (R)	13th	Poca	Author	83rd - 84th
Hill, Jordan C. (R)	41st	Summersville	Human Resources	82nd - 84th
Hornbuckle, Sean (D)	16th	Huntington	Financial Services Broker	82nd - 84th
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Householder, Eric L. (R)	64th	Martinsburg	Small Business Owner	80th - 84th
Howell, Gary G. (R)	56th	Keyser	Small Business Owner	80th - 84th
Jeffries, Dean (R)	40th	Elkview	Insurance Agent	Appt. Sept. 5, 2018, 83rd; 84th
Jeffries, Joe (R)	22nd	Culloden	Maintenance Manager	84th
Jennings, D. "Buck" Rolland (R)	53rd	Thornton	Self-Employed	Appt. Oct. 10, 2017, 83rd; 84th
Kelly, David (R)	6th	Sistersville	Pastor	84th
Kelly, John R. (R)	10th	Parkersburg	Retired, Chemical Industry	82nd - 84th
Kessinger, Kayla (R)	32nd	Mount Hope	Director of Human Resources	82nd - 84th

Kump, Larry D. (R)	59th	Falling Waters	Retired Public Administrator	80th - 81st; 84th
Lavender-Bowe, Cindy (D)	42nd	Lewisburg	Small Business Owner	84th
Linville, Daniel (R)	16th	Milton	Information Technology Director	Appt. Aug. 1, 2018, 83rd; 84th
[4]Little, Chuck (R)	9th	Davisville	Investigator	Appt. May 20, 2019, 84th
Longstreth, Linda (D)	50th	Fairmont	Administrator	77th - 84th
Lovejoy, Chad (D)	17th	Huntington	Attorney	83rd - 84th
Mandt, John F. (R)	16th	Huntington	Businessman	84th
Martin, Carl "Robbie" (R)	45th	Buckhannon	Business Owner	84th
Martin, Patrick S. (R)	46th	Weston	Business Owner	83rd - 84th
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Pack, Jeffrey (R)	28th	Cool Ridge	Pest Control Technician	Appt. Jan. 10, 2018, 83rd; 84th
Paynter, Tony (R)	25th	Hanover	Truck Driver	83rd - 84th
Pethtel, Dave (D)	5th	Hundred	Educator	69th - 71st; 74th - 84th
Phillips, Chris (R)	47th	Buckhannon	President, CGP Foods, Inc.	84th
Porterfield, Eric (R)	27th	Princeton	Evangelist/Missionary	84th
Pushkin, Mike (D)	37th	Charleston	Taxi Driver/Musician	82nd - 84th
Pyles, Rodney A. (D)	51st	Morgantown	Retired	83rd - 84th
Queen, Ben (R)	48th	Bridgeport	Media Entrepreneur/Photography	83rd - 84th
Robinson, Andrew (D)	36th	Charleston	Real Estate Appraiser/Broker	83rd - 84th
Rodighiero, Ralph (D)	24th	Logan	UPS Driver	78th - 80th; 82nd - 84th
Rohrbach, Matthew (R)	17th	Huntington	Physician	82nd - 84th
Rowan, Ruth (R)	57th	Points	Retired Educator	77th - 84th
Rowe, Larry L. (D)	36th	Charleston	Attorney	73rd - 74th (House); 75th - 76th (Senate); 82nd - 84th (House)
Shott, John (R)	27th	Bluefield	Attorney	79th (Appt. to Senate May 19 and resigned from House May 20, 2010); 81st - 84th (House)
Skaff, Doug Jr. (D)	35th	South Charleston	Business Owner/Commercial Developer	79th - 81st; 84th
Sponaugle, Isaac (D)	55th	Franklin	Attorney	81st - 84th
Staggers, Margaret Anne (D)	32nd	Fayetteville	Emergency Physician/Paramedic	79th-81st; 84th
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Storch, Erikka (R)	3rd	Wheeling	Financial Officer	80th - 84th
Summers, Amy (R)	49th	Flemington	Registered Nurse	82nd - 84th
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Thompson, Cody H. (D)	43rd	Elkins	Educator	84th
Thompson, Robert (D)	19th	Wayne	Teacher	83rd - 84th
Tomblin, Tim (D)	24th	Logan	Self-Employed	84th
Toney, Christopher Wayne (R)	31st	Beckley	School Bus Operator	84th
Walker, Danielle (D)	51st	Morgantown	Direct Care Worker	84th
Waxman, Terry (R)	48th	Bridgeport	Homemaker	82nd; 84th
Westfall, Steve (R)	12th	Ripley	Insurance Agent	81st - 84th
Williams, John (D)	51st	Morgantown	Insurance Sales	83rd - 84th
[5]Wilson, S. Marshall (I)	60th	Gerrardstown	Author/Army Officer	83rd - 84th
Worrell, Evan (R)	18th	Barboursville	Healthcare Data Analytics	84th
Zukoff, Lisa (D)	4th	Moundsville	Business Owner	84th

[1]Sergeant-at-Arms Anne Lieberman resigned March 1, 2019, and Marshall Clay was elected to fill the vacancy on June 18, 2019.
[2]Jason Harshbarger resigned August 30, 2019. Trenton Barnhart appointed to fill the unexpired term on September 17, 2019.
[3]Sharon Malcolm died September 30, 2019. T. Kevan Bartlett appointed to fill the unexpired term on October 21, 2019.
[4]Ray Hollen resigned May 12, 2019. Charles F. Little appointed to fill the unexpired term on May 20, 2019.
[5]Delegate S. Marshall Wilson switched from Republican to Independent on December 17, 2019.

MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

REGULAR SESSION, 2020

OFFICERS

President: Mitch Carmichael - Ripley
Clerk: Bruce Lee Cassis, Jr. - Charleston
Sergeant-at-Arms: Joseph Allen Freedman - Charleston
Doorkeeper: Jeffrey L. Branham - Cross Lanes

Name	District	City	Occupation	Term
Azinger, Michael T. (R)	3rd	Vienna	Manager	82nd (House); 83rd - 84th
Baldwin, Stephen (D)	10th	Ronceverte	Minister	83rd (House); Appt. Oct. 16, 2017, 83rd; 84th
Beach, Robert D. (D)	13th	Morgantown		Appt. April 24, 1998, 73rd (House); 75th - 79th (House); 80th- 84th
Blair, Craig (R)	15th	Martinsburg	Businessman	76th - 79th (House);81st - 84th
Boley, Donna J. (R)	3rd	St. Marys	Retired	Appt. May 14, 1985, 67th; 68th - 84th
Carmichael, Mitch (R)	4th	Ripley	Sales Director	75th - 80th (House);81st - 84th
Clements, Charles H. (R)	2nd	New Martinsville	Retired	77th (House); Appt. Jan. 28, 2017, 83rd; 84th
Cline, Sue (R)	9th	Brenton	Real Estate Agent	Appt. Jan. 22, 2016, 82nd; 83rd - 84th
Facemire, Douglas E. (D)	12th	Sutton	Owner, Grocery Chain	79th - 84th
Hamilton, Bill (R)	11th	Upshur	Retired	76th-83rd (House); 84th
Hardesty, Paul (D)	7th	Holden	Businessman	Appt. Jan. 17, 2019, 84th
Ihlenfeld, William (D)	1st	Wheeling	U.S. Attorney	84th
Jeffries, Glenn D. (D)	8th	Red House	Businessman	83rd - 84th
Lindsay, Richard D. (D)	8th	Charleston	Attorney	84th
Mann, Kenny (R)	10th	Greenville	Funeral Director	83rd - 84th
Maroney, Michael J. (R)	2nd	Glen Dale	Physician	83rd - 84th
Maynard, Mark R. (R)	6th	Genoa	Automobile Dealer	82nd - 84th
Palumbo, Corey (D)	17th	Charleston	Attorney	79th - 78th (House); 79th - 84th
[1]Pitsenbarger, John R. (R)	11th	Mt. Nebo	Farm Owner/Operator	Appt. Oct. 17, 2019, 84th
Plymale, Robert H. (D)	5th	Huntington	Businessman	71st - 84th
Prezioso, Roman W. Jr. (D)	13th	Fairmont	Administrator	69th - 73rd (House);73rd - 84th
Roberts, Rollan (R)	9th	Raleigh	Minister	84th
Romano, Michael J. (D)	12th	Clarksburg	Attorney/CPA	82nd - 84th
Rucker, Patricia Puertas (R)	16th	Harpers Ferry	Home Schooling Mother	83rd - 84th
Smith, Randy E. (R)	14th	Davis	Coal Miner	81st - 82nd (House);83rd - 84th
Stollings, Ron D. (D)	7th	Madison	Physician	78th - 84th
Swope, Chandler (R)	6th	Mercer	Retired	83rd - 84th
Sypolt, Dave (R)	14th	Kingwood	Professional Land Surveyor	78th - 84th
Takubo, Tom (R)	17th	Charleston	Physician	82nd - 84th
Tarr, Eric J. (R)	4th	Putnam		84th
Trump IV, Charles S. (R)	15th	Berkeley Springs	Attorney	71st - 77th (House); 82nd - 84th
Unger II, John R. (D)	16th	Martinsburg	Businessman/Economic Development	74th - 84th
Weld, Ryan W. (R)	1st	Wellsburg	Attorney	82nd (House); 83rd - 84th
Woelfel, Michael A. (D)	5th	Huntington	Lawyer	82nd - 84th

[1]Gregory Boso resigned September 26, 2019. John "J. R." Pitsenbarger appointed to fill the vacancy on October 17, 2019.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES
(As of January 8, 2020)

STANDING

AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Cooper (*Chair, Agriculture*), Atkinson (*Chair, Natural Resources*), Cadle (*Vice Chair, Agriculture)*, Sypolt (*Vice Chair, Natural Resources*), Hartman (*Minority Chair, Agriculture*), Tomblin (*Minority Chair, Natural Resources*), R. Thompson (*Minority Vice Chair, Agriculture*), Hansen (*Minority Vice Chair, Natural Resources*), Anderson, Dean, Hott, J. Jeffries, D. Kelly, Linville, Little, Paynter, Phillips, Westfall, Wilson, Campbell, Lavender-Bowe, Rodighiero, Sponaugle, Swartzmiller and Zukoff.

BANKING AND INSURANCE

Nelson (*Chair, Banking*), Westfall (*Chair, Insurance*), Criss (*Vice Chair, Banking*), Azinger (*Vice Chair, Insurance*), Estep-Burton (*Minority Chair, Banking*), Williams (*Minority Chair, Insurance*), Lovejoy (*Minority Vice Chair, Banking*), N. Brown (*Minority Vice Chair, Insurance*), Barnhart, Capito, Espinosa, Graves, Hott, Householder, D. Jeffries, P. Martin, Porterfield, Shott, Waxman, Barrett, Bates, Hartman, Robinson, Rowe and Sponaugle.

EDUCATION

Ellington (*Chair*), Higginbotham (*Vice Chair*), Hornbuckle (*Minority Chair*), Doyle (*Minority Vice Chair*), Atkinson, Bartlett, Bibby, Butler, Cooper, Dean, Espinosa, Hanna, Jennings, J. Kelly, Rohrbach, Toney, Waxman, Campbell, Estep-Burton, Evans, Lavender-Bowe, Rodighiero, C. Thompson, R. Thompson and Zukoff.

ENERGY

Anderson (*Chair*), J. Kelly (*Vice Chair*), Evans (*Minority Chair*), Pethtel (*Minority Vice Chair*), Azinger, Cadle, Graves, Higginbotham, Hott, J. Jeffries, Kessinger, P. Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Porterfield, Westfall, Boggs, Caputo, Diserio, Hansen, Hartman, Hicks, Miley and Tomblin.

ENROLLED BILLS

Capito (*Chair*), Atkinson (*Vice Chair*), Westfall, Byrd and Pushkin.

FINANCE

Householder (*Chair*), Criss (*Vice Chair*), Bates (*Minority Chair*), Barrett (*Minority Vice Chair*), Anderson, Butler, Cowles, Ellington, Espinosa, Graves, Hardy, Hill, Linville, Maynard, Pack, Rowan, Storch, Boggs, Hartman, Longstreth, Pethtel, Rowe, Skaff, Sponaugle and Williams.

FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Maynard (*Chair*), Jennings (*Vice Chair*), Angelucci (*Minority Chair*), Campbell (*Minority Vice Chair*), J. Jeffries, Pack, Summers, Sypolt, Worrell, Lovejoy and Miller.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Howell (*Chair*), C. Martin (*Vice Chair*), Pyles (*Minority Chair*), Diserio (*Minority Vice Chair*), Azinger, Barnhart, Cadle, Hamrick, Hott, D. Jeffries, J. Jeffries, Kump, Little, Porterfield, Sypolt, Wilson, Worrell, Angelucci, Caputo, Hansen, Hicks, Staggers, Swartzmiller, Tomblin and Walker.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Hill (*Chair*), Pack (*Vice Chair*), Pushkin (*Minority Chair*), Staggers (*Minority Vice Chair*), Atkinson, Barnhart, Butler, Criss, Dean, D. Jeffries, Jennings, Queen, Rohrbach, Rowan, Summers, Wilson, Worrell, Angelucci, Bates, Estep-Burton, Fleischauer, Lavender-Bowe, Robinson, C. Thompson and Walker.

INDUSTRY AND LABOR

Fast (*Chair*), P. Martin (*Vice Chair*), Miller (*Minority Chair*), Hicks (*Minority Vice Chair*), Barnhart, Bartlett, Dean, Foster, Hanna, Hill, Householder, D. Jeffries, Jennings, Kump, Porterfield, Shott, Worrell, N. Brown, S. Brown, Caputo, Diserio, Fluharty, Pushkin, Skaff and C. Thompson.

INTERSTATE COOPERATION

Storch (*Chair*), Waxman (*Vice Chair*), Bibby, Howell, Estep-Burton, Fleischauer and Lovejoy.

JUDICIARY

Shott (*Chair*), Capito (*Vice Chair*), Fleischauer (*Minority Chair*), Fluharty (*Minority Vice Chair*), Bibby, Fast, Foster, D. Kelly, Kessinger, Kump, Mandt, Nelson, Phillips, Queen, Steele, Waxman, Westfall, N. Brown, S. Brown, Byrd, Canestraro, Lovejoy, Miller, Pushkin and Robinson.

PENSIONS AND RETIREMENT

Graves (*Chair*), Nelson (*Vice Chair*), Pethtel (*Minority Chair*), Evans (*Minority Vice Chair*), Anderson, McGeehan and Pack.

POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS

Storch (*Chair*), Cowles (*Vice Chair*), Robinson (*Minority Chair*), S. Brown (*Minority Vice Chair*), Anderson, Azinger, Capito, Dean, Fast, Foster, Graves, Hamrick, Jennings, J. Kelly, C. Martin, Phillips, Wilson, Barrett, Canestraro, Doyle, Longstreth, Miller, Pyles, Walker and Williams.

PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Rohrbach (*Chair*), Kessinger (*Vice Chair*), Robinson (*Minority Chair*), Walker (*Minority Vice Chair*), Bartlett, Ellington, Hanna, D. Kelly, Mandt, Hornbuckle and Pushkin.

RULE-MAKING REVIEW

Foster (*Chair*), Butler (*Vice Chair*), P. Martin, Steele, Fleischauer and Rowe.

RULES

Hanshaw (*Chair*), Summers (*Vice Chair*), Anderson, Cowles, Ellington, Espinosa, Foster, Hill, Householder, Howell, Kessinger, Shott, Barrett, Bates, Caputo, Fleischauer, Miley, Miller, Pethtel and Sponaugle.

SENIOR, CHILDREN, AND FAMILY ISSUES

Rowan (*Chair*), Rohrbach (*Vice Chair*), Boggs (*Minority Chair*), Rodighiero (*Minority Vice Chair*), Bartlett, Graves, Hanna, J. Kelly, Kessinger, Linville, Mandt, C. Martin, P. Martin, Maynard, Queen, Sypolt, Toney, Canestraro, Estep-Burton, Fluharty, Longstreth, Lovejoy, Pethtel, Pyles and Williams.

SMALL BUSINESS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Queen (*Chair*), Mandt (*Vice Chair*), Skaff (*Minority Chair*), Lavender-Bowe (*Minority Vice Chair*), Atkinson, Cowles, Hardy, Higginbotham, Hill, Linville, C. Martin, Nelson, Phillips, Steele, Toney, Waxman, Westfall, Byrd, Doyle, Hartman, Hicks, Hornbuckle, Miley, R. Thompson and Tomblin.

TECHNOLOGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Butler (*Chair*), Linville (*Vice Chair*), Rowe (*Minority Chair*), C. Thompson (*Minority Vice Chair*), Cadle, Capito, Criss, Espinosa, Fast, Hamrick, Hardy, Howell, Kump, Maynard, Rohrbach, Shott, Storch, Angelucci, Boggs, Diserio, Evans, Hansen, Staggers, Walker and Zukoff.

VETERANS' AFFAIRS AND HOMELAND SECURITY

Bibby (*Chair, Veterans' Affairs*), Jennings (*Chair, Homeland Security*), Butler (*Vice Chair, Veterans' Affairs*), Steele (*Vice Chair, Homeland Security*), Longstreth (*Minority Chair, Veterans' Affairs*), Canestraro (*Minority Chair, Homeland Security*), Byrd (*Minority Vice Chair, Veterans' Affairs*), Swartzmiller (*Minority Vice Chair, Homeland Security*), Bartlett, Cooper, Higginbotham, D. Kelly, J. Kelly, Little, Rowan, Sypolt, Toney, Wilson, Worrell, Angelucci, Campbell, Fleischauer, Pethtel, Pushkin and Staggers.

COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE
(As of January 8, 2020)

STANDING

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Sypolt (*Chair*), Mann (*Vice Chair*), Cline, Clements, Maynard, Rucker, Smith, Baldwin, Beach, Hardesty, and Unger.

BANKING AND INSURANCE

Azinger (*Chair*), Clements (*Vice Chair*), Blair, Hamilton, Rucker, Swope, Tarr, Weld, Facemire, Jeffries, Palumbo, Prezioso, and Romano.

CONFIRMATIONS

Boley (*Chair*), Takubo (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Blair, Rucker, Weld, Palumbo, Plymale, and Prezioso.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Swope (*Chair*), Mann (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Cline, Hamilton, Pitsenbarger, Roberts, Tarr, Baldwin, Ihlenfeld, Jeffries, Romano, Stollings, and Woelfel.

EDUCATION

Rucker (*Chair*), Blair (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Boley, Cline, Pitsenbarger, Roberts, Trump, Baldwin, Beach, Plymale, Romano, Stollings, and Unger.

ENERGY, INDUSTRY AND MINING

Smith (*Chair*), Sypolt (*Vice Chair*), Boley, Clements, Cline, Hamilton, Mann, Swope, Facemire, Ihlenfeld, Jeffries, Lindsay, and Woelfel.

ENROLLED BILLS

Maynard (*Chair*), Roberts (*Vice Chair*), Tarr, Lindsay, and Woelfel.

FINANCE

Blair (*Chair*), Tarr (*Vice Chair*), Boley, Hamilton, Mann, Maroney, Roberts, Swope, Sypolt, Takubo, Facemire, Ihlenfeld, Palumbo, Plymale, Prezioso, Stollings, and Unger.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Maynard (*Chair*), Swope (*Vice Chair*), Clements, Mann, Maroney, Smith, Sypolt, Tarr, Facemire, Ihlenfeld, Jeffries, Lindsay, Palumbo, and Woelfel.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Maroney (*Chair*), Tarr (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Maynard, Roberts, Rucker, Takubo, Weld, Palumbo, Plymale, Prezioso, Stollings, and Unger.

INTERSTATE COOPERATION

Cline (*Chair*), Maynard (*Vice Chair*), Hamilton, Pitsenbarger, Hardesty, Ihlenfeld, and Unger.

JUDICIARY

Trump (*Chair*), Weld (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Clements, Cline, Maynard, Pitsenbarger, Rucker, Smith, Takubo, Baldwin, Beach, Hardesty, Jeffries, Lindsay, Romano, and Woelfel.

MILITARY

Weld (*Chair*), Maroney (*Vice Chair*), Cline, Hamilton, Smith, Sypolt, Facemire, Hardesty, and Lindsay.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Hamilton (*Chair*), Mann (*Vice Chair*), Cline, Pitsenbarger, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Sypolt, Beach, Facemire, Hardesty, Prezioso, and Stollings.

PENSIONS

Azinger (*Chair*), Hamilton (*Vice Chair*), Pitsenbarger, Trump, Ihlenfeld, Plymale, and Romano.

RULES

Carmichael (*Chair*), Blair, Boley, Maroney, Sypolt, Takubo, Trump, Palumbo, Plymale, Prezioso, and Stollings.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Clements (*Chair*), Swope (*Vice Chair*), Boley, Mann, Pitsenbarger, Roberts, Beach, Jeffries, and Plymale.

WORKFORCE

Roberts (*Chair*), Weld (*Vice Chair*), Boley, Maroney, Rucker, Smith, Tarr, Baldwin, Beach, Jeffries, and Stollings.

SELECT

SELECT COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Takubo (*Chair*), Weld (*Vice Chair*), Cline, Pitsenbarger, Roberts, Rucker, Hardesty, Prezioso, and Stollings.

CHAPTER 209

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 449 - By Senator Maynard)

[Passed February 12, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §64-10-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Commerce to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as filed and as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee; authorizing the Department of Commerce to promulgate a legislative rule relating to small business innovation research and small business technology transfer matching funds program; authorizing the Division of Labor to promulgate a legislative rule relating to supervision of plumbing work; authorizing the Division of Labor to promulgate a legislative rule relating to regulation of heating, ventilating, and cooling work; authorizing the Division of Forestry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to sediment control during commercial timber-harvesting operations—licensing; authorizing the Division of Forestry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to sediment control during commercial timber-harvesting operations—logger certification; authorizing the Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training to promulgate a legislative rule relating to substance abuse screening, standards, and procedures; authorizing the Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training to promulgate a legislative rule relating to rules governing the certification, recertification, and training of EMT-miners and the certification of EMT-M instructors; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to commercial whitewater outfitters; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule

relating to transporting and selling wildlife pelts and parts; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to boating; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to special boating rules; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to special requirements concerning boating; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to public use of campgrounds in West Virginia State Parks and State Forests and campsites in State Rail Trails under the Division of Natural Resources; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to special projects and grants for the West Virginia State Parks, State Forests, and State Rail Trails under the Division of Natural Resources; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to defining terms used in all hunting and trapping; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to prohibitions when hunting and trapping; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to special fishing rule; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to catching and selling bait fish; and authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to falconry.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO PROMULGATE LEGISLATIVE RULES.

§64-10-1. Department of Commerce.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 18, 2019, authorized under the authority of §5B-8-2 of this code, modified by the Department of Commerce to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 5, 2019, relating to the Department of Commerce (small

business innovation research and small business technology transfer matching funds program, 145 CSR 15), is authorized.

§64-10-2. Division of Labor.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 17, 2019, authorized under the authority of §21-14-4 of this code, relating to the Division of Labor (supervision of plumbing work, 42 CSR 32), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 17, 2019, authorized under the authority of §21-16-5 of this code, relating to the Division of Labor (regulation of heating, ventilating, and cooling work, 42 CSR 34), is authorized.

§64-10-3. Division of Forestry.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-1B-4 of this code, relating to the Division of Forestry (sediment control during commercial timber-harvesting operations—licensing, 22 CSR 02), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-1B-7 of this code, relating to the Division of Forestry (sediment control during commercial timber-harvesting operations—logger certification, 22 CSR 03), is authorized.

§64-10-4. Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22A-1-6 of this code, relating to the Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training (substance abuse screening, standards, and procedures, 56 CSR 19), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22A-10-3 of

this code, relating to the Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training (rules governing the certification, recertification, and training of EMT-miners and the certification of EMT-M instructors, 56 CSR 22), is authorized.

§64-10-5. Division of Natural Resources.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-2-23a of this code, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (commercial whitewater outfitters, 58 CSR 12), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-2-11 of this code, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (transporting and selling wildlife pelts and parts, 58 CSR 16), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-7-13 of this code, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (boating rule, 58 CSR 25), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-7-22 of this code, modified by the Division of Natural Resources to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 30, 2019, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (special boating rule, 58 CSR 26), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-7-22 of this code, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (special requirements concerning boating, 58 CSR 28), is authorized.

(f) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-5-2 of this

code, modified by the Division of Natural Resources to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 30, 2019, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (public use of campgrounds in West Virginia State Parks and State Forests and campsites in State Rail Trails under the Division of Natural Resources, 58 CSR 32), is authorized.

(g) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-1A-7 and §20-5-2 of this code, modified by the Division of Natural Resources to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 30, 2019, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (special projects and grants for West Virginia State Parks, State Forests, and State Rail Trails under the Division of Natural Resources, 58 CSR 34), is authorized.

(h) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 24, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-1-7(31) of this code, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (defining the terms used in all hunting and trapping, 58 CSR 46), is authorized.

(i) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-1-7(31) of this code, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (prohibitions when hunting and trapping, 58 CSR 47), is authorized.

(j) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-1-7(31) of this code, modified by the Division of Natural Resources to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 30, 2019, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (special fishing rule, 58 CSR 61), is authorized.

(k) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-1-7(31) of this code, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (catching and selling bait fish, 58 CSR 62), is authorized.

(l) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 24, 2019, authorized under the authority of §20-1-7(31) of this code, relating to the Division of Natural Resources (falconry, 58 CSR 65), is authorized.

CHAPTER 210

(S. B. 652 - By Senators Rucker, Cline, Roberts and Plymale)

[Passed February 28, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18-9D-21 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing the School Building Authority to promulgate legislative rules; and authorizing School Building Authority rule relating to School Build Authority contracts and agreements, post-project evaluation, and suspension of right to bid.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 9D. SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY.

§18-9D-21. Authorizing rules of School Building Authority.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 27, 2007, relating to the School Building Authority (School Building Authority requirements for Comprehensive Educational Facility Plan rule), is repealed and enrolled as a procedural rule.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 26, 2018, relating to the School Building Authority (funding School Building Authority projects rule), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 26, 2018, relating to the School Building Authority (School Building Authority school planning and design criteria rule), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 26, 2018, relating to the School Building Authority (School Building Authority project administration and review rule), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 26, 2018, relating to the School Building Authority (School Building Authority contract and agreements rule), is authorized.

(f) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 26, 2018, relating to the School Building Authority (School Building Authority reporting procedures rule), is repealed.

(g) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 26, 2018, relating to the School Building Authority (School Access Safety Act rule), is authorized.

(h) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 16, 2019, relating to the School Building Authority (School Building Authority Contracts and Agreements; Post-Project Evaluation; Suspension of Right to Bid rule), is authorized.

CHAPTER 211

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4217 - By Delegate Foster)

[Passed March 3, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §64-3-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating generally to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as filed, as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee, and as amended by the Legislature; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to ambient air quality standards; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to standards of performance for new stationary sources; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of air pollution from hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to emission standards for hazardous air pollutants; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of ozone season nitrogen oxides emissions; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to West Virginia surface mining reclamation rule; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to groundwater protection rules for coal mining operations; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to hazardous waste management system; authorizing the Department of Environmental

Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to voluntary remediation and redevelopment rule; and authorizing the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to rules of the commission.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION TO PROMULGATE LEGISLATIVE RULES.

§64-3-1. Department of Environmental Protection.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 19, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-5-4 of this code, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (ambient air quality standards, 45 CSR 08), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 19, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-5-4 of this code, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (standards of performance for new stationary sources, 45 CSR 16), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 19, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-5-4 of this code, modified by the Department of Environmental Protection to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 2, 2019, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (control of air pollution from hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities, 45 CSR 25), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 19, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-5-4 of this code, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (emission standards for hazardous air pollutants, 45 CSR 34), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 19, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-5-4 of this code, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (control of ozone season nitrogen oxides emissions, 45 CSR 40), is authorized.

(f) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-3-4 of this code, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (West Virginia surface mining reclamation rule, 38 CSR 02), is authorized with the amendments set forth below:

On page 183, subdivision 16.2.c.2, by striking out subdivision 16.2.c.2 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof an amended subdivision 16.2.c.2 to read as follows:

"16.2.c.2. At the owner's election, either correct material damage resulting from subsidence caused to any structures or facilities by compensating the owner in the amount of the cost to repair the damage, but not to exceed one hundred and twenty percent of the pre-mining value of the structure or facility, or compensate the owner of such structures or facilities in the full amount of the diminution in value resulting from the subsidence. Repair of damage includes rehabilitation, restoration, or replacement of damaged structures or facilities. Compensation may also be accomplished by the purchase prior to mining of a non-cancelable premium-prepaid insurance policy. The requirements of this paragraph only apply to subsidence related damage caused by underground mining activities conducted after October 24, 1992: *Provided*, That 16.2.c.2 does not create additional property rights nor may it be construed as vesting in the secretary the jurisdiction to adjudicate property rights disputes."

And,

On page 120, subdivision 11.3.a.3, by striking out subdivision 11.3.a.3 and inserting in lieu thereof an amended subdivision 11.3.a.3 to read as follows:

"11.3.a.3. Any company that executes surety bonds in the State after July 1, 2001, must: (i) be recognized by the treasurer to the state as holding a current certificate of authority from the United States Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety on federal bonds by being included on the Treasury Department's listing of approved sureties (Department Circular 570); or (ii) submit proof to the secretary that it holds a valid license issued by the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, and agree to submit to the secretary on at least a quarterly basis a certificate of good standing from the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner and such other evidence from the insurance regulator of its domiciliary state, if other than West Virginia, demonstrating that it is also in good standing in that state: *Provided*, That those companies electing to execute bonds under the provisions of (i) above in this subdivision must diligently pursue application for listing, submit evidence on a semi-annual basis demonstrating that they are pursuing such listing, and within four (4) years, obtain a certificate of authority from the United States Department of the Treasury as an acceptable surety on federal bonds."

(g) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-12-5 of this code, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (groundwater protection rules for coal mining operations, 38 CSR 02F), is authorized.

(h) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-18-6 of this code, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (hazardous waste management system, 33 CSR 20), is authorized.

(i) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22-22-3 of this code, relating to the Department of Environmental Protection (voluntary remediation and redevelopment rule, 60 CSR 03), is authorized.

§64-3-2. Oil and Gas Conservation Commission.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §22C-9-4 of this code, modified by the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 3, 2020, relating to the Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (rules of the commission, 39 CSR 01), is authorized.

CHAPTER 212

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4252 - By Delegate Foster)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §64-9-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to authorizing certain miscellaneous agencies and boards to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as filed, as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee, and as amended by the Legislature; authorizing the Board of Accountancy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to board rules and rules of professional conduct; authorizing the Board of Acupuncture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to fees for the Board of Acupuncture; authorizing the Board of Acupuncture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to auricular detoxification therapy certificate; authorizing the

Board of Acupuncture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Acupuncture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to animal disease control; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to Fresh Food Act; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to auctioneers; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to poultry rules for hatcheries, growers, and contractors pertaining to poultry disease control and eradication; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to grade "A" pasteurized milk; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to West Virginia manufacture-grade milk; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to employment reference and inquiries and background checks; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to West Virginia Spay-Neuter Assistance Program; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to industrial hemp; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to hemp products; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to captive cervid farming; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to farmers markets; authorizing the Commissioner of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to West Virginia exempted dairy farms and milk and milk products processing rules; authorizing the Board of Architects to promulgate a legislative rule relating to registration of architects; authorizing the Board of Architects to promulgate a legislative rule relating to fees for registration of architects; authorizing the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for

certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations; authorizing the Board of Examiners in Counseling to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Dentistry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to rule for the West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners; authorizing the Board of Dentistry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to dental advertising; authorizing the Board of Dietitians to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensure and renewal requirements; authorizing the Board of Dietitians to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Election Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to corporate and membership organization political activity; authorizing the Election Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to regulation of campaign finance; authorizing the Board of Funeral Service Examiners to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Funeral Service Examiners to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations; authorizing the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations; authorizing the Board of Landscape Architects to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations; authorizing the Massage Therapy Licensure Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Massage Therapy Licensure Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations; authorizing the Medical Imaging and

Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners to promulgate a legislative rule relating to West Virginia Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners; authorizing the Board of Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensure, disciplinary and complaint procedures, continuing education, physician assistants; authorizing the Board of Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to waiver of initial licensing fees for certain initial licensure applicants; authorizing the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to nursing home administrators; authorizing the Board of Occupational Therapy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to fees for services rendered by the Board; authorizing the Board of Occupational Therapy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to request for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Occupational Therapy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations; authorizing the Board of Optometry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to rules for the West Virginia Board of Optometry; authorizing the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to osteopathic physician assistants; authorizing the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to waiver of initial licensing fees for certain initial licensure applicants; authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensure and practice of pharmacy; authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to record keeping and automated data processing systems; authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to Board of Pharmacy rules for registration of pharmacy technicians; authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to Board of Pharmacy rules for immunizations administered by pharmacists and pharmacy interns; authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to Board of Pharmacy rules for centralized prescription processing; authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to regulations governing

pharmacy permits; authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to regulations governing pharmacists; authorizing the Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Physical Therapy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to general provisions for physical therapist and physical therapist assistants; authorizing the Board of Physical Therapy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to fees for physical therapist and physical therapist assistant; authorizing the Board of Physical Therapy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to general provisions for athletic trainers; authorizing the Board of Physical Therapy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to fees for athletic trainers; authorizing the Board of Physical Therapy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers to promulgate a legislative rule relating to examination, licensure and practice of professional engineers; authorizing the Board of Professional Surveyors to promulgate a legislative rule relating to examination and licensing of professional surveyors in West Virginia; authorizing the Board of Psychologists to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations and application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to requirements for licensure and certification; authorizing the Real Estate Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Real Estate Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial license eligibility determination; authorizing the Board of Registered Professional Nurses to promulgate a legislative rule relating to requirements for registration and licensure and conduct constituting professional misconduct; authorizing the Board

of Registered Professional Nurses to promulgate a legislative rule relating to request for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the Board of Respiratory Care to promulgate a legislative rule relating to establishment of fees; authorizing the Board of Respiratory Care to promulgate a legislative rule relating to student temporary permit; authorizing the Board of Respiratory Care to promulgate a legislative rule relating to consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations; authorizing the Board of Sanitarians to promulgate a legislative rule relating to waiver of initial application fees and criteria for initial licensure; authorizing the Board of Social Work to promulgate a legislative rule relating to qualifications for the profession of social work; authorizing the Board of Social Work to promulgate a legislative rule relating to fee schedule; authorizing the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensure of speech-pathology and audiology; authorizing the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to promulgate a legislative rule relating to disciplinary and complaint procedures for speech-language pathology and audiology; authorizing the State Auditor to promulgate a legislative rule relating to local government purchasing card program; authorizing the State Conservation Committee to promulgate a legislative rule relating to State Conservation Committee Grant Program; authorizing the Board of Veterinary Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to organization and operation and licensing of veterinarians; authorizing the Board of Veterinary Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to registration of veterinary technicians; and authorizing the Board of Veterinary Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to schedule of fees.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 9. AUTHORIZATION FOR MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES AND BOARDS TO PROMULGATE LEGISLATIVE RULES.

§64-9-1. Board of Accountancy.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-9-5 of this code, modified by the Board of Accountancy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 8, 2019, relating to the Board of Accountancy (board rules and rules of professional conduct, 1 CSR 01), is authorized.

§64-9-2. Board of Acupuncture.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 22, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-36-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Acupuncture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 10, 2019, relating to the Board of Acupuncture (fees for the Board of Acupuncture, 32 CSR 04), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 22, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-36-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Acupuncture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 17, 2019, relating to the Board of Acupuncture (auricular detoxification therapy certificate, 32 CSR 14), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 22, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Acupuncture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 10, 2019, relating to the Board of Acupuncture (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 32 CSR 15), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 24, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-24 of this code, modified by the Board of Acupuncture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review

Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 14, 2019, relating to the Board of Acupuncture (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations, 32 CSR 16), is authorized.

§64-9-3. Commissioner of Agriculture.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 22, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-9-2 of this code, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (animal disease control, 61 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-37-3 of this code, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (Fresh Food Act, 61 CSR 10), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-2C-3a of this code, modified by the Commissioner of Agriculture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 1, 2019, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (auctioneers, 61 CSR 11B), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 11, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-9-2 of this code, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (poultry rules for hatcheries, growers, and contractors pertaining to poultry disease control and eradication, 61 CSR 13A), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 7, 2020, authorized under the authority of §19-11E-8 of this code, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (grade "A" pasteurized milk, 61 CSR 15), is authorized.

(f) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 6, 2020, authorized under the authority of §19-11E-8 of this code, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture

(West Virginia manufacture-grade milk, 61 CSR 19), is authorized.

(g) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-1-3b of this code, modified by the Commissioner of Agriculture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 1, 2019, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (employment reference and inquiries and background checks, 61 CSR 20), is authorized.

(h) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-20C-3 of this code, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (West Virginia Spay-Neuter Assistance Program, 61 CSR 24), is authorized with the following amendments:

On page two, subsection 3.10, after the word "rule" by inserting the following words "to perform spay neuter services for eligible owners and caretakers";

On page two, after subdivision 3.10.b., by inserting a new subsection, designated 3.11, to read as follows:

"3.11. "Low-income restricted program" means a spay neuter program that provides spay neuter services to owners or caretakers currently receiving assistance from at least one of the state and federal public assistance programs:

3.11.a. The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP);

3.11.b. Medicaid;

3.11.c. Supplemental Security Income (SSI);

3.11.d. Thee West Virginia Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP);

3.11.e. Social Security Disability;

3.11.f. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);

3.11.g. Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFCD);

3.11.h. Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP); or

3.11.i. Low Income Veterans Assistance under 38 USC 2044."; and re-numbering the remaining subsections;

On page four, subsection 6.1, after the word "delivery." by adding the following sentence: "The Advisory Committee shall give preference to applicants that intend to operate a low-income restricted program."

On page four, subsection 6.2, after the word "application." by adding the following sentence: "The Commission shall give preference to applicants that intend to operate a low-income restricted program."

And,

On page five, by striking out all of §61-24-7 and renumbering the remaining section.

(i) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-12E-7 of this code, modified by the Commissioner of Agriculture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 6, 2020, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (industrial hemp, 61 CSR 29), is authorized with the following amendment:

On page six, section 5.6. by striking everything after the words "the commissioner may" and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"upon request, and if permitted by the United States Department of Agriculture, permit a licensee to submit a

Corrective Action Plan and request a second sampling and test of the crop following implementation of the Corrective Action Plan."

(j) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-12E-7 of this code, modified by the Commissioner of Agriculture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 6, 2020, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (hemp products, 61 CSR 30), is authorized with the following amendments:

On page four, section four, subdivision 4.6.a, after the words "changes in", by adding the words "the chemical composition or formula of";

On page five, section four, subdivision 4.6.c, after the words "changes to", by adding the words "health-related";

On page five, section four after subdivision 4.6.c, by renumbering the remaining subsections;

On page five, section four, subsection 4.7, after the word "retailer", by adding the words "or distributor";

On page five, section five, after subdivision 5.7, by inserting a new subdivision, designated subdivision 5.8 to read as follows:

5.8. A distributor of hemp products that does not itself engage in retail sales is not required to register under this section.

On page six, section seven, subsection 7.2, after the words "produced for", by adding the word "topical";

On page six, section seven, subsection 7.2, by striking the words "Cosmetic Product" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Cosmetic Products";

On page six, section seven, subsection 7.3, by striking the word "medical" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "disease or drug";

On page six, section seven, by striking subsection 7.7 and renumbering the remaining subsections;

(k) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 22, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-2H-12 of this code, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (captive cervid farming, 61 CSR 34), is authorized with the following amendment:

On page 9, section 11, by striking out all of section 11.15 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"11.15. The owner shall have a West Virginia licensed and accredited veterinarian or designee perform an annual visual examination of each animal and take an inventory to reconcile inventory records submitted with the license application or renewal. When the veterinarian performs the annual visual examination of each animal and takes an inventory, the West Virginia licensed and accredited veterinarian shall submit the veterinarian report to the Department within sixty (60) days of receipt and the inventory within thirty (30) days of completion."

(l) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-35-4 of this code, modified by the Commissioner of Agriculture to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 2, 2019, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (farmers markets, 61 CSR 38), is authorized with the following amendment:

On page 7, section 7, subsection 7.4, after the word "products", by inserting the words "excluding whole uncut produce and".

(m) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 6, 2020, authorized under the authority of §19-11E-8 of this code, relating to the Commissioner of Agriculture (West Virginia exempted dairy farms and milk and milk products processing rules, 61 CSR 40), is authorized.

§64-9-4. Board of Architects.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 24, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-12-1 of this code, modified by the Board of Architects to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 18, 2019, relating to the Board of Architects (registration of architects, 2 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 16, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-12-3 of this code, modified by the Board of Architects to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 18, 2019, relating to the Board of Architects (fees for registration of architects, 2 CSR 03), is authorized.

§64-9-5. Board of Chiropractic Examiners.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 10, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 4, 2019, relating to the Board of Chiropractic Examiners (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 4 CSR 07), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 10, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-24 of this code, modified by the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 18, 2019, relating to the Board of Chiropractic

Examiners (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations, 4 CSR 08), is authorized.

§64-9-6. Board of Examiners in Counseling.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Examiners in Counseling to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 9, 2019, relating to the Board of Examiners in Counseling (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 27 CSR 13), is authorized.

§64-9-7. West Virginia Board of Dentistry.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 20, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-4-6 of this code, relating to the West Virginia Board of Dentistry (rule for the West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners, 5 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 19, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-4-6 of this code, modified by the West Virginia Board of Dentistry to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 18, 2019, relating to the West Virginia Board of Dentistry (dental advertising, 5 CSR 08), is authorized.

§64-9-8. Board of Licensed Dietitians.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 30, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-35-4 of this code, modified by the Board of Licensed Dietitians to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 1, 2019, relating to the Board of Licensed Dietitians (licensure and renewal requirements, 31 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Licensed Dietitians to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 2, 2019, relating to the Board of Licensed Dietitians (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 31 CSR 06), is authorized.

§64-9-9. Election Commission.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §3-8-8 of this code, modified by the Election Commission to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 2, 2019, relating to the Election Commission (corporate and membership organization political activity, 146 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §3-1A-5 of this code, modified by the Election Commission to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 2, 2019, relating to the Election Commission (regulation of campaign finance, 146 CSR 03), is authorized.

§64-9-10. Board of Funeral Service Examiners.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Funeral Service Examiners to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 10, 2019, relating to the Board of Funeral Service Examiners (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 6 CSR 05), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-

1-24 of this code, modified by the Board of Funeral Service Examiners to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 7, 2019, relating to the Board of Funeral Service Examiners (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations, 6 CSR 06), is authorized.

§64-9-11. Board of Hearing Aid Dealers.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 21, 2019, relating to the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 8 CSR 04), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-24 of this code, modified by the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 7, 2019, relating to the Board of Hearing Aid Dealers (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations, 8 CSR 05), is authorized.

§64-9-12. Board of Landscape Architects.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-24 of this code, modified by the Board of Landscape Architects to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 21, 2019, relating to the Board of Landscape Architects (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations, 9 CSR 05), is authorized.

§64-9-13. Massage Therapy Licensure Board.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 22, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Massage Therapy Licensure Board to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 10, 2019, relating to the Massage Therapy Licensure Board (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 194 CSR 05), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 24, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-24 of this code, modified by the Massage Therapy Licensure Board to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 7, 2019, relating to the Massage Therapy Licensure Board (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations, 194 CSR 06), is authorized.

§64-9-14. Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-23-7 of this code, modified by the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 31, 2019, relating to the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners (West Virginia Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners, 18 CSR 01), is authorized.

§64-9-15. Board of Medicine.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-3E-3 of this code, modified by the Board of Medicine to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review

Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 8, 2019, relating to the Board of Medicine (licensure, disciplinary and complaint procedures, continuing education, physician assistants, 11 CSR 01B), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Medicine to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 8, 2019, relating to the Board of Medicine (waiver of initial licensing fees for certain initial licensure applicants, 11 CSR 13), is authorized.

§64-9-16. Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on November 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-25-6 of this code, modified by the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 27, 2019, relating to the Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board (nursing home administrators, 21 CSR 01), is authorized.

§64-9-17. Board of Occupational Therapy.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 3, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-28-7 of this code, relating to the Board of Occupational Therapy (fees for services rendered by the Board, 13 CSR 03), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 3, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Occupational Therapy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on September 30, 2019, relating to the Board of Occupational Therapy (request for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 13 CSR 07), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 2, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-24 of this code, relating to the Board of Occupational Therapy (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations, 13 CSR 08), is authorized.

§64-9-18. Board of Optometry.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 1, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-8-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Optometry to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 26, 2019, relating to the Board of Optometry (rules for the West Virginia Board of Optometry, 14 CSR 01), is authorized.

§64-9-19. Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 31, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-3E-3 of this code, modified by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 14, 2019, relating to the Board of Osteopathic Medicine (osteopathic physician assistants, 24 CSR 02), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 30, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Osteopathic Medicine to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 14, 2019, relating to the Board of Osteopathic Medicine (waiver of initial licensing fees for certain initial licensure applicants, 24 CSR 08), is authorized.

§64-9-20. Board of Pharmacy.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-5-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Pharmacy to meet the

objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 2, 2019, relating to the Board of Pharmacy (licensure and practice of pharmacy, 15 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-5-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Pharmacy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 10, 2019, relating to the Board of Pharmacy (record keeping and automated data processing systems, 15 CSR 04), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-5-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Pharmacy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 11, 2019, relating to the Board of Pharmacy (Board of Pharmacy rules for registration of pharmacy technicians, 15 CSR 07), is authorized with the following amendments:

On page 5, section 4, by striking subdivision 4.3.c and inserting the following:

"4.3.c. has not been convicted of a crime bearing a rational nexus to the practice duties of a pharmacy technician. For other convictions not bearing a rational nexus to the practice of pharmacy, the Board shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:"

And

On page 10, section 6, by striking subsection 6.7 and 6.8 and inserting the following:

"6.7. has not been convicted of a crime bearing a rational nexus to the practice duties of a pharmacy

technician. For other convictions not bearing a rational nexus to the practice of pharmacy, the Board shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

6.7.a. a period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

6.7.b. the individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

6.7.c. the conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the individual board."

And,

By renumbering the remaining subsections.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-5-7 of this code, relating to the Board of Pharmacy (Board of Pharmacy rules for immunizations administered by pharmacists and pharmacy interns, 15 CSR 12), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-5-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Pharmacy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 10, 2019, relating to the Board of Pharmacy (Board of Pharmacy rules for centralized prescription processing, 15 CSR 14), is authorized.

(f) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-5-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Pharmacy to meet the

objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 11, 2019, relating to the Board of Pharmacy (regulations governing pharmacy permits, 15 CSR 15), is authorized.

(g) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 10, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-5-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Pharmacy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 2, 2019, relating to the Board of Pharmacy (regulations governing pharmacists, 15 CSR 16), is authorized.

(h) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Pharmacy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 11, 2019, relating to the Board of Pharmacy (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 15 CSR 18), is authorized.

§64-9-21. Board of Physical Therapy.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 30, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-20-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Physical Therapy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 27, 2019, relating to the Board of Physical Therapy (general provisions for physical therapist and physical therapist assistants, 16 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 30, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-20-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Physical Therapy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 27, 2019, relating to the Board of Physical

Therapy (fees for physical therapist and physical therapist assistant, 16 CSR 04), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-20A-2 of this code, modified by the Board of Physical Therapy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 27, 2019, relating to the Board of Physical Therapy (general provisions for athletic trainers, 16 CSR 05), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 23, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-20A-2 of this code, modified by the Board of Physical Therapy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 27, 2019, relating to the Board of Physical Therapy (fees for athletic trainers, 16 CSR 06), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 18, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Physical Therapy to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 27, 2019, relating to the Board of Physical Therapy (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 16 CSR 09), is authorized.

§64-9-22. Board of Registration for Professional Engineers.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 20, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-13-9 of this code, modified by the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 18, 2019, relating to the Board of Registration for Professional Engineers

(examination, licensure and practice of professional engineers, 7 CSR 01), is authorized.

§64-9-23. Board of Professional Surveyors.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 17, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-13A-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Professional Surveyors to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 19, 2019, relating to the Board of Professional Surveyors (examination and licensing of professional surveyors in West Virginia, 23 CSR 01), is authorized.

§64-9-24. Board of Psychologists.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 11, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 and §30-1-24 of this code, modified by the Board of Psychologists to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 8, 2020, relating to the Board of Psychologists (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations and application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 17 CSR 07), is authorized.

§64-9-25. Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 9, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-38-9 of this code, modified by the Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 6, 2019, relating to the Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board (requirements for licensure and certification, 190 CSR 02), is authorized.

§64-9-26. Real Estate Commission.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 2, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Real Estate Commission to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 7, 2019, relating to the Real Estate Commission (application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 174 CSR 06), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-24 of this code, modified by the Real Estate Commission to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on December 3, 2019, relating to the Real Estate Commission (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial license eligibility determination, 174 CSR 07), is authorized.

§64-9-27. Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 11, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-7-4 of this code, relating to the Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (requirements for registration and licensure and conduct constituting professional misconduct, 19 CSR 03), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 22, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-23 of this code, modified by the Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 7, 2019, relating to the Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses (request for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals, 19 CSR 15), is authorized.

§64-9-28. West Virginia Board of Respiratory Care.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-34-6a of this code, modified by the West Virginia Board of Respiratory Care to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 1, 2019, relating to the West Virginia Board of Respiratory Care (establishment of fees, 30 CSR 02), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-34-6a of this code, modified by the West Virginia Board of Respiratory Care to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 2, 2019, relating to the West Virginia Board of Respiratory Care (student temporary permit, 30 CSR 09), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 10, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-1-24 of this code, relating to the Board of Respiratory Care (consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations, 30 CSR 10), is authorized.

§64-9-29. Board of Sanitarians.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on November 1, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-17-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Sanitarians to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 7, 2020, relating to the Board of Sanitarians (waiver of initial application fees and criteria for initial licensure, 20 CSR 05), is authorized.

§64-9-30. Board of Social Work.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 27, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-

30-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Social Work to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 1, 2019, relating to the Board of Social Work (qualifications for the profession of social work, 25 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 10, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-30-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Social Work to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on October 10, 2019, relating to the Board of Social Work (fee schedule, 25 CSR 03), is authorized.

§64-9-31. Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 28, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-32-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 4, 2019, relating to the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (licensure of speech-pathology and audiology, 29 CSR 01), is authorized with the following amendments:

On page seven, subdivision 10.8.1.a., following the word "for", by inserting the words, "active duty".

And,

On page seven, subdivision 10.8.2.a., following the word "for", by inserting the words, "active duty".

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 17, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-32-7 of this code, modified by the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 5, 2019, relating

to the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology (disciplinary and complaint procedures for speech-language pathology and audiology, 29 CSR 04), is authorized.

§64-9-32. State Auditor.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 8, 2019, authorized under the authority of §6-9-2a of this code, relating to the State Auditor (local government purchasing card program, 155 CSR 06), is authorized.

§64-9-33. State Conservation Committee.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 10, 2019, authorized under the authority of §19-21A-4(g)(11) of this code, relating to the State Conservation Committee (State Conservation Committee Grant Program, 63 CSR 03), is authorized.

§64-9-34. Board of Veterinary Medicine.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 9, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-10-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Veterinary Medicine to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 2, 2020, relating to the Board of Veterinary Medicine (organization and operation and licensing of veterinarians, 26 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 9, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-10-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Veterinary Medicine to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 2, 2020, relating to the Board of Veterinary Medicine (registration of veterinary technicians, 26 CSR 03), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 9, 2019, authorized under the authority of §30-

10-6 of this code, modified by the Board of Veterinary Medicine to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 2, 2020, relating to the Board of Veterinary Medicine (schedule of fees, 26 CSR 06), is authorized with the amendments set forth below:

On page 2, Section 3.6, by striking out "$100.00" and inserting in lieu thereof "$10.00";

On page 2, Section 3.7, by striking out "$80.00" and inserting in lieu thereof "$5.00";

On page 2, Section 3.8, by striking out "$25.00" and inserting in lieu thereof "$2.00";

And,

On page 2, Section 3.9, by striking out "$80.00" and inserting in lieu thereof "$6.00".

CHAPTER 213

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4275 - By Delegate Foster)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §64-6-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to authorizing agencies of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and as amended by the Legislature, authorizing the Fire Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to State Fire Code; and authorizing the Fire Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to State Building Code.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC SAFETY TO PROMULGATE LEGISLATIVE RULES.

§64-6-1. Fire Commission.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §29-3-5 of this code, modified by the Fire Commission to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 6, 2020, relating to the Fire Commission (State Fire Code, 87 CSR 01), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2019, authorized under the authority of §29-3-5b of this code, modified by the Fire Commission to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on January 6, 2020, relating to the Fire Commission (State Building Code, 87 CSR 04), is authorized with the following amendments:

On page four, by striking out all of paragraph 4.1.k.1 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"4.1.k.1. For renovations in one- and two- family homes where no new square footage is involved arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) protection shall not be required, except for in bedrooms. For renovations in one- and two- family homes where square footage is added but no electrical service is installed, arc-fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) protection shall not be required."

CHAPTER 214

(H. B. 4480 - By Delegates Ellington and Higginbotham)

[Passed March 3, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18B-17-2 and §18B-17-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to authorizing and repealing legislative rules regarding higher education; authorizing legislative rules for the Higher Education Policy Commission regarding the Higher Education Accountability System and the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program and Teacher Education Loan Repayment Program; repealing the Higher Education Policy Commission's rule regarding the Accountability System; and authorizing a legislative rule for the Council for Community and Technical College Education regarding the West Virginia Invests Grant Program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

§18B-17-2. Authorizing rules of Higher Education Policy Commission.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 15, 2004, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program rule), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 15, 2004, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (West Virginia Engineering, Science, and Technology Scholarship Program rule), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 15, 2004, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Medical Education Fee and Medical Student Loan Program rule), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 27, 2005, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (authorization of degree-granting institutions), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 23, 2006, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program), is authorized.

(f) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 4, 2008, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-state Student Excellence - PROMISE), is authorized.

(g) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 25, 2008, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Research Trust Program), is authorized.

(h) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 8, 2009, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Guidelines for Governing Boards in Employing and Evaluating Presidents), is authorized.

(i) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 10, 2008, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Medical Student Loan Program), is authorized, with the following amendment:

On page two, subsection 5.1, following the words "financial aid office" by inserting a new subdivision 5.1.3 to read as follows: "United States citizenship or legal immigrant status while actively pursuing United States citizenship.".

(j) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 1, 2008, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program), is authorized.

(k) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 26, 2009, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Accountability System), is authorized.

(l) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on May 20, 2009, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Energy and Water Savings Revolving Loan Fund Program), is authorized.

(m) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 27, 2010, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-state Student Excellence - PROMISE), is authorized.

(n) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 8, 2010, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (authorization of degree-granting institutions), is authorized, with the following amendment:

On page 28, subsection 9.1.b, following the words "Good cause shall consist of" by inserting the words "any one or more of the following".

(o) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 12, 2011, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Tuition and Fee Policy), is authorized.

(p) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 10, 2012, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (authorization of degree-granting institutions), is authorized.

(q) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 10, 2012, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (annual reauthorization of degree-granting institutions), is authorized.

(r) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on March 20, 2013, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Human Resources Administration), is authorized.

(s) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 24, 2014, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Capital Project Management), is authorized.

(t) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on April 4, 2014, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program), is authorized.

(u) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 4, 2014, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Nursing Scholarship Program), is authorized.

(v) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 28, 2015, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship Program), is authorized.

(w) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 28, 2015, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Nursing Scholarship Program), is authorized.

(x) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 20, 2016, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (West Virginia Higher Education Grant Program), is authorized.

(y) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 20, 2016, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing In-state Student Excellence - PROMISE), is authorized.

(z) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 20, 2016, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Research Trust Fund Program), is authorized.

(aa) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 20, 2016, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (annual reauthorization of degree-granting institutions), is authorized.

(bb) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 16, 2018, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Tuition and Fee Policy), is authorized.

(cc) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 16, 2018, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Human Resources Administration), is authorized.

(dd) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 22, 2018, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Capital Project Management), is authorized, with the following amendments:

On page one, subsection 2.1, by striking out all of subdivision 2.1.d. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 2.1.d., to read as follows: "Efficient use of existing classroom and other space by institutions, while maintaining an appropriate deference to the value judgments of the institutional governing boards.";

On page seven, subsection 4.2, by striking out all of subdivision 4.2.d.5. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 4.2.d.5., to read as follows: "Funding will be prioritized for each institution in accordance with institutional plans confirmed by the Commission or approved by the Council.";

On page seven, subsection 4.2, by striking out all of subdivision 4.2.d.6. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 4.2.d.6., to read as follows: "Facility utilization rates will be an important factor in prioritizing capital projects across the systems.";

On page seven, subsection 4.2, by striking out all of subdivision 4.2.d.7. and inserting in lieu thereof a new

subdivision 4.2.d.7., to read as follows: "Institutions with overall net asset values and capacity utilization rates that exceed or equal thresholds set annually by the Commission and Council are the presumptive priority for new facilities. If these projects do not replace an existing facility, they would be included in the Program Improvement category."; and

On pages 10-11, section 5, by striking out all of subdivision 5.6. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 5.6., to read as follows: "A governing board may not implement a campus development plan or plan update that has not been confirmed by the Commission or approved by the Council, as appropriate. The purchase of any property for the construction of a facility that is not included in the campus development plan creates an update to the campus development plan that must be confirmed by the Commission or approved by the Council, as appropriate, prior to its purchase. In the case of institutions governed by the Council, this provision applies equally to property acquired by any means, whether by purchase or otherwise.".

(ee) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 22, 2019, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Acceptance of Advanced Placement Credit), is repealed.

(ff) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 22, 2019, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Human Resources Administration), is repealed.

(gg) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 28, 2018, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Guidelines for Governing Boards in Employing and Evaluating Presidents), is authorized.

(hh) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 7, 2018, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Providing Real Opportunities for Maximizing

In-state Student Excellence (PROMISE) Scholarship Program), is authorized, with the following amendments:

On page one, subsection 2.1, by striking out all of subdivision 2.1.a. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 2.1.a., to read as follows: ”Must complete high school graduation requirements at a West Virginia public, private or home school unless he or she qualified as a military dependent under Section 5 of this rule, or has commuted to an out-of-state school pursuant to Section 6 of this rule; and”;

On page one, subsection 2.1, by striking out all of subdivision 2.1.b. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 2.1.b., to read as follows: ”Must complete at least one half of the credits required for high school graduation through attendance at a public, private or home school in this state, unless he or she qualified as a military dependent under Section 5 of this rule, or has commuted to an out-of-state school pursuant to Section 6 of this rule; and”;

On page one, subdivision 2.1.c., by striking out the words “Section 5” and inserting in lieu thereof the words “Section 4”;

On page one, subsection 2.1, by striking out all of subdivision 2.1.d. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 2.1.d., to read as follows: ”Must have attained a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, based on county board grading policies, in both core courses and overall coursework required for graduation by the State Board of Education, while enrolled in a public or private high school. If home-schooled pursuant to the exemption allowed by W.Va. Code §18-8-1 as documented by the county school board system, the applicant must have completed in both the 11th and 12th grades the required core and elective coursework necessary to prepare students for success in postsecondary education at the associate and baccalaureate levels by attaining a cumulative grade point

average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 grading scale in both core courses and overall coursework as determined by the Commission; and";

On page one, subsection 2.1, subdivision 2.1.f., preceding the words "have resided in West Virginia", by striking out the word "Must" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "The applicant and his or her parent or legal guardian must";

On page one, subdivision 2.1.f., by striking out the words "Section 5" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 4";

On page one, subdivision 2.1.f., by striking out the words "Section 6" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 5";

On page two, subsection 2.4., by striking out the words "Section 10.7 or 10.8" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 9.7 or 9.8";

On page two, subsection 2.5, by striking out the words "Section 8" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 7";

On page two, subsection 2.5, by striking out the words "Section 10" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 9";

On page two, by striking out all of section 3 and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly;

On page three, subsection 4.4, by striking out the words "Section 14" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 13";

On page five-six, subsection 10.6, by striking out the words "Section 10.3" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 9.3";

On page six, subsection 10.6, by striking out the words "Section 10.2" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 9.2";

On page six, subsection 10.9.c., by striking out the words "Section 5" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 4"; and

On page eight, subsection 15.1.b., by striking out the words "Section 11.1" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Section 10.1".

(ii) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 30, 2019, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Higher Education Accountability System) is authorized.

(jj) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on November 5, 2019, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program and Teacher Education Loan Repayment Program) is authorized.

(kk) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 4, 2019, relating to the Higher Education Policy Commission (Accountability System) is repealed.

§18B-17-3. Authorizing rules of the Council for Community and Technical College Education.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 29, 2004, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Performance Indicators) is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 13, 2005, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Authorization of Degree-Granting Institutions), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 30, 2006, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Workforce Development Initiative Program), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 4, 2008, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Employing and Evaluating Presidents), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 23, 2008, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Performance Indicators), is authorized.

(f) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on February 5, 2009, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Finance), is authorized.

(g) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on February 5, 2009, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Accountability System), is authorized.

(h) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 15, 2011, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Workforce Development Initiative Program), is authorized.

(i) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 26, 2011, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Tuition and Fees), is authorized.

(j) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 17, 2012, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Authorization of Degree-Granting Institutions), is authorized.

(k) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on October 17, 2012, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Annual Reauthorization of Degree-Granting Institutions), is authorized.

(l) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on March 21, 2013, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Human Resources Administration), is authorized.

(m) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on August 21, 2012, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (West Virginia EDGE Program), is authorized.

(n) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 28, 2014, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Capital Project Management), is authorized.

(o) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 18, 2017, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (annual reauthorization of degree-granting institutions), is authorized.

(p) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 18, 2017, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Business, Occupational, and Trade Schools), is authorized.

(q) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 26, 2018, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Human Resources Administration), is authorized.

(r) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 26, 2018, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Capital

Project Management), is authorized, with the following amendments:

On page one, subsection 2.1, by striking out all of subdivision 2.1.d. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 2.1.d., to read as follows: "Efficient use of existing classroom and other space by institutions, while maintaining an appropriate deference to the value judgments of the institutional governing boards.";

On page seven, subsection 4.2, by striking out all of subdivision 4.2.d.5. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 4.2.d.5., to read as follows: "Funding will be prioritized for each institution in accordance with institutional plans confirmed by the Commission or approved by the Council.";

On page seven, subsection 4.2, by striking out all of subdivision 4.2.d.6. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 4.2.d.6., to read as follows: "Facility utilization rates will be an important factor in prioritizing capital projects across the systems.";

On page seven, subsection 4.2, by striking out all of subdivision 4.2.d.7. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 4.2.d.7., to read as follows: "Institutions with overall net asset values and capacity utilization rates that exceed or equal thresholds set annually by the Commission and Council are the presumptive priority for new facilities. If these projects do not replace an existing facility, they would be included in the Program Improvement category."; and

On pages 10-11, section 5, by striking out all of subdivision 5.6. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 5.6., to read as follows: "A governing board may not implement a campus development plan or plan update that has not been confirmed by the Commission or approved by the Council, as appropriate. The purchase of any property for the construction of a facility that is not

included in the campus development plan creates an update to the campus development plan that must be confirmed by the Commission or approved by the Council, as appropriate, prior to its purchase. In the case of institutions governed by the Council, this provision applies equally to property acquired by any means, whether by purchase or otherwise."

(s) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 2, 2018, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Tuition and Fees), is authorized.

(t) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 26, 2018, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Acceptance of Advanced Placement Credit), is repealed.

(u) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on November 20, 2018, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Initial Authorization of Degree-Granting Institutions), is authorized.

(v) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on November 20, 2018, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Workforce Development: Learn and Earn, Technical Program Development, and West Virginia Advance Rapid Response Grants), is authorized.

(w) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on January 25, 2019, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (Human Resources Administration), is repealed.

(x) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on June 3, 2019, relating to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (West Virginia Invests Grant Program) is authorized.

CHAPTER 215

(S. B. 180 - By Senators Blair, Cline and Rucker)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17B-7-5 and §17B-7-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §17B-7-11, all relating to the Second Chance Driver's License Program; providing that a court's accounting of amounts due for crime victim restitution be separately identified; providing that any moneys for restitution that are not submitted in the accounting by the court may not be waived by the participant's completion of the program; providing that amounts of court costs collected under the Second Chance Driver's License Program attributable to crime victim restitution are not subject to the five percent offset for use by the Director of the Division of Justice and Community Services in the administration of the program; and providing a sunset provision.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 7. SECOND CHANCE DRIVER'S LICENSE PROGRAM.

§17B-7-5. Program acceptance; development of consolidated repayment schedule; no other court fee payments required.

1 (a) A person wishing to participate in the Second
2 Chance Driver's License Program shall complete an
3 application form prepared by the director.

(b) Upon receipt of a person's application, the director shall coordinate with the courts and the commissioner to verify the total amount of the applicant's unpaid court costs in the state of West Virginia at the time of the application.

(c) All courts shall provide a full accounting of all unpaid court costs assignable to the applicant within 30 days of the request of the director. The accounting shall separately identify the portion of the court costs that constitute a fine, forfeiture, penalty, or the amount due as restitution to a crime victim or costs to be credited to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund pursuant to §62-5-10 of this code remaining unpaid by the applicant for each order of the court for which unpaid balances remain.

(d) Any unpaid court costs not reported to the director by a court as provided by subsection (c) of this section may not be collected separately by the court during the time in which the applicant is a participant in the program.

(e) If a participant completes the program, any unpaid court costs, except for unpaid fines, and unpaid amounts due as restitution to a crime victim or costs to be credited to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund pursuant to §62-5-10 of this code, not submitted to the director pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall be considered waived unless the unpaid court costs were part of an order entered after the date upon which the director requested information for a participant. The driver's license suspension or revocation with respect to any unpaid fine not reported by a court shall be released upon completion of the program by the participant.

(f) Within 30 days after receipt of information concerning unpaid court costs, the director shall determine if the applicant is eligible to participate in the program. Upon determination, the director shall promptly notify the applicant of his or her acceptance into the program.

(g) Upon acceptance of the applicant as a participant in the program, the director shall develop a consolidated repayment schedule for the participant, which will require the participant to remit payments on a monthly basis to the director according to guidelines established by the director in legislative rules, subject to the following conditions:

(1) The monthly payment shall be determined based on the participant's monthly income and expenditures, but may not be less than $50 per month; and

(2) The consolidated repayment schedule shall require full payment of the unpaid court costs within one year.

(h) The consolidated repayment schedule may be amended to reflect changes in a participant's circumstances.

(i) The director may permit a hardship waiver of the requirements of subsection (g) of this section, upon a determination that the applicant's circumstances may have changed, and that the objectives of this article are best accomplished if the consolidated repayment schedule requires a lesser monthly payment or a longer period of time to remit the unpaid court costs: *Provided*, That the director may not waive the total amount of unpaid court costs submitted by the courts according to subsection (a) of this section.

(j) Upon acceptance into the program, a participant in good standing with the program is under no obligation to make separate or additional payments of unpaid court costs directly to a court if those unpaid court costs are included in the consolidated repayment schedule.

§17B-7-9. Deposit of funds into account; disbursement of funds from account.

(a) The director shall deposit all money received from participants pursuant to a consolidated repayment schedule into the Second Chance Driver's License Program Account. The director shall prorate, separate, and identify the portion

of each payment that constitutes payment of a fine, forfeiture, penalty, or an amount due as restitution to a crime victim or costs to be credited to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund pursuant to §62-5-10 of this code in accordance with the information provided to the director pursuant to §17B-7-5(c) of this code.

(b) After deposit of a participant's monthly payment into this account, the director shall make disbursements from this account as follows:

(1) Portions of payments identified as payment of a fine, forfeiture, penalty, or an amount due as restitution to a crime victim or costs to be credited to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund pursuant to §62-5-10 of this code shall be disbursed to the courts identified in the repayment schedule or as applicable to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund pursuant to §62-5-10 of this code;

(2) The director shall disburse 95 percent of the portions of the payments remaining after payment as required in subdivision (1) of this subsection to the courts identified in the participant's consolidated repayment schedule. Courts shall accept and document these payments of 95 percent of the total unpaid court costs, not including court costs received pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, as payment in full of the amount owed by the participant to the court for this portion of court costs owed; and

(3) The portion of the payments remaining in the account after payment of the court costs in subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection may be appropriated by the Legislature to be expended for costs incurred by the director in the administration of this article.

(c) Courts that receive disbursements pursuant to subsection (b) of this section are responsible for making statutory disbursements of amounts received in satisfaction of unpaid court costs according to the requirements of the code.

§17B-7-11. Sunset provision.

1 The Second Chance Driver's License Program
2 established under §17B-7-1, *et seq.*, of this code shall cease
3 to have effect on June 30, 2022, unless reauthorized by the
4 West Virginia Legislature.

CHAPTER 216

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 686 - By Senators Blair and Jeffries)

[Passed February 29, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §24A-1-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §24A-2-5 of said code; and to amend and reenact §24A-3-2 and §24A-3-3 of said code, all relating to authorizing use of an emergency substitute motor carrier when certificate of necessity and convenience or contract carrier permit is suspended; defining terms; allowing emergency substitute carrier to operate as common carrier without certificate of necessity and convenience; authorizing Public Service Commission to suspend common carrier certificate of necessity and convenience and allow emergency service carrier to provide temporary replacement service; establishing procedure for seeking reinstitution of certificated service; prohibiting emergency service carrier from operating as a contract carrier except as authorized by Public Service Commission; allowing Public Service Commission to suspend contract carrier permit and authorize emergency substitute carrier to provide temporary replacement service; and establishing procedure for permit grantee to seek reinstitution of permit.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. PURPOSES, DEFINITIONS, AND EXEMPTIONS.

§24A-1-2. Definitions.

As used in this chapter:

"Commission" means the Public Service Commission of West Virginia;

"Common carrier by motor vehicle" means any person who undertakes, whether directly or by lease or any other arrangement, to transport passengers or property, or any class or classes of property, for the general public over the highways of this state by motor vehicles for hire, whether over regular or irregular routes, including such motor vehicle operations of carriers by rail, water, or air, and of express or forwarding agencies, and leased or rented motor vehicles, with or without drivers;

"Contract carrier by motor vehicle" means any person not included within the definition of "common carrier by motor vehicle", who under special and individual contracts or agreements, and whether directly or by lease or any other arrangement, transports passengers or property over the highways in this state by motor vehicles for hire;

"Driveaway operation" means an operation in which any vehicle or vehicles, operated singly or in lawful combinations, new or used, not owned by the transporting motor carrier, constitute the commodity being transported;

"Emergency substitute carrier" means a common carrier by motor vehicle or a contract carrier by motor vehicle that is authorized by the Public Service Commission to provide service on a temporary basis outside of its certificated territory or its contract because of commission suspension of a motor carrier certificate of convenience and necessity, or contract carrier by motor vehicle permit;

"Exempt carrier" means any person operating a motor vehicle exempt from the provisions of §24A-1-3 of this code;

"I.C.C." means the Interstate Commerce Commission;

"Motor carrier" includes both a common carrier by motor vehicle and a contract carrier by motor vehicle;

"Motor vehicle" means, and includes, any automobile, truck, tractor, truck-tractor, trailer, semitrailer, motorbus, taxicab, any self-propelling motor-driven motor vehicle, or any combination thereof used upon any public highway in this state for the purpose of transporting persons or property;

"NARUC" means the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners;

"Operations within the borders of this state" means interstate or foreign operations to, from, within, or traversing this state;

"Person" means and includes any individual, firm, copartnership, corporation, company, association, or joint-stock association, and includes any trustee, receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof;

"Planting and harvesting season" means January 1 through December 31 of each calendar year only as it relates to the administration of rules promulgated pursuant to §24A-5-5(j) of this code;

"Private commercial carrier" means and includes any person who undertakes, whether directly or by lease or other arrangement, to transport property, including hazardous materials as defined in rules and regulations promulgated by the commission, for himself or herself over the public highways of this state, in interstate or intrastate commerce, for any commercial purpose, by motor vehicle with a gross vehicle weight rating of 10,001 pounds or more, by motor vehicle designed to transport more than 15 passengers,

including the driver; or by any motor vehicle used to transport hazardous materials in a quantity requiring placarding under federal hazardous material regulations as adopted by the commission;

"Power unit" means any vehicle which contains within itself the engine, motor, or other source of power by which said vehicle is propelled; and

"Public highway" means any public street, alley, road or highway, or thoroughfare of any kind in this state used by the public.

ARTICLE 2. COMMON CARRIERS BY MOTOR VEHICLES.

§24A-2-5. Certificate of convenience and necessity.

(a) *Required; application; hearing; granting.* — It shall be unlawful for any common carrier by motor vehicle to operate within this state without first having obtained from the commission a certificate of convenience and necessity unless the common carrier is an emergency substitute carrier. Upon the filing of an application for such certificate, the commission shall set a time and place for a hearing on the application: *Provided*, That the commission may, after giving proper notice and if no protest is received, waive formal hearing on the application. Notice shall be by publication which shall state that a formal hearing may be waived in the absence of a protest to such application. The notice shall be published as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area for such publication shall be the proposed area of operation. The notice shall be published at least 10 days prior to the date of the hearing. After the hearing or waiver by the commission of the hearing, if the commission finds from the evidence that the public convenience and necessity require the proposed service or any part thereof, it shall issue the certificate as prayed for, or issue it for the partial exercise only of the

privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the right granted by such certificate such terms and conditions as in its judgment the public convenience and necessity may require, and if the commission shall be of the opinion that the service rendered by any common carrier holding a certificate of convenience and necessity over any route or routes in this state is in any respect inadequate or insufficient to meet the public needs, such certificate holder shall be given reasonable time and opportunity to remedy such inadequacy or insufficiency before any certificate shall be granted to an applicant proposing to operate over such route or routes as a common carrier. Before granting a certificate to a common carrier by motor vehicle, the commission shall take into consideration existing transportation facilities in the territory for which a certificate is sought, and in case it finds from the evidence that the service furnished by existing transportation facilities is reasonably efficient and adequate, the commission shall not grant such certificate.

(b) *Rules and regulations; taking evidence at hearings; burden of proof.* — The commission shall prescribe such rules and regulations as it may deem proper for the enforcement of the provisions of this section, and in establishing that public convenience and necessity do exist, the burden of proof shall be upon the applicant. The commission may designate any of its employees to take evidence at the hearing of any application for a certificate and submit findings of fact as a part of a report or reports to be made to the commission.

(c) *Certificate not franchise, etc.; assignment or transfer.* — No certificate issued in accordance with the terms of this chapter shall be construed to be either a franchise or irrevocable, or to confer any proprietary or property rights in the use of the public highways. No certificate issued under this chapter shall be assigned or otherwise transferred without the approval of the commission. Upon the death of a person holding a certificate, his or her personal representative or

representatives may operate under such certificate while the same remains in force and effect and, with the consent of the commission, may transfer such certificate.

(d) *Suspension, revocation or amendment.* — The commission may at any time, for good cause, suspend a common carrier certificate of convenience and necessity, and upon suspension, authorize an emergency substitute carrier to provide temporary replacement service until further order of the commission: *Provided*, That an emergency substitute carrier may continue to operate during the pendency of its application for a certificate of convenience and necessity filed pursuant to §24A-2-5(a) of this code. Upon not less than 15 days' notice to the grantee of any certificate and an opportunity to be heard, the commission may revoke or amend any certificate.

(e) *Reinstitution of certificated service.* — No sooner than 30 days after a suspension of authority, a common carrier may petition the commission to end the suspension and terminate the authority of an emergency substitute carrier. Upon notice to the emergency substitute carrier and an opportunity to be heard, the commission shall issue its order granting or denying the petition.

(f) The commission shall have the authority, after hearing, to ratify, approve, and affirm those orders issued pursuant to this section. For the purposes of this subsection, the commission may give notice by a Class I legal advertisement of such hearing in any newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in this state, and such other newspapers as the commission may designate.

ARTICLE 3. CONTRACT CARRIERS BY MOTOR VEHICLES.

§24A-3-2. Provisions of chapter to govern.

No contract carrier by motor vehicle or emergency substitute carrier shall operate any motor vehicle for the transportation of either persons or property for hire on any

public highway in this state except in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.

§24A-3-3. Permit.

(a) *Required; application; hearing; granting.* — It shall be unlawful for any contract carrier by motor vehicle to operate within this state without first having obtained from the commission a permit unless the contract carrier is an emergency substitute carrier. Upon the filing of an application for such permit, the commission shall fix a time and place for hearing thereon: *Provided*, That the commission may, after giving notice as hereinafter provided and if no protest is received, waive formal hearing on such application. Said notice shall be by publication which shall state that formal hearing may be waived in the absence of protest to such application. Such notice shall be published as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area for such publication shall be the area of operation. Such notice shall be published at least 10 days prior to the date of hearing, but not more than 30 days after the filing of the completed application. After hearing or waiver of hearing as aforesaid, as the case may be, the commission shall grant or deny the permit prayed for or grant it for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the privilege granted by such permit such terms and conditions as in its judgment are proper and will carry out the purposes of this chapter. No permit shall be granted unless the applicant has established to the satisfaction of the commission that the privilege sought will not endanger the safety of the public or unduly interfere with the use of the highways or impair unduly the condition or unduly increase the maintenance cost of such highways, directly or indirectly, or impair the efficient public service of any authorized common carrier or common carriers adequately serving the same territory.

(b) *Rules and regulations; evidence at hearing.* — The commission shall prescribe such rules and regulations as it

may deem proper for the enforcement of the provisions of this section and may designate any of its employees to take evidence at the hearing on any application for a permit and submit findings of fact as a part of report or reports to be made to the commission.

(c) *Permit not franchise, etc.; assignment or transfer.* — No permit issued in accordance with the terms of this chapter shall be construed to be either a franchise or irrevocable or to confer any proprietary or property rights in the use of the public highways. No permit issued under this chapter shall be assigned or otherwise transferred without the approval of the commission. Upon the death of a person holding a permit, his or her personal representative or representatives may operate under such permit while the same remains in force and effect and, with the consent of the commission, may transfer such permit.

(d) *Suspension, revocation or amendment.* — The commission may, at any time, for good cause, suspend a motor carrier permit and upon suspension authorize an emergency substitute carrier to provide temporary replacement service until further order of the commission: *Provided*, That an emergency substitute carrier may continue to operate during the pendency of its application for a permit filed pursuant to §24A-3-3(a) of this code. Upon not less than 15 days' notice to the grantee of any permit and an opportunity to be heard, the commission may revoke or amend any permit.

(e) *Reinstitution of permit.* — No sooner than 30 days after a suspension of authority, a grantee of a permit may petition the commission to end the suspension and terminate the authority of an emergency substitute carrier. Upon notice to the emergency substitute carrier and an opportunity to be heard, the commission shall issue its order granting or denying the petition.

(f) *Notice of cessation or abandonment.* — Every contract carrier by motor vehicle who shall cease operation

or abandon his or her rights under a permit issued shall notify the commission within 30 days of such cessation or abandonment.

CHAPTER 217

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 690 - By Senators Maynard and Cline)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §17A-13-1, relating to the operation of street-legal special purpose vehicles; permitting the operation of street-legal special purpose vehicles on highways; providing for registration of street-legal special purpose vehicles; establishing licensing and equipment requirements for street-legal special purpose vehicles; defining terms; requiring rulemaking; clarifying that low-speed vehicles are not special purpose vehicles or street-legal special purpose vehicles; and allowing low speed vehicles to cross state routes at traffic lights when the state route does not have a posted speed limit greater than 40 miles per hour.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13. STREET-LEGAL SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLES.

§17A-13-1. Street-legal special purpose vehicles; operation on highways; registration procedures; licensing requirements; equipment requirements.

(a) Except as required in subsection (c) of this section, an individual may operate a "street-legal special purpose vehicle" on a street or highway.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Special purpose vehicle" includes all-terrain vehicles, utility terrain vehicles, mini-trucks, pneumatic-tired military vehicles, and full-size special purpose-built vehicles, including those self-constructed or built by the original equipment manufacturer and those that have been modified.

(2) "Street-legal special purpose vehicle" is a special purpose vehicle that meets the requirements of this section.

(c) An individual may not operate a special purpose vehicle as a street-legal special purpose vehicle on a highway if:

(1) The highway is a controlled-access system, including, but not limited to, interstate systems; or

(2) The county, municipality, or the Division of Natural Resources where the highway is located prohibits special purpose vehicles.

(d) Street-legal special purpose vehicles are prohibited from traveling a distance greater than 20 miles on a highway displaying centerline pavement markings.

(e) All street-legal special purpose vehicles are subject to the certificate of title provisions of §17A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(f) Nothing in this section authorizes the operation of a street-legal special purpose vehicle in an area that is not open to motor vehicle use.

(g) A street-legal special purpose vehicle may be registered in the same manner as provided for motorcycles pursuant to this chapter.

(h) Upon registration of any street-legal special purpose vehicle pursuant to this section, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall issue a registration plate that is of the same size as Class G special registration plates for motorcycles.

(i) Except as otherwise provided in this section, a street-legal special purpose vehicle shall comply with the Division of Motor Vehicles' licensing, fee, and other requirements pursuant to this chapter.

(j) The owner of a special purpose vehicle being operated as a street-legal special purpose vehicle shall ensure the vehicle is equipped with:

(1) One or more headlamps;

(2) One or more tail lamps;

(3) One or more brake lamps;

(4) A tail lamp or other lamp constructed and placed to illuminate the registration plate with a white light;

(5) One or more red reflectors on the rear;

(6) Amber electric turn system, one on each side of the front;

(7) Amber or red electric turn signals;

(8) A braking system, other than a parking brake;

(9) A horn or other warning device;

(10) A muffler and, if required by an applicable federal statute or rule, an emission control system;

(11) Rearview mirrors on the right and left side of the driver;

(12) A windshield, unless the operator wears eye protection while operating the vehicle;

(13) A speedometer, illuminated for nighttime operation;

(14) For vehicles designed by the manufacturer for carrying one or more passengers, a seat designed for passengers; and

(15) Tires that have at least 2/32 inches or greater tire tread.

(16) When owners of a street-legal special purpose vehicle have ensured that such vehicles are equipped as required by this subsection, and those owners obtain a valid registration card and certificate of insurance for such vehicles, those vehicles are eligible to apply for a motorcycle trailer sticker.

(k) Mini-trucks may not be operated as street-legal special purpose vehicles on highways that have been constructed pursuant to a federal highways program.

(l) Low-speed vehicles as defined in §17A-1-1 of the code are not considered special purpose vehicles or street-legal special purpose vehicles under this section. However, low-speed vehicles may cross state routes at traffic lights when the state route does not have a posted speed limit greater than 40 miles per hour.

(m) The Division of Motor Vehicles shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement this section.

CHAPTER 218

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 2338 - By Delegates Howell and Porterfield)

[Passed February 28, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17A-10-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing the owner of an antique military vehicle to display alternate registration insignia that is compatible with the vehicle's original markings in lieu of a registration plate; and defining terms.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. FEES FOR REGISTRATION, LICENSING, ETC.

§17A-10-3a. Special registration and use of antique motor vehicles and motorcycles; definitions; use of classic motor vehicles and classic motorcycles; customized antique plates; exemption for display of registration plate.

(a) The annual registration fee for any antique motor vehicle or motorcycle as defined in this section is $2. As used in this section:

"Antique motor vehicle" means any motor vehicle which is more than 25 years old and is owned solely as a collector's item.

"Antique military vehicle" means an antique motor vehicle, regardless of the vehicle's size or weight, that was manufactured for use in any country's military forces, and that is maintained to represent its military design and markings accurately, including a trailer meeting the same

requirements, but not including a vehicle or trailer currently in service.

"Antique motorcycle" means any motorcycle which is more than 25 years old and is owned solely as a collector's item.

"Classic motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle which is more than 25 years old and is registered pursuant to §17A-10-3 of this code and is used for general transportation.

"Classic motorcycle" means a motorcycle which is more than 25 years old and is registered pursuant to §17A-10-3 of this code and is used for general transportation.

(b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, antique motor vehicles or motorcycles may not be used for general transportation but may only be used for:

(1) Participation in club activities, exhibits, tours, parades, and similar events;

(2) The purpose of testing their operation, obtaining repairs or maintenance, and transportation to and from events as described in §17A-10-3a(b)(1) of this code; and

(3) Recreational purposes over weekends, beginning on Friday at 12:00 p. m., and ending on the following Monday at 12:00 p. m., and on holidays: *Provided*, That a classic motor vehicle or a classic motorcycle as defined in this section may be registered under the applicable class at the applicable registration fee set forth in §17A-10-3 of this code and may be used for general transportation.

(c) A West Virginia motor vehicle or motorcycle displaying license plates of the same year of issue as the model year of the antique motor vehicle or motorcycle, as authorized in this section, may be used for general transportation purposes if the following conditions are met:

(1) The license plate's physical condition has been inspected and approved by the Division of Motor Vehicles;

(2) The license plate is registered to the specific motor vehicle or motorcycle by the Division of Motor Vehicles;

(3) The owner of the motor vehicle or motorcycle annually registers the motor vehicle or motorcycle and pays an annual registration fee for the motor vehicle or motorcycle equal to that charged to obtain regular state license plates;

(4) The motor vehicle or motorcycle passes an annual safety inspection; and

(5) The motor vehicle or motorcycle displays a sticker attached to the license plate, issued by the division, indicating that the motor vehicle or motorcycle may be used for general transportation.

(d) If more than one request is made for license plates having the same number, the division shall accept only the first application.

(e) The commissioner may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code as may be necessary or convenient for the carrying out of the provisions of this section.

(f) Upon appropriate application, together with a special annual fee of $40, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter, there shall be issued to the owner of an antique motor vehicle a special registration plate for an antique motor vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant, bearing a combination of letters or numbers requested by that applicant, subject to the approval by the commissioner, and with the maximum number of letters or numbers to be determined by the commissioner.

(g) Upon proper application pursuant to §17A-10-3a(f) of this code, the commissioner shall approve an alternative

registration insignia for an antique military vehicle that is compatible with the vehicle's original markings, including, but not limited to, the display of the vehicle's unique military identification number not to exceed eight characters on the bumper of the vehicle: *Provided*, That nothing in this section exempts the operator of an antique military vehicle from the requirements set forth in §17A-3-13 of this code. Pursuant to this subsection, an antique military vehicle is exempt from the requirement to display a registration plate if the exemption is necessary to maintain the vehicle's accurate military marking.

CHAPTER 219

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4026 - By Delegates D. Jeffries, Summers, Foster, Hansen, Bartlett, J. Jeffries, Campbell and Porterfield)

[Passed February 20, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 4, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §24A-1-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to exempting businesses relating to transporting scrap tires, waste tires, or other used tires to storage, disposal, or recycling locations from certain statutory Public Service Commission provisions; and exempting motor vehicles operated under a contract with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection exclusively for cleanup and transportation of waste tires generated from state authorized waste tire remediation or cleanup projects from those statutory Public Service Commission provisions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. PURPOSES, DEFINITIONS AND EXEMPTIONS.

§24A-1-3. Exemptions from chapter.

The provisions of this chapter, except where specifically otherwise provided, do not apply to:

(1) Motor vehicles operated exclusively in the transportation of United States mail or in the transportation of newspapers: *Provided*, That the vehicles and their operators are subject to the safety rules promulgated by the commission;

(2) Motor vehicles owned and operated by the United States of America, the State of West Virginia or any county, municipality or county board of education, urban mass transportation authority established and maintained pursuant to §8-27-1 *et seq.* of this code or by any of their departments, and any motor vehicles operated under a contract with a county board of education exclusively for the transportation of children to and from school or other legitimate transportation for the schools as the commission may specifically authorize;

(3) Motor vehicles used exclusively in the transportation of agricultural or horticultural products, livestock, poultry and dairy products from the farm or orchard on which they are raised or produced to markets, processing plants, packing houses, canneries, railway shipping points and cold storage plants, and in the transportation of agricultural or horticultural supplies to farms or orchards where they are to be used: *Provided*, That the vehicles that are exempted by this subdivision and are also operated by common carriers by motor vehicle or contract carriers by motor vehicle, and their operators are subject to the safety and insurance rules promulgated by the commission;

(4) Motor vehicles used exclusively in the transportation of human or animal excreta;

(5) Motor vehicles used exclusively in ambulance service or duly chartered rescue squad service;

(6) Motor vehicles used exclusively for volunteer fire department service;

(7) Motor vehicles used exclusively in the transportation of coal from mining operations to loading facilities for further shipment by rail or water carriers: *Provided*, That the vehicles and their operators are subject to the safety rules promulgated by the commission and the vehicles that are exempted by this subdivision and are also operated by common carriers by motor vehicle or contract carriers by motor vehicle, and their operators are subject to the insurance rules promulgated by the commission;

(8) Motor vehicles used by petroleum commission agents and oil distributors solely for the transportation of petroleum products and related automotive products when the transportation is incidental to the business of selling the products: *Provided*, That the vehicles and their operators are subject to the safety rules promulgated by the commission and the vehicles that are exempted by this subdivision and are also operated by common carriers by motor vehicle or contract carriers by motor vehicle, and their operators are subject to the insurance rules promulgated by the commission;

(9) Motor vehicles owned, leased by or leased to any person and used exclusively for the transportation of processed source-separated recycled materials generated by commercial, institutional and industrial customers, transported free of charge or by a nonprofit recycling cooperative association in accordance with §19-4-1(d)(1) of this code from the customers to a facility for further processing: *Provided*, That the vehicles and their operators shall be subject to the safety rules promulgated by the commission and the vehicles that are exempted by this subdivision and are also operated by common carriers by motor vehicle or contract carriers by motor vehicle, and their operators are subject to the insurance rules promulgated by the commission;

(10) Motor vehicles specifically preempted from state economic regulation of intrastate motor carrier operations by the provisions of 49 U. S. C. §14501 as amended by Title I, Section 103 of the federal Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act of 1995: *Provided*, That the vehicles and their operators are subject to the safety regulations promulgated by the commission and the vehicles that are exempted by this subdivision and are also operated by common carriers by motor vehicle or contract carriers by motor vehicle, and their operators are subject to the insurance rules promulgated by the commission;

(11) Motor vehicles designated by the West Virginia Bureau of Senior Services for use and operation by local county aging programs: *Provided*, That the vehicles and their operators are subject to the safety rules promulgated by the commission;

(12) Motor vehicles designated by the West Virginia Division of Public Transit operated by organizations that receive federal grants from the Federal Transit Administration: *Provided*, That the vehicles and their operators are subject to the safety and insurance rules promulgated by the commission;

(13) Motor vehicles used exclusively in the nonemergency medical transportation of Medicaid members including those under contract with any broker authorized by the Bureau for Medical Services: *Provided*, That these vehicles and their operators shall be subject to the safety rules promulgated by the commission;

(14) Common carriers or contract carriers engaged in the business of transporting household goods and motor vehicles used exclusively in the transportation of household goods;

(15) Common carriers or contract carriers engaged in the business of transporting scrap tires, waste tires, or other used tires to storage, disposal, or recycling locations; or

(16) Motor vehicles operated under a contract with the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection exclusively for the cleanup and transportation of waste tires generated from state authorized waste tire remediation or cleanup projects: *Provided*, That the vehicles that are exempted by this subdivision, and their operators, are subject to the safety and insurance rules promulgated by the commission.

CHAPTER 220

(H. B. 4450 - By Delegate Butler)
[By Request of the Division of Motor Vehicles]

[Passed March 2, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17B-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to instruction permits issued by the Division of Motor Vehicles; and changing the expiration date of instruction permits issued to persons who have reached the age of 18 years from 90 days to six months.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE, EXPIRATION AND RENEWAL.

§17B-2-5. Qualifications, issuance and fee for instruction permits.

(a) Any person who is at least 15 years of age may apply to the division for an instruction permit. However, any person who has not attained the age of 18 shall comply with the provisions of §17B-2-3a of this code. The division may, in its discretion, after the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the examination other than the road skills test, issue to the applicant an instruction permit which entitles

the applicant while having the permit in his or her immediate possession to drive a motor vehicle upon the public highways when accompanied by a licensed driver of at least 21 years of age, a driver's education or driving school instructor that is acting in an official capacity as an instructor, who is alert and unimpaired or a certified division license examiner acting in an official capacity as an examiner, who is occupying a seat beside the driver.

(1) Any instruction permit issued to a person under the age of 18 years shall be issued in accordance with the provisions of §17B-2-3a of this code.

(2) Any permit issued to a person who has reached the age of 18 years is valid for a period of six months. The fee for the instruction permit is $7.50 for one attempt. The Division of Motor Vehicles may adjust this fee every five years on September 1, based on the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Consumer Price Index: *Provided*, That an increase in such fee may not exceed 10 percent of the total fee amount in a single year.

(b) Any person 16 years of age or older may apply to the division for a motorcycle instruction permit. Any person under the age of 18 must have first completed the requirements for a level two intermediate driver's license or a Class E driver's license before being eligible for a motorcycle instruction permit.

The division may, in its discretion, after the applicant has successfully passed all parts of the motorcycle examination other than the driving test, and presented documentation of compliance with the provisions of §18-8-11 of this code, if applicable, issue to the applicant an instruction permit which entitles the applicant while having the permit in his or her immediate possession to drive a motorcycle upon the public streets or highways for a period of six months, during the daylight hours between sunrise and sunset only. A holder of a motorcycle instruction permit

may not operate a motorcycle while carrying any passenger on the vehicle.

A motorcycle instruction permit is not renewable, but a qualified applicant may apply for a new permit. The fee for a motorcycle instruction permit is $5, which shall be paid into a special fund in the State Treasury known as the Motor Vehicle Fees Fund.

CHAPTER 221

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4464 - By Delegates Butler and Porterfield)
[By Request of the Division of Motor Vehicles]

[Passed March 3, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17B-2-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to graduated driver's licenses; prohibiting holders of level three licenses from using a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle and specifying exception; making a violation of level three license terms and conditions subject to criminal penalty provision; and extending validity of level one instruction driver's permits for active members of the military.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE, EXPIRATION, AND RENEWAL.

§17B-2-3a. Graduated driver's license.

(a) A person under the age of 18 may not operate a motor vehicle unless he or she has obtained a graduated driver's license in accordance with the three-level graduated

driver's license system described in the following provisions.

(b) Any person under the age of 21, regardless of class or level of licensure, who operates a motor vehicle with any measurable alcohol in his or her system is subject to §17C-5-2 and §17C-5A-2 of this code. Any person under the age of 18, regardless of class or licensure level, is subject to the mandatory school attendance and satisfactory academic progress provisions of §18-8-11 of this code.

(c) *Level one instruction permit.* — An applicant who is 15 years or older meeting all other requirements prescribed in this code may be issued a level one instruction permit.

(1) *Eligibility.* — The division may not issue a level one instruction permit unless the applicant:

(A) Presents a completed application, as prescribed by §17B-2-6 of this code, which is accompanied by a writing, duly acknowledged, consenting to the issuance of the graduated driver's license, and executed by a parent or guardian entitled to custody of the applicant;

(B) Presents a certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a state or other governmental entity responsible for vital records unexpired, or a valid passport issued by the United States government evidencing that the applicant meets the minimum age requirement and is of verifiable identity;

(C) Passes the vision and written knowledge examination and completes the driving under the influence awareness program, as prescribed in §17B-2-7 of this code;

(D) Presents a driver's eligibility certificate or otherwise shows compliance with §18-8-11 of this code; and

(E) Pays a fee of $7.50, which permits the applicant one attempt at the written knowledge test. The Division of Motor Vehicles may adjust this fee every five years on September 1, based on the U. S. Department of Labor,

Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Consumer Price Index: *Provided*, That an increase in the fee may not exceed 10 percent of the total fee amount in a single year.

(2) *Terms and conditions of instruction permit.* — A level one instruction permit issued under this section is valid until 30 days after the date the applicant attains the age of 18 and is not renewable: *Provided*, That for an applicant who is an active member of any branch of the United States military, a level one instruction permit issued under the provisions of this section is valid until 180 days after the date the applicant attains the age of 18. However, any permit holder who allows his or her permit to expire prior to successfully passing the road skills portion of the driver examination, and who has not committed any offense which requires the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the instruction permit, may reapply for a new instruction permit under §17B-2-6 of this code. The division shall immediately revoke the permit upon receipt of a second conviction for a moving violation of traffic regulations and laws of the road or violation of the terms and conditions of a level one instruction permit, which convictions have become final unless a greater penalty is required by this section or any other provision of this code. Any person whose instruction permit has been revoked is disqualified from retesting for a period of 90 days. However, after the expiration of 90 days, the person may retest if otherwise eligible. A holder of a level one instruction permit who is under the age of 18 years may not use a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle, unless the use of the wireless communication device is for contacting a 9-1-1 system. In addition to all other provisions of this code for which a driver's license may be restricted, suspended, revoked, or canceled, the holder of a level one instruction permit may only operate a motor vehicle under the following conditions:

(A) The permit holder is under the direct supervision of a licensed driver, 21 years of age or older, or a driver's

education or driving school instructor who is acting in an official capacity as an instructor, who is fully alert and unimpaired, and the only other occupant of the front seat. The vehicle may be operated with no more than two additional passengers, unless the passengers are family members;

(B) The permit holder is operating the vehicle between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.;

(C) All occupants use safety belts in accordance with §17C-15-49 of this code;

(D) The permit holder is operating the vehicle without any measurable blood alcohol content, in accordance with §17C-5-2(h) of this code; and

(E) The permit holder maintains current school enrollment and is making satisfactory academic progress or otherwise shows compliance with §18-8-11 of this code.

(d) *Level two intermediate driver's license.* — An applicant 16 years of age or older, meeting all other requirements of this code, may be issued a level two intermediate driver's license.

(1) *Eligibility.* — The division may not issue a level two intermediate driver's license unless the applicant:

(A) Presents a completed application as prescribed in §17B-2-6 of this code;

(B) Has held the level one instruction permit conviction-free for the 180 days immediately preceding the date of application for a level two intermediate license;

(C) Has completed either a driver's education course approved by the State Department of Education or 50 hours of behind-the-wheel driving experience, including a minimum of 10 hours of night time driving, certified by a parent or legal guardian or other responsible adult over the

age of 21 as indicated on the form prescribed by the division: *Provided*, That nothing in this paragraph may be construed to require any school or any county board of education to provide any particular number of driver's education courses or to provide driver's education training to any student;

(D) Presents a driver's eligibility certificate or otherwise shows compliance with §18-8-11 of this code;

(E) Passes the road skills examination as prescribed by §17B-2-7 of this code; and

(F) Pays a fee of $7.50 for one attempt. The Division of Motor Vehicles may adjust this fee every five years on September 1, based on the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Consumer Price Index: *Provided*, That an increase in the fee may not exceed 10 percent of the total fee amount in a single year.

(2) *Terms and conditions of a level two intermediate driver's license.* — A level two intermediate driver's license issued under the provisions of this section expires 30 days after the applicant attains the age of 18, or until the licensee qualifies for a level three full Class E license, whichever comes first. A holder of a level two intermediate driver's license who is under the age of 18 years shall not use a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle, unless the use of the wireless communication device is for contacting a 9-1-1 system. In addition to all other provisions of this code for which a driver's license may be restricted, suspended, revoked, or canceled, the holder of a level two intermediate driver's license may only operate a motor vehicle under the following conditions:

(A) The licensee operates a vehicle unsupervised between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m.;

(B) The licensee operates a vehicle only under the direct supervision of a licensed driver, age 21 years or older,

between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. except when the licensee is going to or returning from:

(i) Lawful employment;

(ii) A school-sanctioned activity;

(iii) A religious event; or

(iv) An emergency situation that requires the licensee to operate a motor vehicle to prevent bodily injury or death of another;

(C) All occupants of the vehicle use safety belts in accordance with §17C-15-49 of this code;

(D) For the first six months after issuance of a level two intermediate driver's license, the licensee may not operate a motor vehicle carrying any passengers less than 20 years old, unless these passengers are family members of the licensee; for the second six months after issuance of a level two intermediate driver's license, the licensee may not operate a motor vehicle carrying more than one passenger less than 20 years old, unless these passengers are family members of the licensee;

(E) The licensee operates a vehicle without any measurable blood alcohol content in accordance with §17C-5-2(h) of this code;

(F) The licensee maintains current school enrollment and is making satisfactory academic progress or otherwise shows compliance with §18-8-11 of this code;

(G) Upon the first conviction for a moving traffic violation or a violation of §17B-2-3a(d)(2) of this code of the terms and conditions of a level two intermediate driver's license, the licensee shall enroll in an approved driver improvement program unless a greater penalty is required by this section or by any other provision of this code; and

At the discretion of the commissioner, completion of an approved driver improvement program may be used to negate the effect of a minor traffic violation as defined by the commissioner against the one year conviction-free driving criteria for early eligibility for a level three driver's license and may also negate the effect of one minor traffic violation for purposes of avoiding a second conviction under §17B-2-3a(d)(2)(H) of this code; and

(H) Upon the second conviction for a moving traffic violation or a violation of the terms and conditions of the level two intermediate driver's license, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall revoke or suspend the licensee's privilege to operate a motor vehicle for the applicable statutory period or until the licensee's 18th birthday, whichever is longer, unless a greater penalty is required by this section or any other provision of this code. Any person whose driver's license has been revoked as a level two intermediate driver, upon reaching the age of 18 years and if otherwise eligible, may reapply for an instruction permit, then a driver's license in accordance with §17B-2-5, §17B-2-6 and §17B-2-7 of this code.

(e) *Level three, full Class E license.* — The level three license is valid until 30 days after the date the licensee attains his or her 21st birthday. A holder of a level three driver's license who is under the age of 18 years shall not use a wireless communication device while operating a motor vehicle, unless the use of the wireless communication device is for contacting a 9-1-1 system. Unless otherwise provided in this section or any other section of this code, the holder of a level three full Class E license is subject to the same terms and conditions as the holder of a regular Class E driver's license.

A level two intermediate licensee whose privilege to operate a motor vehicle has not been suspended, revoked, or otherwise canceled and who meets all other requirements of the code may be issued a level three full Class E license

without further examination or road skills testing if the licensee:

(1) Has reached the age of 17 years; and

(A) Presents a completed application as prescribed by §17B-2-6 of this code;

(B) Has held the level two intermediate license conviction free for the 12-month period immediately preceding the date of the application;

(C) Has completed any driver improvement program required under §17B-2-3a(d)(2)(G) of this code; and

(D) Pays a fee of $2.50 for each year the license is valid. An additional fee of 50 cents shall be collected to be deposited in the Combined Voter Registration and Driver's Licensing Fund established in §3-2-12 of this code;

(E) Presents a driver's eligibility certificate or otherwise shows compliance with §18-8-11 of this code; or

(2) Reaches the age of 18 years; and

(A) Presents a completed application as prescribed by §17B-2-6 of this code; and

(B) Pays a fee of $5 for each year the license is valid. The Division of Motor Vehicles may adjust this fee every five years on September 1, based on the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Consumer Price Index: *Provided*, That an increase in the fee may not exceed 10 percent of the total fee amount in a single year. An additional fee of 50 cents shall be collected to be deposited in the Combined Voter Registration and Driver's Licensing Fund established in §3-2-12 of this code.

(f) A person violating the provisions of the terms and conditions of a level one instruction permit, level two intermediate driver's license, or level three license is guilty

of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall for the first offense be fined $25; for a second offense be fined $50; and for a third or subsequent offense be fined $75.

CHAPTER 222

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4474 - By Delegates Westfall, Hott, D. Jeffries and Porterfield)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §17A-6F-1, §17A-6F-2, §17A-6F-3, §17A-6F-4, §17A-6F-5, §17A-6F-6, §17A-6F-7, §17A-6F-8, §17A-6F-9, §17A-6F-10, §17A-6F-11, §17A-6F-12, §17A-6F-13, §17A-6F-14, and §17A-6F-15, all relating to peer-to-peer car sharing programs; defining the scope of this article; defining terms; imposing insurance requirements; requiring notification of implications of a lien on the shared vehicle; providing for certain exclusions from motor vehicle insurance policies; requiring peer-to-peer car sharing programs to maintain certain records; exempting the peer-to-peer car sharing program and the shared vehicle owner from vicarious liability; authorizing a motor vehicle insurer of the shared vehicle to seek contribution against the motor vehicle insurer of the peer-to-peer car sharing program in certain circumstances; requiring peer-to-peer car sharing programs to obtain an insurable interest in a shared vehicle during the car sharing period; requiring driver's license verification and data retention; requiring the peer-to-peer car sharing program to have responsibility for the equipment put in or on the vehicle to facilitate the car sharing transaction; establishing registration, notification, and benchmarks for safety for automobiles used in peer-to-peer car sharing

programs; establishing the authority to regulate peer-to-peer car sharing programs at airports; and providing for the collection of taxes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6F. PEER-TO-PEER CAR SHARING PROGRAMS.

§17A-6F-1. Scope.

This article is intended to govern the intersection of peer-to-peer car services, the state-regulated business of insurance, state and local taxation of the business transaction, and the airport and airport authorities authority to regulate peer-to-peer car services provided to airport customers. This article does not void, abrogate, restrict, or affect any requirements of §17A-6D-1 *et seq.* of this code relating to daily passenger rental car business or §17A-6A-1 *et seq.* of this code relating to motor vehicle dealers, distributors, wholesalers, and manufacturers.

§17A-6F-2. Definitions.

As used in this article:

"Peer-to-peer car sharing" means the authorized use of a vehicle by an individual other than the vehicle's owner through a peer-to-peer car sharing program. "Peer-to-peer car sharing" is not a "daily passenger rental car business" as licensed by the provisions of §17A-6D-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Peer-to-peer car sharing program" means a business platform that connects vehicle owners with drivers to enable the sharing of vehicles for financial consideration. "Peer-to-peer car sharing program" does not mean a service provider who is solely providing hardware or software as a service to a person or entity that is not effectuating payment of financial consideration for use of a shared vehicle. For purposes of this section, "hardware" does not mean a motor vehicle as defined by the provisions of §17A-1-1(b). "Peer-

to-peer car sharing program" does not mean a "daily passenger rental car business" as licensed by the provisions of §17A-6D-1 *et seq.* of this code. "Peer-to-peer car sharing program" does not include a program provided to a business's own employees.

"Car sharing program agreement" means the terms and conditions applicable to a shared vehicle owner and a shared vehicle driver that govern the use of a shared vehicle through a peer-to-peer car sharing program.

"Shared vehicle" means a vehicle that is available for sharing through a peer-to-peer car sharing program. "Shared vehicle" does not mean a rental car or a rental vehicle as used in a "daily passenger rental car business" licensed by the provisions of §17A-6D-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Shared vehicle driver" means an individual who has been authorized to drive the shared vehicle by the shared vehicle owner under a car sharing program agreement.

"Shared vehicle owner" means the registered owner, or a person or entity designated by the registered owner, of a vehicle made available for sharing to shared vehicle drivers through a peer-to-peer car sharing program.

"Car sharing delivery period" means the period of time during which a shared vehicle is being delivered to the location of the car sharing start time, if applicable, as documented by the governing car sharing program agreement.

"Car sharing period" means the period of time that commences with the car sharing delivery period or, if there is no car sharing delivery period, that commences with the car sharing start time, and in either case ends at the car sharing termination time.

"Car sharing start time" means the time when the shared vehicle becomes subject to the control of the shared vehicle driver at or after the time the reservation of a shared vehicle

is scheduled to begin as documented in the records of a peer-to-peer car sharing program.

"Car sharing termination time" means the earliest of the following events:

The expiration of the agreed upon period of time established for the use of a shared vehicle according to the terms of the car sharing program agreement if the shared vehicle is delivered to the location agreed upon in the car sharing program agreement;

When the shared vehicle is returned to a location as alternatively agreed upon by the shared vehicle owner and shared vehicle driver as communicated through a peer-to-peer car sharing program; or

When the shared vehicle owner or the shared vehicle owner's authorized designee, takes possession and control of the shared vehicle.

§17A-6F-3. Insurance coverage during car sharing period.

(a) A peer-to-peer car sharing program shall assume liability, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, of a shared vehicle owner for bodily injury or property damage to third parties and uninsured and underinsured motorist and personal injury protection losses during the car sharing period in an amount stated in the peer-to-peer car sharing program agreement which amounts may not be less than $750,000.

(b) Notwithstanding the definition of "car sharing termination time" as defined in this article, the assumption of liability under subsection (a) of this section does not apply to any shared vehicle owner when:

(1) A shared vehicle owner makes an intentional or fraudulent material misrepresentation or omission to the peer-to-peer car sharing program before the car sharing period in which the loss occurred, or

(2) Acting in concert with a shared vehicle driver who fails to return the shared vehicle pursuant to the terms of the car sharing program agreement.

(c) Notwithstanding the definition of "car sharing termination time" as defined in this article, the assumption of liability under subsection (a) of this section would apply to bodily injury, property damage, uninsured and underinsured motorist, or personal injury protection losses by damaged third parties in the same manner required by §17D-4-2 and §33-6-31 of this code.

(d) A peer-to-peer car sharing program shall ensure that, during each car sharing period, the shared vehicle owner and the shared vehicle driver are insured under a motor vehicle liability insurance policy that provides insurance coverage which amounts may not be less than the amounts set forth in subsection (a), and:

(1) Recognizes that the shared vehicle insured under the policy is made available and used through a peer-to-peer car sharing program; or

(2) Does not exclude use of a shared vehicle by a shared vehicle driver.

(e) The insurance described under subsection (d) of this section may be satisfied by motor vehicle liability insurance maintained by:

(1) A shared vehicle owner;

(2) A shared vehicle driver;

(3) A peer-to-peer car sharing program; or

(4) A combination of a shared vehicle owner, a shared vehicle driver, and a peer-to-peer car sharing program.

(f) The insurance described in subsection (d) of this section shall be the primary insurance during each car sharing period.

(g) The peer-to-peer car sharing program shall assume primary liability for a claim when it is, in whole or in part, providing the insurance required under subsections (d) and (e) of this section and:

(1) A dispute exists as to who was in control of the shared motor vehicle at the time of the loss; and

(2) The peer-to-peer car sharing program does not have available, did not retain, or fails to provide the information required by this article.

(3) A peer-to-peer car sharing program may seek indemnity from a shared vehicle owner if the shared vehicle owner is determined to have been the operator of the shared vehicle at the time of the loss.

(h) If insurance maintained by a shared vehicle owner or shared vehicle driver in accordance with subsection (e) of this section has lapsed or does not provide the required coverage, insurance maintained by a peer-to-peer car sharing program shall provide the coverage required by subsection (d) of this section beginning with the first dollar of a claim and have the duty to defend such claim except under circumstances as set forth in this section.

(i) Coverage under an automobile insurance policy maintained by the peer-to-peer car sharing program shall not be dependent on another automobile insurer first denying a claim nor shall another automobile insurance policy be required to first deny a claim.

(j) Nothing in this article may be interpreted as either limiting or restricting:

(1) The liability of the peer-to-peer car sharing program for any act or omission of the peer-to-peer car sharing

program itself that results in injury to any person as a result of the use of a shared vehicle through a peer-to-peer car sharing program; or

(2) The ability of the peer-to-peer car sharing program to, by contract, seek indemnification from the shared vehicle owner or the shared vehicle driver for economic loss sustained by the peer-to-peer car sharing program resulting from a breach of the terms and conditions of the car sharing program agreement.

(k) If a dispute arises as to whether the car sharing termination time has transpired, or if a car return calls into question whether the car sharing termination time has transpired, or if a car return calls into question whether the car sharing termination time has occurred, the peer-to-peer car sharing program shall extend primary coverage for the loss. If during the investigation of the claim it becomes apparent that one of the parties to the car sharing program agreement was negligent, engaged in misrepresentation, or is otherwise responsible for the loss, the car sharing program may seek recovery from one or both parties directly through subrogation.

§17A-6F-4. Notification of implications of lien.

At the time when a vehicle owner registers as a shared vehicle owner on a peer-to-peer car sharing program, and prior to the time when the shared vehicle owner makes a shared vehicle available for car sharing on the peer-to-peer car sharing program, the peer-to-peer car sharing program shall notify the shared vehicle owner that, if the shared vehicle has a lien against it, the use of the shared vehicle through a peer-to-peer car sharing program, including use without physical damage coverage, may violate the terms of the contract with the lienholder.

§17A-6F-5. Exclusions for personal vehicle liability insurance policy.

(a) A motor vehicle insurer that writes motor vehicle liability insurance in this state may exclude any and all

coverage and the duty to defend or indemnify for any claim afforded under a shared vehicle owner's motor vehicle liability insurance policy, including, but not limited to:

(1) Liability coverage for bodily injury and property damage;

(2) Personal injury protection coverage;

(3) Uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage;

(4) Medical payments coverage;

(5) Comprehensive physical damage coverage; and

(6) Collision physical damage coverage.

(b) Nothing in this article shall be construed as invalidating or limiting an exclusion contained in a motor vehicle liability insurance policy, including any insurance policy in use or approved for use that excludes coverage for motor vehicles made available for rent, sharing, or hire, or for any business use.

(c) Nothing in this article may be interpreted as either limiting or restricting an insurer's ability to exclude insurance coverage from any insurance policy or an insurer's ability to underwrite any insurance policy pursuant to § 33-6A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

§17A-6F-6. Recordkeeping; use of vehicle in car sharing.

(a) A peer-to-peer car sharing program shall collect and verify records pertaining to the use of a vehicle, including, but not limited to, times used, car sharing period pickup and drop-off locations, fees paid by the shared vehicle driver, and revenues received by the shared vehicle owner and provide that information upon request to the shared vehicle owner, the shared vehicle owner's insurer, or the shared vehicle driver's insurer to facilitate a claim coverage investigation, settlement, negotiation, or litigation.

(b) The peer-to-peer car sharing program shall retain the records for a time period not less than the applicable personal injury statute of limitations.

§17A-6F-7. Exemption; vicarious liability.

A peer-to-peer car sharing program and a shared vehicle owner are exempt from vicarious liability in accordance with 49 U.S.C. §30106 and under any state or local law that imposes liability solely based on vehicle ownership.

§17A-6F-8. Contribution against indemnification.

A motor vehicle insurer that defends or indemnifies a claim against a shared vehicle that is excluded under the terms of its policy has the right to seek contribution against the motor vehicle insurer of the peer-to-peer car sharing program if the claim is:

(1) Made against the shared vehicle owner or the shared vehicle driver for loss or injury that occurs during the car sharing period; and

(2) Excluded under the terms of its policy.

§17A-6F-9. Insurable interest.

(a) Notwithstanding any other law, statute, rule, or regulation to the contrary, a peer-to-peer car sharing program has an insurable interest in a shared vehicle during the car sharing period.

(b) Nothing in this section creates liability on a peer-to-peer car sharing program to maintain the coverage mandated by this article.

(c) A peer-to-peer car sharing program may own and maintain as the named insured one or more policies of motor vehicle liability insurance that provides coverage for:

(1) Liabilities assumed by the peer-to-peer car sharing program under a peer-to-peer car sharing program agreement;

(2) Any liability of the shared vehicle owner;

(3) Damage or loss to the shared motor vehicle; or

(4) Any liability of the shared vehicle driver.

§17A-6F-10. Consumer protections for car sharing programs.

Each car sharing program agreement made in this state shall disclose to the shared vehicle owner and the shared vehicle driver, at a minimum:

(1) Any right of the peer-to-peer car sharing program to seek indemnification from the shared vehicle owner or the shared vehicle driver for economic loss sustained by the peer-to-peer car sharing program resulting from a breach of the terms and conditions of the car sharing program agreement;

(2) That a motor vehicle liability insurance policy issued to the shared vehicle owner for the shared vehicle or to the shared vehicle driver does not provide a defense or indemnification for any claim asserted by the peer-to-peer car sharing program;

(3) That the peer-to-peer car sharing program's insurance coverage on the shared vehicle owner and the shared vehicle driver is in effect only during each car sharing period and that, for any use of the shared vehicle by the shared vehicle driver after the car sharing termination time, the shared vehicle driver and the shared vehicle owner may not have insurance coverage;

(4) The daily rate, fees, and if applicable, any insurance or protection package costs that are charged to the shared vehicle owner or the shared vehicle driver;

(5) That the shared vehicle owner's motor vehicle liability insurance may not provide coverage for a shared vehicle;

(6) An emergency telephone number to personnel capable of fielding roadside assistance and other customer service inquiries; and

(7) If there are conditions under which a shared vehicle driver must maintain a personal automobile insurance policy with certain applicable coverage limits on a primary basis in order to book a shared motor vehicle.

§17A-6F-11. Driver's license verification and data retention.

(a) A peer-to-peer car sharing program may not enter into a peer-to-peer car sharing program agreement with a driver unless the driver who will operate the shared vehicle:

(1) Holds a driver's license issued pursuant to the provisions of §17B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code, which authorizes the driver to operate a motor vehicle of the class of the shared vehicle; or

(2) Is a nonresident who:

(A) Has a driver's license issued by the state or country of the driver's residence that authorizes the driver in that state or country to drive a motor vehicle of the class of the shared vehicle; and

(B) Is at least the same age as that required of a resident of this state to operate a motor vehicle of the class of the shared vehicle; or

(3) Otherwise is specifically authorized by the applicable provisions of §17B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code to operate a motor vehicle of the class of the shared vehicle.

(b) A peer-to-peer car sharing program shall keep a record of:

(1) The name and address of the shared vehicle driver;

(2) The number of the driver's license of the shared vehicle driver and each other person, if any, who will operate the shared vehicle; and

(3) The place of issuance of the driver's license.

§17A-6F-12. Responsibility for equipment of a shared vehicle.

A peer-to-peer car sharing program has sole responsibility for any equipment, such as a GPS system or other special equipment that is put in or on the vehicle to monitor or facilitate the car sharing transaction, and shall agree to indemnify and hold harmless the vehicle owner for any damage to or theft of the equipment during the sharing period not caused by the vehicle owner. The peer-to-peer car sharing program may seek indemnity from the shared vehicle driver for any loss or damage to the equipment that occurs during the sharing period.

§17A-6F-13. Registration, notification, and automobile safety recalls.

(a) At the time when a vehicle owner registers as a shared vehicle owner on a peer-to-peer car sharing program and prior to the time when the shared vehicle owner makes a shared vehicle available for car sharing on the peer-to-peer car sharing program, the peer-to-peer car sharing program shall:

(1) Verify that the shared vehicle does not have any safety recalls on the vehicle for which the repairs have not been made;

(2) Notify the shared vehicle owner of the requirements of this section; and

(3) Notify the shared vehicle owner that the shared vehicle owner's personal insurance may exclude peer-to-peer car sharing activity.

(b)(1) If the shared vehicle owner has received an actual notice of a safety recall on the vehicle, a shared vehicle owner may not make a vehicle available as a shared vehicle on a peer-to-peer car sharing program until the safety recall repair has been made.

(2) If a shared vehicle owner receives an actual notice of a safety recall on a shared vehicle while the shared vehicle is made available on the peer-to-peer car sharing program, the shared vehicle owner shall remove the shared vehicle as available on the peer-to-peer car sharing program, as soon as practicably possible after receiving the notice of the safety recall and until the safety recall repair has been made.

(3) If a shared vehicle owner receives an actual notice of a safety recall while the shared vehicle is being used in the possession of a shared vehicle driver, as soon as practicably possible after receiving the notice of the safety recall, the shared vehicle owner shall notify the peer-to-peer car sharing program about the safety recall so that the shared vehicle owner may address the safety recall repair.

§17A-6F-14. Regulation of peer-to-peer car sharing programs at airports and airport facilities.

(a) Airports or the airport authority in this state may regulate peer-to-peer vehicle rental activity provided to airport customers as set forth in this section.

(b) A peer-to-peer car sharing program shall, upon request of an airport or airport authority in this state, enter into an agreement with the airport or airport authority, which agreement may be a concession agreement, prior to:

(1) Listing shared vehicles parked on airport property or at airport facilities;

(2) Facilitating the use of shared vehicles to transport airport customers to or from airport property or airport facilities, regardless of whether that use is to be initiated or

has a car sharing start time which occurs on or off of airport property or airport facilities; or

(3) Promoting or marketing shared vehicles to transport airport customers to or from airport property or airport facilities, regardless of whether that transportation is to be initiated or has a car sharing start time which occurs on or off of airport property or airport facilities.

(c) The agreement required in subsection (a) of this section shall set forth reasonable standards, regulations, procedures, and fees applicable to a peer-to-peer car sharing program that govern the activity of peer-to-peer car sharing on airport property or airport facilities.

§17A-6F-15. Controlling authority; taxation and other requirements of a peer-to-peer car sharing program.

(a) Licensure, registration and qualification. A municipality, county or other local governmental entity, or special district may not require a peer-to-peer car sharing program to obtain a business license or any other similar authorization to operate within the jurisdiction, or subject a peer-to-peer car sharing program or a shared vehicle owner to any licensure requirement, fee, entry requirement, registration requirement, operating or operational requirement, or any other requirement.

(b) Duty to collect tax. A peer-to-peer car sharing program operating in this state pursuant to the provisions of this article shall collect and remit all state and municipal consumer sales and service and use taxes on all taxable sales of services to purchasers in this state. For the purposes of collection of tax required under §11-15A-6 and §11-15A-6b of this code, a "peer-to-peer car sharing program" is a remote seller, marketplace facilitator, or referrer that meets the requirements of §11-15A-1(b) of this code.

(c) A peer-to-peer car sharing program operating in this state pursuant to the provisions of this article is not subject

to the collection and remittance requirements of the daily rental car passenger tax in §17A-6D-2 of this code.

(d) A peer-to-peer car sharing program operating in this state pursuant to the provisions of this article may collect the vehicle license cost recovery fee authorized by §17A-6D-16 of this code in the same manner as a daily passenger car rental business.

(e) Limitations and interpretation.

(1) No provision of this section or this article may be interpreted to void, abrogate, restrict, or affect imposition of the ad valorem property tax on tangible personal property of a peer-to-peer car sharing program or of a shared vehicle owner by any levying body.

(2) No provision of this section or this article may be interpreted to void, abrogate, restrict, or affect imposition of the state personal income tax or state corporation net income tax on a peer-to-peer car sharing program or a shared vehicle owner.

(3) No provision of this section or this article may be interpreted to void, abrogate, restrict, or affect imposition of the motor fuel excise tax on any taxable motor fuel or alternative fuel purchased by any peer-to-peer car sharing program, shared vehicle owner, or shared vehicle driver.

(4) No provision of this section or this article may be interpreted to void, abrogate, restrict, or affect the requirements of chapter 11 of this code for issuance of a business registration certificate for a peer-to-peer car sharing program.

(5) No provision of this section or this article may be interpreted to void, abrogate, restrict, or affect any requirement of state law with relation to licensure of drivers of motor vehicles.

(6) Shared vehicle owners may not assert the exemption from the consumer sales and service tax and use tax, for purchases of tangible personal property and services directly used in the provision of services in §11-15-9 of this code.

CHAPTER 223

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4478 - By Delegates Butler, Fast, J. Jeffries, Cadle, Sypolt, Bartlett, Porterfield and Hardy)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17E-1-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the lifetime disqualification without reinstatement from operating a commercial motor vehicle for individuals who use a commercial motor vehicle in committing certain felony acts relating to controlled substance violations or human trafficking violations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE.

§17E-1-13. Disqualification.

(a) A person may not operate a commercial motor vehicle if his or her privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle is disqualified under the provisions of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999, 49 C. F. R. Part §383, Subpart D (2004) or in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(1) For the purposes of determining first and subsequent violations of the offenses listed in this section, each conviction resulting from a separate incident includes convictions for offenses committed in a commercial motor vehicle or a noncommercial motor vehicle.

(2) Any person disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life under the provisions of this chapter for offenses described in subdivisions (1), (2), (3), (4) and (6), subsection (b) of this section is eligible for reinstatement of privileges to operate a commercial motor vehicle after 10 years and after completion of the Safety and Treatment Program or other appropriate program prescribed by the division. Any person whose lifetime disqualification has been amended under the provisions of this subdivision, and who is subsequently convicted of a disqualifying offense described in subdivisions (1) through (7), inclusive, subsection (b) of this section, is not eligible for reinstatement. Any person disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life under subsection (n) of this section is not eligible for reinstatement.

(3) Any person who committed a disqualifying offense contained in paragraph (B) or (E), subdivision (1), subsection (b) of this section prior to obtaining a commercial driver's license, and who committed the disqualifying offense more than 10 years before he or she applied for a commercial driver's license, and who has completed the Safety and Treatment Program or other appropriate program prescribed by the division, shall be considered to have served the period of disqualification and is eligible to obtain a commercial driver's license so long as all other eligibility requirements contained in §17E-1-9 and §17E-1-10 of this code are satisfied.

(4) Any disqualification imposed by this section is in addition to any action to suspend, revoke, or cancel the driver's license or driving privileges if suspension, revocation, or cancellation is required under another provision of this code.

(5) The provisions of this section apply to any person operating a commercial motor vehicle and to any person holding a commercial driver's license.

(b) Any person is disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle for the following offenses and time periods if convicted of:

(1) Driving a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance;

(A) For a first conviction or for refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of one year.

(B) For a first conviction or for refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of one year.

(C) For a first conviction or for refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under 49 C. F. R. Part §172, Subpart F, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of three years.

(D) For a second conviction or for refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(E) For a second conviction or refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, a commercial

motor vehicle license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(2) Driving a commercial motor vehicle while the person's alcohol concentration of the person's blood, breath, or urine is four hundredths of one percent or more, by weight;

(A) For a first conviction or for refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(B) For a first conviction or for refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under 49 C. F. R. Part §172, Subpart F, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for three years.

(C) For a second conviction or refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(3) Refusing to submit to any designated secondary chemical test required by the provisions of this code or the provisions of 49 C. F. R. §383.72 (2004);

(A) For the first conviction or refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(B) For the first conviction or refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(C) For the first conviction or for refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under 49 C. F. R. Part §172, Subpart F (2004), a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of three years.

(D) For a second conviction or refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(E) For a second conviction or refusal to submit to any designated secondary chemical test in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(4) Leaving the scene of an accident;

(A) For the first conviction while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(B) For the first conviction while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified for one year.

(C) For the first conviction while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under 49 C. F. R. Part §172, Subpart F (2004), a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of three years.

(D) For a second conviction in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(E) For a second conviction in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(5) Using a motor vehicle in the commission of any felony as defined in §17E-1-3 of this code; except as set forth specifically in subsection (n) of this section;

(A) For the first conviction while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(B) For the first conviction while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(C) For the first conviction while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under 49 C. F. R. Part §172, Subpart F (2004), a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of three years.

(D) For a second conviction in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(E) For a second conviction in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, a commercial motor vehicle license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(6) Operating a commercial motor vehicle when, as a result of prior violations committed operating a commercial motor vehicle, the driver's privilege to operate a motor vehicle has been suspended, revoked, or canceled, or the

driver's privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle has been disqualified.

(A) For the first conviction while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(B) For the first conviction while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under 49 C. F. R. Part §172, Subpart F (2004), a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of three years.

(C) For a second conviction in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(7) Causing a fatality through the negligent operation of a commercial motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, the crimes of motor vehicle manslaughter, homicide and negligent homicide as defined in §17B-3-5, and §17C-5-1 of this code;

(A) For the first conviction while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(B) For the first conviction while operating a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under 49 C. F. R. Part §172, Subpart F (2004), a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of three years.

(C) For a second conviction in a separate incident of any combination of offenses in this subsection while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life.

(c) Any person is disqualified from driving a commercial motor vehicle if convicted of:

(1) Speeding excessively involving any speed of 15 miles per hour or more above the posted speed limit;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this section in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(D) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder shall be disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(2) Reckless driving as defined in §17C-5-3 of this code, careless or negligent driving, including, but not limited to, the offenses of driving a motor vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this section in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(D) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(3) Making improper or erratic traffic lane changes;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this section in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(D) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(4) Following the vehicle ahead too closely;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this section in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a

commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(D) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(5) Violating any law relating to traffic control arising in connection with a fatal accident, other than a parking violation;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this section in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(D) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a noncommercial motor vehicle, if the conviction results in the suspension, revocation, or cancellation of the commercial driver's license holder's privilege to operate any motor vehicle, a commercial motor vehicle license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(6) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without obtaining a commercial driver's license;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(7) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without a commercial driver's license in the driver's possession except that any person who provides proof of possession of a commercial driver's license to the enforcement agency that issued the citation by the court appearance or fine payment deadline is not guilty of this offense;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a

three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(8) Driving a commercial motor vehicle without the proper class of commercial driver's license or the proper endorsements for the specific vehicle group being operated or for the passengers or type of cargo being transported;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(9) Driving a commercial motor vehicle while engaged in texting and convicted pursuant to §17E-1-14a of this code or similar law of this or any other jurisdiction or 49 C. F. R. §392.80;

(A) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection in a separate incident within a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified

from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days.

(B) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of the offenses in this subsection in a separate incident in a three-year period while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a commercial driver's license holder is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 120 days.

(d) Any person convicted of operating a commercial motor vehicle in violation of any federal, state, or local law or ordinance pertaining to railroad crossing violations described in subdivisions (1) through (6), inclusive, of this subsection is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for the period of time specified;

(1) Failing to slow down and check that the tracks are clear of an approaching train, if not required to stop in accordance with the provisions of §17C-12-3 of this code;

(A) For the first conviction, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days;

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 120 days; and

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(2) Failing to stop before reaching the crossing, if the tracks are not clear, if not required to stop in accordance with the provisions of §17C-12-1 of this code;

(A) For the first conviction, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days;

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 120 days; and

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(3) Failing to stop before driving onto the crossing, if required to stop in accordance with the provisions of §17C-12-3 of this code;

(A) For the first conviction, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days;

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, the driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 120 days; and

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(4) Failing to have sufficient space to drive completely through the crossing without stopping in accordance with the provisions of §17C-12-3 of this code;

(A) For the first conviction, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days;

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 120 days; and

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(5) Failing to obey a traffic control device or the directions of an enforcement official at the crossing in accordance with the provisions of §17C-12-1 of this code;

(A) For the first conviction, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days;

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 120 days; and

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(6) Failing to negotiate a crossing because of insufficient undercarriage clearance in accordance with the provisions of §17C-12-3 of this code.

(A) For the first conviction, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for a period of 60 days;

(B) For a second conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 120 days; and

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction of any combination of offenses in this subsection within a three-year period, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for one year.

(e) Any person who is convicted of violating an out-of-service order while operating a commercial motor vehicle is disqualified for the following periods of time:

(1) If convicted of violating a driver or vehicle out-of-service order while transporting nonhazardous materials;

(A) For the first conviction of violating an out-of-service order while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 180 days.

(B) For a second conviction in a separate incident within a 10-year period for violating an out-of-service order while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for two years.

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction in a separate incident within a 10-year period for violating an out-of-service order while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for three years.

(2) If convicted of violating a driver or vehicle out-of-service order while transporting hazardous materials required to be placarded under 49 C. F. R. Part §172, Subpart F (2004) or while operating a vehicle designed to transport 16 or more passengers including the driver;

(A) For the first conviction of violating an out-of-service order while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for 180 days.

(B) For a second conviction in a separate incident within a ten-year period for violating an out-of-service order while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for three years.

(C) For a third or subsequent conviction in a separate incident within a 10-year period for violating an out-of-service order while operating a commercial motor vehicle, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for three years.

(f) After disqualifying, suspending, revoking, or canceling a commercial driver's license, the division shall update its records to reflect that action within 10 days.

(g) In accordance with the provisions of 49 U. S. C. §313119(a)(19)(2004), and 49 C. F. R. §384.226 (2004), notwithstanding the provisions of §61-11-25 of this code, no record of conviction, revocation, suspension, or disqualification related to any type of motor vehicle traffic control offense, other than a parking violation, of a commercial driver's license holder or a person operating a commercial motor vehicle may be masked, expunged, deferred, or be subject to any diversion program.

(h) Notwithstanding any provision in this code to the contrary, the division may not issue any temporary driving permit, work-only driving permit, or hardship license or permit that authorizes a person to operate a commercial motor vehicle when his or her privilege to operate any motor vehicle has been revoked, suspended, disqualified, or otherwise canceled for any reason.

(i) In accordance with the provisions of 49 C. F. R. §391.15(b), a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for the duration of any suspension, revocation, or cancellation of his or her driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle by this state or by any other state or jurisdiction until the driver complies

with the terms and conditions for reinstatement set by this state or by another state or jurisdiction.

(j) In accordance with the provisions of 49 C. F. R. §353.52 (2006), the division shall immediately disqualify a driver's privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle upon a notice from the assistant administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration that the driver poses an imminent hazard. Any disqualification period imposed under the provisions of this subsection shall be served concurrently with any other period of disqualification if applicable.

(k) In accordance with the provisions of 49 C. F. R. §1572.11(a), the division shall immediately disqualify a driver's privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle if the driver fails to surrender his or her driver's license with a hazardous material endorsement to the division upon proper notice by the division to the driver that the division received notice from the Department of Homeland Security Transportation Security Administration of an initial determination of threat assessment and immediate revocation that the driver does not meet the standards for security threat assessment provided in 49 C. F. R. §1572.5. The disqualification remains in effect until the driver either surrenders the driver's license to the division or provides the division with an affidavit attesting to the fact that the driver has lost or is otherwise unable to surrender the license.

(l) In accordance with 49 C. F. R. §391.41, a driver is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle if the driver is not physically qualified to operate a commercial motor vehicle or does not possess a valid medical certification status.

(m) In accordance with the provisions of 49 C. F. R. §383.73(g), the division shall disqualify a driver's privilege to operate a commercial motor vehicle if the division determines that the licensee has falsified any information or certifications required under the provisions of 49 C. F. R.

383 Subpart J or 49 C. F. R. §383.71(a) for 60 days in addition to any other penalty prescribed by this code.

(n) Lifetime Disqualification Without Reinstatement.—

(1) Controlled substance violations — An individual who uses a commercial motor vehicle in committing a felony involving manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled substance, or involving possession with intent to manufacture, distribute, or dispense a controlled substance is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life and is not eligible for reinstatement.

(2) Human trafficking violations — An individual who uses a commercial motor vehicle in committing a felony involving an act or practice described in paragraph (9) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(9)) is disqualified from operating a commercial motor vehicle for life and is not eligible for reinstatement.

CHAPTER 224

(H. B. 4504 - By Delegate Butler)
[By Request of the Division of Motor Vehicles]

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17C-13-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to application requirements for persons with a mobility impairment for special registration plates and removable windshield placards; modifying meaning of temporary and permanent disability; and providing for limited waiver of disability certification requirement.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13. STOPPING, STANDING, AND PARKING.

§17C-13-6. Stopping, standing, or parking privileges for persons with a mobility impairment; disabled veterans; definitions; qualification; special registration plates and removable windshield placards; expiration, application; violation; penalties.

(a)(1) The commissioner may issue up to two special registration plates or removable windshield placards to a person with a mobility impairment or a West Virginia organization which transports persons with disabilities and facilitates the mobility of its customers, patients, students, or persons otherwise placed under its responsibility.

(2) Special registration plates or placards may only be issued for placement on a Class A or Class G motor vehicle registered under the provisions of §17A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(3) The applicant shall specify whether he or she is applying for a special registration plate, a removable windshield placard, or both on the application form prescribed and furnished by the commissioner.

(4) The applicant shall submit, with the application, a certificate issued by any physician, chiropractor, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant who is licensed in this state, stating that the applicant has a mobility impairment, or that the applicant is an organization which regularly transports a person with a mobility impairment as defined in this section. The physician, chiropractor, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant shall specify in the certificate whether the disability is temporary or permanent. A disability which is temporary is one expected to last for a limited duration and improve during the applicant's life. A disability which is permanent is one which is expected to last during the duration of the applicant's life.

(5) Upon receipt of the completed application, the physician's certificate and the regular registration fee for the applicant's vehicle class, if the commissioner finds that the applicant qualifies for the special registration plate or a removable windshield placard as provided in this section, he or she shall issue to the applicant a special registration plate (upon remittance of the regular registration fee) or a removable windshield placard (red for temporary and blue for permanent), or both. Upon request, the commissioner shall also issue to any otherwise qualified applicant one additional placard having the same expiration date as the applicant's original placard. The placard shall be displayed by hanging it from the interior rearview mirror of the motor vehicle so that it is conspicuously visible from outside the vehicle when parked in a designated accessible parking space. The placard may be removed from the rearview mirror whenever the vehicle is being operated to ensure clear vision and safe driving. Only in the event that there is no suitable rearview mirror in the vehicle may the placard be displayed on the dashboard of the vehicle.

(6) Organizations which transport people with disabilities will be provided with a placard which will permit them to park in a designated area for the length of time necessary to load and unload passengers. These vehicles must be moved to a nondesignated space once the loading or unloading process is complete.

(b) As used in this section, the following terms have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection:

(1) A person or applicant with a "mobility impairment" means a person who is a citizen of West Virginia and as determined by a physician, allopath, or osteopath, chiropractor, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant licensed to practice in West Virginia:

(A) Cannot walk 200 feet without stopping to rest;

(B) Cannot walk without the use of or assistance from a brace, cane, crutch, prosthetic device, wheelchair, other assistive device, or another person;

(C) Is restricted by lung disease to such an extent that the person's force (respiratory) expiratory volume for one second, when measured by spirometry, is less than one liter or the arterial oxygen tension is less than 60 mm/hg on room air at rest;

(D) Uses portable oxygen;

(E) Has a cardiac condition to such an extent that the person's functional limitations are classified in severity as Class III or Class IV according to standards established by the American Heart Association; or

(F) Is severely limited in his or her ability to walk because of an arthritic, neurological, or other orthopedic condition;

(2) "Special registration plate" means a registration plate that displays the international symbol of access, as adopted by the Rehabilitation International Organization in 1969 at its Eleventh World Congress on Rehabilitation of the Disabled, in a color that contrasts with the background, in letters and numbers the same size as those on the plate, and which may be used in lieu of a regular registration plate;

(3) "Removable windshield placard" (permanent or temporary) means a two-sided, hanger-style placard measuring three inches by nine and one-half inches, with all of the following on each side:

(A) The international symbol of access, measuring at least three inches in height, centered on the placard, in white on a blue background for permanent designations and in white on a red background for temporary designations;

(B) An identification number measuring one inch in height;

(C) An expiration date in numbers measuring one inch in height; and

(D) The seal or other identifying symbol of the issuing authority;

(4) "Regular registration fee" means the standard registration fee for a vehicle of the same class as the applicant's vehicle;

(5) "Public entity" means state or local government or any department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a state or local government;

(6) "Public facility" means all or any part of any buildings, structures, sites, complexes, roads, parking lots, or other real or personal property, including the site where the facility is located;

(7) "Place or places of public accommodation" means a facility or facilities operated by a private entity whose operations affect commerce and fall within at least one of the following categories:

(A) Inns, hotels, motels, and other places of lodging;

(B) Restaurants, bars, or other establishments serving food or drink;

(C) Motion picture houses, theaters, concert halls, stadiums, or other places of exhibition or entertainment;

(D) Auditoriums, convention centers, lecture halls, or other places of public gatherings;

(E) Bakeries, grocery stores, clothing stores, hardware stores, shopping centers, or other sales or rental establishments;

(F) Laundromats, dry cleaners, banks, barber and beauty shops, travel agencies, shoe repair shops, funeral parlors, gas or service stations, offices of accountants and attorneys,

pharmacies, insurance offices, offices of professional health care providers, hospitals, or other service establishments;

(G) Terminals, depots, or other stations used for public transportation;

(H) Museums, libraries, galleries, or other places of public display or collection;

(I) Parks, zoos, amusement parks, or other places of recreation;

(J) Public or private nursery, elementary, secondary, undergraduate, or post-graduate schools or other places of learning and day care centers, senior citizen centers, homeless shelters, food banks, adoption agencies, or other social services establishments; and

(K) Gymnasiums, health spas, bowling alleys, golf courses, or other places of exercise or recreation;

(8) "Commercial facility" means a facility whose operations affect commerce and which are intended for nonresidential use by a private entity;

(9) "Accessible parking" formerly known as "handicapped parking" is the present phrase consistent with language within the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

(10) "Parking enforcement personnel" includes any law-enforcement officer as defined by §30-29-1 of this code, and private security guards, parking personnel, and other personnel authorized by a city, county, or the state to issue parking citations.

Any person who falsely or fraudulently obtains or seeks to obtain the special plate or the removable windshield placard provided for in this section, and any person who falsely certifies that a person is mobility impaired in order that an applicant may be issued the special registration plate

or windshield placard under this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $500. Any person who fabricates, uses, or sells unofficially issued windshield placards to any person or organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $500 per placard fabricated, used, or sold. Any person who fabricates, uses, or sells unofficially issued identification cards to any person or organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $700 per identification card fabricated, used, or sold. Any person who fabricates, uses, or sells unofficially issued labels imprinted with a future expiration date to any person or organization is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $700. Any person covered by this section who sells or gives away their officially issued windshield placard to any person or organization not qualified to apply or receive the placard and then reapplies for a new placard on the basis it was stolen is committing a fraudulent act and is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she, or they may otherwise incur, shall lose their right to receive or use a special placard or special license plate for a period of not less than five years.

(c) The commissioner shall set the expiration date for special registration plates and permanent removable windshield placards on the last day of a given month and year, to be valid for a minimum of one year but not more than five years, after which time a new application must be submitted to the commissioner. After the commissioner receives the new application, signed by a certified physician, chiropractor, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant if required under this subsection, the

commissioner shall issue: (i) A new special registration plate or new permanent removable windshield placard; or (ii) official labels imprinted with the new expiration date and designed so as to be placed over the old dates on the original registration plate or windshield placard: *Provided*, That a new application under this subsection must not be accompanied by a certificate pursuant to §17C-13-6(a)(4) of this code if a prior application is on file with the commissioner, such application includes a certificate issued pursuant to §17C-13-6(a)(4) of this code, such certificate specifies that the applicant's disability is permanent for life, and such certificate was made within 10 years of the new application.

(d) The commissioner shall set the expiration date of temporary removable windshield placards to be valid for a period of approximately six months after the application was received and approved by the commissioner.

(e) The commissioner shall issue to each applicant who is granted a special registration plate or windshield placard an identification card bearing the applicant's name, assigned identification number, and expiration date. The applicant shall thereafter carry this identification card on his or her person whenever parking in an accessible parking space. The identification card shall be identical in design for both registration plates and removable windshield placards.

(f) An accessible parking space should comply with the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act accessibility guidelines, contained in 28 C.F.R. 36, Appendix A, Section 4.6. In particular, the parking space should be a minimum of eight feet wide with an adjacent eight-foot access aisle for vans having side mounted hydraulic lifts or ramps, or a five-foot access aisle for standard vehicles. Access aisles should be marked using diagonal two- to four-inch-wide stripes spaced every 12 or 24 inches apart along with the words "no parking" in painted letters which are at least 12 inches in height. All accessible parking spaces must have a signpost in front or adjacent to

the accessible parking space displaying the international symbol of access sign mounted at a minimum of eight feet above the pavement or sidewalk and the top of the sign. Lines or markings on the pavement or curbs for parking spaces and access aisles may be in any color, although blue is the generally accepted color for accessible parking.

(g) A vehicle displaying a disabled veterans special registration plate issued pursuant to §17A-3-14(c)(6) of this code shall be recognized and accepted as meeting the requirements of this section.

(h) A vehicle from any other state, United States territory, or foreign country displaying an officially issued special registration plate, placard, or decal bearing the international symbol of access shall be recognized and accepted as meeting the requirements of this section, regardless of where the plate, placard, or decal is mounted or displayed on the vehicle.

(i) Stopping, standing or parking places marked with the international symbol of access shall be designated in close proximity to all public entities, including state, county, and municipal buildings and facilities, places of public accommodation, and commercial facilities. These parking places shall be reserved solely for persons with a mobility impairment and disabled veterans at all times.

(j) Any person whose vehicle properly displays a valid, unexpired special registration plate or removable windshield placard may park the vehicle for unlimited periods of time in parking zones unrestricted as to length of parking time permitted: *Provided*, That this privilege does not mean that the vehicle may park in any zone where stopping, standing, or parking is prohibited or which creates parking zones for special types of vehicles or which prohibits parking during heavy traffic periods during specified rush hours or where parking would clearly present a traffic hazard. To the extent any provision of any ordinance of any political subdivision of this state is

contrary to the provisions of this section, the provisions of this section take precedence and apply.

The parking privileges provided for in this subsection apply only during those times when the vehicle is being used for the loading or unloading of a person with a mobility impairment. Any person who knowingly exercises, or attempts to exercise, these privileges at a time when the vehicle is not being used for the loading or unloading of a person with a mobility impairment is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon first conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $200; upon second conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $300; and upon third and subsequent convictions thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $500.

(k) Any person whose vehicle does not display a valid, special registration plate or removable windshield placard may not stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle in an area designated, zoned, or marked for accessible parking with signs or instructions displaying the international symbol of access, either by itself or with explanatory text. The signs may be mounted on a post or a wall in front of the accessible parking space and instructions may appear on the ground or pavement, but use of both methods is preferred. Accessible parking spaces for vans having an eight-foot adjacent access aisle should be designated as “van accessible” but may be used by any vehicle displaying a valid special registration plate or removable windshield placard.

Any person who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined $200; upon second conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $300; and upon third and subsequent convictions thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $500.

(l) All signs that designate areas as "accessible parking" or that display the international symbol of access shall also include the words "Up to $500 fine".

(m) No person may stop, stand, or park a motor vehicle in an area designated or marked off as an access aisle adjacent to a van-accessible parking space or regular accessible parking space. Any person, including a driver of a vehicle displaying a valid removable windshield placard or special registration plate, who violates the provisions of this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined $200; upon second conviction thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $300; and upon third and subsequent convictions thereof, in addition to any other penalty he or she may otherwise incur, shall be fined $500.

(n) Parking enforcement personnel who otherwise enforce parking violations may issue citations for violations of this section and shall reference the number on the vehicle's license plate, since the driver normally will not be present.

(o) Law-enforcement agencies may establish a program to use trained volunteers to collect information necessary to issue citations to persons who illegally park in designated accessible parking spaces. Any law-enforcement agency choosing to establish a program shall provide for workers' compensation and liability coverage. The volunteers shall photograph the illegally parked vehicle and complete a form, to be developed by supervising law-enforcement agencies, that includes the vehicle's license plate number, date, time, and location of the illegally parked vehicle. The photographs must show the vehicle in the accessible space and a readable view of the license plate. Within the discretion of the supervising law-enforcement agency, the volunteers may issue citations or the volunteers may submit the photographs of the illegally parked vehicle and the form to the supervising law-enforcement agency, who may issue a citation, which includes the photographs and the form, to

the owner of the illegally parked vehicle. Volunteers shall be trained on the requirements for citations for vehicles parked in marked, zoned, or designated accessible parking areas by the supervising law-enforcement agency.

(p) Local authorities who adopt the basic enforcement provisions of this section and issue their own local ordinances shall retain all fines and associated late fees. These revenues shall be used first to fund the provisions of subsection (o) of this section, if adopted by local authorities, or otherwise shall go into the local authorities' General Revenue Fund. Otherwise, any moneys collected as fines shall be collected for and remitted to the state.

(q) The commissioner shall prepare and issue a document to applicants describing the privileges accorded a vehicle having a special registration plate and removable windshield placard as well as the penalties when the vehicle is being inappropriately used as described in this section and shall include the document along with the issued special registration plate or windshield placard. In addition, the commissioner shall issue a separate document informing the general public regarding the new provisions and increased fines being imposed either by way of newspaper announcements or other appropriate means across the state.

(r) The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

CHAPTER 225

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4522 - By Delegates Butler, Porterfield and Kump)
[By Request of the Division of Motor Vehicles]

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17B-2-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the issuance and content of driver's licenses; providing for display of name in manner selected by applicant when supported by appropriate documentation; and allowing Division of Motor Vehicles to accept documents compliant with federal Real ID Act as proof of identity, residency, and lawful presence.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. ISSUANCE OF LICENSE, EXPIRATION, AND RENEWAL.

§17B-2-8. Issuance and contents of licenses; fees.

(a) The division shall, upon payment of the required fee, issue to every applicant qualifying therefor a driver's license, which shall indicate the type or general class or classes of vehicle or vehicles the licensee may operate in accordance with this chapter or chapter 17E of this code, or motorcycle-only license. Each license shall contain a coded number assigned to the licensee, the full legal name, to be displayed in a manner selected by the applicant when supported by appropriate documentation and consistent with federal law, this code, and existing system capabilities of the division, date of birth, residence address, a brief description and a color photograph of the licensee, and either a facsimile of the signature of the licensee or a space

upon which the signature of the licensee is written with pen and ink immediately upon receipt of the license. No license is valid until it has been so signed by the licensee.

(b) A driver's license which is valid for operation of a motorcycle shall contain a motorcycle endorsement. A driver's license which is valid for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle shall be issued in accordance with chapter 17E of this code.

(c) The division shall use such process or processes in the issuance of licenses that will, insofar as possible, prevent any identity theft, alteration, counterfeiting, duplication, reproduction, forging or modification of, or the superimposition of a photograph on, the license.

(d) The fee for the issuance of a Class E driver's license is $5 per year for each year the license is valid. The Division of Motor Vehicles may adjust this fee every five years on September 1, based on the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Consumer Price Index: *Provided*, That an increase in such fee may not exceed 10 percent of the total fee amount in a single year. The fee for issuance of a Class D driver's license is $6.25 per year for each year the license is valid. An additional fee of 50 cents shall be collected from the applicant at the time of original issuance or each renewal, and the additional fee shall be deposited in the Combined Voter Registration and Driver's Licensing Fund established pursuant to the provisions of §3-2-12 of this code. The additional fee for adding a motorcycle endorsement to a driver's license is $1 per year for each year the license is issued.

(e) The fee for issuance of a motorcycle-only license is $2.50 for each year for which the motorcycle license is valid. The fees for the motorcycle endorsement or motorcycle-only license shall be paid into a special fund in the State Treasury known as the Motorcycle Safety Fund as established in §17B-1D-7 of this code.

(f) The fee for the issuance of either the level one or level two graduated driver's license as prescribed in §17B-2-3a of this code is $5.

(g) The fee for issuance of a federally compliant driver's license or identification card for federal use is $10 in addition to any other fee required by this chapter. Any fees collected under the provisions of this subsection shall be deposited into the Motor Vehicle Fees Fund established in accordance with §17A-2-21 of this code.

(h) The division may use an address on the face of the license other than the applicant's address of residence if:

(1) The applicant has a physical address or location that is not recognized by the post office for the purpose of receiving mail;

(2) The applicant is enrolled in a state address confidentiality program or the alcohol test and lock program;

(3) The applicant's address is entitled to be suppressed under a state or federal law or suppressed by a court order; or

(4) At the discretion of the commissioner, the applicant's address may be suppressed to provide security for classes of applicants such as law-enforcement officials, protected witnesses, and members of the state and federal judicial systems.

(i) Notwithstanding any provision in this article to the contrary, a valid military identification card with an expiration date issued by the United States Department of Defense for active duty, reserve, or retired military personnel containing a digitized photo and the holder's full legal name may be used to establish current full legal name and legal presence. The commissioner may at his or her discretion expand the use of military identification cards for other uses as permitted under this code or federal rule.

(j) The division may accept any document as proof of identity, residency, and lawful presence that is acceptable under the Real ID Act of 2005, Pub. L. No. 109-13, 119 Stat. 302 (May 11, 2005), 49 U.S.C. §30301 *et seq.*

CHAPTER 226

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4530 - By Delegate Westfall)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §17A-6D-17, relating to fees that may be charged by daily passenger rental car companies pursuant to the master rental agreement; defining a term; authorizing daily passenger rental car companies to charge administrative fees under a certain amount related to certain costs incurred by the rental customer and paid by the daily passenger car rental company; and requiring that the rental customer affirmatively agree to the administrative fees in the master rental agreement.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6D. DAILY PASSENGER RENTAL CAR BUSINESS.

§17A-6D-17. Authorized administrative fees.

(a) As used in this section, "administrative fees" means reasonable costs expressly provided for in the master rental agreement pertaining to parking tickets, tolls, citations for other non-moving violations, and other costs incurred by the rental customer and not timely paid by the rental customer and paid by the daily passenger car rental company.

Administrative fees may not exceed $25 per rental agreement or ten percent of the debt owed, whichever is less.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, including, but not limited to §46A-2-128(d) of this code, a daily passenger rental car company may collect or charge administrative fees incidental to, or arising from, the rental transaction when the administrative fees are expressly provided for in the master rental agreement and affirmatively acknowledged by the rental customer.

CHAPTER 227

(H. B. 4958 - By Delegates Hamrick, Canestraro, D. Kelly, Lovejoy, Miller, Shott, Nelson, Mandt, Fleischauer, Pushkin and Pyles)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect July 1, 2020.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §8-10-2a and §8-10-2b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §17B-3-3a and §17B-3-3c of said code; to amend and reenact §50-3-2a of said code; and to amend and reenact §62-4-17 of said code, all relating to eliminating the ability of a person's driver's license to be suspended for the failure to pay court fines and costs; allowing court clerks to accept electronic payments, credit cards, cash, money orders, or certified checks; requiring magistrate, municipal, and circuit clerks to set up a payment plan if an individual signs an affidavit stating that he or she is unable to pay the court fines and costs imposed; authorizing a court to review the reasonableness of the payment plan; authorizing court to waive, modify, or convert the outstanding costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties to community service; requiring the

Supreme Court of Appeals to develop and distribute forms; authorizing magistrate, municipal, and circuit clerks to assess late fees, to record a judgment lien for unpaid fines and costs in the county clerk's office, and to cosign a debt to collections; authorizing a process for the recording and release of a judgment lien; requiring clerks to issue a notice of delinquency; authorizing the reinstatement of driver's licenses suspended prior to July, 1, 2020; removes Tax Commissioner's authority to withhold income tax returns; establishing fees; and placing limits on collection of fees.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 10. POWERS AND DUTIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS.

§8-10-2a. Payment of fines by electronic payments, credit cards, cash, money orders, or certified checks.

1 A municipal court may accept electronic payments,
2 credit cards, cash, money order, or certified checks for all
3 costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties electronically, by mail,
4 or in person. Any charges made by the credit company shall
5 be paid by the person responsible for paying the cost, fine,
6 fee, or penalty.

§8-10-2b. Payment plan; failure to pay will result in late fee and judgment lien; suspension of licenses for failure to pay fines and costs or failure to appear in court.

1 (a) Upon request and subject to the following
2 requirements, the municipal court clerk or, upon a judgment
3 rendered on appeal, the clerk shall establish a payment plan
4 for a person owing costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties
5 imposed by the court for a motor vehicle violation as
6 defined in §17B-3-3a of this code, a criminal offense as
7 defined in §17B-3-3c of this code, or other applicable
8 municipal ordinances, so long as the person signs and files
9 with the clerk, an affidavit, stating that he or she is

financially unable to pay the costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties imposed:

(1) A $25 administrative processing fee shall be paid at the time the payment form is filed or, in the alternative, the fee may be paid in no more than 5 equal monthly payments;

(2) Unless incarcerated, a person must enroll in a payment plan no later than 90 calendar days after the date the court enters the order assessing the costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties; and

(3) If the person is incarcerated, he or she may enroll in a payment plan within 90 calendar days after release.

(b) The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals shall develop a uniform payment plan form and financial affidavit for requests for the establishment of a payment plan pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The forms shall be made available for distribution to the offices of municipal clerks, and municipal clerks shall use the payment plan form and affidavit form developed by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals when establishing payment plans.

(c)(1) The payment plan shall specify: (A) The number of payments to be made; (B) The dates on which such payments are due; (C) The amount due for each payment; (D) all acceptable payment methods; and (E) the circumstances under which the person may receive a late fee, have a judgment lien recorded against him or her, or have the debt sent to collections for nonpayment;

(2) The monthly payment under the payment plan shall be calculated based upon all costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties owed within the court, and shall be two percent of the person's annual net income divided by 12, or $10, whichever is greater;

(3) The court may review the reasonableness of the payment plan, and may on its own motion or by petition,

waive, modify, or convert the outstanding costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties to community service if the court determines that the individual has had a change in circumstances and is unable to comply with the terms of the payment plan.

(d) (1) The clerk may assess a $10 late fee each month if a person fails to comply with the terms of a payment plan and if any payment due is not received within 30 days after the due date, and the person:

(A) Is not incarcerated;

(B) Has not brought the account current;

(C) Has not made alternative payment arrangements with the court; or

(D) Has not entered into a revised payment plan with the clerk before the due date.

(2) If after 90 days, a payment has not been received, the clerk may do one or both of the following (A) Record a judgment lien as described in subsection (f) of this section, or (B) Consign the delinquent costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties to a debt collection agency contained on the State Tax Commissioner's list of eligible debt collection agencies established and maintained pursuant to §14-1-18c of this code, an internal collection division, or both: *Provided*, That the entire amount of all delinquent payments collected shall be remitted to the court and may not be reduced by any collection costs or fees: *Provided, however*, That the collection fee may not exceed 25 percent of the delinquent payment amount. The clerk may send notices, electronically or by U.S. mail, to remind the person of an upcoming or missed payment.

(e)(1) If after 90 days of a judgment a person fails to enroll in a payment plan and fails to pay their costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties, the clerk may assess a $10 late fee and shall notify the person of the following:

(A) That he or she is 90 days past due in the payment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties imposed pursuant to a judgment of the court;

(B) That he or she has failed to enroll in a payment plan;

(C) Whether a $10 late fee has been assessed; and

(D) That he or she may be the subject of a judgment lien or have his or her debt sent to a collection agency if the overdue payment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties is not resolved within 30 days of the date of the notice issued pursuant to this subsection.

(2) If after 30 days from the issuance of a notice pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, a payment has not been received, the clerk may do one or both of the following:

(A) Record a judgment lien as described in subsection (f) of this section; or

(B) Consign the delinquent costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties to a debt collection agency contained on the State Tax Commissioner's list of eligible debt collection agencies established and maintained pursuant to §14-1-18c of this code, an internal collection division, or both: *Provided*, That the entire amount of all delinquent payments collected shall be remitted to the court and may not be reduced by any collection costs or fees: *Provided, however*, That the collection fee may not exceed 25 percent of the delinquent payment amount.

(f) To record a judgment lien, the clerk shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the county of nonpayment and shall provide the prosecuting attorney with an abstract of judgment. The prosecuting attorney shall file the abstract of judgment in the office of the clerk of the county commission in the county where the defendant was convicted and in any county in which the defendant resides or owns property. The clerk of the county commission shall record and index these

abstracts of judgment without charge or fee to the prosecuting attorney and when recorded, the amount stated to be owed in the abstract constitutes a lien against all property of the defendant: *Provided*, That when all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties for which an abstract of judgment has been recorded are paid in full, the clerk of the municipal court shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the county of payment and provide the prosecuting attorney with a release of judgment, prepared in accordance with the provisions of §38-12-1 of this code, for filing and recordation pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision. Upon receipt from the clerk, the prosecuting attorney shall file the release of judgment in the office of the clerk of the county commission in each county where an abstract of the judgment was recorded. The clerk of the county commission shall record and index the release of judgment without charge or fee to the prosecuting attorney.

(g) A person whose driver's license was suspended prior to July 1, 2020, solely for the nonpayment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties, if otherwise eligible, shall have his or her license reinstated:

(1) Upon payment in full of all outstanding costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties and a $25 reinstatement fee paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles; or

(2) Upon establishing a payment plan pursuant to subsection (a) and the payment of a $25 administrative fee. The clerk shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles that a payment plan is in effect, and upon receipt of the notification, the division shall waive the reinstatement fee.

(h) If a person charged with a motor vehicle violation as defined in §17B-3-3a of this code or criminal offense fails to appear or otherwise respond in court, the municipal court clerk shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles of the failure to appear: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, for residents of this state, the municipal court clerk shall wait at least 90 days

from the date of the person's failure to appear or otherwise respond before notifying the Division of Motor Vehicles thereof. Upon notice, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the person's driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state until such time that the person appears as required.

CHAPTER 17B. MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSES.

ARTICLE 3. CANCELLATION, SUSPENSION, OR REVOCATION OF LICENSES.

§17B-3-3a. Suspending license for failure to respond or appear in court.

(a) The division shall suspend the license of any resident of this state or the privilege of a nonresident to drive a motor vehicle in this state upon receiving notice from a magistrate court or municipal court of this state that such person has failed to respond or appear in court when charged with a motor vehicle violation.

(b) For the purposes of this section, §50-3-2a of this code and §8-10-2b of this code, "motor vehicle violation" is as any violation designated in chapters 17A, 17B, 17C, 17D, or 17E of this code, or the violation of any municipal ordinance relating to the operation of a motor vehicle for which the violation thereof would result in a fine or penalty: *Provided*, That any parking violation or other violation for which a citation may be issued to an unattended vehicle shall not be considered a motor vehicle violation for the purposes of this section, §50-3-2a of this code, or §8-10-2b of this code.

§17B-3-3c. Suspending license for failure to appear in court.

(a) The division shall suspend the license of any resident of this state or the privilege of a nonresident to drive a motor vehicle in this state upon receiving notice from a circuit court, magistrate court, or municipal court of this state,

pursuant to §8-10-2b or §62-4-17 of this code, that the person has failed to appear in court when charged with a criminal offense. For the purposes of this section, §8-10-2b or §62-4-17 of this code, "criminal offense" shall be defined as any violation of the provisions of this code, or the violation of any municipal ordinance, for which the violation of the offense may result in a fine, confinement in jail, or imprisonment in a correctional facility of this state: *Provided*, That any parking violation or other violation for which a citation may be issued to an unattended vehicle shall not be considered a criminal offense for the purposes of this section, §8-10-2b or §62-4-17 of this code.

(b) A copy of the order of suspension shall be forwarded to the person by certified mail, return receipt requested. No order of suspension becomes effective until 10 days after receipt of a copy of the order. The order of suspension shall advise the person that because of the receipt of notice of the failure to appear, a presumption exists that the person named in the order of suspension is the same person named in the notice. The commissioner may grant an administrative hearing which substantially complies with the requirements of the provisions of §17C-5A-2 of this code upon a preliminary showing that a possibility exists that the person named in the notice of conviction is not the same person whose license is being suspended. The request for hearing shall be made within 10 days after receipt of a copy of the order of suspension. The sole purpose of this hearing shall be for the person requesting the hearing to present evidence that he or she is not the person named in the notice. In the event the commissioner grants an administrative hearing, the commissioner shall stay the license suspension pending the commissioner's order resulting from the hearing.

(c) A suspension under this section and §17B-3-3a of this code will continue until the person provides proof of compliance from the municipal, magistrate, or circuit court and pays the reinstatement fee as provided in §17B-3-9 of this code. The reinstatement fee is assessed upon issuance

of the order of suspension regardless of the effective date of suspension.

(d) Upon notice from an appropriate state official that the person is successfully participating in an approved treatment and job program as prescribed in §61-11-26a of this code, and that the person is believed to be safe to drive, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall stay or supersede the imposition of any suspension under this section or §17B-3-3a of this code. The Division of Motor Vehicles shall waive the reinstatement fee established by the provisions §17B-3-9 upon receipt of proper documentation of the person's successful completion of a program under §61-11-26a of this code and proof of compliance from the municipal, magistrate, or circuit court. The stay or supersedeas shall be removed by the Division of Motor Vehicles upon receipt of notice from an appropriate state official of a participant's failure to complete or comply with the approved treatment and job program as established under §61-11-26a of this code.

CHAPTER 50. MAGISTRATE COURTS.

ARTICLE 3. COSTS, FINES AND RECORDS.

§50-3-2a. Payment by electronic payments, credit card payments, cash, money orders, or certified checks; payment plan; failure to pay fines results in a late fee and judgment lien.

(a) A magistrate court may accept electronic payments, credit cards, cash, money order, or certified check for payment of all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties in accordance with rules promulgated by the Supreme Court of Appeals. Any charges made by the credit company shall be paid by the person responsible for paying the cost, fine, forfeiture or penalty.

(b) Upon request and subject to the following requirements, the magistrate clerk shall establish a payment plan for a person owing costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties

imposed by the court, so long as the person signs and files with the clerk, an affidavit stating that he or she is financially unable to pay the costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties imposed:

(1) A $25 administrative processing fee shall be paid at the time the payment form is filed or, in the alternative, the fee may be paid in no more than 5 equal monthly payments;

(2) Unless incarcerated, a person must enroll in a payment plan no later than 180 calendar days after the date the court enters the order assessing the costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties; and

(3) If the person is incarcerated, he or she may enroll in a payment plan within 180 calendar days after release.

(c) The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals shall develop a uniform payment plan form and financial affidavit for requests for the establishment of payment plan pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The forms shall be made available for distribution to the offices of magistrate clerks, and magistrate clerks shall use the payment plan form and affidavit form developed by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals when establishing payment plans.

(d)(1) The payment plan shall specify: (A) The number of payments to be made; (B) The dates on which the payments are due; (C) The amount due for each payment; (D) All acceptable payment methods; and (E) The circumstances under which the person may receive a late fee, have a judgment lien recorded against him or her, or have the debt sent to collections for nonpayment.

(2) The monthly payment under the payment plan shall be calculated based upon all costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties owed within the court, and shall be two percent of the person's annual net income divided by 12 or $10, whichever is greater.

(3) The court may review the reasonableness of the payment plan, and may on its own motion or by petition, waive, modify, or convert the outstanding costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties to community service if the court determines that the individual has had a change in circumstances and is unable to comply with the terms of the payment plan.

(e) (1) The clerk may assess a $10 late fee each month if a person fails to comply with the terms of a payment plan, and if any payment due is not received within 30 days after the due date, and the person:

(A) Is not incarcerated;

(B) Has not brought the account current;

(C) Has not made alternative payment arrangements with the court; or

(D) Has not entered into a revised payment plan with the clerk before the due date.

(2) If, after 90 days, a payment has not been received, the clerk may do one or both of the following: (A) Record a judgment lien as described in subsection (f) of this section, or (B) Consign the delinquent costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties to a debt collection agency contained on the State Tax Commissioner's list of eligible debt collection agencies established and maintained pursuant to §14-1-18c of this code, an internal collection division, or both: *Provided*, That the entire amount of all delinquent payments collected shall be remitted to the court and may not be reduced by any collection costs or fees: *Provided, however*, That the collection fee may not exceed 25 percent of the delinquent payment amount. The clerk may send notices, electronically or by U.S. mail, to remind the person of an upcoming or missed payment.

(f)(1) If after 180 days of a judgment a person fails to enroll in a payment plan and fails to pay his or her costs,

fines, forfeitures, or penalties, the clerk may assess a $10 late fee and shall notify the person of the following:

(A) That he or she is 180 days past due in the payment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties imposed pursuant to a judgment of the court;

(B) That he or she has failed to enroll in a payment plan;

(C) Whether a $10 late fee has been assessed; and

(D) That he or she may be the subject of a judgment lien or have his or her debt sent to a collection agency if the overdue payment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties is not resolved within 30 days of the date of the notice issued pursuant to this subsection.

(2) If after 30 days from the issuance of a notice pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, a payment has not been received, the clerk may do one or both of the following:

(A) Record a judgment lien as described in subsection (f) of this section; or

(B) Consign the delinquent costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties to a debt collection agency contained on the State Tax Commissioner's list of eligible debt collection agencies established and maintained pursuant to §14-1-18c of this code, an internal collection division, or both: *Provided*, That the entire amount of all delinquent payments collected shall be remitted to the court and may not be reduced by any collection costs or fees: *Provided, however*, That the collection fee may not exceed 25 percent of the delinquent payment amount.

(g) To record a judgment lien, the clerk shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the county of nonpayment and shall provide the prosecuting attorney with an abstract of judgment. The prosecuting attorney shall file the abstract of judgment in the office of the clerk of the county commission

in the county where the defendant was convicted and in any county wherein the defendant resides or owns property. The clerk of the county commission shall record and index these abstracts of judgment without charge or fee to the prosecuting attorney and when recorded, the amount stated to be owed in the abstract constitutes a lien against all property of the defendant: *Provided*, That when all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties for which an abstract of judgment has been recorded are paid in full, the clerk of the municipal court shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the county of payment and provide the prosecuting attorney with a release of judgment, prepared in accordance with the provisions of §38-12-1 of this code, for filing and recordation pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision. Upon receipt from the clerk, the prosecuting attorney shall file the release of judgment in the office of the clerk of the county commission in each county where an abstract of the judgment was recorded. The clerk of the county commission shall record and index the release of judgment without charge or fee to the prosecuting attorney.

(h) A person whose driver's license was suspended before July 1, 2020, solely for the nonpayment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties, if otherwise eligible, shall have his or her license reinstated:

(1) Upon payment in full of all outstanding costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties and a $25 reinstatement fee paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles; or

(2) Upon establishing a payment plan pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and the payment of a $25 administrative fee. The clerk shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles that a payment plan is in effect, and upon receipt of the notification, the division shall waive the reinstatement fee.

(i)(1) If any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties imposed or ordered by the magistrate court for a hunting violation described in chapter 20 of this code are

not paid within 180 days from the date of judgment and the expiration of any stay of execution, the magistrate court clerk or, upon a judgment rendered on appeal, the circuit clerk shall notify the Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure to pay. Upon notice, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to hunt in this state, including any hunting license issued to the person by the Division of Natural Resources, until all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties are paid in full.

(2) If any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties imposed or ordered by the magistrate court for a fishing violation described in chapter 20 of this code are not paid within 180 days from the date of judgment and the expiration of any stay of execution, the magistrate court clerk or, upon a judgment rendered on appeal, the circuit clerk shall notify the Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure to pay. Upon notice, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to fish in this state, including any fishing license issued to the person by the Division of Natural Resources, until all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties are paid in full.

(j)(1) If a person charged with any criminal violation of this code fails to appear or otherwise respond in court, the magistrate court shall notify the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles thereof within 90 days of the scheduled date to appear unless the person sooner appears or otherwise responds in court to the satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon notice, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to operate a motor vehicle in this state, including any driver's license issued to the person by the Division of Motor Vehicles, until final judgment in the case and, if a judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines,

fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties imposed are paid in full. The suspension shall be imposed in accordance with the provisions of §17B-3-6 of this code.

(2) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, if a person charged with any hunting violation described in chapter 20 of this code fails to appear or otherwise respond in court, the magistrate court shall notify the Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure thereof within 15 days of the scheduled date to appear unless the person sooner appears or otherwise responds in court to the satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon notice, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to hunt in this state, including any hunting license issued to the person by the Division of Natural Resources, until final judgment in the case and, if a judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties imposed are paid in full.

(3) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, if a person charged with any fishing violation described in chapter 20 of this code fails to appear or otherwise respond in court, the magistrate court shall notify the Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure thereof within 15 days of the scheduled date to appear unless the person sooner appears or otherwise responds in court to the satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon notice, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to fish in this state, including any fishing license issued to the person by the Division of Natural Resources, until final judgment in the case and, if a judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties imposed are paid in full.

(k) In every criminal case which involves a misdemeanor violation, a magistrate may order restitution where appropriate when rendering judgment.

(l) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, except as authorized by this section, payments of all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties imposed by the magistrate court in civil or criminal matters shall be made in full. Partial payments of costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties made pursuant to this section shall be credited to amounts due in the following order:

(1) Regional Jail Fund;

(2) Worthless Check Payee;

(3) Restitution;

(4) Magistrate Court Fund;

(5) Worthless Check Fund;

(6) Per Diem Regional Jail Fee;

(7) Community Corrections Fund;

(8) Regional Jail Operational Fund;

(9) Law Enforcement Training Fund;

(10) Crime Victims Compensation Fund;

(11) Court Security Fund;

(12) Courthouse Improvement Fund;

(13) Litter Control Fund;

(14) Sheriff arrest fee;

(15) Teen Court Fund;

(16) Other costs, if any;

(17) Fine.

CHAPTER 62. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

ARTICLE 4. RECOVERY OF FINES IN CRIMINAL CASES.

§62-4-17. Suspension of licenses for failure to appear in court; payment plan; failure to pay fines will result in late fee and judgment lien.

(a) Upon request and subject to the following requirements, the circuit clerk shall establish a payment plan for a person owing costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties imposed by the court, so long as the person signs and files with the clerk, an affidavit, stating that he or she is financially unable to pay the costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties imposed:

(1) A $25 administrative processing fee shall be paid at the time the payment form is filed or, in the alternative, the fee may be paid in no more than 5 equal monthly payments;

(2) Unless incarcerated, a person must enroll in a payment plan no later than 180 calendar days after the date the court enters the order assessing the costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties; and

(3) If the person is incarcerated, he or she enroll in a payment plan within 180 calendar days after release.

(b) The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals shall develop a uniform payment plan form and financial affidavit for requests for the establishment of payment plan pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The forms shall be made available for distribution to the offices of circuit clerks and circuit clerks shall use the payment plan form and affidavit form developed by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals when establishing payment plans.

(c)(1) The payment plan shall specify: (A) The number of payments to be made; (B) The dates on which such payments are due; (C) The amount due for each payment;

28 (D) All acceptable payment methods; and (E) The
29 circumstances under which the person may receive a late
30 fee, have a judgment lien recorded against them, or have the
31 debt sent to collections for nonpayment.

32 (2) The monthly payment under the payment plan shall
33 be calculated based upon all costs, fines, forfeitures, or
34 penalties owed within the court, and shall be two percent of
35 the person's annual net income divided by 12, or $10,
36 whichever is greater.

37 (3) The court may review the reasonableness of the
38 payment plan, and may on its own motion or by petition,
39 waive, modify, or convert the outstanding costs, fines,
40 forfeitures, or penalties to community service if the court
41 determines that the individual has had a change in
42 circumstances and is unable to comply with the terms of the
43 payment plan.

44 (d) (1) The clerk may assess a $10 late fee each month
45 if a person fails to comply with the terms of a payment plan,
46 and if any payment due is not received within 30 days after
47 the due date, and the person:

48 (A) Is not incarcerated;

49 (B) Has not brought the account current;

50 (C) Has not made alternative payment arrangements
51 with the court; or

52 (D) Has not entered into a revised payment plan with the
53 clerk before the due date.

54 (2) If, after 90 days, a payment has not been received,
55 the clerk may do one or both of the following (A) Record a
56 judgment lien as described in subsection (f) of this section,
57 or (B) Consign the delinquent costs, fines, forfeitures, or
58 penalties to a debt collection agency contained on the State
59 Tax Commissioner's list of eligible debt collection agencies
60 established and maintained pursuant to §14-1-18c of this

code, an internal collection division, or both: *Provided*, That the entire amount of all delinquent payments collected shall be remitted to the court and may not be reduced by any collection costs or fees: *Provided, however*, That the collection fee may not exceed 25 percent of the delinquent payment amount. The clerk may send notices, electronically or by U.S. mail, to remind the person of an upcoming or missed payment.

(e)(1) If after 180 days of a judgment a person fails to enroll in a payment plan and fails to pay his or her costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties, the clerk may assess a $10 late fee and shall notify the person of the following:

(A) That he or she is 180 days past due in the payment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties imposed pursuant to a judgment of the court;

(B) That he or she has failed to enroll in a payment plan;

(C) Whether a $10 late fee has been assessed; and

(D) That he or she may be the subject of a judgment lien or have his or her debt sent to a collection agency if the overdue payment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties is not resolved within 30 days of the date of the notice issued pursuant to this subsection.

(2) If after 30 days from the issuance of a notice pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection, a payment has not been received, the clerk may do one or both of the following:

(A) Record a judgment lien as described in subsection (f) of this section; or

(B) Consign the delinquent costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties to a debt collection agency contained on the State Tax Commissioner's list of eligible debt collection agencies established and maintained pursuant to §14-1-18c of this code, an internal collection division, or both: *Provided*, That

the entire amount of all delinquent payments collected shall be remitted to the court and may not be reduced by any collection costs or fees: *Provided, however*, That the collection fee may not exceed 25 percent of the delinquent payment amount.

(f) To record a judgment lien, the clerk shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the county of nonpayment and shall provide the prosecuting attorney with an abstract of judgment. The prosecuting attorney shall file the abstract of judgment in the office of the clerk of the county commission in the county where the defendant was convicted and in any county wherein the defendant resides or owns property. The clerk of the county commission shall record and index these abstracts of judgment without charge or fee to the prosecuting attorney, and when recorded, the amount stated to be owed in the abstract constitutes a lien against all property of the defendant: *Provided*, That when all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties for which an abstract of judgment has been recorded are paid in full, the clerk of the municipal court shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the county of payment and provide the prosecuting attorney with a release of judgment, prepared in accordance with the provisions of §38-12-1 of this code, for filing and recordation pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision. Upon receipt from the clerk, the prosecuting attorney shall file the release of judgment in the office of the clerk of the county commission in each county where an abstract of the judgment was recorded. The clerk of the county commission shall record and index the release of judgment without charge or fee to the prosecuting attorney.

(g) A person whose driver's license was suspended prior to July 1, 2020, solely for the nonpayment of costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties, if otherwise eligible, shall have his or her license reinstated:

(1) Upon payment in full of all outstanding costs, fines, forfeitures, or penalties and a $25 reinstatement fee paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles; or

(2) Upon establishing a payment plan pursuant to subsection (a) and the payment of a $25 administrative fee. The clerk shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles that a payment plan is in effect, and upon receipt of the notification, the division shall waive the reinstatement fee.

(h) If a person charged with a criminal offense fails to appear or otherwise respond in court after having received notice to do so, the court shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles thereof within 15 days of the scheduled date to appear unless such person sooner appears or otherwise responds in court to the satisfaction of the court. Upon such notice, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the person's driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state until such time that the person appears as required.

CHAPTER 228

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 470 - By Senators Cline, Hamilton, Pitsenbarger, Sypolt, Roberts and Azinger)

[Passed February 11, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on February 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-5g of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the use of a crossbow to hunt; decreasing length of crossbow bolt; and specifying measurement method.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-5g. Use of a crossbow to hunt.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, any person lawfully entitled to hunt may hunt

with a crossbow during big game firearms season. A person who possesses a valid Class Y permit may also hunt with a crossbow in accordance with §20-2-42w of this code. Further, the director shall designate a separate season for crossbow hunting and identify which species of wildlife may be hunted with a crossbow.

(b) Only crossbows meeting all of the following specifications may be used for hunting in West Virginia:

(1) The crossbow has a minimum draw weight of 125 pounds;

(2) The crossbow has a working safety; and

(3) The crossbow is used with bolts and arrows not less than 16 inches in length as measured from the leading end of the shaft, including the insert, to the trailing end of the shaft, including the nock, with a broad head having at least two sharp cutting edges, measuring at least three fourths of an inch in width.

CHAPTER 229

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 487 - By Senators Sypolt, Hamilton, Azinger and Rucker)

[Passed February 11, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on February 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-1-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to additional powers, duties, and services of Director of Division of Natural Resources; and creating exception to requirement that Division of Natural Resources payments be deposited in bank within 24 hours.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION.

*§20-1-7. Additional powers, duties, and services of director.

In addition to all other powers, duties, and responsibilities granted and assigned to the director in this chapter and elsewhere by law, the director may:

(1) With the advice of the commission, prepare and administer, through the various divisions created by this chapter, a long-range comprehensive program for the conservation of the natural resources of the state which best effectuates the purpose of this chapter and which makes adequate provisions for the natural resources laws of the state;

(2) Sign and execute in the name of the state by the Division of Natural Resources any contract or agreement with the federal government or its departments or agencies, subdivisions of the state, corporations, associations, partnerships, or individuals: *Provided*, That intergovernmental cooperative agreements and agreements with nongovernmental organizations in furtherance of providing a comprehensive program for the exploration, conservation, development, protection, enjoyment, and use of the natural resources of the state are exempt from the provisions of §5A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided, however*, That repair, renovation, and rehabilitation of existing facilities, buildings, amenities, and infrastructure necessary to protect public health or safety or to provide uninterrupted enjoyment and public use of state parks, state forests, wildlife management areas, and state natural areas under the jurisdiction of the Division of Natural Resources are exempt from the provisions of §5A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. Nothing in this section authorizes new construction of buildings and new construction of recreational facilities as defined in §20-5-4 of this code without complying with the provisions of §5A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code;

***NOTE:** This section was also amended by S. B. 586 (Chapter 158), which passed subsequent to this act.

(3) Conduct research in improved conservation methods and disseminate information matters to the residents of the state;

(4) Conduct a continuous study and investigation of the habits of wildlife and, for purposes of control and protection, to classify by regulation the various species into such categories as may be established as necessary;

(5) Prescribe the locality in which the manner and method by which the various species of wildlife may be taken, or chased, unless otherwise specified by this chapter;

(6) Hold at least six meetings each year at such time and at such points within the state as, in the discretion of the Natural Resources Commission, may appear to be necessary and proper for the purpose of giving interested persons in the various sections of the state an opportunity to be heard concerning open season for their respective areas, and report the results of the meetings to the Natural Resources Commission before the season and bag limits are fixed by it;

(7) Suspend open hunting season upon any or all wildlife in any or all counties of the state with the prior approval of the Governor in case of an emergency such as a drought, forest fire hazard, or epizootic disease among wildlife. The suspension shall continue during the existence of the emergency and until rescinded by the director. Suspension, or reopening after such suspension, of open seasons may be made upon 24 hours' notice by delivery of a copy of the order of suspension or reopening to the wire press agencies at the State Capitol;

(8) Supervise the fiscal affairs and responsibilities of the division;

(9) Designate such localities as he or she shall determine to be necessary and desirable for the perpetuation of any species of wildlife;

(10) Enter private lands to make surveys or inspections for conservation purposes, to investigate for violations of provisions of this chapter, to serve and execute warrants and processes, to make arrests, and to otherwise effectively enforce the provisions of this chapter;

(11) Acquire for the state in the name of the Division of Natural Resources by purchase, condemnation, lease or agreement, or accept or reject for the state, in the name of the Division of Natural Resources, gifts, donations, contributions, bequests, or devises of money, security, or property, both real and personal, and any interest in such property, including lands and waters, which he or she deems suitable for the following purposes:

(A) For state forests for the purpose of growing timber, demonstrating forestry, furnishing or protecting watersheds, or providing public recreation;

(B) For state parks or recreation areas for the purpose of preserving scenic, aesthetic, scientific, cultural, archaeological, or historical values or natural wonders, or providing public recreation;

(C) For public hunting, trapping, or fishing grounds or waters for the purpose of providing areas in which the public may hunt, trap, or fish, as permitted by the provisions of this chapter and the rules issued hereunder;

(D) For fish hatcheries, game farms, wildlife research areas, and feeding stations;

(E) For the extension and consolidation of lands or waters suitable for the above purposes by exchange of other lands or waters under his or her supervision;

(F) For such other purposes as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

(12) Capture, propagate, transport, sell, or exchange any species of wildlife as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this chapter;

(13) Sell timber for not less than the value thereof, as appraised by a qualified appraiser appointed by the director, from all lands under the jurisdiction and control of the director, except those lands that are designated as state parks and those in the Kanawha State Forest. The appraisal shall be made within a reasonable time prior to any sale, reduced to writing, filed in the office of the director and shall be available for public inspection. The director must obtain the written permission of the Governor to sell timber when the appraised value is more than $5,000. The director shall receive sealed bids therefor, after notice by publication as a Class II legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area for the publication shall be each county in which the timber is located. The timber so advertised shall be sold at not less than the appraised value to the highest responsible bidder, who shall give bond for the proper performance of the sales contract as the director shall designate; but the director may reject any and all bids and readvertise for bids. If the foregoing provisions of this section have been complied with and no bid equal to or in excess of the appraised value of the timber is received, the director may, at any time, during a period of six months after the opening of the bids, sell the timber in such manner as he or she deems appropriate, but the sale price may not be less than the appraised value of the timber advertised. No contract for sale of timber made pursuant to this section may extend for a period of more than 10 years. And all contracts heretofore entered into by the state for the sale of timber may not be validated by this section if a contract is otherwise invalid. The proceeds arising from the sale of the timber so sold shall be paid to the Treasurer of the State of West Virginia and shall be credited to the division and used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter: *Provided*, That nothing contained herein may prohibit the sale of timber which otherwise

would be removed from rights-of-way necessary for and strictly incidental to the extraction of minerals;

(14) Sell or lease, with the approval in writing of the Governor, coal, oil, gas, sand, gravel, and any other minerals that may be found in the lands under the jurisdiction and control of the director, except those lands that are designated as state parks. The director, before making sale or lease thereof, shall receive sealed bids therefor, after notice by publication as a Class II legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, and the publication area for such publication shall be each county in which such lands are located. The minerals so advertised shall be sold or leased to the highest responsible bidder, who shall give bond for the proper performance of the sales contract or lease as the director shall designate; but the director may reject any and all bids and readvertise for bids. The proceeds arising from any such sale or lease shall be paid to the Treasurer of the State of West Virginia and shall be credited to the division and used exclusively for the purposes of this chapter;

(15) Exercise the powers granted by this chapter for the protection of forests and regulate fires and smoking in the woods or in their proximity at such times and in such localities as may be necessary to reduce the danger of forest fires;

(16) Cooperate with departments and agencies of state, local, and federal governments in the conservation of natural resources and the beautification of the state;

(17) Report to the Governor each year all information relative to the operation and functions of the division, and the director shall make such other reports and recommendations as may be required by the Governor, including an annual financial report covering all receipts and disbursements of the division for each fiscal year, and he or she shall deliver the report to the Governor on or before December 1 next after the end of the fiscal year so

covered. A copy of the report shall be delivered to each house of the Legislature when convened in January next following;

(18) Keep a complete and accurate record of all proceedings, record and file all bonds and contracts taken or entered into, and assume responsibility for the custody and preservation of all papers and documents pertaining to his or her office, except as otherwise provided by law;

(19) Offer and pay, in his or her discretion, rewards for information respecting the violation, or for the apprehension and conviction of any violators, of any of the provisions of this chapter;

(20) Require such reports as he or she may determine to be necessary from any person issued a license or permit under the provisions of this chapter, but no person may be required to disclose secret processes or confidential data of competitive significance;

(21) Purchase as provided by law all equipment necessary for the conduct of the division;

(22) Conduct and encourage research designed to further new and more extensive uses of the natural resources of this state and to publicize the findings of the research;

(23) Encourage and cooperate with other public and private organizations or groups in their efforts to publicize the attractions of the state, including completing the feasibility study for the Beech Fork State Park Lodge as follows:

(A) The director shall convene, prior to October 1, 2019, two public hearings:

(i) An initial public hearing shall be for the purpose of seeking public input regarding options for the construction of a lodge and a conference center, including all available

public, private, or public-private partnership (PPP) funding and financing options; and

(ii) A subsequent public hearing at which the feasibility study and any recommendation shall be available for public comment;

(B) The public hearings required by this subdivision must be held in a suitable location reasonably close to Beech Fork State Park so as to accommodate public participation from the citizens of Cabell, Lincoln, and Wayne counties; and

(C) Upon completion of the feasibility study, it shall be submitted by the director to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance on or before December 1, 2019;

(24) Accept and expend, without the necessity of appropriation by the Legislature, any gift or grant of money made to the division for all purposes specified in this chapter, and he or she shall account for and report on all such receipts and expenditures to the Governor;

(25) Cooperate with the state historian and other appropriate state agencies in conducting research with reference to the establishment of state parks and monuments of historic, scenic, and recreational value, and to take such steps as may be necessary in establishing the monuments or parks as he or she deems advisable;

(26) Maintain in his or her office at all times, properly indexed by subject matter and also in chronological sequence, all rules made or issued under the authority of this chapter. The records shall be available for public inspection on all business days during the business hours of working days;

(27) Delegate the powers and duties of his or her office, except the power to execute contracts not related to land and stream management, to appointees and employees of the division, who shall act under the direction and supervision

of the director and for whose acts he or she shall be responsible;

(28) Conduct schools, institutions, and other educational programs, apart from or in cooperation with other governmental agencies, for instruction and training in all phases of the natural resources programs of the state;

(29) Authorize the payment of all or any part of the reasonable expenses incurred by an employee of the division in moving his or her household furniture and effects as a result of a reassignment of the employee: *Provided*, That no part of the moving expenses of any one such employee may be paid more frequently than once in 12 months;

(30) Establish procedures and fee schedules for individuals applying for limited permit hunts;

(31) Exempt designated sections within the Division of Natural Resources from the requirement that all payments must be deposited in a bank within 24 hours for amounts less than $500, notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary: *Provided*, That such designated sections shall make a deposit in any amount no less than every seven working days; and

(32) Promulgate rules, in accordance with the provisions of §29A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code, to implement and make effective the powers and duties vested in him or her by the provisions of this chapter and take such other steps as may be necessary in his or her discretion for the proper and effective enforcement of the provisions of this chapter.

CHAPTER 230

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 500 - By Senators Hamilton, Pitsenbarger, Sypolt and Cline)

[Passed February 12, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on February 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-42w of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to Class Y special crossbow hunting permit application requirements; removing requirement for applicant to provide written release authorizing examination of all medical records regarding qualifying disability; and removing language that completed permit form constitutes Class Y permit.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-42w. Class Y special crossbow hunting permit for certain disabled persons.

(a) A Class Y permit is a special statewide hunting permit entitling a person to hunt all wildlife during established archery and firearm seasons if the person meets the following requirements:

(1) He or she holds a Class Q permit; or

(2) He or she has a permanent and substantial loss of function in one or both hands while failing to meet the minimum standards of the upper extremity pinch, grip, and nine-hole peg tests administered under the direction of a licensed physician; or

(3) He or she has a permanent and substantial loss of function in one or both shoulders while failing to meet the minimum standards of the shoulder strength test administered under the direction of a licensed physician.

(b) The application form shall include a written statement or report prepared by the physician conducting the test no more than six months preceding the application and verifying that the applicant is physically disabled as described in this section. The completed Class Y permit application shall be submitted to the division, which shall issue a wallet-sized card to the permittee. The card and all other documents and identification required to be carried by this article shall be in the permittee's possession when hunting.

(c) A Class Y permit shall be accompanied by a valid statewide hunting license or the applicant shall be exempt from hunting licenses as provided in this chapter.

CHAPTER 231

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 501 - By Senators Hamilton, Pitsenbarger, Sypolt, Prezioso, Baldwin, Woelfel, Jeffries and Stollings)

[Passed February 12, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on February 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-5-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to purposes and duties of Section of Parks and Recreation of Division of Natural Resources; clarifying location of Greenbrier River Trail; clarifying location of North Bend Rail Trail; and adding protection, operation, and maintenance of Elk River Trail as duty of Section of Parks and Recreation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. PARKS AND RECREATION.

§20-5-3. Section of Parks and Recreation; purpose; powers and duties generally.

The purposes of the Section of Parks and Recreation shall be to promote conservation by preserving and protecting natural areas of unique or exceptional scenic, scientific, cultural, archaeological, or historic significance, and to provide outdoor recreational opportunities for the citizens of this state and its visitors. The Section of Parks and Recreation has within its jurisdiction and supervision:

(a) All state parks and recreation areas, including all lodges, cabins, swimming pools, motorboating, and all other recreational facilities therein, except the roads heretofore transferred pursuant to §17-4-1 *et seq.* of this code to the state road system and to the responsibility of the Commissioner of Highways with respect to the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of the roads or any future roads for public usage on publicly owned lands for future state parks, state forests, and public hunting and fishing areas;

(b) The authority and responsibility to do the necessary cutting and planting of vegetation along road rights-of-way in state parks and recreational areas;

(c) The administration of all laws and regulations relating to the establishment, development, protection, and use and enjoyment of all state parks and state recreational facilities consistent with the provisions of this article;

(d) The continued operation and maintenance of the Berkeley Springs Historical State Park in Morgan County, as a state recreational facility, designated the Berkeley Springs Sanitarium under prior enactment of this code;

(e) The continued operation and maintenance of that portion of Washington Carver Camp in Fayette County, formerly incorporated within the boundaries of Babcock State Park;

(f) The continued operation and maintenance of Camp Creek State Park as a state recreational facility, formerly delineated according to §19-1A-3 of this code;

(g) The continued operation and maintenance of Moncove Lake State Park as a state recreational facility, formerly delineated pursuant to enactment of §5B-1-13 of this code in 1990;

(h) The continued protection, operation, and maintenance of the right-of-way along the former Greenbrier subdivision of the CSX railway system, collectively designated as the Greenbrier River Trail, including the protection of the trail from motorized vehicular traffic and operation for the protection of adjacent public and private property;

(i) The continued protection, operation, and maintenance of the right-of-way of the CSX railway system designated as the North Bend Rail Trail, including the protection of the trail from motorized vehicular traffic and operation for the protection of adjacent public and private property;

(j) The continued development, operation, and maintenance of Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park, including all the property, powers, and authority previously held by the Blennerhassett Island Historical State Park Commission, formerly delineated pursuant to §29-8-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(k) The continued protection, operation, and maintenance of the rights-of-way of the Elk River Coal & Lumber Railroad, the Buffalo Creek & Gauley Railroad, and the Middle Creek Spur, collectively designated as the

Elk River Trail, including the protection of the trail from motorized vehicular traffic and operation for the protection of adjacent public and private property.

CHAPTER 232

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 517 - By Senators Hamilton, Prezioso, Stollings and Lindsay)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §20-5A-1 and §20-5A-2, all relating to State Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund; establishing fund; providing for deposits; providing terms for expenditures; requiring investment of fund assets; and establishing board of trustees to administer fund.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5A. STATE PARKS AND RECREATION ENDOWMENT FUND.

§20-5A-1. Establishment of fund; deposits; expenditures; investments.

(a) There is created in the office of the State Treasurer a special revenue account fund to be known as the West Virginia State Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund.

(b) The following shall be deposited into the fund:

(1) The royalties received from the leasing of state-owned gas, oil, and other mineral rights beneath the Ohio River and its tributaries; and

(2) The proceeds of any gifts, grants, contributions, or other moneys accruing to the state which are specifically designated for inclusion in the fund.

(c) Expenditures from the fund shall be for the purposes set forth in this section and are to be made in accordance with appropriation of the Legislature under the provisions of §12-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, and in compliance with the provisions of §11B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That income accruing from investments of the fund pursuant to this article shall be distributed or expended for either of the following purposes:

(1) Maintenance, repair, and improvement of any existing recreational facilities, including any supporting or related infrastructure and associated recreational features, all to provide uninterrupted enjoyment and public use of state parks, state forests, and state rail trails.

(2) Maintenance, repair, and procurement of any fixture, furnishing, and equipment necessary to provide uninterrupted enjoyment and public use of state parks, state forests, and state rail trails.

(d) The board of trustees established pursuant to this article shall invest the assets of the fund consistent with the provisions of §12-6-1 of this code. The board may accumulate investment income of the fund within the fund until the income, in the sole judgment of the board, can provide a significant supplement to the budget of the Division of Natural Resources. After that time, the board may direct expenditures from the income for the purposes set forth in this section.

§20-5A-2. Board of trustees.

(a) A board of trustees is hereby created to administer the State Parks and Recreation Endowment Fund.

(b) The board shall be composed of the Director of the Division of Natural Resources, serving as chair, the Chief

of the Parks and Recreation Section of the Division of Natural Resources, the executive secretary of the division, the division fiscal officer, and the President of the West Virginia State Parks Foundation, who shall serve as voting ex officio members, and six voting members to be appointed by the Governor. Two of the appointed members shall be state park superintendents and four of the appointed members shall be selected from citizen membership of state park associations that represent a lodge state park, a cabin state park, a day-use state park, a state forest, or a state rail trail under the jurisdiction of the division: *Provided,* That to the extent possible, the Governor shall appoint the citizen members to ensure an equal geographic representation throughout the state and their terms shall be staggered from July 1, 2020. Of the citizen members first appointed, two citizen members shall be appointed for a term of three years; and two citizen members shall be appointed for a term of four years. Successors to appointed citizen members whose terms expire shall be appointed for terms of four years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term. An appointed citizen member may not serve for more than two successive terms. Appointment to fill a vacancy may not be considered as one of two terms.

CHAPTER 233

(H. B. 4381 - By Delegates J. Jeffries, Bibby, Hanna, Hardy, Cooper, Fast, Steele, Summers, Sypolt, Maynard and Kessinger)

[Passed February 17, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2B-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to lifetime hunting,

fishing, and trapping licenses for adopted children; and providing for resident children who have been legally adopted and have not yet reached their 12th birthday to obtain their lifetime hunting, fishing, and trapping license for one half of the adult fee for a period of two years from the date of entry of the order or decree of adoption.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2B. WILDLIFE ENDOWMENT FUND.

§20-2B-7. Lifetime hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses created.

(a) Pursuant to §20-2B-3 of this code, the director may issue the following lifetime hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses and for the lifetime of the licensee, the lifetime licenses serve in lieu of the equivalent annual license: Lifetime resident statewide hunting and trapping license; lifetime resident combination statewide hunting, fishing, and trapping license; lifetime statewide fishing license; and lifetime resident trout fishing license.

(b) The director shall propose a rule for legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.*, of this code, setting the fees for the lifetime licenses. The rule shall provide that the fee for any resident who has not reached his or her second birthday shall be one half of the adult fee set under the rule. The rule shall also provide that the fee for any resident who has not reached his or her 12th birthday and has been legally adopted, shall be provided with a period of two years from the date of entry of the order or decree of adoption to obtain his or her lifetime license at one half of the adult fee set under the rule. The fees for lifetime licenses shall be 23 times the fee for the equivalent annual licenses or stamps.

CHAPTER 234

(H. B. 4499 - By Delegates Hansen, Howell, C. Martin and Pyles)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-17-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §20-17A-2 and §20-17A-3 of said code, all relating to trail network authorities; eliminating the permit requirement for multicounty trail networks; continuing the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority; expanding counties in the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority; and expanding permitted recreational activities in the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Area.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 17. MULTICOUNTY TRAIL NETWORK AUTHORITIES.

§20-17-7. Requirements for trail users and prohibited acts; criminal penalties.

(a) An authority may require recreational users to wear protective helmets or use safety equipment that the authority determines to be appropriate for the recreational activity in which the user is engaged.

(b) Each trail user operating a bicycle or mountain bicycle shall obey all traffic laws, traffic-control devices, and signs within the recreational area, including those which restrict trails to certain types of bicycles or mountain bicycles.

(c) Each trail user shall at all times remain within and on a designated and marked trail while within the recreational area.

(d) A person may not ignite or maintain any fire within the recreational area except in a designated camp site.

(e) A person may not operate a motor vehicle within the recreational area unless the person is authorized to operate a motor vehicle in the area to perform maintenance services or emergency response.

(f) A person who violates any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $100. Prosecution or conviction for the misdemeanor described in this subsection shall not prevent or disqualify any other civil or criminal remedies for the conduct prohibited by this section.

ARTICLE 17A. MOUNTAINEER TRAIL NETWORK RECREATION AUTHORITY.

§20-17A-2. Continuation of Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority and establishment of recreation area.

(a) There is hereby continued the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority consisting of representatives from the counties of Barbour, Doddridge, Grant, Harrison, Lewis, Marion, Mineral, Monongalia, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Taylor, Tucker, Upshur, and Wood organized pursuant to the provisions of §20-17-1 *et seq.* of this code. This authority is authorized to establish a Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Area within the jurisdictions of those counties and the authority shall be subject to the powers, duties, immunities, and restrictions provided in §20-17-1 *et seq.* of this code. Visitors and participants in recreational activities within the trail network shall, in similar respects, be subject to the user requirements and prohibitions of §20-17-7 of this code.

(b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, an adjacent county may join the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority pursuant to the procedures set forth in §20-17-3(b) of this code.

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Authority may merge with another multicounty trail network authority, pursuant to the procedures set forth in §20-17-3(c) of this code.

§20-17A-3. Recreational purposes.

The permitted recreational purposes for the Mountaineer Trail Network Recreation Area include, but are not limited to, any one or any combination of the following recreational activities: Hunting, fishing, swimming, boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, bicycling, mountain bicycling, running, cross-country running, nature study, winter sports and visiting, viewing or enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites.

CHAPTER 235

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4513 - By Delegates Atkinson, Anderson, Tomblin, Westfall, Cadle, Dean and Porterfield)

[Passed February 29, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-5a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the replacement costs required of a person causing injury or death of game or protected species; providing additional replacement costs for antlered deer; and requiring revocation of hunting and fishing licenses for conviction of described offenses.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-5a. Forfeiture by person causing injury or death of game or protected species of animal; additional replacement costs for antlered deer; forfeiture procedures and costs.

(a) Any person who is convicted of violating a criminal law of this state that results in the injury or death of game, as defined in §20-1-2 of this code, or a protected species of animal, in addition to any other penalty to which he or she is subject, shall forfeit the replacement cost of the game or protected species of animal to the state as follows:

(1) For each game fish or each fish of a protected species taken illegally other than by pollution kill, $20 for each pound and any fraction thereof: *Provided*, That for each native brook trout that exceeds the creel limit, $100 each for the first five illegally taken and $20 for each thereafter;

(2) For each bear, $1,000;

(3) For each deer, $500;

(4) For each wild turkey, $250;

(5) For each beaver, otter or mink, $100;

(6) For each muskrat, raccoon, skunk, or fox, $15;

(7) For each rabbit, squirrel, opossum, duck, quail, woodcock, grouse, or pheasant, $10;

(8) For each wild boar, $500;

(9) For each bald eagle, $5,000;

(10) For each golden eagle, $5,000;

(11) For each elk, $10,000;

(12) For each raven, hawk, or owl $200; and

(13) For any other game or protected species of animal, $100.

(b) In addition to the replacement value for deer in subdivision (3), subsection (a) of this section, the following replacement cost shall also be forfeited to the state by any person who is convicted of violating any criminal law of this state and the violation causes the injury or death of antlered deer:

(1) For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams of the antlers measured at the widest point equals 14 inches or greater but less than 16 inches, $2,500;

(2) For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams of the antlers measured at the widest point equals 16 inches or greater but less than 18 inches, $5,000;

(3) For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams of the antlers measured at the widest point equals 18 inches or greater but less than 20 inches, $7,500; and

(4) For any deer in which the inside spread of the main beams of the antlers measured at the widest point equals 20 inches or greater, $10,000.

(5) Any person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of any criminal law of this state which violation causes the injury or death of antlered deer is subject to double the authorized range of replacement cost to be forfeited.

(c) Upon conviction, the court shall order the person to forfeit to the state the amount set forth in this section for the injury or death of the game or protected species of animal. If two or more defendants are convicted for the same violation causing the injury or death of game or protected species of animal, the replacement costs shall be paid by each person in an equal amount. The replacement costs shall

be paid by the person so convicted within the time prescribed by the court not to exceed 60 days. In each instance, the court shall pay the replacement costs to the Division of Natural Resources to be deposited into the License Fund-Wildlife Resources and used only for the replacement, habitat management or enforcement programs for injured or killed game or protected species of animal.

(d) Any person convicted of an offense described in subsection (a) of this section and subject to the replacement cost provisions of subsection (b) or subdivision (a)(11) of this section shall also be subject to a revocation of hunting and fishing license for a period of five years pursuant to §20-2-38 of this code and such person shall not be issued any other hunting license for a period of five years.

CHAPTER 236

(H. B. 4514 - By Delegates Atkinson, Anderson, Cadle, Westfall, Tomblin, Porterfield and Hott) [By Request of the Division of Natural Resources, Department of Commerce]

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section designated §20-2-5j; and to amend and reenact §20-2-16 and §20-2-22a of said code, all relating to hunting; permitting the use of leashed dogs to track mortally wounded deer or bear; amending protocol for possession by natural resources police officers of dogs known to have unlawfully hunted or chased deer; and excepting the use of leashed dogs to track mortally wounded deer or bear from statutory prohibition on commercial bear hunts.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-5j. Leashed dogs for tracking mortally wounded deer or bear.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, a person who is legally hunting and reasonably believes he or she has mortally wounded a deer or bear may use leashed dogs to track and locate the mortally wounded deer or bear. The hunter is also permitted to use a dog handler of leashed dogs to track and locate the mortally wounded deer or bear. The hunter or the dog handler shall maintain physical control of the leashed dogs at all times.

(b) The act of tracking a mortally wounded deer or bear with a dog is hunting and the hunter and handler are subject to all applicable laws and rules. It is unlawful for a hunter or dog handler to track deer or bear with leashed dogs under the provisions of this section unless he or she is in possession of a valid hunting license issued pursuant to this article or is a person excepted from licensing requirements pursuant to this article, and all other lawful authorizations as prescribed in this article. The hunter shall accompany the dog handler and only the hunter may kill a mortally wounded deer or bear. The deer or bear shall count toward the bag limit of the hunter.

(c) Any dog handler providing tracking services for profit must be licensed as an outfitter or guide pursuant to §20-2-23 of this code.

§20-2-16. Dogs chasing deer.

Except as provided in §20-2-5j of this code, no person may permit or use his or her dog to hunt or chase deer. A natural resources police officer shall take into possession any dog known to have unlawfully hunted or chased deer. If the owner of the dog can be determined, the dog shall be returned to the owner. If the owner of the dog cannot be determined, the natural resources police officer shall deliver

the dog to the appropriate county humane officer or facility consistent with the provisions of this code.

§20-2-22a. Hunting, tagging and reporting bear; procedures applicable to property destruction by bear; penalties.

(a) A person may not hunt, capture, or kill any bear, or have in his or her possession any bear or bear parts, except during the hunting season for bear in the manner designated by rule or law. For the purposes of this section, bear parts include, but are not limited to, the pelt, gallbladder, skull and claws of bear.

(b) A person who kills a bear shall, within twenty-four hours after the killing, electronically register the bear. A game tag number shall be issued to the person and recorded in writing with the person's name and address, or on a field tag and shall remain on the skin until it is tanned or mounted. Any bear or bear parts not properly tagged shall be forfeited to the state for disposal to a charitable institution, school or as otherwise designated by the director.

(c) Training dogs on bears or pursuing bears with dogs is the hunting of bear for all purposes of this chapter, including all applicable regulations and license requirements.

(d) It is unlawful:

(1) To hunt bear without a bear damage stamp, as prescribed in section forty-four-b of this article, in addition to a hunting license as prescribed in this article;

(2) To hunt a bear with:

(A) A shotgun using ammunition loaded with more than one solid ball; or

(B) A rifle of less than twenty-five caliber using rimfire ammunition;

(3) To kill or attempt to kill, or wound or attempt to wound, any bear through the use of bait, poison, explosives, traps or deadfalls or to feed bears at any time. For purposes of this section, bait includes, but is not limited to, corn and other grains, animal carcasses or animal remains, grease, sugars in any form, scent attractants and other edible enticements, and an area is considered baited for ten days after all bait has been removed;

(4) To shoot at or kill:

(A) A bear weighing less than seventy-five pounds live weight or fifty pounds field dressed weight, after removal of all internal organs;

(B) Any bear accompanied by a cub; or

(C) Any bear cub so accompanied, regardless of its weight;

(5) To transport or possess any part of a bear not tagged in accordance with the provisions of this section;

(6) To possess, harvest, sell or purchase bear parts obtained from bear killed in violation of this section; or

(7) Except as provided in §20-2-5j of this code, to organize for commercial purposes or to professionally outfit a bear hunt, or to give or receive any consideration whatsoever or any donation in money, goods or services in connection with a bear hunt, notwithstanding the provisions of sections twenty-three and twenty-four of this article.

(e) The following provisions apply to bear damaging or destroying property:

(1)(A) Any property owner or lessee who has suffered damage to real or personal property, including loss occasioned by the death or injury of livestock or the unborn issue of livestock, caused by an act of a bear may complain

to any natural resources police officer of the division for protection against the bear.

(B) Upon receipt of the complaint, the officer shall immediately investigate the circumstances of the complaint. If the officer is unable to personally investigate the complaint, he or she shall designate a wildlife biologist to investigate on his or her behalf.

(C) If the complaint is found to be justified, the officer or designated wildlife biologist may issue a permit to kill the bear that caused the property damage or may authorize the owner and other residents to proceed to hunt, destroy or capture the bear that caused the property damage: *Provided*, That only the natural resources police officer or the wildlife biologist may recommend other measures to end or minimize property damage: *Provided, however*, That, if out-of-state dogs are used in the hunt, the owners of the dogs are the only nonresidents permitted to participate in hunting the bear.

(2)(A) When a property owner has suffered damage to real or personal property as the result of an act by a bear, the owner shall file a report with the director of the division. A bear damage report shall be completed by a representative of the division and shall state whether or not the bear was hunted and destroyed or killed under authorization of a depredation permit and, if so, the sex and weight shall be recorded and a premolar tooth collected from the bear, all of which shall be submitted with the report. The report shall also include an appraisal of the property damage occasioned by the bear fixing the value of the property lost. Bear damage claims will not be accepted for personal and real property which is commonly used for the purposes of feeding, baiting, observing or hunting wildlife, including, but not limited to, hunting blinds, tree stands, artificial feeders, game or trail cameras and crops planted for the purposes of feeding or baiting wildlife.

(B) The report shall be ruled upon and the alleged damages examined by a commission comprised of the complaining property owner, an officer of the division and a person to be jointly selected by the officer and the complaining property owner.

(C) The division shall establish the procedures to be followed in presenting and deciding claims, issuing bear depredation permits and organizing bear hunts under this section in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(D) All claims shall be paid in the first instance from the Bear Damage Fund provided in section forty-four-b of this article: *Provided*, That the claimant shall submit accurate information as to whether he or she is insured for the damages caused by the acts of bear on forms prescribed by the director, and all damage claims shall first be made by the claimant against any insurance policies before payment may be approved from the Bear Damage Fund. Claims for an award of compensation from the Bear Damage Fund shall be reduced or denied in the amount the claimant is actually reimbursed by insurance for the economic loss upon which the claim is based. In the event the fund is insufficient to pay all claims determined by the commission to be just and proper, the remainder due to owners of lost or destroyed property shall be paid from the special revenue account of the division.

(3) In all cases where the act of the bear complained of by the property owner is the killing of livestock, the value to be established is the fair market value of the livestock at the date of death. In cases where the livestock killed is pregnant, the total value is the sum of the values of the mother and the unborn issue, with the value of the unborn issue to be determined on the basis of the fair market value of the issue had it been born.

(f) Criminal penalties. (1) Any person who commits a violation of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined

not less than $500 nor more than $1,000, which is not subject to suspension by the court, confined in jail not less than 10 nor more than 30 days, or both fined and confined. Further, the person's hunting and fishing licenses shall be assigned six points, however, the hunting and fishing licenses of any person convicted of a violation of this section which results in the killing or death of a bear shall be suspended for two years.

(2) Any person who commits a second violation of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $3,000, which is not subject to suspension by the court, confined in jail not less than 30 days nor more than 100 days, or both fined and confined. The person's hunting and fishing licenses shall be suspended for five years.

(3) Any person who commits a third or subsequent violation of the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than $2,500 nor more than $5,000, which is not subject to suspension by the court, confined in jail not less than six months nor more than one year, or both fined and confined. The person's hunting and fishing licenses shall be suspended for 10 years.

CHAPTER 237

(H. B. 4515 - By Delegates Sypolt, Hartman, Westfall, Tomblin, Anderson, Cooper, Cadle, Hott, Atkinson, Dean and D. Kelly)
[By Request of the Division of Natural Resources]

[Passed February 21, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-30 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to eligibility for license or permit application and unlawful acts when applying for a license or permit.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-30. Application and statement of eligibility for licenses or permits; procuring license or permit in violation of chapter.

(a) Each person who applies for any class of license or permit must state to the issuing agent that he or she is eligible for and has satisfied all prerequisites required by this chapter for that class of license or permit.

(b) It is unlawful for a person to make a false statement when applying for any license or permit issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter.

CHAPTER 238

(H. B. 4523 - By Delegates Summers, Paynter, Hardy, Worrell and Maynard)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §20-2-42y of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to Class AH, AHJ, AAH, AAHJ apprentice hunting and trapping licenses; and removing the limitation of number of apprentice hunting and trapping licenses a person may purchase.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia;

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-42y. Class AH, AHJ, AAH, AAHJ apprentice hunting and trapping licenses; penalties.

(a) Except for persons otherwise exempted, Class AH, AHJ, AAH, and AAHJ licenses are apprentice hunting and trapping licenses and entitle the licensee to hunt and trap for all legal species of wild animals and wild birds. The licenses shall be base licenses and entitle the licensee to a deferral of the proof of a certificate of training required under §20-2-30a of this code.

(b) The apprentice hunting and trapping licensee may not hunt or trap unless he or she is in possession of all other required documentation and stamps and is accompanied and directly supervised by an adult 18 years of age or older who either possesses a valid West Virginia hunting license or has the lawful privilege to hunt pursuant to the provisions of this chapter. For purposes of this section, "accompanied and

directly supervised" means that a person maintains a close visual and verbal contact with, provides adequate direction to, and can assume control of the firearm from the apprentice hunter.

(c) The cost of the Class AH license for residents who have reached their 18th birthday shall be $19 and shall have the same privileges associated with Class A base license. The cost of the Class AAH license for nonresidents who have reached their 18th birthday shall be $119 and shall have the same privileges associated with a Class E base license. The cost of the Class AHJ license shall be $16 for residents who have reached their 15th birthday and who have not reached their 18th birthday, and shall have the same privileges associated with Class XJ base license. The cost of the Class AAHJ license shall be $16 for nonresidents who have not reached their 18th birthday and shall have the same privileges associated with a Class XXJ base license.

(d) An apprentice hunting and trapping license is a yearly license and may only be purchased electronically in a manner designated by the director. No person who has ever had a valid base hunting license, other than a Class AH, Class AHJ, Class AAH, or Class AAHJ license, may be issued one of the apprentice hunting and trapping licenses.

(e) The director may promulgate rules in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code regulating the issuance of apprentice hunting and trapping licenses.

(f) Any person violating the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, is subject to the punishment and penalties prescribed in §20-7-9 of this code.

CHAPTER 239

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 689 - By Senators Maroney, Takubo, Palumbo, Roberts, Rucker, Stollings, Weld, Cline, Plymale, Prezioso and Woelfel)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated †§33-54-1, †§33-54-2, †§33-54-3, †§33-54-4, and †§33-54-5, all relating to enacting the Requiring Accountable Pharmaceutical Transparency, Oversight, and Reporting Act; providing a short title; providing for definitions; outlining reporting requirements for drug manufacturers and health benefit plan issuers to the Auditor; outlining the pharmaceutical data required by the Auditor; directing the Auditor to create a searchable pharmaceutical transparency website; protecting confidentiality of patient information; providing registration requirements to drug manufacturers and health benefit plan issuers; requiring reporting to the Legislature; and outlining penalties when a health benefit plan or drug manufacturer fails to submit or submits inaccurate information to the Auditor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

†ARTICLE 54. REQUIRING ACCOUNTABLE PHARMACEUTICAL TRANSPARENCY, OVERSIGHT, AND REPORTING ACT.

†§33-54-1. Short title.

1 This article shall be known and cited as the Requiring
2 Accountable Pharmaceutical Transparency, Oversight, and
3 Reporting Act.

† Redesignated

†§33-54-2. Definitions.

For the purpose of this article:

"Auditor" means the State Auditor of West Virginia, by himself or herself, or by any person appointed, designated, or approved by the State Auditor to perform the service.

"Brand-name drug" means a prescription drug approved under 21 USC §355(b) or 42 USC §262.

"Drug" or "prescription drug" refers to a brand-name, specialty, or generic prescription drug.

"Drug manufacturer" means any entity that holds the national drug code for a prescription drug and is engaged in the production, preparation, propagation, compounding, conversion, or processing of drug products; or is engaged in the packaging, repackaging, labeling, relabeling, or distribution of drug products, and is not a wholesale distributor of drugs or a retail pharmacy licensed under state law.

"Generic drug" means a prescription drug approved under 21 USC §355(j).

"Health benefit plan" means an individual, blanket, or group plan, policy, or contract for health care services issued or delivered by a health benefit plan issuer in the state.

"Health benefit plan issuer" means an entity subject to the insurance laws and rules of this state, or subject to the jurisdiction of the Insurance Commissioner, that contracts or offers to contract, or enters into an agreement to provide, deliver, arrange for, pay for, or reimburse any of the costs of health care services, including government agencies and any insurer subject to §5-16-1 *et seq.*, §33-15-1 *et seq.*, §33-16-1 *et seq.*, §33-24-1 *et seq.*, §33-25-1 *et seq.*, and §33-25A-1 *et seq.* of this code. For purposes of this article, the term "health benefit plan issuer" does not include insurers

† Redesignated

or managed care organizations with respect to their Medicaid or CHIP plans or contracts which are reviewed and approved by the Department of Health and Human Resources Bureau of Medical Services.

"Market introduction" means the month and year in which the manufacturer acquired or first marketed the drug for sale in the United States.

"National drug code" or "NDC" means the numerical code maintained by the United States Food and Drug Administration that includes the labeler code, product code, and package code.

"Specialty drug" means a prescription drug covered under Medicare Part D that exceeds the specialty tier cost threshold established by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

"Total spending" means the total of allowed amounts associated with payment for a specified drug or drug group, for all covered lives.

"Utilization management" means a set of formal techniques designed to monitor the use of, or evaluate the medical necessity, appropriateness, efficacy, or efficiency of, health care services, procedures, or settings.

"Wholesale acquisition cost" or "WAC" is the manufacturer's list price to wholesalers or direct purchasers in the United States on December 31 of the reference year, as reported in wholesale price guides or other publications of drug or biological pricing data; it does not include prompt pay or other discounts, rebates, or reductions in price. The current or proposed WAC is the amount that prompts reporting under this act. If reported by a drug group, it is the average WAC weighted by the relevant number of WAC units.

"Wholesale drug distributor" means an entity licensed by the West Virginia State Board of Pharmacy that is

engaged in the sale of generic, brand-name, or specialty drugs to persons other than a consumer or patient.

†§33-54-3. Drug manufacturer reporting requirements.

(a) Not later than January 15 of each calendar year, a drug manufacturer shall submit a report to the Auditor stating the following information for each brand-name, specialty, and generic drug manufactured by the drug manufacturer and sold in the state directly by the drug manufacturer or a wholesale drug distributor: *Provided*, That the requirements of this section only apply to:

(1) Generic, brand-name, or specialty drugs with a wholesale acquisition cost of at least $100 for a 30-day supply; and

(2) A generic, brand-name, or specialty drug manufactured by a drug manufacturer that recognizes a wholesale acquisition cost increase of 40 percent or greater over the preceding three calendar years, or 15 percent or greater in the previous calendar year.

(b) The report shall include:

(1) The name of the drug;

(2) Whether the drug is a brand-name drug or generic drug;

(3) The effective date of any change or any reportable change in the wholesale acquisition cost price;

(4) The introductory price of the prescription drug when it was approved for marketing by the United States Food and Drug Administration;

(5) The national drug code for the specific drug;

(6) Aggregate company-level research and development costs for the most recent calendar year for which final audit data is available;

† Redesignated

(7) The name and annual U.S. sales/revenue of each drug manufacturer's prescription drugs that lost patent exclusivity in the United States in the previous three calendar years; and

(8) A statement regarding the factor or factors that caused any increase in the wholesale acquisition cost.

(c) If the drug manufacturer is subject to reporting requirements established by the Securities and Exchange Commission, the quality and types of information submitted to the Auditor under this section must be consistent with the information that the drug manufacturer includes in the drug manufacturer's annual report submitted on Form 10-K to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

†§33-54-4. Health benefit plan issuer reporting requirements.

No later than March 1 of each calendar year, each health benefit plan issuer shall submit to the Auditor a report providing the following information for the immediately preceding calendar year: *Provided*, That nothing in this article should be construed as to requiring a health benefit plan issuer to disclose confidential health information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act:

(1) The names of the 25 most frequently prescribed prescription drugs across all plans;

(2) The percent increase in annual net spending for prescription drugs across all plans;

(3) The percent increase in premiums that were attributable to prescription drugs across all plans;

(4) The percentage of specialty drugs with utilization management requirements across all plans; and

(5) The premium reductions that were attributable to specialty drug utilization management.

† Redesignated

†§33-54-5. Auditor's searchable pharmaceutical transparency website created.

(a) By July 1, 2021, the Auditor shall create a searchable pharmaceutical price transparency website, containing the information specified in §33-53-3 and §33-53-4 of this code, available to the public at no cost, and presented in a consumer-friendly, searchable format.

(b) Effective July 1, 2021, the Auditor shall update the information displayed on the searchable pharmaceutical price transparency website within 30 days of receiving updated or revised information from a drug manufacturer or health benefit plan issuer.

(c) Each drug manufacturer or health benefit plan issuer shall submit to the Auditor in writing contact information for those entities or individuals employed by the health benefit plan issuer or drug manufacturer responsible for complying with reporting requirements specified in §33-53-3 of this code, and shall notify the Auditor within 30 days of any changes to this information.

(d) The Auditor shall publish the identity of any drug manufacturer or health benefit plan issuer who fails to comply with the requirements of this article or who submits false or inaccurate information to the Auditor.

(e) The Auditor shall compile a report regarding information submitted pursuant to the provisions of §33-53-4 of this code and submit this analysis to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability created pursuant to §16-29E-1 *et seq.* of this code beginning on December 30, 2022, and annually thereafter.

† Redesignated

CHAPTER 240

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 312 - By Senators Weld, Stollings, Rucker, Roberts, Plymale, Maynard, Cline, Hamilton, Jeffries, Woelfel and Palumbo)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-30-16 and §30-30-18 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §30-30-30, all relating to provisional licensure requirements for social workers; creating licensure exception for Bureau for Children and Families service workers; permitting emergency rulemaking; creating registration process for service workers employed by the Bureau for Children and Families; providing deadline for conversion of license to registry; and setting forth registration eligibility criteria and continuing education requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 30. SOCIAL WORKERS.

§30-30-16. Provisional license to practice as a social worker.

1 (a) To be eligible for a provisional license to practice as
2 a social worker, the applicant must:

3 (1) Submit an application to the board;

4 (2) Be at least 18 years of age;

5 (3) Have a baccalaureate degree in a related field, as
6 provided by legislative rule;

(4) Have obtained regular supervised employment, or the reasonable promise of regular supervised employment, contingent upon receiving a provisional license, in a critical social work workforce shortage position, area, or setting requiring a social work license: *Provided*, That such employment shall not be as an independent practitioner, contracted employee, sole proprietor, consultant, or other nonregular employment;

(5) Have satisfied the board that he or she merits the public trust by providing the board with three letters of recommendation from persons not related to the applicant;

(6) Not be an alcohol or drug abuser, as these terms are defined in §27-1A-11 of this code: *Provided*, That an applicant in an active recovery process, which may, in the discretion of the board, be evidenced by participation in an acknowledged substance abuse treatment and/or recovery program, may be considered;

(7) Not have been convicted of a felony in any jurisdiction within five years preceding the date of application for license, which conviction remains unreversed;

(8) Not have been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony in any jurisdiction if the offense for which he or she was convicted related to the practice of social work, which conviction remains unreversed; and

(9) Meet any other requirements established by the board.

(b) The board shall promulgate emergency rules, in accordance with §29A-3-15 of this code, to implement the provisions of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) A provisionally licensed social worker may become a licensed social worker by completing the following:

(1) Be continuously employed for four years as a social worker and supervised. The board shall promulgate by legislative rule the supervision requirements;

(2) Complete 12 credit hours of core social work study from a program accredited by the council on social work education, as defined by legislative rule, within the four-year provisional license period;

(3) Complete continuing education as required by legislative rule; and

(4) Pass an examination approved by the board.

(d) On or before July 1, 2020, the Legislative Auditor shall cause to be performed a performance audit of the provisional license to practice as a social worker application process and the application process by which a provisional licensee may become a licensed social worker.

(e) Any employee of the Department of Health and Human Resources with a provisional license as of the effective date of this section who opted to take the department-provided courses previously allowed has until June 30, 2022, to convert his or her license to a social work license or provisional license under this section. If the individual cannot or desires not to complete this process, he or she shall be eligible for registration as provided in §30-30-30 of this code.

§30-30-18. Exemptions from this article.

The following persons are exempt from licensure, unless specifically stated in writing by the employer:

(1) A person employed as the director or administrative head of a social service agency or division, or applicants for employment to be licensed;

(2) Licensed or qualified members of other professions, such as physicians, psychologists, lawyers, counselors,

clergy, educators, or the general public engaged in social work-like activities, from doing social work consistent with their training if they do not hold themselves out to the public by a title or description incorporating the words "licensed social worker" or "licensed clinical social worker" or a variation thereof;

(3) An employer from performing social work-like activities performed solely for the benefit of employees;

(4) Activities and services of a student, intern, or resident in social work pursuing a course of study at an accredited university or college, or working in a generally recognized training center, if the activities and services constitute a part of the supervised course of study; and

(5) Pending disposition of the application for a license, activities and services by a person who has recently become a resident of this state, has applied for a license within 90 days of taking up residency in this state, and is licensed to perform the activities and services in the state of former residence.

(6) An individual registered pursuant to §30-30-30 of this code.

§30-30-30. Registration as a Bureau for Children and Families service worker.

To be eligible to be registered as a service worker for the Bureau for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Resources, the applicant must:

(1) Submit an application to the board;

(2) Be at least 18 years of age;

(3) Have a baccalaureate degree;

(4) Have obtained employment by the bureau;

(5) Satisfy the requirements of the West Virginia Clearance for Access: Registry and Employment Screening Act provided in §16-49-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(6) Satisfy the requirements provided in §30-1-24 of this code;

(7) Complete 240 hours of pre-service training developed by the bureau;

(8) Complete 20 hours of board-approved continuing social work education every two years, up to 10 of which may be earned through board-approved online education hours: *Provided*, That at least two of the hours shall be related to the Code of Ethics adopted by the board, and at least two hours shall be related to social, health, and mental health concerns of veterans and their families; and

(9) Pay the application fee.

CHAPTER 241

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 544 - By Senators Ihlenfeld, Romano and Stollings)

[Passed February 18, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-5-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to immunizations; authorizing joint rules regulating the administration of immunizations; requiring those rules to be based on certain standards; permitting a licensee to perform immunizations based on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's recommended schedule; requiring written parental permission for immunizations of minors; requiring a prescription for

immunization of a minor; and requiring that the joint rules permits a licensee to administer immunizations in accordance with the latest definitive treatment guidelines promulgated by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. PHARMACISTS, PHARMACY TECHNICIANS, PHARMACY INTERNS, AND PHARMACIES.

§30-5-7. Rule-making authority.

(a) The board shall propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, to implement the provisions of this article and §60A-2-201 *et seq.*, §60A-3-301 *et seq.*, §60A-8-1 *et seq.*, §60A-9-1 *et seq.*, and §60A-10-1 *et seq.* of this code, including:

(1) Standards and requirements for a license, permit, and registration;

(2) Educational and experience requirements;

(3) Procedures for examinations and reexaminations;

(4) Requirements for third parties to prepare, administer or prepare, and administer examinations and reexaminations;

(5) The passing grade on the examination;

(6) Procedures for the issuance and renewal of a license, permit, and registration;

(7) A fee schedule;

(8) Continuing education requirements;

(9) Set standards for professional conduct;

(10) Establish equipment and facility standards for pharmacies;

(11) Approve courses and standards for training pharmacist technicians;

(12) Regulation of charitable clinic pharmacies;

(13) Regulation of mail-order pharmacies: *Provided*, That until the board establishes requirements that provide further conditions for pharmacists who consult with or who provide pharmacist care to patients regarding prescriptions dispensed in this state by a mail-order pharmacy, the pharmacist in charge of the out-of-state mail-order pharmacy shall be licensed in West Virginia and any other pharmacist providing pharmacist care from the mail-order pharmacy shall be licensed in the state where the pharmacy is located;

(14) Agreements with organizations to form pharmacist recovery networks;

(15) Create an alcohol or chemical dependency treatment program;

(16) Establish a ratio of pharmacy technicians to on-duty pharmacist operating in any outpatient, mail order, or institutional pharmacy;

(17) Regulation of telepharmacy;

(18) The minimum standards for a charitable clinic pharmacy and rules regarding the applicable definition of a pharmacist-in-charge, who may be a volunteer, at charitable clinic pharmacies: *Provided*, That a charitable clinic pharmacy may not be charged any applicable licensing fees and such clinics may receive donated drugs;

(19) Establish standards for substituted drug products;

(20) Establish the regulations for E-prescribing;

(21) Establish the proper use of the automated data processing system;

(22) Registration and control of the manufacture and distribution of controlled substances within this state;

(23) Regulation of pharmacies;

(24) Sanitation and equipment requirements for wholesalers, distributers, and pharmacies;

(25) Procedures for denying, suspending, revoking, reinstating, or limiting the practice of a licensee, permittee, or registrant;

(26) Regulations on prescription paper as provided in §16-5-27 of this code;

(27) Regulations on controlled substances as provided in §60A-2-201 *et seq.* of this code;

(28) Regulations on manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing any controlled substance as provided in §60A-3-301 of this code;

(29) Regulations on wholesale drug distribution as provided in §60A-8-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(30) Regulations on controlled substances monitoring as provided in §60A-9-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(31) Regulations on Methamphetamine Laboratory Eradication Act as provided in §60A-10-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(32) Establish and maintain an official prescription paper program; and

(33) Any other rules necessary to effectuate the provisions of this article.

(b) The board may provide an exemption to the pharmacist-in-charge requirement for the opening of a new retail pharmacy or during a declared emergency.

(c) The board, the Board of Medicine, and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine shall jointly agree and propose rules concerning collaborative pharmacy practice for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) The board, with the advice of the Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to perform influenza and pneumonia immunizations on a person of 18 years of age or older. These rules shall provide, at a minimum, for the following:

(1) Establishment of a course, or provide a list of approved courses, in immunization administration. The courses shall be based on the standards established for such courses by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the public health service of the United States Department of Health and Human Services;

(2) Definitive treatment guidelines which shall include, but not be limited to, appropriate observation for an adverse reaction of an individual following an immunization;

(3) Prior to administration of immunizations, a pharmacist shall have completed a board-approved immunization administration course and completed an American Red Cross or American Heart Association basic life-support training, and maintain certification in the same;

(4) Continuing education requirements for this area of practice;

(5) Reporting requirements for pharmacists administering immunizations to report to the primary care physician or other licensed health care provider as identified by the person receiving the immunization;

(6) Reporting requirements for pharmacists administering immunizations to report to the West Virginia Statewide Immunization Information;

(7) That a pharmacist may not delegate the authority to administer immunizations to any other person, unless administered by a licensed pharmacy intern under the direct supervision of a pharmacist of whom both pharmacist and intern have successfully completed all board-required training; and

(8) Any other provisions necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

(e) The Board of Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Medicine shall propose joint rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to permit a licensed pharmacist or pharmacy intern to administer immunizations in accordance with definitive treatment guidelines for immunizations promulgated by the latest notice from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), including, but not limited to, the CDC's recommended immunization schedule for adults, children, and adolescents. In addition, the joint rules shall permit a licensed pharmacist or pharmacy intern to administer immunizations in accordance with definitive treatment guidelines for immunizations promulgated by the latest notice from the CDC, including, but not limited to, the CDC's recommended immunization schedule for adults, children, and adolescents to a person age 11 through 17, with written informed parental consent when presented with a prescription from a physician and there are no contraindications to that patient receiving that immunization. These rules shall provide, at a minimum, the same provisions contained in subsections (d)(1) through (d)(8), inclusive, of this section.

148 (f) All of the board's rules in effect and not in conflict
149 with these provisions shall remain in effect until they are
150 amended or rescinded.

CHAPTER 242

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 706 - By Senators Trump and Clements)

[Passed February 29, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-29-3 and §30-29-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to the duties of the law-enforcement training and certification subcommittee; providing for a minimum of 800 classroom hours for a law-enforcement academy; clarifying that the required classroom hours shall be accumulated on the basis of a full-time curricula; authorizing the law-enforcement training and certification subcommittee to deny an application for the establishment of a new law-enforcement academy if it is determined that no need exists; requiring that a person seeking certification complete the approved law-enforcement training academy within 18 consecutive months of the commencement of employment as a law-enforcement officer; authorizing extensions of such requirement; requiring graduates of state law-enforcement academies successfully complete an entry level law-enforcement examination promulgated by the law-enforcement training and certification subcommittee prior to certification; establishing time frames for completion of training requirements; and making technical corrections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 29. LAW-ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.

§30-29-3. Duties of the subcommittee.

(a) The subcommittee shall, by or pursuant to rules proposed for legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code:

(1) Provide funding for the establishment and support of law-enforcement training academies in the state;

(2) Establish standards governing the establishment and operation of the law-enforcement training academies, including regional locations throughout the state, in order to provide access to each law-enforcement agency in the state in accordance with available funds;

(3) Establish minimum law-enforcement instructor qualifications;

(4) Certify qualified law-enforcement instructors;

(5) Maintain a list of approved law-enforcement instructors;

(6) Promulgate standards governing the training, firearms qualification, and initial and ongoing professional certification of law-enforcement officers and the entry-level law-enforcement training curricula. These standards shall require satisfactory completion of a minimum of 800 classroom hours as promulgated by legislative rule and shall provide that the required classroom hours shall be accumulated on the basis of a full-time curricula;

(7) Establish standards governing in-service law-enforcement officer training curricula and in-service supervisory level training curricula;

(8) Certify organized criminal enterprise investigation techniques with a qualified anti-racial profiling training course or module;

(9) Establish standards governing mandatory training to effectively investigate organized criminal enterprises as defined in §61-13-1 *et seq.* of this code while preventing racial profiling, as defined in §30-29-10 of this code, for entry level training curricula and for law-enforcement officers who have not received such training as certified by the subcommittee as required in this section;

(10) Establish procedures for implementation of a course in investigation of organized criminal enterprises which includes an anti-racial training module to be available on the Internet or otherwise to all law-enforcement officers. The procedures shall include the frequency with which a law-enforcement officer shall receive training in investigation of organized criminal enterprises and anti-racial profiling and a time frame for which all law-enforcement officers must receive such training: *Provided*, That all law-enforcement officers in this state shall receive such training no later than July 1, 2012. In order to implement and carry out the intent of this section, the subcommittee may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to §29A-3-15 of this code;

(11) Certify or decertify or reactivate law-enforcement officers, as provided in §30-29-5 and §30-29-11 of this code;

(12) Establish standards and procedures for the reporting of complaints and certain disciplinary matters concerning law-enforcement officers and for reviewing the certification of law- enforcement officers. These standards and procedures shall provide for preservation of records and access to records by law-enforcement agencies and conditions as to how the information in those records is to be used regarding an officer's law-enforcement employment by another law-enforcement agency;

(A) The subcommittee shall establish and manage a database that is available to all law-enforcement agencies in the state concerning the status of any person's certification.

(B) Personnel or personal information not resulting in a criminal conviction is exempt from disclosure pursuant to the provisions of chapter 29B of this code;

(13) Seek supplemental funding for law-enforcement training academies from sources other than the fees collected pursuant to §30-29-4 of this code;

(14) Any responsibilities and duties as the Legislature may, from time to time, see fit to direct to the subcommittee; and

(15) Submit, on or before September 30 of each year, to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, and, upon request, to any individual member of the Legislature a report on its activities during the previous year, and an accounting of funds paid into and disbursed from the special revenue account established pursuant to §30-29-4 of this code;

(16) Develop and promulgate rules for state, county, and municipal law-enforcement officers, law-enforcement agencies, and communications and emergency operations centers that dispatch law-enforcement officers with regard to the identification, investigation, reporting, and prosecution of suspected child abuse and neglect: *Provided*, That such rules and procedures must be consistent with the priority criteria prescribed by generally applicable department procedures;

(17) Make recommendations to the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction for legislation related to the subcommittee's duties and responsibilities, or for research or studies by the Division of Administrative Services on topics related to the subcommittee's duties and responsibilities.

(b) In addition to the duties authorized and established by this section, the subcommittee may:

(1) Establish training to effectively investigate human trafficking offenses as defined in §61-2-1 *et seq.* of this code for entry level training curricula and for law-enforcement officers who have not received such training as certified by the committee as required by this section; and

(2) Establish procedures for the implementation of a course in investigation of human trafficking offenses. The course may include methods of identifying and investigating human trafficking and methods for assisting trafficking victims. In order to implement and carry out the intent of this subdivision, the committee may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to §29A-3-15 of this code.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the subcommittee may deny an application for the establishment of a new law-enforcement training academy if it is determined by the subcommittee that no actual need exists for the establishment of additional law-enforcement training academies to meet the needs of existing law-enforcement agencies in the state.

***§30-29-5. Certification requirements and power to decertify or reinstate.**

(a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (e) of this section, a person may not be employed as a law-enforcement officer by any West Virginia law-enforcement agency or by any state institution of higher education or by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia on or after the effective date of this article unless the person is certified, or is certifiable in the manner specified in subsection (c) of this section, by the subcommittee as having met the minimum entry level law-enforcement qualification and training program requirements promulgated pursuant to this article: *Provided*, That the provisions of this section do not apply to persons hired by the Public Service Commission as motor carrier inspectors and weight enforcement officers before July 1, 2007.

***NOTE:** This section was also amended by S. B. 797 (Chapter 269), which passed subsequent to this act.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a person who is not certified, or certifiable in the manner specified in subsection (c) of this section, may be conditionally employed as a law-enforcement officer until certified: *Provided*, That within 90 calendar days of the commencement of employment or the effective date of this article, if the person is already employed on the effective date, he or she makes a written application to attend an approved law-enforcement training academy and that the person satisfactorily completes the approved law-enforcement training academy within 18 consecutive months of the commencement of his or her employment: *Provided, however*, That the subcommittee may grant an extension, one-time only, not to exceed six months, based upon a written request from the person justifying the need for such an extension: *Provided further*, That the subcommittee, in its sole discretion, may grant an additional extension upon demonstration of a hardship warranting it. The person's employer shall provide notice, in writing, of the 90-day deadline to file a written application to the academy within 30 calendar days of that person's commencement of employment. The employer shall provide full disclosure as to the consequences of failing to file a timely written application. The academy shall notify the applicant in writing of the receipt of the application and of the tentative date of the applicant's enrollment. Any applicant who, as the result of extenuating circumstances acceptable to his or her employing law-enforcement official, is unable to attend the scheduled training program to which he or she was admitted may reapply and shall be admitted to the next regularly scheduled training program. One year after the effective date of this section, certification as a law-enforcement officer within this state of persons who are not certifiable as provided in subsection (c) of this section, shall, in addition to graduation from an established academy in the state, be based on: Current employment as a sworn law-enforcement officer by any West Virginia law-enforcement agency or any state institution of higher education or the Public Service Commission; and the

person's successful completion of an approved entry level law-enforcement examination established by legislative rule of the subcommittee, which shall include, at a minimum, written testing requirements, medical standards, physical standards, and good moral character standards conducted in accordance with such rule. The production of a record of successful passage of the approved entry level law-enforcement examination shall indicate the applicant as qualified under the law-enforcement training and certification standards within this state. An applicant who satisfactorily completes the program and successfully passes the approved entry level law-enforcement examination shall, within 30 days of completion, make written application to the subcommittee requesting certification as having met the minimum entry level law-enforcement qualification and training program requirements. Upon determining that an applicant has met the requirements for certification as set forth in this section, the subcommittee shall forward to the applicant documentation of certification. An applicant who fails to complete the training program to which he or she is first admitted, or was admitted upon reapplication, or who fails to pass the approved entry level law-enforcement examination, may not be certified by the subcommittee: *And provided further*, That an applicant who has completed the minimum training and examination required by the subcommittee may be certified as a law-enforcement officer, notwithstanding the applicant's failure to complete additional training hours required in the training program to which he or she originally applied. If more than 24 months but less than 60 months have passed since the applicant for certification has successfully completed the approved entry level law-enforcement examination, the person may be certified but must complete the additional training set forth in legislative rules promulgated by the subcommittee addressing the recertification requirements of certified officers. If more than 60 months have passed since the applicant for certification has successfully completed the approved entry level law-enforcement examination, the

person must then attend a subcommittee-approved training program and successfully complete a separate subcommittee entry level law-enforcement examination.

(c) Any person who begins employment on or after the effective date of this article as a law-enforcement officer is certifiable as having met the minimum entry level law-enforcement training program requirements and is exempt from attending a law-enforcement training academy if the person has satisfactorily completed a course of instruction in law enforcement equivalent to or exceeding the minimum applicable law-enforcement training curricula promulgated by the subcommittee. To receive certification, the person shall make written application within 90 calendar days following the commencement of employment to the subcommittee requesting certification. The application shall include a notarized statement of the applicant's satisfactory completion of the course of instruction in law enforcement, a notarized transcript of the applicant's relevant scholastic records, and a notarized copy of the curriculum of the completed course of instruction. The subcommittee shall review the application and, if it finds the applicant has met the requirements for certification, shall forward to the applicant documentation of certification. The subcommittee may set the standards for required records to be provided by or on behalf of the applicant officer to verify his or her training, status, or certification as a law-enforcement officer. The subcommittee may allow an applicant officer to participate in the approved equivalent certification program to gain certification as a law-enforcement officer in this state.

(d) Except as provided in subdivisions (1) through (3), inclusive, of this subsection, any person who is employed as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article and fails to be certified shall be automatically terminated and no further emoluments shall be paid to such officer by his or her employer. Any person terminated shall be entitled to reapply, as a private citizen, to the

subcommittee for training and certification, and upon being certified may again be employed as a law-enforcement officer in this state: *Provided*, That if a person is terminated under this subsection because an application was not timely filed to the academy, and the person's employer failed to provide notice or disclosure to that person as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, the employer shall pay the full cost of attending the academy if the person's application to the subcommittee as a private citizen is subsequently approved.

(1) Any person who is employed as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article and fails to be certified as a result of hardship and/or circumstance beyond his or her control may apply to the director of a training academy for reentry to the next available academy.

(2) Any person who is employed as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article and fails to be certified as a result of voluntary separation from an academy program shall be automatically terminated and no further emoluments may be paid to such officer by his or her employer. Any person terminated as a result of voluntary separation from an academy program may not be conditionally employed as a law-enforcement officer for a period of two years from the date of voluntary separation.

(3) Any person who is employed as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article and fails to be certified as a result of dismissal from an academy program shall be automatically terminated and no further emoluments may be paid to such officer by his or her employer. Any person terminated as a result of dismissal from an academy program may not be conditionally employed as a law-enforcement officer for a period of five years from the date of dismissal and receiving approval from the subcommittee.

(e) Nothing in this article may be construed as prohibiting any governing body, Civil Service Commission

or chief executive of any West Virginia law-enforcement agency from requiring their law-enforcement officers to meet qualifications and satisfactorily complete a course of law-enforcement instruction which exceeds the minimum entry level law-enforcement qualification and training curricula promulgated by the subcommittee.

(f) The subcommittee, or its designee, may decertify or reactivate a law-enforcement officer pursuant to the procedure contained in this article and legislative rules promulgated by the subcommittee.

(g) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the subcommittee made pursuant to this article may contest the decision in accordance with the provisions of §29A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(h) The subcommittee may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of necessary evidence or documents in any proceeding, review, or investigation relating to certification or hearing before the subcommittee.

CHAPTER 243

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 770 - By Senators Takubo, Stollings, Rucker and Plymale)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-14-2 and §30-14-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to definitions and applications for licensure or educational permits for osteopathic physicians and surgeons; revising requirements for post-doctoral training; and eliminating continuing medical education requirements for initial licensure.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 14. OSTEOPATHIC PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS.

§30-14-2. Definitions.

"Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education" (ACGME) is the body responsible for accrediting the majority of graduate medical education programs for physicians (both medical doctors and doctors of osteopathic medicine), including medical internship, residency, and fellowship programs;

"Accredited osteopathic college" means a college of osteopathy and surgery which requires as a minimum prerequisite for admission preprofessional training of at least two years of academic work in specified scientific subjects, as prescribed by the board or by the college accrediting agency of the American Osteopathic Association, in an accredited college of arts and sciences and which requires for graduation a course of study approved by the board in accordance with the minimum standards established by the American Osteopathic Association;

"American Osteopathic Association" (AOA) is the entity that serves as the primary certifying body for osteopathic physicians and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic graduate medical education. Prior to the implementation of a single accreditation system for graduate medical education in the United States of America under the ACGME, which began in 2015 and will be fully implemented by July 1, 2020, the AOA also served as the accrediting body for osteopathic graduate medical education programs in the United States of America;

"Approved program of post-graduate clinical training" means a program of clinical training approved by, or subject to approval by, the American Osteopathic Association or approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate

Medical Education for the purposes of intern or resident training;

"Board" means the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine: *Provided*, That where used elsewhere in the code, the West Virginia Board of Osteopathy and Board of Osteopathy shall also mean the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine;

"License" means legal authorization issued by the board to a fully qualified osteopathic physician to engage in the regular practice of osteopathic medicine and surgery;

"Osteopathy" means that system of the healing art which places the chief emphasis on the structural integrity of the body mechanism as being the most important single factor in maintaining the well-being of the organism in health and disease;

"Permit" means a limited, legal authorization issued by the board to an osteopathic physician to practice osteopathic medicine and surgery in this state while serving under special circumstances of public need or while undergoing post-graduate clinical training as a prerequisite to licensure;

"Reciprocal endorsement" means a duly authenticated verification of the board, addressed to a board or agency of another country, state, territory, province, or the District of Columbia, vouching that a license issued to an osteopathic physician and surgeon pursuant to the laws of this state is currently valid and not suspended or revoked for any cause or causes specified in this article.

§30-14-4. Application for license or educational permit.

(a) Each applicant for examination by the board, with the exception of assistants to osteopathic physicians and surgeons, as hereinafter provided, shall submit an application therefor on forms prepared and furnished by the board.

(b) Each applicant for a license shall furnish evidence, verified by oath and satisfactory to the board, establishing that the applicant has satisfied the following requirements:

(1) The applicant is 18 years of age or over;

(2) The applicant has graduated from an accredited osteopathic college;

(3) The applicant has successfully completed a minimum of one year of post-doctoral, clinical training in a program approved by the American Osteopathic Association or the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education.

(c) Each applicant for an educational permit shall furnish evidence, verified by oath and satisfactory to the board, establishing that the applicant has satisfied the following requirements:

(1) The applicant is 18 years of age or over;

(2) The applicant has graduated from an accredited osteopathic college; and

(3) The applicant is under contract as an intern or resident in an approved program of post-graduate clinical training.

(d) The board may not issue a license or permit to any person until the applicant has paid the application fee established by legislative rule of the board.

(e) In order to give timely effect to the amendments to this section and §30-14-10 of this article, the board is authorized to propose a legislative rule consistent with these amendments as an emergency rule under the provisions of §29A-3-15 of this code.

CHAPTER 244

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4020 - By Delegates Foster, Phillips, Jennings, Atkinson, Bibby, Steele, Butler, Waxman, Espinosa, Porterfield and Mandt)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §7-1-3tt; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated †§8-12-21; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §30-1-25, all relating to prohibiting the regulation and licensing of occupations by local governments; declaring state authority to regulate trades, occupations, and professions; prohibiting regulation of occupations by county commissions; prohibiting municipalities from enacting or enforcing laws regulating trades, occupations, and professions; and preserving the authority of local governments to regulate certain projects, construction, and modifications.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 1. COUNTY COMMISSIONS GENERALLY.

§7-1-3tt. Restriction on the regulation of trades, occupations, and professions.

Unless specifically authorized under this code, a county commission shall not enact, and shall not enforce, any law, ordinance, regulation, or rule, requiring the licensing, certification, or registration of any person or business in order to practice or conduct a trade, occupation, or

† Redesignated

profession within the jurisdiction of the county: *Provided*, That this section shall not limit the authority of a county to impose or levy per project fees upon development projects and other forms of capital improvement affecting the county and its government.

CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 12. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC POWERS, DUTIES AND ALLIED RELATIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES, GOVERNING BODIES AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; SUITS AGAINST MUNICIPALITIES.

†§8-12-21. Restriction on the regulation of trades, occupations, and professions.

Except as expressly provided by this code, neither a municipality nor the governing body of any municipality may, by ordinance or otherwise, enact or enforce any law, ordinance, regulation, or rule, requiring the licensing, certification, or registration of any person or business in order to practice or conduct a trade, occupation, or profession within the jurisdiction of the municipality. This section does not limit the authority of a municipality to regulate the repair, alteration, improvement, demolition or removal of buildings, structures, or of any equipment or part of a structure as provided in §8-12-14 and §8-12-16 of this code.

CHAPTER 30. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATE BOARDS OF EXAMINATION OR REGISTRATION REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER.

§30-1-25. Primacy of state regulation of occupational practice.

The power to regulate occupations for the protection of the public is exclusively a function of the Legislature. A public body or political subdivision may only propose and

† Redesignated

administer the regulation of a trade, occupation, or profession – including, but not limited to, the issuance of a license, requirement of registration, or recognition of a certification – to the extent expressly authorized to do so under this code.

CHAPTER 245

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4099 - By Delegates Foster, Butler, Waxman, Cadle, J. Jeffries and Porterfield)

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to repeal §30-27-11a of the Code of West Virginia,1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §30-27-1 and §30-27-3 of said code; all relating to eliminating the regulation of shampooing and eliminating the permit requirement for shampoo assistants.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 27. BOARD OF BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS.

§30-27-1. Unlawful acts.

(a) It is unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice barbering, barber permanent waving, cosmetology, hairstyling, waxing, aesthetics or nail care in this state without a license or certification issued under the provisions of this article, or advertise or use any title or description tending to convey the impression that the person is a licensed or certified aesthetician, barber, barber crossover, barber permanent wavist, cosmetologist, cosmetologist crossover, hairstylist, waxing specialist or nail technician

unless the person has been licensed or obtained certification under the provisions of this article and the license or certification has not expired, been suspended or revoked.

(b) No salon, except through a licensee or certification, may render any service or engage in any activity which, if rendered or engaged in by an individual, would constitute the practices licensed or certified under the provisions of this article.

(c) No school, except through a certified instructor, may instruct, render any service or engage in any activity which, if taught, rendered or engaged in by an individual, would constitute the practices licensed under the provisions of this article.

***§30-27-3. Definitions.**

As used in this article, the following words and terms have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) "Aesthetics" or "esthetics" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) Administering cosmetic treatments to enhance or improve the appearance of the skin, including cleansing, toning, performing effleurage or other related movements, stimulating, exfoliating or performing any other similar procedure on the skin of the human body or scalp;

(2) Applying, by hand or with a mechanical or electrical apparatus, any cosmetics, makeups, oils, powders, clays, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, creams or chemical preparations necessary for the practice of aesthetics to another person's face, neck, back, shoulders, hands, elbows and feet up to and including the knee;

***NOTE:** This section was also amended by H. B. 4607 (Chapter 251), which passed subsequent to this act.

(3) The rubbing, cleansing, exercising, beautifying or grooming of another person's face, neck, back, shoulders, hands, elbows and feet up to and including the knee;

(4) The waxing and tweezing of hair on another person's body;

(5) The wrapping of another person's body in a body wrap;

(6) Applying artificial eyelashes and eyebrows; and

(7) The lightening of hair on the body except the scalp.

(b) "Aesthetician" or "esthetician" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of aesthetics and has completed six hundred clock-hours of training.

(c) "Applicant" means a person making application for a professional license, license, certificate, registration, permit or renewal under the provisions of this article.

(d) "Barber" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of barbering and has completed a twelve hundred clock-hour barber training program without chemical services or a fifteen hundred clock-hour barber training program with chemical services, or has successfully completed the barber apprenticeship program.

(e) "Barbering" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) Shaving, shaping and trimming the beard, or both;

(2) Cutting, singeing, arranging, dressing, tinting, bleaching, or applying lotions or tonics on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece; and

(3) Applications, treatments or rubs of the scalp, face, or neck with oils, creams, lotions, cosmetics, antiseptics, powders, or other preparations in connection with the shaving, cutting or trimming of the hair or beard.

(f) "Barber crossover" is a person who has completed twelve hundred or fifteen hundred clock-hours of training, is licensed as a barber, and completed additional hours of training in nails, aesthetics and/or chemical services, to the total amount of twenty-one hundred hours, to perform cosmetology.

(g) "Barber permanent waving" means the following acts performed on the head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) The bleaching or tinting of hair; and

(2) The permanent waving of hair.

(h) "Barber permanent wavist" means a person who has completed two thousand clock-hours of training and was licensed to perform barbering and barber permanent waiving enrolled by August 28, 2012.

(i) "Board" means the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists.

(j) "Certificate" means an instructor certificate to teach in a school under the provisions of this article or a document issued by the board for certification obtained pursuant to section eight-b of this article.

(k) "Certificate holder" means a person certified as an instructor to teach in a school under the provisions of this article or who has obtained a certification pursuant to section eight-b of this article.

(l) "Cosmetologist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of

cosmetology and who has completed eighteen hundred clock-hours of training.

(m) "Cosmetology" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) Cutting, styling, shaping, arranging, braiding, weaving, dressing, adding extensions, curling, waving, permanent waving, relaxing, straightening, cleansing, singeing, bleaching, tinting, coloring, waxing, tweezing, or similarly work on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any means, including hands, mechanical or electrical devices or appliances;

(2) Nail care;

(3) Applying by hand or with a mechanical or electrical device or appliance, any cosmetics, makeups, oils, powders, clays, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, creams or chemical preparations necessary for the practice of aesthetics to another person's face, neck, shoulders, hands, elbows and feet up to and including the knee;

(4) The rubbing, cleansing, exercising, beautifying or grooming of another person's face, neck, shoulders, hands, elbows and feet up to and including the knee;

(5) The wrapping of another person's body in a body wrap; and

(6) Performing aesthetics.

(n) "Cosmetology crossover" is a person who has completed eighteen hundred clock-hours of training, is licensed as a cosmetologist and completes an additional three hundred hours of training in clipper cuts and face shaving to perform barbering, for a total of twenty-one hundred hours.

(o) "General supervision" means:

(1) For schools, a master or certified instructor is on the premises and is quickly and easily available; or

(2) For salons, a professional licensee is on the premises and is quickly and easily available.

(p) "Hair styling" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

Cutting, styling, shaping, arranging, braiding, weaving, dressing, adding extensions, curling, facial hair trimming, scalp treatments, waving, permanent waving, relaxing, straightening, singeing, bleaching, tinting, coloring, or similarly work on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any means, including hands, mechanical or electrical devices or appliances.

(q) "Hair stylist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of hair styling and who has completed one thousand clock-hours of training, effective July 1, 2016.

(r) "License" means a professional license, a salon license or a school license.

(s) "Licensed school" means a facility which has been approved by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (CCTCE), Department of Education in conjunction with CCTCE or Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Corrections pursuant to section nine, article two-b, chapter eighteen-b of this code to educate persons to be licensed or issued certain permits under the provisions of this article.

(t) "Licensee" means a person, corporation or firm holding a license issued under the provisions of this article.

(u) "Nail care" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) The cleansing, dressing, or polishing of nails of a person;

(2) Performing artificial nail service; and

(3) The cosmetic treatment of the feet up to the knee and the hands up to the elbow.

(v) "Nail technician" or "manicurist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of nail care and has completed four hundred clock-hours of training.

(w) "Permit" means a work permit.

(x) "Permitee" means a person holding a work permit.

(y) "Professional license" means a license to practice as an aesthetician, barber, barber crossover, barber permanent wavist, cosmetologist, cosmetologist crossover, hairstylist or nail technician.

(z) "Registration" means a registration issued by the board to a person who rents or leases a booth or chair from a licensed salon owner and operator, or both, or a registration issued by the board to a person who is a student in a school.

(aa) "Registrant" means a person who holds a registration under the provisions of this article.

(bb) "Salon" means a shop or other facility where a person practices under a professional license.

(cc) "Salon license" means a license to own and operate a salon.

(dd) "Student registration" means a registration issued by the board to a student to study at a school licensed under the provisions of this article.

173 (ee) "Waxing specialist" means a person certified under
174 the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of
175 waxing and tweezing of hair on another person's body.

176 (ff) Hair braiding, threading and any other item not
177 spelled out are not regulated by the West Virginia Board of
178 Barbers and Cosmetologists.

§30-27-11a. Shampoo assistant.

1 [Repealed]

CHAPTER 246

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4352 - By Delegates Jennings, Maynard, Bibby, Lovejoy, Miller, Pack, Sypolt, Worrell, Waxman, Hardy and Summers)

[Passed March 3, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §29-3B-4 and §29-3B-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §29-3C-4 of said code; and to amend and reenact §29-3D-2 and §29-3D-6 of said code, all relating to licenses issued by the Fire Marshal; removing the use of post-criminal conduct in professional and occupational initial licensure or certification in decision making; creating a rational nexus requirement between prior criminal conduct and initial licensure or certification in decision making; providing criteria for the State Fire Marshal as licensing or certification authority to determine whether a criminal conviction has a rational nexus to an occupation; limiting licensure disqualification; authorizing persons to petition the State Fire Marshal as to whether a person's criminal records precludes licensure; and reducing the number of necessary hours as a

qualification for licensure as a journeyman sprinkler fitter or sprinkler fitter in training.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3B. SUPERVISION OF ELECTRICIANS.

§29-3B-4. Licenses; classes of licenses; issuance of licenses by commissioner; qualifications required for license; nontransferability and nonassignability of licenses; expiration of license; renewal; reciprocity.

(a) The following classes of license may be issued by the State Fire Marshal: "Master electrician license," "journeyman electrician license," "apprentice electrician license" and "temporary electrician license." Additional classes of specialty electrician license may be issued by the State Fire Marshal.

(b) The State Fire Marshal shall issue the appropriate class of license upon a finding that the applicant possesses the qualifications for the class of license to be issued. When considering whether an applicant possess the qualifications for the class of license, the State Fire Marshal shall consider whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus on the license being sought.

(1) The State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the State Fire Marshal shall consider at a minimum:

(A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the State Fire Marshal shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the State Fire Marshal.

(3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the State Fire Marshal at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the State Fire Marshal to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction.

(c) The State Fire Marshal shall propose rules for legislative approval regarding qualifications for testing, issuance of licenses, and renewal in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.*, of this code.

(d) To the extent that other jurisdictions provide for the licensing of electricians, the State Fire Marshal may grant the same or equivalent classification of license without written examination upon satisfactory proof furnished to the state Fire Marshal that the qualifications of the applicant are equal to the qualifications required by this article and upon payment of the required fee: *Provided*, That as a condition to reciprocity, the other jurisdictions must extend to licensed electricians of this state, the same or equivalent classification.

(e) In addition to any other information required, the applicant's social security number shall be recorded on any application for a license submitted pursuant to the provisions of this section.

§29-3B-7. Denial of license; suspension and revocation of license.

(a) The State Fire Marshal may deny a license to any applicant who fails to comply with the rules established by the State Fire Marshal, or who lacks the necessary qualifications; *Provided,* That the State Fire Marshal shall apply §29-3B-4(b) when determining if an applicant is eligible for licensure.

(b) The State Fire Marshal may upon complaint or upon his or her own inquiry and, after notice to the licensee, suspend or revoke a licensee's license if:

(1) The license was granted upon an application or documents supporting such application which materially misstated the terms of the applicant's qualifications or experience;

(2) The licensee subscribed or vouched for a material misstatement by an applicant;

(3) The licensee incompetently or unsafely performs electrical work; or

(4) The licensee fails to comply with any rule of the State Fire Marshal promulgated to fulfill his or her responsibilities under this article.

(c) Any person aggrieved by an order or decision of the State Fire Marshal under this article is entitled to judicial review as provided by section eighteen, article three of this chapter and by chapter twenty-nine-a of this code.

ARTICLE 3C. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS.

§29-3C-4. Certification program; duties of the State Fire Marshal; rulemaking.

(a) The State Fire Marshal shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.*, of this code to establish a program for the certification of electrical inspectors. Proposed rules shall provide: Standards and procedures for certification, including applications, examinations, fees, qualifications, procedures for investigating complaints, revoking or suspending certifications and for renewing licenses. The State Fire Marshal is also authorized to propose emergency rules to implement the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That the emergency rules specify an initial certification fee of $50.

(b) The State Fire Marshal shall certify an electrical inspector upon a finding that the applicant possesses the requisite qualifications.

(c) When considering whether an applicant possess the qualifications for certification as an electrical inspector, the State Fire Marshal shall consider whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus on the certification being sought.

(1) The State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an applicant from initial certification because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that

conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring certification. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the State Fire Marshal shall consider at a minimum:

(A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from certification because of a prior criminal conviction, the State Fire Marshal shall permit the applicant to apply for initial certification if:

(A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from certification, to be determined by the State Fire Marshal.

(3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for certification may petition the State

Fire Marshal at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a certification. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the State Fire Marshal to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction.

ARTICLE 3D. SUPERVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION WORK.

§29-3D-2. Definitions.

As used in this article and the legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article:

"Combination Fire/Smoke Damper" means a device that meets both fire damper and smoke damper requirements.

"Damper" means a fire damper, smoke damper or combination fire/smoke damper.

"Damper work" means to install, test, maintain or repair a damper.

"Engineered Suppression Systems Installer" means a person certified by a manufacturer to install, alter, extend, maintain, layout or repair an agent suppression system.

"Engineered Suppression Systems Technician" means a person certified by a manufacturer to maintain or repair an agent suppression system.

"Fire damper" means a device installed in an air distribution system, designed to close automatically upon detection of heat, to interrupt migratory airflow and to restrict the passage of flame. Fire dampers are classified for use in either static systems or for dynamic systems, where the dampers are rated for closure under airflow.

"Fire protection damper technician" means a person certified to install, test, maintain or repair a damper.

"Fire protection damper technician in training" means a person with interest in and an aptitude for performing installation, maintenance or repair work to a damper as defined in this article, but who alone is not capable or authorized to perform damper work unless directly supervised by a Fire Protection Damper Technician.

"Fire protection layout technician" is an individual who has achieved National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) Level III or higher certification, and who has the knowledge, experience and skills necessary to layout fire protection systems based on engineering design documents.

"Fire protection system" means any fire protection suppression device or system designed, installed and maintained in accordance with the applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards, but does not include public or private mobile fire vehicles.

"Fire protection work" means the installation, alteration, extension, maintenance, or testing of all piping, materials and equipment inside a building, including the use of shop drawings prepared by a fire protection layout technician, in connection with the discharge of water, other special fluids, chemicals or gases and backflow preventers for fire protection for the express purpose of extinguishing or controlling fire.

"Journeyman sprinkler fitter" means a person qualified by at least 5,000 hours of work experience installing, adjusting, repairing and dismantling fire protection systems and who is competent to instruct and supervise the fire protection work of a sprinkler fitter in training.

"License" means a valid and current license issued by the State Fire Marshal in accordance with the provisions of this article.

"Portable Fire Extinguisher Technician" means a person certified in accordance with NFPA 10 to install, maintain, repair and certify portable fire extinguishers as defined by NFPA 10.

"Preengineered Suppression Systems Installer" means a person certified by a manufacturer to install, alter, extend, maintain, layout or repair an agent suppression system.

"Preengineered Suppression Systems Technician" means a person certified to maintain or repair an agent suppression system.

"Single family dwelling" means a building which is occupied as, or designed or intended for occupancy as, a single residence for one or more persons.

"Smoke Damper" means a device within an operating (dynamic) air distribution system to control the movement of smoke.

"Sprinkler fitter in training" means a person with interest in and an aptitude for performing fire protection work but who alone is not capable of performing such work, and who has fewer than 5,000 hours of experience installing, adjusting, repairing and dismantling fire protection systems.

§29-3D-6. Denial, suspension and revocation of license.

(a) The State Fire Marshal may deny a license to any applicant who fails to comply with the rules established by the State Fire Marshal, or who lacks the necessary qualifications. When considering whether an applicant possess the qualifications for a license, the State Fire Marshal shall consider whether an applicant's prior criminal

convictions bear a rational nexus on the license being sought.

(1) The State Fire Marshal may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the State Fire Marshal shall consider at a minimum:

(A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the State Fire Marshal shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense

of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the State Fire Marshal.

(3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the State Fire Marshal at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the State Fire Marshal to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction.

(b) The State Fire Marshal may, upon complaint or upon his or her own inquiry, and after notice to the licensee, suspend or revoke a licensee's license if:

(1) The license was granted upon an application or documents supporting the application which materially misstated the terms of the applicant's qualifications or experience;

(2) The licensee subscribed or vouched for a material misstatement in his or her application for licensure; or

(3) The licensee incompetently or unsafely performs plumbing, fire protection work or damper work.

CHAPTER 247

(H. B. 4353 - By Delegates Howell, Porterfield, J. Jeffries, Hott, Kump, Cadle, Sypolt and Hamrick)

[Passed February 19, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17A-6-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §19-23-8 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §21-1-6; to amend and reenact §21-2-9 of said code; to amend and reenact §21-5-5c of said code; to amend and reenact §21-14-6 of said code; to amend and reenact §21-16-7 of said code; to amend and reenact §29-22-8 of said code; to amend and reenact §29-22A-7 of said code; to amend and reenact §29-22B-502 of said code; to amend and reenact §29-22C-15 and §29-22C-16 of said code; to amend and reenact §29-22D-10 of said code; to amend and reenact §29-25-13 of said code; to amend and reenact §31-17A-5 of said code; to amend and reenact §32A-2-8 of said code; and to amend and reenact §33-13C-3 and §33-13C-4 of said code; all relating to the use of post-criminal conduct in professional and occupational initial licensure decision making; creating a rational nexus requirement between prior criminal conduct and initial licensure decision making; providing criteria for commissioners or commissions as licensing authorities to determine whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to an occupation; removing offenses described as one of moral turpitude as a basis for license denial unless the underlying crime bears a rational nexus to the occupation or profession requiring licensure; limiting licensure disqualification; and authorizing persons to petition licensure commissioners or commissions as to whether a person's criminal records precludes licensure.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 17A. MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATE OF TITLE, AND ANTITHEFT PROVISIONS.

ARTICLE 6. LICENSING OF DEALERS AND WRECKERS OR DISMANTLERS; SPECIAL PLATES; TEMPORARY PLATES OR MARKERS.

§17A-6-6. Refusal or issuance of license certificate; license certificate not transferable.

(a) Upon the review of the application and all other information before him or her, the commissioner may make and enter an order denying an application for a license certificate and refuse the license certificate sought. A denial and refusal are final and conclusive unless an appeal is made in accordance with the provisions of rules proposed for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.*, of this code. The commissioner shall make and enter an order denying or refusing a license, if the commissioner finds that the applicant (individually, if an individual, or the partners, if a co-partnership, or the officers and directors, if a corporation):

(1) Has failed to furnish the required bond unless otherwise exempt under the provisions of §17A-2-2a of this code;

(2) Has failed to furnish the required certificate of insurance;

(3) Has knowingly made false statement of a material fact in his or her application;

(4) Has habitually defaulted on financial obligations in this state or any other state or jurisdiction;

(5) Has been convicted of a felony: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §17A-6-6(c) and §17A-6-6(d) of

this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought;

(6) So far as can be ascertained, has not complied with and will not comply with the registration and title laws of this state or any other state or jurisdiction;

(7) Does not or will not have or maintain at each place of business, subject to the qualification contained in §17A-6-1(a)(17) of this code with respect to a new motor vehicle dealer (an established place of business as defined for the business in question) in that section;

(8) Has been convicted of any fraudulent act in connection with the business of new motor vehicle dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, house trailer dealer, trailer dealer, recreational vehicle dealer, motorcycle dealer, used parts dealer, or wrecker or dismantler in this state or any other state or jurisdiction: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §17A-6-6(c) and §17A-6-6(d) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought;

(9) Has done any act or has failed or refused to perform any duty for which the license certificate sought could be suspended or revoked were it then issued and outstanding;

(10) Is not age 18 years or older;

(11) Is delinquent in the payment of any taxes owed to the United States, the State of West Virginia, or any political subdivision of the state;

(12) Has been denied a license in another state or has been the subject of license revocation or suspension in another state;

(13) Has committed any action in another state which, if it had been committed in this state, would be grounds for denial and refusal of the application for a license certificate;

(14) Has failed to pay any civil penalty assessed by this state or any other state;

(15) Has failed to reimburse when ordered, any claim against the dealer recovery fund as prescribed in §17A-6-2a of this code; or

(16) Has failed to comply with the provisions of §17A-6E-1 *et seq.* of this code, pertaining to the employment of licensed salespersons.

Otherwise, the commissioner shall issue to the applicant the appropriate license certificate which entitles the licensee to engage in the business of new motor vehicle dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, house trailer dealer, trailer dealer, recreational vehicle dealer, motorcycle dealer, used parts dealer, or wrecker or dismantler, as the case may be.

(b) A license certificate issued in accordance with the provisions of this article is not transferable.

(c) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the commissioner shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

(e) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

CHAPTER 19. AGRICULTURE.

ARTICLE 23. HORSE AND DOG RACING.

§19-23-8. Consideration of application for license or permit; issuance or denial; contents of license or permit; grounds for denial of application; determination of racing dates; license or permit not transferable or assignable; limitation on license; validity of permit.

(a) The Racing Commission shall promptly consider any application for a license or permit, as the case may be. Based upon such application and all other information before it, the Racing Commission shall make and enter an order either approving or denying the application. The application may be denied for any reason specified in subsection (b) of this section. If an application for a license is approved, the Racing Commission shall issue a license to conduct a horse or dog race meeting and shall designate on the face of the license the kind or type of horse or dog racing for which the same is issued, the racing association to which the same is issued, the dates upon which the horse or dog race meeting is to be held or conducted (which may be any weekdays, or week-nights, including Sundays), the location of the horse or dog racetrack, place or enclosure where the horse or dog race meeting is to be held or conducted, and other information as the Racing Commission shall consider proper. If an application for a permit is approved, the Racing Commission shall issue a permit and shall designate on the face of the permit such information as the Racing Commission considers proper.

(b) The Racing Commission may deny the application and refuse to issue the license or permit, as the case may be, which denial and refusal is final and conclusive unless a hearing is demanded in accordance with the provisions of §19-23-16 of this code, if the Racing Commission finds that the applicant individually, if an individual, or the partners or members, if a partnership, firm, or association, or the owners and directors, if a corporation:

(1) Has knowingly made false statement of a material fact in the application or has knowingly failed to disclose any information called for in the application;

(2) Is or has been guilty of any corrupt or fraudulent act, practice, or conduct in connection with a horse or dog race meeting in this or any other state;

(3) Has been convicted, within 10 years prior to the date of the application, of an offense which under the law of this state, of any other state, or of the United States of America, shall constitute a felony: *Provided*, That the Racing Commission shall apply §19-23-8(g) and §19-23-8(h) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license or permit being sought;

(4) Has failed to comply with the provisions of this article or any reasonable rules of the Racing Commission;

(5) Has had a license to hold or conduct a horse or dog race meeting or a permit to participate therein denied for just cause, suspended, or revoked in any other state;

(6) Has defaulted in the payment of any obligation or debt due to this state under the provisions of this article;

(7) Is, if a corporation, neither incorporated under the laws of this state nor qualified to do business within this state;

(8) In the case of an application for a license, has failed to furnish bond or other adequate security, if the same is required by the Racing Commission under the provisions of §19-23-7 of this code;

(9) In the case of an application for a permit, is unqualified to perform the duties required for the permit sought; or

(10) In the case of an application for a permit, is, for just cause, determined to be undesirable to perform the duties required of the applicant.

(c) In issuing licenses and fixing dates for horse or dog race meetings at the various horse racetracks and dog racetracks in this state, the Racing Commission shall consider the horse racing circuits and dog racing circuits with which the horse racetracks and dog racetracks in this state are associated or contiguous to and shall also consider dates which are calculated to increase the tax revenues accruing from horse racing and dog racing.

(d) A license issued under the provisions of this article is neither transferable nor assignable to any other racing association and may not permit the holding or conducting of a horse or dog race meeting at any horse or dog racetrack, place, or enclosure not specified thereon. However, if the specified horse or dog racetrack, place, or enclosure becomes unsuitable for the horse or dog race meeting because of flood, fire, or other catastrophe, or cannot be used for any reason, the Racing Commission may, upon application, authorize the horse or dog race meeting, or any remaining portion thereof, to be conducted at any other racetrack, place, or enclosure available for that purpose, provided that the owner of the racetrack, place, or enclosure willingly consents to the use.

(e) No type of horse racing or dog racing shall be conducted by a licensee at any race meeting other than that type for which a license was issued.

(f) Each permit issued under the provisions of this section shall be for a period of one year, unless approved otherwise by the commission. Effective January 1, 2012, each permit shall be renewed according to the following schedule: Permits issued to persons whose date of birth is January 1 through and including April 30 shall be renewed no later than April 30 of each year; permits issued to persons whose date of birth is May 1 through and including August

31 shall be renewed no later than August 31 of each year; and permits issued to persons whose date of birth is September 1 through and including December 31 shall be renewed no later than December 31 of each year. Each permit shall be valid at all horse or dog race meetings during the period for which it was issued unless it be sooner suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of this article. A permit issued under the provisions of this article is neither transferable nor assignable to any other person.

(g) The Racing Commission may not disqualify an applicant from an initial license or permit because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring a license or permit. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the Racing Commission shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from a license or permit because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit the applicant to apply for an initial license or permit if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

(i) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for a license or permit may petition the Racing Commission at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license or permit. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the Racing Commission to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The Racing Commission shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The Racing Commission may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

(j) The Racing Commission shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code which establish the criteria for the approval or denial of a license or permit.

CHAPTER 21. LABOR.

ARTICLE 1. DIVISION OF LABOR.

§21-1-6. Use of criminal records as disqualification from authorization to engage in licensed profession or occupation.

(a) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure, as required in this chapter, because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the commissioner shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

(c) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

ARTICLE 2. EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES.

§21-2-9. Refusal to issue license.

The State Tax Commissioner shall refuse to issue a license if, upon investigation, he or she finds that the applicant is unfit to engage in the business or has had a license previously revoked, or that the business is to be conducted on or immediately adjoining what is considered by him or her to be unsuitable premises, or that any other good reason exists within the meaning of the law: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §21-1-6 of this code when determining to refuse a license.

ARTICLE 5. WAGE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.

§21-5-5c. License required for psychophysiological detection of deception examiners; qualifications; promulgation of rules governing administration of psychophysiological detection of deception examinations.

(a) No person, firm, or corporation shall administer a psychophysiological detection of deception examination, lie detector, or other similar examination utilizing mechanical or electronic measures of physiological reactions to evaluate truthfulness without holding a current valid license to do so as issued by the Commissioner of Labor. No examination

shall be administered by a licensed corporation except by an officer or employee thereof who is also licensed.

(b) A person is qualified to receive a license as an examiner if he or she:

(1) Is at least 21 years of age;

(2) Is a citizen of the United States;

(3) Has not been convicted of a felony: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §21-1-6 of this code to determine if the prior criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to the license being sought;

(4) Has not been released or discharged with other than honorable conditions from any of the armed services of the United States or that of any other nation;

(5) Has passed an examination conducted by the Commissioner of Labor or under his or her supervision to determine his or her competency to obtain a license to practice as an examiner;

(6) Has satisfactorily completed not less than six months of internship training; and

(7) Has met any other qualifications of education or training established by the Commissioner of Labor in his or her sole discretion which qualifications are to be at least as stringent as those recommended by the American Polygraph Association.

(c) The Commissioner of Labor may designate and administer any test he or she considers appropriate to those persons applying for a license to administer psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector, or similar examination. The test shall be designed to ensure that the applicant is thoroughly familiar with the code of ethics of the American Polygraph Association and has been trained in accordance with association rules. The test must

also include a rigorous examination of the applicant's knowledge of and familiarity with all aspects of operating psychophysiological detection of deception equipment and administering psychophysiological detection of deception examinations.

(d) The license to administer psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector, or similar examinations to any person shall be issued for a period of one year. It may be reissued from year to year. The licenses to be issued are:

(1) "Class I license" which authorizes an individual to administer psychophysiological detection of deception examinations for all purposes which are permissible under the provisions of this article and other applicable laws and rules.

(2) "Class II license" which authorizes an individual who is a full-time employee of a law-enforcement agency to administer psychophysiological detection of deception examinations to its employees or prospective employees only.

(e) The Commissioner of Labor shall charge an annual fee to be established by legislative rule. All fees paid pursuant to this section shall be paid to the Commissioner of Labor and deposited in an appropriated special revenue account hereby created in the State Treasury to be known as the Psychophysiological Examiners Fund and expended for the implementation and enforcement of this section. Through June 30, 2019, amounts collected which are found from time to time to exceed funds needed for the purposes set forth in this section may be utilized by the commissioner as needed to meet the division's funding obligations: *Provided*, That beginning July 1, 2019, amounts collected may not be utilized by the commissioner as needed to meet the division's funding obligations. In addition to any other information required, an application for a license shall include the applicant's Social Security number.

(f) The Commissioner of Labor shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code governing the administration of psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector, or similar examination to any person: *Provided*, That all applicable rules in effect on the effective date of §21-5-5a, §21-5-5b, §21-5-5c, and §21-5-5d of this code will remain in effect until amended, withdrawn, revoked, repealed, or replaced. The legislative rules shall include:

(1) The type and amount of training or schooling necessary for a person before which he or she may be licensed to administer or interpret a psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector, or similar examination;

(2) Testing requirements, including the designation of the test to be administered to persons applying for licensure;

(3) Standards of accuracy which shall be met by machines or other devices to be used in psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector, or similar examination;

(4) The conditions under which a psychophysiological detection of deception, lie detector, or similar examination may be administered;

(5) Fees for licenses, renewals of licenses, and other services provided by the commissioner;

(6) Any other qualifications or requirements, including continuing education, established by the commissioner for the issuance or renewal of licenses; and

(7) Any other purpose to carry out the requirements of §21-5-5a, §21-5-5b, §21-5-5c, and §21-5-5d of this code.

ARTICLE 14. SUPERVISION OF PLUMBING WORK.

§21-14-6. Denial, suspension, and revocation of license.

(a) The Commissioner of Labor may deny a license to any applicant who fails to comply with the rules established by the Commissioner of Labor, or who lacks the necessary qualifications: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §21-1-6 of this code to determine if the prior criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to the license being sought.

(b) The Commissioner of Labor may, upon complaint or upon his or her own inquiry, and after notice to the licensee, suspend or revoke a licensee's license if:

(1) The license was granted upon an application or documents supporting the application which materially misstated the terms of the applicant's qualifications or experience;

(2) The licensee subscribed or vouched for a material misstatement in his or her application for licensure;

(3) The licensee incompetently or unsafely performs plumbing work; or

(4) The licensee violated any statute of this state, any legislative rule or any ordinance of any municipality or county of this state which protects the consumer or public against unfair, unsafe, unlawful, or improper business practices.

ARTICLE 16. REGULATION OF HEATING, VENTILATING, AND COOLING WORK.

§21-16-7. Denial, suspension, and revocation of license.

(a) The Commissioner of Labor may deny a license to any applicant who fails to comply with the provisions of this article or the rules established by the Commissioner of Labor, or who lacks the necessary qualifications: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §21-1-6 of this code to determine if the prior criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to the license being sought.

(b) The Commissioner of Labor may, upon complaint or upon his or her own inquiry, and after notice to the licensee, suspend or revoke a licensee's license if:

(1) The license was granted upon an application or documents supporting the application which materially misstated the terms of the applicant's qualifications or experience;

(2) The licensee subscribed or vouched for a material misstatement in his or her application for licensure;

(3) The licensee incompetently or unsafely performs heating, ventilating, and cooling work; or

(4) The licensee violated any statute of this state, any legislative rule, or any ordinance of any municipality or county of this state which protects the consumer or public against unfair, unsafe, unlawful, or improper business practices.

CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 22. STATE LOTTERY ACT.

§29-22-8. Lottery director; powers and duties; deputy directors; hiring of staff; civil service coverage; submission of proposed appropriations.

(a) The director shall have the authority to:

(1) Appoint, with the approval of the commission, a deputy director for each of the divisions established in this article. The deputy directors appointed shall serve at the will and pleasure of the director at an annual salary established by the commission. Deputy directors shall not be eligible for civil service coverage as provided in §29-6-4 of this code;

(2) The director shall hire, pursuant to the approval of the commission, such professional, clerical, technical, and

administrative personnel as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this article. Each person employed by the commission shall execute an authorization to allow an investigation of that person's background: *Provided*, That the director and the commission shall apply §29-22-8(d) and §29-22-8(e) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the occupation being sought.

(3) Designate the number and types of locations at which tickets may be sold.

(b) Effective July 1, 1986, all employees of the commission, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be in the classified service under the provisions of §29-6-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(c) The director shall, pursuant to the approval of the commission, prepare and submit the annual proposed appropriations for the commission to the Governor.

(d) The director and the Lottery Commission may not disqualify an applicant from initial employment because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity required for employment. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the director and the Lottery Commission shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from employment because of a prior criminal conviction, the director and the Lottery Commission shall permit the applicant to apply for initial employment if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from employment, to be determined by the Lottery Commission.

(f) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for employment may petition the Lottery Commission at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining employment. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the Lottery Commission to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The Lottery Commission shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The Lottery Commission may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

ARTICLE 22A. RACETRACK VIDEO LOTTERY.

§29-22A-7. License and permit qualifications; individual qualifications; applicant required to furnish information;

waiver of liability; oath or affirmation; duty to provide accurate and material information.

(a) No video lottery license or permit may be granted unless the commission has determined that the applicant satisfies all of the following qualifications:

(1) An applicant for a video lottery license must hold a valid racing license granted by the West Virginia Racing Commission under provisions of §19-23-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(2) An applicant must be a person of good character and integrity.

(3) An applicant must be a person whose background, including criminal record, reputation, and associations, does not pose a threat to the security and integrity of the lottery or to the public interest of the state. All new applicants for licenses and permits issued by the commission shall furnish fingerprints for a national criminal records check by the Criminal Identification Bureau of the West Virginia State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The fingerprints shall be furnished by all persons required to be named in the application and shall be accompanied by a signed authorization for the release of information by the Criminal Investigation Bureau and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The commission may require any applicant seeking the renewal of a license or permit to furnish fingerprints for a national criminal records check by the Criminal Identification Bureau of the West Virginia State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation: *Provided*, That the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-22A-7(g) and §29-22A-7(h) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license or permit being sought.

(4) An applicant must be a person who demonstrates the business ability and experience necessary to establish,

operate, and maintain the business for which a video lottery license or permit application is made.

(5) An applicant must be a person who has secured adequate financing for the business for which a video lottery license or permit application is made. The commission shall determine whether financing is from a source which meets the qualifications of this section and is adequate to support the successful performance of the duties and responsibilities of the licensed racetrack or permit holder. An applicant for a video lottery license shall disclose all financing or refinancing arrangements for the purchase, lease, or other acquisition of video lottery terminals and associated equipment in the degree of detail requested by the commission. A licensed racetrack shall request commission approval of any change in financing or lease arrangements at least 30 days before the effective date of the change.

(6) A racetrack applying for a video lottery license or a license renewal must present to the commission evidence of the existence of an agreement, regarding the proceeds from video lottery terminals, between the applicant and the representative of a majority of the horse owners and trainers, the representative of a majority of the pari-mutuel clerks and the representative of a majority of the breeders or the representative of a majority of the kennel owners for the applicable racetrack who hold permits required by §19-23-2 of this code.

(7) A racetrack applying for a video lottery license or a license renewal must file with the commission a copy of any current or proposed agreement between the applicant and any manufacturer for the sale, lease, or other assignment to the racetrack of video lottery terminals, the electronic computer components of the terminals, the random number generator of the terminals, or the cabinet in which it is housed. Once filed with the commission, the agreement is a public document subject to the provisions of §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) No video lottery license or permit may be granted to an applicant until the commission determines that each person who has control of the applicant meets all applicable qualifications of subsection (a) of this section. The following persons are considered to have control of an applicant:

(1) Each person associated with a corporate applicant, including any corporate holding company, parent company, or subsidiary company of the applicant, but not including a bank or other licensed lending institution which holds a mortgage or other lien acquired in the ordinary course of business, who has the ability to control the activities of the corporate applicant or elect a majority of the board of directors of that corporation.

(2) Each person associated with a noncorporate applicant who directly or indirectly holds any beneficial or proprietary interest in the applicant or whom the commission determines to have the ability to control the applicant.

(3) Key personnel of an applicant, including any executive, employee or agent, having the power to exercise significant influence over decisions concerning any part of the applicant's business operation.

(c) Applicants must furnish all information, including financial data and documents, certifications, consents, waivers, individual history forms, and other materials requested by the commission for purposes of determining qualifications for a license or permit. No video lottery license or permit may be granted to an applicant who fails to provide information and documentation requested by the commission. The burden of proving qualification for any video lottery license or permit is on the applicant.

(d) Each applicant bears all risks of adverse public notice, embarrassment, criticism, damages, or financial loss which may result from any disclosure or publication of any

material or information obtained by the commission pursuant to action on an application. The applicant shall, as a part of its application, expressly waive any and all claims against the commission, the State of West Virginia and the employees of either for damages as a result of any background investigation, disclosure, or publication relating to an application for a video lottery license or permit.

(e) All application, registration, and disclosure forms and other documents submitted to the commission by or on behalf of the applicant for purposes of determining qualification for a video lottery license or permit shall be sworn to or affirmed before an officer qualified to administer oaths.

(f) An applicant who knowingly fails to reveal any fact material to qualification or who knowingly submits false or misleading material information is ineligible for a video lottery license or permit.

(g) The Lottery Commission may not disqualify an applicant from an initial license or permit because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring a license or permit. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the Lottery Commission shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from a license or permit because of a prior criminal conviction, the Lottery Commission shall permit the applicant to apply for an initial license or permit if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from a license or permit, to be determined by the Lottery Commission.

(i) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for a license or permit may petition the Lottery Commission at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license or permit. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the Lottery Commission to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The Lottery Commission shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The Lottery Commission may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

ARTICLE 22B. LIMITED VIDEO LOTTERY.

§29-22B-502. General qualifications for all types of limited video lottery licenses.

(a) No limited video lottery license or license renewal may be granted unless the Lottery Commission has determined that the applicant satisfies all of the following qualifications:

(1) The applicant is a person of good character, honesty, and integrity;

(2) The applicant is a person whose background, criminal record, if any, reputation, habits, and associations, do not threaten to (A) compromise the public interest of the citizens of the state, (B) weaken the effective regulation and control of video gaming, (C) breach the security and integrity of the lottery, or (D) introduce corrupt, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities into the operation of video gaming or the business or financial transactions incidental to the operation of video gaming;

(3) The applicant has not been convicted of any violation of §29-22B-101 *et seq.*, §19-23-1 *et seq.*, §29-22-1 *et seq.*, §29-22A-1 *et seq.*, §29-25-1 *et seq.* of this code, or any felony related to theft, bribery, or gambling in this or in any other state or foreign country: *Provided*, That the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-22B-502(b) and §29-22B-502(c) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought.

(4) The applicant has disclosed to the Lottery Commission the identity of each person who has control of the applicant, as control is described in §29-22B-507 of this code, and those persons satisfy all qualifications required by this section and any applicable qualifications required by §29-22B-503 through §29-22B-506 of this code;

(5) The applicant has provided a set of fingerprints and has completed and signed the statement provided for in §29-22B-602 of this code;

(6) The applicant has furnished all information, including financial data and documents, certifications,

consents, waivers, individual history forms, and other materials requested by the Lottery Commission for purposes of determining qualifications for a license.

(b) The Lottery Commission may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the Lottery Commission shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the Lottery Commission shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the Lottery Commission.

(d) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the Lottery Commission at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the Lottery Commission to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The Lottery Commission shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The Lottery Commission may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

ARTICLE 22C. WEST VIRGINIA LOTTERY RACETRACK TABLE GAMES ACT.

§29-22C-15. License or registration prohibitions.

(a) The commission may not grant any license or registration pursuant to the provisions of this article if evidence satisfactory to the commission exists that the applicant:

(1) Has knowingly made a false statement of a material fact to the commission;

(2) Has been suspended from operating a gambling game, gaming device, or gaming operation, or had a license or registration revoked by any governmental authority of a state of the United States having responsibility for the regulation of gambling or gaming activities; or

(3) Has been convicted of a crime, a gambling-related offense, a theft or fraud offense, or has otherwise

demonstrated, either by a police record or other satisfactory evidence, a lack of respect for law and order: *Provided*, That the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-22C-15(d) and §29-22C-15(e) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought.

(b) In the case of an applicant for a license to supply a racetrack with West Virginia Lottery table games, the commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license:

(1) If the applicant or licensee has not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commission financial responsibility sufficient to adequately meet the requirements of the proposed enterprise;

(2) If the applicant or licensee is not the true owner of the business or is not the sole owner and has not disclosed the existence or identity of other persons who have an ownership interest in the business; or

(3) If the applicant or licensee is a corporation which sells more than five percent of a licensee's voting stock, or more than five percent of the voting stock of a corporation which controls the licensee, or sells a licensee's assets, other than those bought and sold in the ordinary course of business, or any interest in the assets, to any person not already determined by the commission to have met the qualifications of a licensee under this article.

(c) In the case of an applicant for a racetrack table games license, the commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license:

(1) If the applicant or licensee knowingly employs an individual in a job classification which includes West Virginia Lottery table games management duties who has been convicted of a gambling-related offense, or a theft, or

fraud offense under the laws of this state, another state, the United States or a territory of the United States or knowingly employs any individual in a job classification which includes West Virginia Lottery table games management duties who has had a license relating to the operation of a gaming activity revoked by this state or any other state: *Provided*, That the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-22C-15(d) and §29-22C-15(e) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the licensed profession.

(2) If the applicant or licensee is not the true owner of the business or is not the sole owner and has not disclosed the existence or identity of other persons who have an ownership interest in the business; or

(3) If the applicant or licensee is a corporation, which sells more than five percent of a licensee's voting stock, or more than five percent of the voting stock of a corporation which controls the licensee or sells a licensee's assets, other than those bought and sold in the ordinary course of business, or any interest in the assets, to any person not already determined by the commission to have met the qualifications of a licensee under this article, unless the sale has been approved in advance by the commission.

(d) The Lottery Commission may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the Lottery Commission shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the Lottery Commission shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the Lottery Commission.

(f) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the Lottery Commission at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the Lottery Commission to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The Lottery Commission shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The Lottery Commission may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

§29-22C-16. License or registration denial, revocation, suspension, and reprimand.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of §29-22C-13(b) of this code to the contrary, the commission may deny a license or registration to any applicant, reprimand any licensee or registrant, or suspend or revoke a license or registration if the applicant, licensee, registrant, or any person having control of the applicant, licensee, or registrant:

(1) Fraudulently or deceptively obtains or attempts to obtain a license or registration for the applicant, licensee, registrant, or another person;

(2) Fraudulently or deceptively uses a license or registration;

(3) Is or has been convicted of a felony under the laws of this state, another state, the United States, or a territory of the United States: *Provided*, That in the event an applicant is seeking initial licensure, the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-22C-15(d) and §29-22C-15(e) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the licensed profession; or

(4) Is or has been convicted of a misdemeanor under the laws of this state, another state, the United States or a territory of the United States for gambling or a gambling related activity: *Provided*, That in the event an applicant is seeking initial licensure, the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-22C-15(d) and §29-22C-15(e) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the licensed profession.

(b) Instead of or in addition to reprimanding a licensee or registrant or suspending or revoking a license or registration, the commission may impose a civil penalty under §29-22C-31 of this code.

ARTICLE 22D. WEST VIRGINIA LOTTERY SPORTS WAGERING ACT.

§29-22D-10. License prohibitions.

(a) The commission may not grant any license, pursuant to the provisions of this article, if evidence satisfactory to the commission exists that the applicant:

(1) Has knowingly made a false statement of a material fact to the commission;

(2) Has been suspended from operating a gambling game, gaming device, or gaming operation, or had a license revoked by any governmental authority responsible for regulation of gaming activities;

(3) Has been convicted of a gambling-related offense, a theft, or fraud offense, or has otherwise demonstrated, either by a police record or other satisfactory evidence, a lack of respect for law and order: *Provided*, That the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-22D-10(c) and §29-22D-10(d) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought; or

(4) Is a company or individual who has been directly employed by any illegal or offshore book that serviced the United States, or otherwise accepted black market wagers from individuals located in the United States.

(b) The commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license:

(1) If the applicant or licensee has not demonstrated to the satisfaction of the commission financial responsibility sufficient to adequately meet the requirements of the proposed enterprise;

(2) If the applicant or licensee is not the true owner of the business or is not the sole owner and has not disclosed the existence or identity of other persons who have an ownership interest in the business; or

(3) If the applicant or licensee is a corporation which sells more than five percent of a licensee's voting stock, or more than five percent of the voting stock of a corporation which controls the licensee, or sells a licensee's assets, other than those bought and sold in the ordinary course of business, or any interest in the assets, to any person not already determined by the commission to have met the qualifications of a licensee under this article.

(c) The Lottery Commission may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the Lottery Commission shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the Lottery Commission shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the Lottery Commission.

(e) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the Lottery Commission at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the Lottery Commission to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The Lottery Commission shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The Lottery Commission may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

(f) In the case of an applicant for a sports wagering license, the commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license if an applicant has not met the requirements of this section or any other provision of this article.

ARTICLE 25. AUTHORIZED GAMING FACILITY.

§29-25-13. False statements on applications; other license or registration requirements and prohibitions.

(a) Any person who knowingly makes a false statement on an application is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon

conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $1,000 and confined in jail for not more than six months except that in the case of a person other than a natural person, the amount of the fine imposed may not be more than $25,000.

(b) The commission may not grant a license or registration pursuant to the provisions of this article if there is substantial evidence that the applicant:

(1) Has knowingly made a false statement of a material fact to the commission;

(2) Has been suspended from operating a gambling game, gaming device, or gambling operation in another jurisdiction by a board or other governmental authority of that jurisdiction having responsibility for the regulation of gambling or gaming activities;

(3) Has been convicted of a felony, a gambling offense, a theft or fraud offense or has otherwise demonstrated, either by a police record or other satisfactory evidence, a lack of respect for law and order: *Provided*, That the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-25-13(d) and §29-25-13(e) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought;

(4) Has failed to meet any monetary obligation in connection with a gaming facility or any other form of gaming; or

(5) In the case of an applicant for a license to operate a gaming facility or to supply a gaming facility:

(A) Has not demonstrated financial responsibility sufficient to meet adequately the requirements of the enterprise proposed;

(B) Is not the true owner of the enterprise or is not the sole owner and has not disclosed the existence or identity of

other persons who have an ownership interest in such enterprise; or

(C) Is a corporation and five percent or more of the stock of the corporation is subject to a contract or option to purchase at any time during the period for which the license is issued unless the contract or option was disclosed to and approved by the commission.

(c) In addition to any other grounds specified in this article, and subject to the hearing provisions of §29-25-17 of this code, in the case of a license to operate a gaming facility the commission may deny a license to any applicant, reprimand any licensee, or suspend or revoke a license if the applicant or licensee or any controlling person of the applicant or licensee knowingly employs an individual in a senior management position who has been convicted of a felony, bearing a rational nexus to the license, under the laws of this state, another state, a territory of the United States, or the United States or employs any individual in a senior management position who has had a license relating to the operation of a gaming facility revoked by this state or any other state: *Provided*, That the Lottery Commission shall apply §29-25-13(d) and §29-25-13(e) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought.

(d) The Lottery Commission may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the Lottery Commission shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the Lottery Commission shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the Lottery Commission.

(f) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the Lottery Commission at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the Lottery Commission to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The Lottery Commission shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The Lottery

Commission may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

(g) Character references may be required of persons licensed, but the character reference may not be obtained from persons in the same or similar occupations or professions in other states.

CHAPTER 31. CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 17A. WEST VIRGINIA SAFE MORTGAGE LICENSING ACT.

§31-17A-5. Issuance of license.

(a) The commissioner may not issue a mortgage loan originator license unless the commissioner makes at a minimum the following findings:

(1) The applicant has never had a mortgage loan originator license revoked in any governmental jurisdiction, except that a subsequent formal vacation of the revocation may not be considered a revocation.

(2) The applicant has not been convicted of, or pled guilty or nolo contendere to, a felony in a domestic, foreign or military court: *Provided*, That any pardon of a conviction may not be a conviction for purposes of this subsection: *Provided, however*, That the commissioner shall apply §31-17A-5(b) and §31-17A-5(c) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought;

(A) During the five-year period preceding the date of the application for licensing and registration; or

(B) At any time preceding the date of application if the crime bears a rational nexus to the license being sought.

(3) The applicant has demonstrated financial responsibility, character, and general fitness such as to command the confidence of the community and to warrant

a determination that the mortgage loan originator will operate honestly, fairly, and efficiently within the purposes of this article.

For purposes of this subsection a person has shown that he or she is not financially responsible when he or she has shown a disregard in the management of his or her own financial condition. The commissioner shall not use a credit score as the sole basis for license denial. A determination that an individual has not shown financial responsibility may include, but not be limited to:

(A) Current outstanding judgments, except judgments solely as a result of medical expenses;

(B) Current outstanding tax liens or other government liens and filings;

(C) Foreclosures within the past three years; and

(D) A pattern of seriously delinquent accounts within the past three years.

(4) The applicant has completed the pre-licensing education requirement described in §31-17A-6 of this code.

(5) The applicant has passed a written test that meets the test requirement described in §31-17A-7 of this code.

(6) The applicant has met the surety bond requirement as required pursuant to §31-17A-13 of this code.

(b) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the commissioner shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

(d) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall

provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

CHAPTER 32A. LAND SALES; FALSE ADVERTISING; ISSUANCE AND SALE OF CHECKS, DRAFTS, MONEY ORDERS, ETC.

ARTICLE 2. CHECKS AND MONEY ORDER SALES, MONEY TRANSMISSION SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION, AND CURRENCY EXCHANGE.

§32A-2-8. Qualifications for license or renewal of license.

(a) The commissioner may issue a license to an applicant only upon first determining that the financial condition, business experience, and character and general fitness of an applicant are such that the issuance of the license is in the public interest: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §32A-2-8(f) and §32A-2-8(g) of this code in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought.

(b) An applicant for a license shall agree in writing to comply with the currency reporting and record-keeping requirements of 31 U.S.C. §5313, as well as those set forth in 31 C.F.R. Chapter X and any other relevant federal law.

(c) A person is not eligible for a license or shall surrender an existing license if, during the previous five years:

(1) The person or a principal of the person, of a business:

(A) Has been convicted of a felony or a crime involving fraud or deceit under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States;

(B) Has been convicted of a crime under the laws of another country that involves fraud or deceit or would be a felony if committed in the United States; or

(C) Has been convicted under a state or federal law relating to currency exchange or transmission or any state or federal monetary instrument reporting requirement; or

(2) The person, a principal of the person, or the spouse of the person or a principal of the person has been convicted of an offense under a state or federal law relating to drug trafficking, money laundering, or a reporting requirement of the Bank Secrecy Act, 12 U.S.C. §1951 *et seq.*, as amended.

(d) The commissioner will review the application to determine whether the applicant:

(1) Has recklessly failed to file or evaded the obligation to file a currency transaction report as required by 31 U.S.C. §5313 during the previous three years;

(2) Has recklessly accepted currency for exchange, transport, or transmission during the previous three years in which a portion of the currency was derived from an illegal transaction or activity;

(3) Will conduct its authorized business within the bounds of state and federal law, including, but not limited to, §31D-15-1501 of this code;

(4) Warrants the trust of the community;

(5) Has and will maintain a minimum tangible net worth of $50,000 computed according to generally accepted accounting principles as shown by the most recent audited financial statement filed with and satisfactory to the commissioner, and in addition has and will maintain a minimum tangible net worth of $25,000, computed according to generally accepted accounting principles for each office or delegate location other than its principal office at which its licensed business is transacted, except that an applicant for a license or renewal of a license may not be required by this article to maintain a tangible net worth of more than $1 million, computed according to generally accepted accounting principles; and

(6) Does not owe delinquent taxes, fines, or fees to any local or state taxing authority or governmental agency, department, or other political subdivision of this state.

(e) A person is not eligible for a license, and a person who holds a license shall surrender the license to the commissioner, if the person or a principal of the person has at any time been convicted of:

(1) A felony involving the laundering of money that is the product of or proceeds from criminal activity under chapter 61 of this code, or a similar provision of the laws of another state or the United States; or

(2) A felony violation of 31 U.S.C. §5313 or 5324, or a rule adopted under those sections.

(f) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the commissioner shall consider at a minimum:

(1) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(2) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(3) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(4) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure

because of a prior criminal conviction, the commissioner shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(1) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(2) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(3) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

(h) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

(i) Before approving an application for a license of an applicant who has less than one year's experience in the proposed business governed by this article as a regulated entity in another state, or whose license has been suspended or revoked by another state, the commissioner may, in his or her discretion, conduct an on-site investigation of an applicant at the sole expense of the applicant and may require the applicant to pay a nonrefundable payment of the anticipated expenses for conducting the investigation.

Failure to make the payment or cooperate with the investigation is grounds for denying the application.

CHAPTER 33. INSURANCE.

ARTICLE 13C. VIATICAL SETTLEMENTS ACT.

§33-13C-3. License and bond requirements.

(a)(1) A person may not operate as a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker without first obtaining a license from the commissioner.

(2)(A) An insurance producer who is authorized to sell life insurance in this state pursuant to a resident or nonresident license issued in accordance with the provisions of §33-12-1 *et seq.* of this code may operate as a viatical settlement broker without obtaining a license pursuant to this section if the viatical settlement activities of the producer are incidental to the producer's insurance business activities.

(B) The insurer that issued the policy being viaticated is not responsible for any act or omission of a viatical settlement broker or viatical settlement provider arising out of or in connection with the viatical settlement transaction, unless the insurer receives compensation for the placement of a viatical settlement contract from the viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker in connection with the viatical settlement contract.

(3) A person licensed as an attorney, certified public accountant, or financial planner accredited by a nationally recognized accreditation agency who is retained to represent the viator, whose compensation is not paid directly or indirectly by the viatical settlement provider, may negotiate viatical settlement contracts on behalf of the viator without having to obtain a license as a viatical settlement broker.

(b) Application for a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker license and for renewals of the

licenses shall be made in the manner prescribed by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by fees established in legislative rules, including emergency rules, promulgated by the commissioner.

(1) The commissioner may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the activity requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a profession or occupation, the commissioner shall consider at a minimum:

(A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(2) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, unless that conviction is a felony pursuant to §33-13C-14 of this code, the commissioner shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the commissioner.

(3) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the commissioner at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the commissioner to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The commissioner shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The commissioner may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

(c) The commissioner has the authority, at any time, to require the applicant to fully disclose the identity of all stockholders, partners, officers, members, and employees and the commissioner may, in the exercise of the commissioner's discretion, refuse to issue a license in the name of a legal entity if not satisfied that any officer, employee, stockholder, partner, or member of the entity who may materially influence the applicant's conduct meets the standards of this article.

(d) The commissioner shall make an investigation of each applicant and issue a license if the commissioner finds that the applicant:

(1) If a viatical settlement provider, has provided a detailed plan of operation;

(2) Is competent and trustworthy and acts in good faith in the capacity of a licensee;

(3) Has a good business reputation and is qualified by experience, training, or education as a viatical settlement provider or broker;

(4) Has demonstrated evidence of financial responsibility, in a format prescribed by the commissioner, by possessing a minimum equity of not less than $250,000 in cash or cash equivalents reflected in the applicant's audited financial statements or through a surety bond executed and issued by an insurer authorized to issue surety bonds in this state in the amount of $250,000: *Provided*, That the commissioner may permit an applicant for a broker's license to demonstrate evidence of financial responsibility through a policy of insurance covering legal liability resulting from erroneous acts or failure to act in their capacity as a viatical settlement broker and inuring to the benefit of any aggrieved party as the result of any single occurrence in the sum of not less than $100,000 and $300,000 in the aggregate for all occurrences within one year. Any surety bond issued pursuant to this subdivision shall be in the favor of this state and shall specifically authorize recovery by the commissioner on behalf of any person in this state who sustained damages as the result of erroneous acts, failure to act, conviction of fraud, or conviction of unfair practices by the viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker. The commissioner shall accept, as evidence of financial responsibility, proof that financial instruments in accordance with the requirements in this paragraph have been filed with a state in which the applicant is licensed as a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker. The commissioner may ask for evidence of financial responsibility at any time he or she considers it necessary.

(5) If a legal entity has provided a certificate of good standing from the state of its domicile; and

(6) Has provided an antifraud plan that meets the requirements of §33-13C-14(g) of this code.

(e) The commissioner may not issue a license to a nonresident applicant unless the applicant files with the commissioner either a written designation of an agent for service of process or the applicant's written irrevocable consent that any action against the applicant may be commenced against the applicant by service of process on the commissioner.

(f) A viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker shall provide to the commissioner new or revised information about officers, 10 percent or more stockholders, partners, directors, members, or designated employees within 30 days of the change.

(g) An individual licensed as a viatical settlement broker shall complete on a biennial basis 15 hours of training related to viatical settlements and viatical settlement transactions as required by the commissioner. A life insurance producer operating as a viatical settlement broker pursuant to subdivision (2), subsection (a) of this section is not subject to the requirements of this subsection. Any person failing to meet the requirements of this subsection is subject to the penalties imposed by the commissioner.

§33-13C-4. License revocation and denial.

(a) The commissioner may refuse to issue, suspend, revoke, place on probation, or refuse to renew the license of a viatical settlement provider or viatical settlement broker if the commissioner finds that:

(1) There was any material misrepresentation in the application for the license;

(2) The licensee or any officer, partner, member, or key management personnel has been convicted of fraudulent or dishonest practices, is subject to a final administrative action, or is otherwise shown to be untrustworthy or incompetent;

(3) The viatical settlement provider demonstrates a pattern of unreasonable payments to viators;

(4) The licensee or any officer, partner, member, or key management personnel has been found guilty of, or has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to, any felony, or to a misdemeanor involving fraud, regardless of whether a judgment of conviction has been entered by the court: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall apply §33-13C-3(b) of this code and any relevant legislative rules in determining whether an applicant's prior criminal convictions bear a rational nexus to the license being sought;

(5) The viatical settlement provider has entered into any viatical settlement contract that has not been approved pursuant to this article;

(6) The viatical settlement provider has failed to honor contractual obligations set out in a viatical settlement contract;

(7) The licensee no longer meets the requirements for initial licensure;

(8) The viatical settlement provider has assigned, transferred or pledged a viaticated policy to a person other than a viatical settlement provider licensed in this state, viatical settlement purchaser, an accredited investor, or qualified institutional buyer as defined respectively in Rule 501(a) or Rule 144A promulgated under the Federal Securities Act of 1933, as amended, financing entity, special purpose entity, or related provider trust; or

(9) The licensee or any officer, partner, member, or key management personnel has violated any provision of this article.

(b) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew the license of a viatical settlement broker or a life insurance producer operating as a viatical settlement broker pursuant to this article if the commissioner finds that the

viatical settlement broker or life insurance producer has violated the provisions of this article or has otherwise engaged in bad faith conduct with one or more viators.

(c) If the commissioner denies a license application or suspends, revokes, or refuses to renew the license of a viatical settlement provider, viatical settlement broker, or life insurance producer operating as a viatical settlement broker, the commissioner shall conduct a hearing in accordance with §33-2-13 of this code.

CHAPTER 248

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4360 - By Delegates Foster, Waxman, Householder, Barnhart, Jennings, Porterfield, Ellington, Phillips, D. Jeffries, C. Martin and Wilson)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §21-16-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to heating, ventilating, and cooling system licensing requirements; exempting from licensure requirements certain persons only performing electrical, or plumbing work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system, including, but not limited to, thermostats, bathroom fans, and tankless water heater ventilation; providing for recognition of verified military service, training or education; and clarifying reciprocity provisions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 16. REGULATION OF HEATING, VENTILATING AND COOLING WORK.

§21-16-3. License required; exemptions.

(a) On and after January 1, 2016, a person performing or offering to perform work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system in this state shall have a license issued by the Commissioner of Labor, in accordance with the provisions of this article and the legislative rules promulgated pursuant hereto: *Provided*, That the commissioner shall issue HVAC residential technician licenses to qualified applicants without examination who present satisfactory evidence no later than December 31, 2019, of having at least 2,000 hours of experience and/or training working on heating, ventilating, and cooling systems: *Provided, however*, That if a license issued under the authority of this subsection subsequently lapses, the applicant is subject to all licensure requirements, including the examination.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, the commissioner shall credit verified military service, training, or education toward the licensing requirements, other than examination requirements, for a license issued under this article. The commissioner shall expedite the issuance of a provisional license or a license by endorsement or reciprocity under this article to an applicant who: has verified military experience or holds a current license issued by another jurisdiction that has license requirements that are substantially equivalent to the license requirements of this state.

(c) A person licensed under this article shall carry a copy of the license on any job in which heating, ventilating, and cooling work is being performed.

(d) This article does not apply to:

(1) A person who personally performs work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system in a single family dwelling owned by that person or by a member of that person's immediate family;

(2) A person who performs work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system at a manufacturing plant or other industrial establishment as an employee of the person, firm, or corporation operating the plant or establishment;

(3) A person who performs only electrical, or plumbing work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system, which includes, but is not limited to, thermostats, bathroom fans, and tankless water heater ventilation, so long as the work is within the scope of practice which the person is otherwise licensed or authorized to perform; or

(4) A person who performs routine maintenance on any heating, ventilating, and cooling system.

CHAPTER 249

(H. B. 4375 - By Delegates Summers, Kessinger, Hill, Pack, Porterfield and Bates)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article designated §30-32A-1, §30-32A-2, §30-32A-3, §30-32A-4, §30-32A-5, §30-32A-6, §30-32A-7, §30-32A-8, §30-32A-9, §30-32A-10, §30-32A-11, §30-32A-12, §30-32A-13, and §30-32A-14, all relating to joining the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission; providing for a purpose; providing for definitions; providing for telehealth; requiring criminal background check and setting educational and other requirements for audiologists and speech-language pathologists; authorizing member state to charge fee for granting compact privilege; providing for state participation in the compact; establishing the privilege to practice in

member states; providing for change in primary state or residence procedures relating to licensing for active duty military personnel and their spouses; providing for procedures relating to duties, meetings, responsibilities, and adverse actions; establishing the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission and providing for an executive committee; providing for a data system available for use among the member states; providing for rulemaking authority of the commission; providing for dispute resolution, and enforcement provisions of the commission among the member states; providing for date of implementation among the member states; providing for applicability of the existing rules at the time a new member state joins the commission; providing for withdrawal of any member states and conditions that must be met until withdrawal is effective; providing for a six-month period before withdrawal is effective; providing for construction and severability of the provisions of the compact; and providing for a binding effect of the laws and rules of the compact among the member states.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 32A. SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS AND AUDIOLOGISTS COMPACT.

§30-32A-1. Purpose.

1 The purpose of this compact is to facilitate interstate
2 practice of audiology and speech-language pathology with
3 the goal of improving public access to audiology and
4 speech-language pathology services. The practice of
5 audiology and speech-language pathology occurs in the
6 state where the patient, client, or student is located at the
7 time of the patient, client, or student encounter. The
8 compact preserves the regulatory authority of states to
9 protect public health and safety through the current system
10 of state licensure. This compact is designed to achieve the
11 following objectives:

(1) Increase public access to audiology and speech-language pathology services by providing for the mutual recognition of other member state licenses;

(2) Enhance the state's ability to protect the public's health and safety;

(3) Encourage the cooperation of member states in regulating multistate audiology and speech-language pathology practice;

(4) Support spouses of relocating active duty military personnel;

(5) Enhance the exchange of licensure, investigative, and disciplinary information between member states;

(6) Allow a remote state to hold a provider of services with a compact privilege in that state accountable to that state's practice standards; and

(7) Allow for the use of telehealth technology to facilitate increased access to audiology and speech-language pathology services.

§30-32A-2. Definitions.

As used in this compact, except as otherwise provided, the following definitions shall apply:

"Active duty military" means full-time duty status in the active uniformed service of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211.

"Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by a state's laws which is imposed by a licensing board or other authority against an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, including actions against an individual's license or privilege to practice such as revocation, suspension, probation,

monitoring of the licensee, or restriction on the licensee's practice.

"Alternative program" means a nondisciplinary monitoring process approved by an audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to address impaired practitioners.

"Audiologist" means an individual who is licensed by a state to practice audiology.

"Audiology" means the care and services provided by a licensed audiologist as set forth in the member state's statutes and rules.

"Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission" or "Commission" means the national administrative body whose membership consists of all states that have enacted the compact.

"Audiology and speech-language pathology licensing board", "audiology licensing board", "speech-language pathology licensing board", or "licensing board" means the agency of a state that is responsible for the licensing and regulation of audiologists or speech-language pathologists, or both, which in West Virginia is the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology ("board").

"Compact privilege" means the authorization granted by a remote state to allow a licensee from another member state to practice as an audiologist or speech-language pathologist in the remote state under its laws and rules. The practice of audiology or speech-language pathology occurs in the member state where the patient, client, or student is located at the time of the patient, client, or student encounter.

"Current significant investigative information" means investigative information that a licensing board, after an inquiry or investigation that includes notification and an

47 opportunity for the audiologist or speech-language
48 pathologist to respond, if required by state law, has reason
49 to believe is not groundless and, if proved true, would
50 indicate more than a minor infraction.

51 "Data system" means a repository of information about
52 licensees, including, but not limited to, continuing
53 education, examination, licensure, investigation, compact
54 privilege, and adverse action.

55 "Encumbered license" means a license in which an
56 adverse action restricts the practice of audiology or speech-
57 language pathology by the licensee and the adverse action
58 has been reported to the National Practitioners Data Bank
59 (NPDB).

60 "Executive committee" means a group of directors
61 elected or appointed to act on behalf of, and within the
62 powers granted to them by, the commission.

63 "Home state" means the member state that is the
64 licensee's primary state of residence.

65 "Impaired practitioner" means individuals whose
66 professional practice is adversely affected by substance
67 abuse, addiction, or other health-related conditions.

68 "Licensee" means an individual who currently holds an
69 authorization from the state licensing board to practice as an
70 audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

71 "Member state" means a state that has enacted the
72 compact.

73 "Privilege to practice" means a legal authorization
74 permitting the practice of audiology or speech-language
75 pathology in a remote state.

76 "Remote state" means a member state other than the
77 home state where a licensee is exercising or seeking to
78 exercise the compact privilege.

"Rule" means a regulation, principle, or directive promulgated by the commission that has the force of law.

"Single-state license" means an audiology or speech-language pathology license issued by a member state that authorizes practice only within the issuing state and does not include a privilege to practice in any other member state.

"Speech-language pathologist" means an individual who is licensed by a state to practice speech-language pathology.

"Speech-language pathology" means the care and services provided by a licensed speech-language pathologist as set forth in the member state's statutes and rules.

"State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States of America that regulates the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology.

"State practice laws" means a member state's laws, rules, and regulations that govern the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology, define the scope of audiology or speech-language pathology practice, and create the methods and grounds for imposing discipline.

"Telehealth" means the application of telecommunication, audio-visual, or other technologies that meets the applicable standard of care to deliver audiology or speech-language pathology services at a distance for assessment, intervention, or consultation.

§30-32A-3. State participation in the compact.

(a) Upon the grant of the compact privilege, a license issued to an audiologist or speech-language pathologist by a home state to a resident in that state shall be recognized by each member state as authorizing an audiologist or speech-language pathologist to practice audiology or speech-language pathology, under a privilege to practice, in the member state where the licensee obtains this privilege.

(b) A state must implement or use procedures for considering the criminal history records of applicants for initial privilege to practice. These procedures shall include the submission of fingerprints or other biometric-based information by applicants for the purpose of obtaining an applicant's criminal history record information from the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the agency responsible for retaining that state's criminal records.

(1) A member state must fully implement a criminal background check requirement, within a timeframe established by rule, by receiving the results of the Federal Bureau of Investigation record search on criminal background checks and using the results in making licensure decisions.

(2) Communication between a member state, the commission, and among member states regarding the verification of eligibility for licensure through the compact shall not include any information received from the Federal Bureau of Investigation relating to a federal criminal records check performed by a member state under Public Law 92-544.

(c) Upon application for a privilege to practice, the licensing board in the issuing remote state shall ascertain, through the data system, whether the applicant has ever held, or is the holder of, a license issued by any other state, whether there are any encumbrances on any license or privilege to practice held by the applicant, and whether any adverse action has been taken against any license or privilege to practice held by the applicant.

(d) Each member state shall require an applicant to obtain or retain a license in the home state and meet the home state's qualifications for licensure or renewal of licensure, as well as all other applicable state laws.

(e) An audiologist:

(1) Must meet one of the following educational requirements:

(A) On or before, December 31, 2007, the applicant graduated with a master's degree or doctorate in audiology, or equivalent degree regardless of degree name, from a program that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its successor, or by the United States Department of Education, and operated by a college or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the board;

(B) After Jan. 1, 2008, the applicant graduated with a doctoral degree in audiology, or equivalent degree, regardless of degree name, from a program that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its successor, or by the United States Department of Education, and operated by a college or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the board; or

(C) The applicant graduated from an audiology program that is housed in an institution of higher education outside of the United States: (i) For which the program and institution have been approved by the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country; and (ii) the degree program has been verified by an independent credentials review agency to be comparable to a state licensing board-approved program;

(2) Completed a supervised clinical practicum experience from an accredited educational institution or its cooperating programs as required by the commission;

(3) Successfully passed a national examination approved by the commission;

(4) Holds an active, unencumbered license;

(5) Has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony related to the practice of audiology under applicable state or federal criminal law; and

(6) Has a valid United States Social Security or National Practitioner Identification number.

(f) A speech-language pathologist:

(1) Must meet one of the following educational requirements:

(A) The applicant graduated with a master's degree from a speech-language pathology program that is accredited by an organization recognized by the United States Department of Education and operated by a college or university accredited by a regional or national accrediting organization recognized by the board; or

(B) The applicant graduated from a speech-language pathology program that is housed in an institution of higher education outside of the United States: (i) For which the program and institution have been approved by the authorized accrediting body in the applicable country; and (ii) the degree program has been verified by an independent credentials review agency to be comparable to a state licensing board-approved program.

(2) Completed a supervised clinical practicum experience from an educational institution or its cooperating programs as required by the commission;

(3) Completed a supervised postgraduate professional experience as required by the commission;

(4) Successfully passed a national examination approved by the commission;

(5) Holds an active, unencumbered license;

(6) Has not been convicted or found guilty, and has not entered into an agreed disposition, of a felony related to the practice of speech-language pathology under applicable state or federal criminal law; and

(7) Has a valid United States Social Security or National Practitioner Identification number.

(g) The privilege to practice is derived from the home state license.

(h) An audiologist or speech-language pathologist practicing in a member state must comply with the state practice laws of the state in which the client is located at the time service is provided. The practice of audiology and speech-language pathology shall include all audiology and speech-language pathology practice as defined by the state practice laws of the member state in which the client is located. The practice of audiology and speech-language pathology in a member state under a privilege to practice shall subject an audiologist or speech-language pathologist to the jurisdiction of the licensing board, the courts, and the laws of the member state in which the client is located at the time service is provided.

(i) Individuals not residing in a member state shall continue to be able to apply for a member state's single-state license as provided under the laws of each member state. However, the single-state license granted to these individuals shall not be recognized as granting the privilege to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in any other member state. Nothing in this compact affects the requirements established by a member state for the issuance of a single-state license.

(j) Member states may charge a fee for granting a compact privilege.

(k) Member states must comply with the bylaws and rules and regulations of the commission.

§30-32A-4. Compact privilege.

(a) To exercise the compact privilege under the terms and provisions of the compact, the audiologist or speech-language pathologist shall:

(1) Hold an active license in the home state;

(2) Have no encumbrance on any state license;

(3) Be eligible for a compact privilege in any member state in accordance with §30-32A-3 of this code;

(4) Had no adverse action against any license or compact privilege within the previous two years from date of application;

(5) Notify the Commission that the licensee is seeking the compact privilege within a remote state or states;

(6) Pay any applicable fees, including any state fee, for the compact privilege; and

(7) Report to the commission adverse action taken by any nonmember state within 30 days from the date the adverse action is taken.

(b) For the purposes of the compact privilege, an audiologist or speech-language pathologist may only hold one home state license at a time.

(c) Except as provided in §30-32A-6 of this code, if an audiologist or speech-language pathologist changes primary state of residence by moving between two member states, the audiologist or speech-language pathologist must apply for licensure in the new home state, and the license issued by the prior home state shall be deactivated in accordance with applicable rules adopted by the commission.

(d) The audiologist or speech-language pathologist may apply for licensure in advance of a change in primary state of residence.

(e) A license shall not be issued by the new home state until the audiologist or speech-language pathologist provides satisfactory evidence of a change in primary state of residence to the new home state and satisfies all applicable requirements to obtain a license from the new home state.

(f) If an audiologist or speech-language pathologist changes primary state of residence by moving from a member state to a nonmember state, the license issued by the prior home state shall convert to a single-state license, valid only in the former home state, and the privilege to practice in any member state is deactivated in accordance with the rules promulgated by the commission.

(g) The compact privilege is valid until the expiration date of the home state license. The licensee must comply with the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to maintain the compact privilege in the remote state.

(h) A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in a remote state under the compact privilege shall function within the laws and regulations of the remote state.

(i) A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in a remote state is subject to that state's regulatory authority. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws, remove a licensee's compact privilege in the remote state for a specific period of time, impose fines, or take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens.

(j) If a home state license is encumbered, the licensee shall lose the compact privilege in any remote state until the following occur:

(1) The home state license is no longer encumbered; and

(2) Two years have elapsed from the date of the adverse action.

(k) Once an encumbered license in the home state is restored to good standing, the licensee must meet the requirements of subsection (a) of this section to obtain a compact privilege in any remote state.

§30-32A-5. Compact privilege to practice telehealth.

(a) Member states shall recognize the right of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist, licensed by a home state in accordance with §30-32A-3 of this code and under rules promulgated by the commission, to practice audiology or speech-language pathology in any member state via telehealth under a privilege to practice as provided in the compact and rules promulgated by the commission.

(b) A licensee providing audiology or speech-language pathology services in a remote state under the compact privilege shall function within the laws and regulations of the state where the patient, client, or student is located.

§30-32A-6. Active duty military personnel or their spouses.

Active duty military personnel, or their spouse, shall designate a home state where the individual has a current license in good standing. The individual may retain the home state designation during the period the service member is on active duty. Subsequent to designating a home state, the individual shall only change their home state through application for licensure in the new state.

§30-32A-7. Adverse actions.

(a) In addition to the other powers conferred by state law, a remote state may, in accordance with existing state due process law:

(1) Take adverse action against an audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's privilege to practice within that member state; and

(2) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses as well as the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a licensing board in a member state for the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of evidence from another member state shall be enforced in the latter state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to the practice and procedure of that court applicable to subpoenas issued in proceedings pending before it. The issuing authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state in which the witnesses or evidence are located.

(b) Only the home state may take adverse action against an audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's license issued by the home state.

(c) For purposes of taking adverse action, the home state shall give the same priority and effect to reported conduct received from a member state as it would if the conduct had occurred within the home state. In so doing, the home state shall apply its own state laws to determine appropriate action.

(d) The home state shall complete any pending investigations of an audiologist or speech-language pathologist who changes primary state of residence during the course of the investigation. The home state may also take appropriate action or actions and shall promptly report the conclusions of the investigations to the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the new home state of any adverse actions.

(e) If otherwise permitted by state law, the home state may recover from the affected audiologist or speech-language pathologist the costs of investigations and disposition of cases resulting from any adverse action taken against that audiologist or speech-language pathologist.

(f) The home state may take adverse action based on the factual findings of the remote state, provided that the home state follows its own procedures for taking the adverse action.

(g) Joint Investigations -

(1) In addition to the authority granted to a member state by its respective audiology or speech-language pathology practice act or other applicable state law, any member state may participate with other member states in joint investigations of licensees.

(2) Member states shall share any investigative, litigation, or compliance materials in furtherance of any joint or individual investigation initiated under the compact.

(h) If adverse action is taken by the home state against an audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's license, the audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's privilege to practice in all other member states shall be suspended until all encumbrances have been removed from the state license. All home state disciplinary orders that impose adverse action against an audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's license shall include a statement that the audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's privilege to practice is deactivated in all member states during the pendency of the order.

(i) If a member state takes adverse action against a licensee, it shall promptly notify the administrator of the data system. The administrator of the data system shall promptly notify the home state and any remote states in which the licensee has the privilege to practice of any adverse actions by the home state or remote states.

(j) Nothing in this compact shall override a member state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action.

§30-32A-8. Establishment of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission.

(a) The compact member states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Compact Commission:

(1) The commission is an instrumentality of the compact states;

(2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the commission is located. The commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings; and

(3) Nothing in this compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

(b) Membership, voting and meetings -

(1) Each member state shall have two delegates selected by that member state's licensing board. The delegates shall be current members of the licensing board. One shall be an audiologist and one shall be a speech-language pathologist.

(2) An additional five delegates, who are either a public member or board administrators from a state licensing board, shall be chosen by the executive committee from a pool of nominees provided by the commission at large.

(3) Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed.

(4) The member state board shall fill any vacancy occurring on the commission within 90 days.

(5) Each delegate is entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the commission.

(6) A delegate shall vote in person or by other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

(7) The commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

(c) The commission may:

(1) Establish the fiscal year of the commission;

(2) Establish bylaws;

(3) Establish a code of ethics;

(4) Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws;

(5) Meet and take actions as are consistent with the provisions of this compact and the bylaws;

(6) Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of this compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in all member states to the extent and in the manner provided for in the compact;

(7) Bring legal proceedings or prosecute actions in the name of the commission, provided that the standing of any state audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

(8) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

(9) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a member state;

(10) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the compact, and establish the commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;

(11) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services, and receive, use, and dispose of the same: *Provided*, That at all times the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest;

(12) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise to own, hold, improve, or use, any property, real, personal, or mixed: *Provided*, That at all times the commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety;

(13) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed;

(14) Establish a budget and make expenditures;

(15) Borrow money;

(16) Appoint committees, including standing committees composed of members and other interested persons designated in this compact and the bylaws;

(17) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies;

(18) Establish and elect an executive committee; and

(19) Perform other functions necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this compact consistent with the

state regulation of audiology and speech-language pathology licensure and practice.

(d) The commission may not change or modify the laws of the member states which define the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology in the respective states.

(e) The executive committee may act on behalf of the commission, within the powers of the commission, according to the terms of this compact. The executive committee shall be composed of 10 members:

(1) Seven voting members who are elected by the commission from the current membership of the commission;

(2) Two ex officio members, consisting of one nonvoting member from a recognized national audiology professional association and one nonvoting member from a recognized national speech-language pathology association; and

(3) One ex officio, nonvoting member from the recognized membership organization of the audiology and speech-language pathology licensing boards.

(f) The ex officio members shall be selected by their respective organizations.

(1) The commission may remove any member of the executive committee as provided in the bylaws.

(2) The executive committee shall meet at least annually.

(3) The executive committee shall:

(A) Recommend to the entire commission changes to the rules or bylaws, changes to this compact legislation, fees paid by compact member states such as annual dues, and

any commission compact fee charged to licensees for the compact privilege;

(B) Ensure compact administration services are appropriately provided, contractual or otherwise;

(C) Prepare and recommend the budget;

(D) Maintain financial records on behalf of the commission;

(E) Monitor compact compliance of member states and provide compliance reports to the commission;

(F) Establish additional committees as necessary; and

(G) Perform duties as provided in rules or bylaws.

(4) All meetings of the commission or the executive committee shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the rule-making provisions in §30-32A-10 of this code.

(5) The commission or the executive committee or other committees of the commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the commission or executive committee or other committees of the commission must discuss:

(A) Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the compact;

(B) The employment, compensation, discipline or other matters, practices or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

(C) Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;

(D) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods, services, or real estate;

(E) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

(F) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;

(G) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(H) Disclosure of investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes;

(I) Disclosure of information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on behalf of or for use of the commission or other committee charged with the responsibility of investigation or the determination of compliance issues pursuant to the compact; or

(J) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state statutes.

(6) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision.

(7) The commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in the minutes. All minutes and documents of meetings, other than closed meetings, shall be made available to members of the public upon request. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(8) Financing of the commission -

(A) The commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

(B) The commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

(C) The commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state's licensing board, which in West Virginia is the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board, or impose fees on parties, other than the member states, to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states.

(9) The commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the obligation; nor shall the commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.

(10) The commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the commission are subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the commission.

(g) Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification -

(1) The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the Commission are immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties or responsibilities: *Provided*, That nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to protect any person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person;

(2) The commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities: *Provided*, That nothing in this subdivision prohibits that person from retaining his or her own counsel: *Provided, however*, That the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct; and

(3) The commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of commission employment, duties, or responsibilities: *Provided*, That the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

§30-32A-9. Data system.

(a) The commission shall provide for the development, maintenance, and use of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals in member states.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set to the data system on all individuals to whom this compact is applicable as required by the rules of the commission, including:

(1) Identifying information;

(2) Licensure data;

(3) Adverse actions against a license or compact privilege;

(4) Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation;

(5) Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason for denial; and

(6) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this compact, as determined by the rules of the commission.

(c) Investigative information pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall only be available to other member states.

(d) The commission shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken against a licensee or an individual applying for a license. Adverse action information pertaining to a licensee in any member state shall be available to any other member state.

(e) Member states contributing information to the data system may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

(f) Any information submitted to the data system that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the data system.

§30-32A-10. Rulemaking.

(a) The commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment.

(b) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the compact within four years of the date of adoption of the rule, the rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.

(c) Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the commission.

(d) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the commission, and at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule shall be considered and voted upon, the commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

(1) On the website of the commission or other publicly accessible platform; and

(2) On the website of each member state audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board or other publicly accessible platform or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

(e) The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

(1) The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule shall be considered and voted upon;

(2) The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule or amendment;

(3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and

(4) The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.

(f) Prior to the adoption of a proposed rule, the commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

(g) The commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

(1) At least 25 persons;

(2) A state or federal governmental subdivision or agency; or

(3) An association having at least 25 members.

(h) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing. If the hearing is held via electronic means, the commission shall publish the mechanism for access to the electronic hearing.

(1) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive director of the commission or other designated member in writing of their desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

(2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

(3) All hearings shall be recorded. A copy of the recording shall be made available to any person, upon request, at his or her own expense.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the commission at hearings required by this section.

(i) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.

(j) If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is received, the commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.

(k) The commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rulemaking record and the full text of the rule.

(l) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the usual rule-making procedures provided in the compact and in this section are retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to:

(1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;

(2) Prevent a loss of commission or member state funds; or

(3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule.

(m) The commission or an authorized committee of the commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the commission. The revision is subject to challenge by any person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision shall take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the commission.

§30-32A-11. Dispute resolution and enforcement.

(a) Dispute resolution -

(1) Upon request by a member state, the commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the compact that arise among member states and between member and nonmember states.

(2) The commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.

(b) Enforcement -

(1) The commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this compact.

(2) By majority vote, the commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the commission has its principal offices against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of litigation, including reasonable attorney's fees.

(3) The remedies in this section are not the exclusive remedies of the commission. The commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

§30-32A-12. Date of implementation of the interstate commission for audiology and speech-language pathology practice and associated rules, withdrawal, and amendment.

(a) The compact takes effect on the date on which the compact statute is enacted into law in the 10th member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be limited to the powers granted to the commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and administration of the compact.

(b) Any state that joins the compact subsequent to the commission's initial adoption of the rules is subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the commission has the full force and effect of law on the day the compact becomes law in that state.

(c) Any member state may withdraw from this compact by enacting a statute repealing participation in this compact.

(1) A member state's withdrawal shall not take effect until six months after enactment of the repealing statute.

(2) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's audiology or speech-language pathology licensing board to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this act prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

(d) Nothing contained in this compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any audiology or speech-language pathology licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a nonmember state that does not conflict with the provisions of this compact.

(e) This compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this compact shall become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all member states.

§30-32A-13. Construction and severability.

This compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes of the compact. The provisions of this compact are severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence, or provision of this compact is declared to be contrary to the Constitution of any member state or of the United States or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held invalid, the validity of the remainder of this compact and the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance shall not be affected. If this compact is held contrary to the constitution of any member state, the compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states and in full force and effect as to the member state affected as to all severable matters.

§30-32A-14. Binding effect of compact and other laws.

(a) Nothing in this article prevents the enforcement of any other law of a member state that is not inconsistent with the compact.

(b) All laws in a member state in conflict with the compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict.

(c) All lawful actions of the commission, including all rules and bylaws promulgated by the commission, are binding upon the member states.

(d) All agreements between the commission and the member states are binding in accordance with their terms.

(e) In the event any provision of the compact exceeds the constitutional limits imposed on the legislature of any member state, the provision shall be ineffective to the extent of the conflict with the constitutional provision in question in that member state.

CHAPTER 250

(H. B. 4417 - By Delegates Rohrbach, Kessinger, Robinson, Walker, Bartlett, Ellington, Hanna, Hornbuckle, D. Kelly, Mandt and Pushkin)

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-1-7a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to permitting professional boards to approve different continuing education programs on drug diversion.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 30. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATE BOARDS OF EXAMINATION OR REGISTRATION REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER.

§30-1-7a. Continuing education.

(a) A board referred to in this chapter shall establish continuing education requirements as a prerequisite to license renewal. A board shall develop continuing education criteria appropriate to its discipline, which shall include, but not be limited to, course content, course approval, hours required and reporting periods.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code or the provision of a legislative rule to the contrary, each person issued a license to practice medicine and surgery, a license to practice podiatry or licensed as a physician assistant by the West Virginia Board of Medicine; each person issued a license to practice dentistry by the West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners, each person issued a license to practice optometry by the West Virginia Board of Optometry, each person licensed as a pharmacist by the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, each person licensed to practice registered professional nursing or licensed as an advanced nurse practitioner by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, each person licensed as a licensed practical nurse by the West Virginia State Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses and each person licensed to practice medicine and surgery as an osteopathic physician and surgeon or licensed or certified as an osteopathic as physician assistant by the West Virginia Board of Osteopathy shall complete drug diversion training, best-practice prescribing of controlled substances training, and training on prescribing and administration of an opioid antagonist and other relevant trainings as promulgated by the appropriate licensing board, as the trainings are established by his or her respective licensing board, if that person prescribes, administers or dispenses a controlled substance, as that term is defined in section one hundred one, article one, chapter sixty-a of this code.

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code or the provision of any legislative rule to the contrary, the West Virginia Board of Medicine, the West Virginia Board of

Dental Examiners, the West Virginia Board of Optometry, the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy, the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, the West Virginia State Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses and the West Virginia Board of Osteopathy shall establish continuing education requirements and criteria appropriate to their respective discipline on the subject of drug diversion training, best-practice prescribing of controlled substances training and prescribing and administration of an opioid antagonist training for each person issued a license or certificate by their respective board who prescribes, administers or dispenses a controlled substance, as that term is defined in section one hundred one, article one, chapter sixty-a of this code, and shall develop a certification form pursuant to subdivision (b)(2) of this section.

(2) Each person who receives his or her initial license or certificate from any of the boards set forth in subsection (b) of this section shall complete the continuing education requirements set forth in subsection (b) of this section within one year of receiving his or her initial license from that board and each person licensed or certified by any of the boards set forth in subsection (b) of this section who has held his or her license or certificate for longer than one year shall complete the continuing education requirements set forth in subsection (b) of this section as a prerequisite to each license renewal: *Provided*, That a person subject to subsection (b) of this section may waive the continuing education requirements for license renewal set forth in subsection (b) of this section if he or she completes and submits to his or her licensing board a certification form developed by his or her licensing board attesting that he or she has not prescribed, administered or dispensed a controlled substance, as that term is defined in section one hundred one, article one, chapter sixty-a of this code, during the entire applicable reporting period.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code or the provision of any legislative rule to the contrary, each person licensed to practice registered professional nursing or licensed as an advanced nurse practitioner by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses, each person licensed as a licensed practical nurse by the West Virginia State Board of Examiners for Licensed Practical Nurses, each person licensed to practice psychology by the Board of Examiners of Psychologists, each person licensed to practice social work by the West Virginia Board of Social Work and each person licensed to practice professional counseling by the West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling shall complete two hours of continuing education for each reporting period on mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans, as the continuing education is established by his or her respective licensing board. In cooperation with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Assistance, the continuing education shall include training on inquiring about whether the patients are veterans or family members of veterans, and screening for conditions such as post-traumatic stress disorder, risk of suicide, depression and grief and prevention of suicide. The two hours shall be part of the total hours of continuing education required by each board and not two additional hours.

CHAPTER 251

(H. B. 4607 - By Delegate Howell)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-27-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact said

code by adding thereto a new section, designated §30-27-17a, all relating to authorizing the operation of mobile shops for hair, nail, cosmetology, and aesthetics services; defining "mobile shop"; establishing prerequisites for operation of a mobile shop; removing antiquated language; specifying mandatory features and systems; setting the term of licenses; and requiring shop identification and display of license.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 27. BOARD OF BARBERS AND COSMETOLOGISTS.

*§30-27-3. Definitions.

As used in this article, the following words and terms have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(a) "Aesthetics" or "esthetics" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) Administering cosmetic treatments to enhance or improve the appearance of the skin, including cleansing, toning, performing effleurage or other related movements, stimulating, exfoliating, or performing any other similar procedure on the skin of the human body or scalp;

(2) Applying, by hand or with a mechanical or electrical apparatus, any cosmetics, makeups, oils, powders, clays, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, creams, or chemical preparations necessary for the practice of aesthetics to another person's face, neck, back, shoulders, hands, elbows and feet up to and including the knee;

(3) The rubbing, cleansing, exercising, beautifying, or grooming of another person's face, neck, back, shoulders, hands, elbows, and feet, up to and including the knee;

***NOTE:** This section was also amended by H. B. 4099 (Chapter 245), which passed prior to this act.

(4) The waxing and tweezing of hair on another person's body;

(5) The wrapping of another person's body in a body wrap;

(6) Applying artificial eyelashes and eyebrows; and

(7) The lightening of hair on the body except the scalp.

(b) "Aesthetician" or "esthetician" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of aesthetics and has completed 600 clock hours of training.

(c) "Applicant" means a person making application for a professional license, license, certificate, registration, permit, or renewal under the provisions of this article.

(d) "Barber" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of barbering and has completed a 1,200 clock-hour barber training program without chemical services, or a 1,500 clock-hour barber training program with chemical services, or has successfully completed the barber apprenticeship program.

(e) "Barbering" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) Shaving, shaping, and trimming the beard, or both;

(2) Cutting, singeing, arranging, dressing, tinting, bleaching, or applying lotions or tonics on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece; and

(3) Applications, treatments, or rubs of the scalp, face, or neck with oils, creams, lotions, cosmetics, antiseptics, powders, or other preparations in connection with the shaving, cutting, or trimming of the hair or beard.

(f) "Barber crossover" is a person who has completed 1,200 or 1,500 clock hours of training, is licensed as a barber, and completed additional hours of training in nails, aesthetics, and/or chemical services, to the total amount of 2,100 hours, to perform cosmetology.

(g) "Barber permanent waving" means the following acts performed on the head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) The bleaching or tinting of hair; and

(2) The permanent waving of hair.

(h) "Barber permanent wavist" means a person who has completed 2,000 clock hours of training and was licensed to perform barbering and barber permanent waiving enrolled by August 28, 2012.

(i) "Board" means the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists.

(j) "Certificate" means an instructor certificate to teach in a school under the provisions of this article or a document issued by the board for certification obtained pursuant to §30-27-8b of this code.

(k) "Certificate holder" means a person certified as an instructor to teach in a school under the provisions of this article, or who has obtained a certification pursuant to §30-27-8b of this code.

(l) "Cosmetologist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of cosmetology and who has completed 1,800 clock hours of training.

(m) "Cosmetology" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) Cutting, styling, shaping, arranging, braiding, weaving, dressing, adding extensions, curling, waving, permanent waving, relaxing, straightening, cleansing, singeing, bleaching, tinting, coloring, waxing, tweezing, or similarly, work on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any means, including hands, mechanical, or electrical devices or appliances;

(2) Nail care;

(3) Applying by hand or with a mechanical or electrical device or appliance, any cosmetics, makeups, oils, powders, clays, antiseptics, tonics, lotions, creams or chemical preparations necessary for the practice of aesthetics to another person's face, neck, shoulders, hands, elbows, and feet, up to and including the knee;

(4) The rubbing, cleansing, exercising, beautifying, or grooming of another person's face, neck, shoulders, hands, elbows, and feet, up to and including the knee;

(5) The wrapping of another person's body in a body wrap; and

(6) Performing aesthetics.

(n) "Cosmetology crossover" is a person who has completed 1,800 clock hours of training, is licensed as a cosmetologist, and completes an additional 300 hours of training in clipper cuts and face shaving to perform barbering, for a total of 2,100 hours.

(o) "General supervision" means:

(1) For schools, a master or certified instructor is on the premises and is quickly and easily available; or

(2) For salons, a professional licensee is on the premises and is quickly and easily available.

(p) "Hair styling" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the head and neck for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

Cutting, styling, shaping, arranging, braiding, weaving, dressing, adding extensions, curling, facial hair trimming, scalp treatments, waving, permanent waving, relaxing, straightening, singeing, bleaching, tinting, coloring, or similar, work on human hair, or a wig or hairpiece, by any means, including hands, mechanical or electrical devices, or appliances.

(q) "Hair stylist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of hair styling and who has completed 1,000 clock hours of training, effective July 1, 2016.

(r) "License" means a professional license, a salon license, or a school license.

(s) "Licensed school" means a facility which has been approved by the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education (CCTCE), Department of Education in conjunction with CCTCE, or Department of Education in conjunction with the Department of Corrections pursuant to §18B-2B-9 of this code to educate persons to be licensed or issued certain permits under the provisions of this article.

(t) "Licensee" means a person, corporation, or firm holding a license issued under the provisions of this article.

(u) "Mobile shop" means any self-contained, self-supporting, enclosed unit which is constructed in either a motorized vehicle or a towable trailer as a portable facility for providing any of the professional services set forth in this article to the public.

(v) "Nail care" means any one or any combination of the following acts when done on the human body for compensation and not for the treatment of disease:

(1) The cleansing, dressing, or polishing of nails of a person;

(2) Performing artificial nail service; and

(3) The cosmetic treatment of the feet up to the knee and the hands up to the elbow.

(w) "Nail technician" or "manicurist" means a person licensed under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of nail care and has completed 400 clock hours of training.

(x) "Permit" means a work permit.

(y) "Permitee" means a person holding a work permit.

(z) "Professional license" means a license to practice as an aesthetician, barber, barber crossover, barber permanent wavist, cosmetologist, cosmetologist crossover, hairstylist, or nail technician.

(aa) "Registration" means a registration issued by the board to a person who rents or leases a booth or chair from a licensed salon owner and operator, or both, or a registration issued by the board to a person who is a student in a school.

(bb) "Registrant" means a person who holds a registration under the provisions of this article.

(cc) "Salon" means a shop or other facility where a person practices under a professional license.

(dd) "Salon license" means a license to own and operate a salon.

(ee) "Student registration" means a registration issued by the board to a student to study at a school licensed under the provisions of this article.

(ff) "Waxing specialist" means a person certified under the provisions of this article who engages in the practice of waxing and tweezing of hair on another person's body.

(gg) Hair braiding, threading, and any other item not spelled out are not regulated by the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists.

§30-27-17a. Mobile shops.

(a) Every mobile shop in this state offering services set forth in this article shall be operated under the supervision and management of a professional licensee or certificate holder licensed under this article.

(b) Prior to opening a mobile shop, any person, firm, or corporation owning and/or operating the mobile shop shall meet the following requirements to acquire a mobile shop license to do business:

(1) Provide to the board a physical description and photographs of the exterior of the mobile shop and, if applicable, its vehicle registration number to facilitate ready identification of the mobile shop;

(2) Meet all board requirements and qualifications for a place of business, not incompatible with a mobile facility, as are required by this article;

(3) Notify the board, in writing, at least 20 days before the proposed opening date, so there can be an inspection of the mobile shop: *Provided*, That if an inspection is not made within 10 days of the opening of the mobile shop, or a mobile shop license to open has not been granted or refused, then the mobile shop may open provisionally subject to a later inspection and to all other provisions and rules provided in this article; and

(4) Pay all applicable fees.

(c) Every mobile shop shall be equipped with an electronic device, approved by the board, capable of transmitting its location, as well as an identifying label or call sign, to the board at all times. This device shall be in operation at all times that the mobile shop is open and at additional times specified by the board.

(d) If the mobile shop visits identified locations on a regular schedule, the managing licensee shall provide a copy of the schedule to the board and shall notify the board in writing of any changes to the regular schedule within five days of changing the schedule.

(e) Each mobile unit shall, at a minimum, be equipped with each of the following functioning systems:

(1) A self-contained, potable water supply of not less than 100 gallons, and waste water collection tanks shall be of adequate capacity;

(2) Continuous, on-demand hot water tanks which shall have not less than a six-gallon capacity; and

(3) A cooling and heating system sufficient to maintain a comfortable room temperature in the mobile shop during all hours of operation.

(f) All mobile shop licenses must be renewed annually on or before July 1 and pay a renewal fee.

(g) The mobile shop license shall be permanently displayed in the mobile shop, and a suitable sign shall be displayed at the entrance of the mobile shop which shall plainly indicate the business conducted therein.

CHAPTER 252

(H. B. 4749 - By Delegates Howell and C. Martin)
[By Request of the West Virginia Secretary of State]

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-18-2, §30-18-3, §30-18-5, §30-18-6, §30-18-9, and §30-18-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to providing more efficient application processes for private investigators, security guards, and firms; reducing experience necessary for licensure as private investigator; allowing military service to be included as experience that may be used for licensure; removing conviction for crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty as disqualification for licensure as private investigator; removing unnecessary requirements for each private investigator and security guard applicant to submit fingerprints and photographs of each applicant to the Secretary of State; permitting private investigators, security guards, and private investigator or security guard firms to obtain liability insurance in lieu of a surety bond; increasing the amount of a surety bond; removing conviction for crime involving moral turpitude or dishonesty as disqualification for licensure as security guard; increasing the licensure renewal term of a private investigator, security guard, and private investigator or security guard firms from one to two years; eliminating disparate application fee for foreign individuals and businesses for private investigator, private investigator firm, security guard, and security guard business licensure; and limiting amount of renewal fee.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 18. PRIVATE INVESTIGATIVE AND SECURITY SERVICES.

§30-18-2. Eligibility requirements for license to conduct the private investigation business.

(a) In order to be eligible for any license to conduct the private investigation business, an applicant shall:

(1) Be at least 18 years of age;

(2) Be a citizen of the United States or an alien who is legally residing within the United States;

(3) Not have had any previous license to conduct a private investigation business or to conduct a security guard business revoked or any application for any such licenses or registrations denied by the appropriate governmental authority in this or any other state or territory;

(4) Not have been declared incompetent by reason of mental defect or disease by any court of competent jurisdiction unless a court has subsequently determined that the applicant's competency has been restored;

(5) Not suffer from habitual drunkenness or from narcotics addiction or dependence;

(6) Be of good moral character;

(7) Have a minimum of one year of experience, education, or training in any one of the following areas, or some combination thereof:

(A) Course work that is relevant to the private investigation business at an accredited college or university;

(B) Employment as a member of any United States government investigative agency, employment as a member of a state or local law-enforcement agency, or service as a sheriff;

(C) Employment by a licensed private investigative or detective agency for the purpose of conducting the private investigation business;

(D) Service as a magistrate in this state; or

(E) Any other substantially equivalent training or experience; or

(F) Military service.

(8) Not have been convicted of a felony in this state or any other state or territory;

(9) Not have been convicted of any of the following:

(A) Illegally using, carrying, or possessing a pistol or other dangerous weapon;

(B) Making or possessing burglar's instruments;

(C) Buying or receiving stolen property;

(D) Entering a building unlawfully;

(E) Aiding an inmate's escape from prison;

(F) Possessing or distributing illicit drugs;

(G) Any misdemeanor involving moral turpitude or for which dishonesty of character is a necessary element; and

(10) Not have violated any provision of §30-18-8 of this code.

The provisions of this section shall not prevent the issuance of a license to any person who, subsequent to his or her conviction, shall have received an executive pardon therefor, removing this disability.

(b) Any person who qualifies for a private investigator's license shall also be qualified to conduct security guard business upon notifying the Secretary of State in writing that the person will be conducting such business.

(c) No person may be employed as a licensed private investigator while serving as magistrate.

§30-18-3. Application requirements for a license to conduct the private investigation business.

(a) To be licensed to be a private detective, a private investigator or to operate a private detective or investigative firm, each applicant shall file an application with the Secretary of State in a manner or method authorized and in such form as the secretary may prescribe.

(b) On the application each applicant shall provide the following information: The applicant's name, birth date, citizenship, physical description, military service, current residence, residences for the preceding seven years, qualifying education or experience, the location of each of his or her offices in this state, and any other information requested by the Secretary of State in order to comply with the requirements of this article.

(c) In the case of a corporation that is seeking a firm license, the application shall be signed by the president of such corporation and shall specify the name of the corporation, the date and place of its incorporation, the names and titles of all officers, the location of its principal place of business, and the name of the city, town or village, stating the street and number, and otherwise such apt description as will reasonably indicate the location. If the corporation has been incorporated in a state other than West Virginia, a certificate of good standing from the state of incorporation must accompany the application. This information must be provided in addition to that required to be provided by the applicant.

(d) The applicant shall provide:

(1) Information in the application about whether the applicant has ever been arrested for or convicted of any crime or wrongs, either done or threatened, against the government of the United States;

(2) Information about offenses against the laws of West Virginia or any state; and

(3) Any facts as may be required by the Secretary of State to show the good character, competency and integrity of the applicant.

To qualify for a firm license, the applicant shall provide such information for each person who will be authorized to conduct the private investigation business and for each officer, member, or partner of the firm.

(e) As part of the application, each applicant shall give the Secretary of State permission to review the records held by the West Virginia State Police for any convictions that may be on record for the applicant.

(f) For each applicant applying for a license, the application shall be accompanied by one recent full-face photograph.

(g) For each applicant, the application shall be accompanied by:

(1) Character references from at least five reputable citizens. Each reference must have known the applicant for at least five years preceding the application. No reference may be connected to the applicant by blood or marriage. All references must have been written for the purpose of the application for a license to conduct the private investigation business; and

(2) A nonrefundable application processing service charge of $50, which shall be payable to the Secretary of State to offset the cost of license review and criminal investigation background report from the West Virginia State Police, along with a license fee of $100 if the applicant is an individual, or $200 if the applicant is a firm. The license fee shall be deposited to the General Revenue Fund and shall be refunded only if the license is denied.

(h) All applicants for private detective or private investigator licenses or for private investigation firm licenses shall file in the office of Secretary of State a surety

bond or sufficient proof of liability insurance as required by the Secretary of State.

(i) If a surety bond is obtained in lieu of liability insurance, such bond shall:

(1) Be in the sum of $5,000 and conditioned upon the faithful and honest conduct of such business by such applicant;

(2) Be written by a company recognized and approved by the Insurance Commissioner of West Virginia and approved by the Attorney General of West Virginia with respect to its form;

(3) Be in favor of the State of West Virginia for any person who is damaged by any violation of this article. The bond must also be in favor of any person damaged by such a violation.

(j) Any person claiming against the bond required by subsection (i) of this section for a violation of this article may maintain an action at law against any licensed individual or firm and against the surety. The surety shall be liable only for damages awarded under §30-18-12 of this code and not the punitive damages permitted under that section. The aggregate liability of the surety to all persons damaged by a person or firm licensed under this article may not exceed the amount of the bond.

§30-18-5. Eligibility requirements to be licensed to conduct security guard business.

(a) In order to be eligible for any license to conduct security guard business, an applicant shall:

(1) Be at least 18 years of age;

(2) Be a citizen of the United States or an alien who is legally residing within the United States;

(3) Not have had any previous license to conduct security guard business or to conduct the private investigation business revoked or any application for any such licenses or registrations denied by the appropriate governmental authority in this or any other state or territory;

(4) Not have been declared incompetent by reason of mental defect or disease by any court of competent jurisdiction unless said court has subsequently determined that the applicant's competency has been restored;

(5) Not suffer from habitual drunkenness or from narcotics addiction or dependence;

(6) Have had at least one year verified, full time employment conducting security guard business or conducting the private investigation business working for a licensed firm or have one year of substantially equivalent training or experience;

(7) Not have been convicted of a felony in this state or any other state or territory;

(8) Not have been convicted of any of the following:

(A) Illegally using, carrying, or possessing a pistol or other dangerous weapon;

(B) Making or possessing burglar's instruments;

(C) Buying or receiving stolen property;

(D) Entering a building unlawfully;

(E) Aiding an inmate's escape from prison;

(F) Possessing or distributing illicit drugs; and

(9) Not have violated any provision of §30-18-8 of this code.

The provisions of this section shall not prevent the issuance of a license to any person who, subsequent to his or her conviction, shall have received an executive pardon therefor, removing this disability.

§30-18-6. Application requirements for a license to conduct security guard business.

(a) To be licensed as a security guard or to operate a security guard firm, each applicant shall file a written application, under oath, and file an application with the Secretary of State in a manner or method authorized and in such form as the secretary may prescribe.

(b) On the application, each applicant shall provide the following information: The applicant's name, birth date, citizenship, physical description, military service, current residence, residences for the preceding seven years, qualifying education or experience, the location of each of his or her offices in this state, and any other information requested by the Secretary of State in order to comply with the requirements of this article.

(c) In the case of a corporation that is seeking a firm license, the application shall be signed by the president of such corporation and shall specify the name of the corporation, the date and place of its incorporation, the names and titles of all officers, the location of its principal place of business, and the name of the city, town, or village, stating the street and number, and otherwise such apt description as will reasonably indicate the location. If the corporation has been incorporated in a state other than West Virginia, a certificate of good standing from the state of incorporation must accompany the application. This information shall be provided in addition to that required to be provided the applicant.

(d) The applicant shall provide:

(1) Information in the application about whether the applicant has ever been arrested for or convicted of any

crime or wrongs, either done or threatened, against the government of the United States;

(2) Information about offenses against the laws of West Virginia or any state;

(3) Any facts as may be required by the Secretary of State to show the good character, competency, and integrity of the applicant; and

(4) To qualify for a firm license, the same information for each person who would be authorized to conduct security guard business under the applicant's firm license and for each officer, member, or partner in the firm.

(e) As part of the application, each applicant shall give the Secretary of State permission to review the records held by the West Virginia State Police for any convictions that may be on record for the applicant.

(f) For each applicant for a license, the application shall be accompanied by one recent full-face photograph of the applicant.

(g) For each applicant, the application shall be accompanied by:

(1) Character references from at least five reputable citizens. Each reference must have known the applicant for at least five years preceding the application. No reference may be connected to the applicant by blood or marriage. All references must have been written for the purpose of the application for a license to conduct security guard business; and

(2) A nonrefundable application processing service charge of $50, which shall be payable to the Secretary of State to offset the cost of license review and criminal investigation background report from the West Virginia State Police, along with a license fee of $100 if the applicant is an individual, or $200 if the applicant is a firm. The

license fee shall be deposited to the General Revenue Fund, and shall be refunded only if the license is denied.

(h) All applicants for security guard licenses or security guard firm licenses shall file in the office of the Secretary of State a surety bond or sufficient proof of liability insurance as required by the Secretary of State.

(i) If a surety bond is obtained in lieu of liability insurance, such bond shall:

(1) Be in the sum of $5,000 and conditioned upon the faithful and honest conduct of such business by such applicant;

(2) Be written by a company recognized and approved by the Insurance Commissioner of West Virginia and the Attorney General of West Virginia with respect to its form;

(3) Be in favor of the State of West Virginia for any person who is damaged by any violation of this article. The bond must also be in favor of any person damaged by such a violation.

(j) Any person claiming against the bond required by subsection (i) of this section for a violation of this article may maintain an action at law against any licensed individual or firm and against the surety. The surety shall be liable only for damages awarded under §30-18-12 of this code and not the punitive damages permitted under that section. The aggregate liability of the surety to all persons damaged by a person or firm licensed under this article may not exceed the amount of the bond.

§30-18-9. Renewal of license.

A license granted under the provisions of this article shall be in effect for two years from the date the certificate of license is issued and may be renewed for a period of one year by the Secretary of State upon application, in such form as the secretary may prescribe, and upon payment of the fee

and the filing of the surety bond or proof of liability insurance. At the time of applying for renewal of a license, the Secretary of State may require any person to provide additional information to reflect any changes in the original application or any previous renewal. Any fee charged by the Secretary of State for renewal of a license shall not exceed $50.

§30-18-10. Authority of Secretary of State.

(a) When the Secretary of State is satisfied as to the good character, competency, and integrity of an applicant, of all employees or individuals conducting the private investigation business or security guard services under a firm license and, if the applicant is a firm, of each member, officer or partner, he or she shall issue and deliver to the applicant a certificate of license. Each license issued shall be for a period of one year and is revocable at all times for cause shown pursuant to subsection (b) of this section or any rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

(b) The Secretary of State may propose for promulgation in accordance with the provisions of chapter 29A of this code legislative rules necessary for the administration and enforcement of this article and for the issuance, suspension, and revocation of licenses issued under the provisions of this article. The Secretary of State shall afford any applicant an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel when a determination is made to deny, revoke, or suspend an applicant's license or application for license, including a renewal of a license. The applicant has 15 days from the date of receiving written notice of the Secretary of State's adverse determination to request a hearing on the matter of denial, suspension, or revocation. The action of the Secretary of State in granting, renewing, or in refusing to grant or to renew, a license is subject to review by the circuit court of Kanawha County or other court of competent jurisdiction.

(c) At any hearing before the Secretary of State to challenge an adverse determination by the Secretary of State on the matter of a denial, suspension, or revocation of a license, if the adverse determination is based upon a conviction for a crime which would bar licensure under the provisions of this article, the hearing shall be an identity hearing only and the sole issue which may be contested is whether the person whose application is denied or whose license is suspended or revoked is the same person convicted of the crime.

(d) The Secretary of State shall require each applicant to submit to a state and national criminal history record check, as set forth in this subsection:

(1) The criminal history record check shall be based on fingerprints submitted to the West Virginia State Police or its assigned agent for forwarding to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(2) The applicant shall meet all requirements necessary to accomplish the state and national criminal history record check, including:

(A) Submitting fingerprints for the purposes set forth in this section, if required by the Secretary of State, West Virginia State Police, or the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(B) Authorizing the Secretary of State, the West Virginia State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to use all records submitted and produced for the purpose of screening the applicant for a license.

(3) The results of the state and national criminal history record check may not be released to or by a private entity except:

(A) To the individual who is the subject of the criminal history record check;

(B) With the written authorization of the individual who is the subject of the criminal history record check; or

(C) Pursuant to a court order.

(4) The criminal history record check and related records are not public records for the purposes of chapter 29B of this code.

(5) The applicant shall ensure that the criminal history record check is completed as soon as possible after the date of the original application for registration.

(6) The applicant shall pay the actual costs of the fingerprinting and criminal history record check.

CHAPTER 253

(H. B. 4777 - By Delegates Dean, Howell, C. Martin, Hamrick and Steele)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §30-6-22a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the right of disposition of remains.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. BOARD OF FUNERAL SERVICE EXAMINERS.

§30-6-22a. Right of disposition; preneed contract; affidavit on disposition of remains; role of county commission; liability of funeral home.

(a) Notwithstanding section 22 of this article, a person who is 18 years of age or older and of sound mind, by entering into a preneed funeral contract, as defined in §47-14-2 of this code, may direct the location, manner and conditions of the disposition of the person's remains and the arrangements for funeral goods and services to be provided upon the person's death. The disposition directions and funeral prearrangements that are contained in a preneed funeral contract are not subject to cancellation or revision unless any resources set aside to fund the preneed funeral contract are insufficient under the terms of the preneed funeral contract to carry out the disposition directions and funeral prearrangements contained in the contract.

(b) As to any matter not addressed in a preneed funeral contract as described in subsection (a) of this section and except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the right to control the disposition of the remains of a deceased person, the location, manner and conditions of disposition, and arrangements for funeral goods and services to be provided vests in the following, in the order named, provided that the person is 18 years or older and is of sound mind:

(1)(A) A person designated by the decedent as the person with the right to control the disposition in an affidavit executed in accordance with paragraph (B) of this subdivision; and

(B) A person who is 18 years of age or older and of sound mind wishing to authorize another person to control the disposition of his or her remains may execute an affidavit before a notary public in substantially the following form:

"I, _____, do hereby designate _____ with the right to control the disposition of my remains upon my death. I ___ have/ ____ have not attached specific directions concerning the disposition of my remains with which the designee shall

substantially comply, provided that these directions are lawful and there are sufficient resources in my estate to carry out the directions.

_____

Signed

State of _____

County of _____

I, _____, a Notary Public of said County, do certify that _____, as principal whose name is signed to the writing above bearing date on the _____ day of _____, 20____, has this day acknowledged the same before me.

Given under my hand this _____ day of _____, 20__.

My commission expires: _____

_____

Notary Public";

(2) The surviving spouse of the decedent;

(3) The sole surviving child of the decedent or, if there is more than one child of the decedent, the majority of the surviving children. However, less than one half of the surviving children shall be vested with the rights under this section if they have used reasonable efforts to notify all other surviving children of their instructions and are not aware of any opposition to those instructions on the part of more than one half of all surviving children;

(4) The surviving parent or parents of the decedent. If one of the surviving parents is absent, the remaining parent shall be vested with the rights and duties under this section

after reasonable efforts have been unsuccessful in locating the absent surviving parent;

(5) The surviving brother or sister of the decedent or, if there is more than one sibling of the decedent, the majority of the surviving siblings. However, less than the majority of surviving siblings shall be vested with the rights and duties under this section if they have used reasonable efforts to notify all other surviving siblings of their instructions and are not aware of any opposition to those instructions on the part of more than one half of all surviving siblings;

(6) The surviving grandparent of the decedent or, if there is more than one surviving grandparent, the majority of the grandparents. However, less than the majority of the surviving grandparents shall be vested with the rights and duties under this section if they have used reasonable efforts to notify all other surviving grandparents of their instructions and are not aware of any opposition to those instructions on the part of more than one half of all surviving grandparents;

(7) Adult grandchildren.

(8) The guardian of the person of the decedent at the time of the decedent's death if one had been appointed;

(9) The personal representative of the estate of the decedent;

(10) The person in the classes of the next degree of kinship, in descending order, under the laws of descent and distribution to inherit the estate of the decedent. If there is more than one person of the same degree, any person of that degree may exercise the right of disposition;

(11) If the disposition of the remains of the decedent is the responsibility of the state or a political subdivision of the state, the public officer, administrator or employee responsible for arranging the final disposition of decedent's remains; or

(12) In the absence of any person under subdivisions (1) through (11) of this subsection, any other person willing to assume the responsibilities to act and arrange the final disposition of the decedent's remains, including the funeral director with custody of the body, after attesting in writing that a good-faith effort has been made to no avail to contact the individuals under subdivisions (1) through (11) of this subsection.

(c) A person entitled under law to the right of disposition forfeits that right, and the right is passed on to the next qualifying person as listed in subsection (b) of this section, in the following circumstances:

(1) Any person charged with murder or voluntary manslaughter in connection with the decedent's death and whose charges are known to the funeral director. However, if the charges against that person are dismissed or if the person is acquitted of the charges, the right of disposition is returned to the person;

(2) Any person who does not exercise his or her right of disposition within two days of notification of the death of decedent or within three days of decedent's death, whichever is earlier;

(3) If the person and the decedent are spouses and a petition to dissolve the marriage was pending at the time of decedent's death.

(d) Any person signing a funeral service agreement, cremation authorization form or any other authorization for disposition shall be deemed to warrant the truthfulness of any facts set forth therein, including the identity of the decedent whose remains are to be buried, cremated or otherwise disposed of, and the party's authority to order the disposition. A funeral home has the right to rely on that funeral service agreement or authorization and shall have the authority to carry out the instructions of the person or persons the funeral home reasonably believes holds the right

of disposition. The funeral home has no responsibility to independently investigate the existence of any next of kin or relative of the decedent where a means of disposition is fully set forth in a preneed funeral contract or other written directive of the deceased in accordance with this section. If there is more than one person in a class who are equal in priority and the funeral home has no knowledge of any objection by other members of that class, the funeral home may rely on and act according to the instructions of the first person in the class to make funeral and disposition arrangements, if no other person in that class provides written objections to the funeral home.

(e) No funeral establishment or funeral director who relies in good faith upon the instructions of a preneed funeral contract, written directive of the deceased, or an individual claiming the right of disposition in accordance with this section shall be subject to criminal or civil liability or subject to disciplinary action under this section for carrying out the disposition of the remains in accordance with those instructions.

CHAPTER 254

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4803 - By Delegate Capito)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §29-3C-3 and §29-3C-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to certification of electrical inspectors.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 3C. CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS.

§29-3C-3. Certification of electrical inspectors required.

After January 1, 2003, no electrical inspections may be performed, offered or engaged in for compensation or hire within the State of West Virginia by any person who is not certified pursuant to this article: *Provided*, That any person who is employed by this state or any subdivision of this state and who in the normal course of his or her business conducts electrical inspections may perform electrical inspections as within the scope of his or her employment without certification pursuant to this article. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, for purposes of this section any electrical building code inspector shall be considered an electrical inspector.

§29-3C-5. Denial of license; suspension and revocation of license.

The State Fire Marshal shall deny certification to any applicant, except those exempt under §29-3C-3 of this code, who:

(1) Fails to establish that he or she holds any other required qualifications for certification established pursuant to rules promulgated pursuant to section four of this article; or

(2) Is not a licensed journeyman or master electrician in accordance with rules promulgated pursuant to section four of this article.

CHAPTER 255

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 534 - By Senators Trump, Blair, Hamilton and Ihlenfeld)

[Passed February 28, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §21A-1A-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to employees serving the Legislature on a temporary basis, or in support of the legislative session, are not exempt from unemployment benefits coverage.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1A. DEFINITIONS.

§21A-1A-17. Exclusions from employment.

The term "employment" does not include:

(1) Service performed in the employ of the United States or any instrumentality of the United States exempt under the Constitution of the United States from the payments imposed by this law, except that to the extent that the Congress of the United States permits states to require any instrumentalities of the United States to make payments into an unemployment fund under a state unemployment compensation law, all of the provisions of this law are applicable to the instrumentalities and to service performed for the instrumentalities in the same manner, to the same extent, and on the same terms as to all other employers, employing units, individuals, and services: *Provided*, That if this state is not certified for any year by the Secretary of Labor under 26 U.S.C. § 3404, subsection (c), the payments

required of the instrumentalities with respect to the year shall be refunded by the commissioner from the fund in the same manner and within the same period as is provided in §21A-5-19 of this code with respect to payments erroneously collected;

(2) Service performed with respect to which unemployment compensation is payable under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act and service with respect to which unemployment benefits are payable under an unemployment compensation system for maritime employees established by an Act of Congress. The commissioner may enter into agreements with the proper agency established under an Act of Congress to provide reciprocal treatment to individuals who, after acquiring potential rights to unemployment compensation under an Act of Congress or who have, after acquiring potential rights to unemployment compensation under an Act of Congress, acquired rights to benefit under this chapter. Such agreement shall become effective 10 days after the publications which shall comply with the general rules of the department;

(3) Service performed by an individual in agricultural labor, except as provided in §21A-1A-16(12) of this code, the definition of "employment". For purposes of this subdivision, the term "agricultural labor" includes all services performed:

(A) On a farm, in the employ of any person, in connection with cultivating the soil, or in connection with raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training, and management of livestock, bees, poultry, and fur-bearing animals and wildlife;

(B) In the employ of the owner or tenant or other operator of a farm, in connection with the operation, management, conservation, improvement, or maintenance of the farm and its tools and equipment, or in salvaging

timber or clearing land of brush and other debris left by a hurricane, if the major part of the service is performed on a farm;

(C) In connection with the production or harvesting of any commodity defined as an agricultural commodity in § 15(g) of the Agricultural Marketing Act, as amended, as codified in 12 U.S.C. § 1141j, subsection (g), or in connection with the ginning of cotton, or in connection with the operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs, or waterways, not owned or operated for profit, used exclusively for supplying and storing water for farming purposes;

(D) (i) In the employ of the operator of a farm in handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, grading, storing, or delivering to storage or to market or to a carrier for transportation to market, in its unmanufactured state, any agricultural or horticultural commodity; but only if the operator produced more than one half of the commodity with respect to which the service is performed; or (ii) in the employ of a group of operators of farms (or a cooperative organization of which the operators are members) in the performance of service described in subparagraph (i) of this paragraph, but only if the operators produced more than one half of the commodity with respect to which the service is performed; but the provisions of subparagraphs (i) and (ii) of this paragraph are not applicable with respect to service performed in connection with commercial canning or commercial freezing or in connection with any agricultural or horticultural commodity after its delivery to a terminal market for distribution for consumption;

(E) On a farm operated for profit if the service is not in the course of the employer's trade or business or is domestic service in a private home of the employer. As used in this subdivision, the term "farm" includes stock, dairy, poultry, fruit, fur-bearing animals, truck farms, plantations, ranches, greenhouses, ranges, and nurseries, or other similar land

areas or structures used primarily for the raising of any agricultural or horticultural commodities;

(4) Domestic service in a private home except as provided in §21A-1A-16(13) of this code, the definition of "employment";

(5) Service performed by an individual in the employ of his or her son, daughter, or spouse;

(6) Service performed by a child under the age of 18 years in the employ of his or her father or mother;

(7) Service as an officer or member of a crew of an American vessel, performed on or in connection with the vessel, if the operating office, from which the operations of the vessel operating on navigable waters within or without the United States are ordinarily and regularly supervised, managed, directed, and controlled, is without this state;

(8) Service performed by agents of mutual fund broker-dealers or insurance companies, exclusive of industrial insurance agents, or by agents of investment companies, who are compensated wholly on a commission basis;

(9) Service performed: (A) In the employ of a church or convention or association of churches, or an organization which is operated primarily for religious purposes and which is operated, supervised, controlled, or principally supported by a church or convention or association of churches; or (B) by a duly ordained, commissioned, or licensed minister of a church in the exercise of his or her ministry or by a member of a religious order in the exercise of duties required by the order; or (C) by an individual receiving rehabilitation or remunerative work in a facility conducted for the purpose of carrying out a program of either: (i) Rehabilitation for individuals whose earning capacity is impaired by age or physical or mental deficiency or injury; or (ii) providing remunerative work for individuals who because of their impaired physical or

mental capacity cannot be readily absorbed in the competitive labor market: *Provided*, That this exemption does not apply to services performed by individuals if they are not receiving rehabilitation or remunerative work on account of their impaired capacity; or (D) as part of an unemployment work-relief or work-training program assisted or financed, in whole or in part, by any federal agency or an agency of a state or political subdivision thereof, by an individual receiving the work relief or work training; or (E) by an inmate of a custodial or penal institution;

(10) Service performed in the employ of a school, college, or university, if the service is performed: (A) By a student who is enrolled and is regularly attending classes at the school, college, or university; or (B) by the spouse of a student, if the spouse is advised, at the time the spouse commences to perform the service, that: (i) The employment of the spouse to perform the service is provided under a program to provide financial assistance to the student by the school, college, or university; and (ii) the employment will not be covered by any program of unemployment insurance;

(11) Service performed by an individual who is enrolled at a nonprofit or public educational institution which normally maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and normally has a regularly organized body of students in attendance at the place where its educational activities are carried on as a student in a full-time program, taken for credit at the institution, which combines academic instruction with work experience, if the service is an integral part of the program and the institution has so certified to the employer, except that this subdivision does not apply to service performed in a program established for or on behalf of an employer or group of employers;

(12) Service performed in the employ of a hospital, if the service is performed by a patient of the hospital, as defined in this article;

(13) Service in the employ of a governmental entity referred to in §21A-1A-16(9) of this code, the definition of "employment", if the service is performed by an individual in the exercise of duties: (A) As an elected official; (B) as a member of a legislative body, or a member of the judiciary, of a state or political subdivision; (C) as a member of the state National Guard or air National Guard, except as provided in §21A-1A-28 of this code; (D) as an employee serving on a temporary basis in case of fire, storm, snow, earthquake, flood, or similar emergency; (E) in a position which, under or pursuant to the laws of this state, is designated as: (i) A major nontenured policymaking or advisory position; or (ii) a policymaking or advisory position the performance of the duties of which ordinarily does not require more than eight hours per week; or (F) as any election official appointed to serve during any municipal, county, or state election, if the amount of remuneration received by the individual during the calendar year for services as an election official is less than $1,000;

(14) Service performed by a bona fide partner of a partnership for the partnership; and

(15) Service performed by a person for his or her own sole proprietorship.

Notwithstanding the foregoing exclusions from the definition of "employment", services, except agricultural labor and domestic service in a private home, are in employment if with respect to the services a tax is required to be paid under any federal law imposing a tax against which credit may be taken for contributions required to be paid into a State Unemployment Compensation Fund, or which as a condition for full tax credit against the tax imposed by the federal Unemployment Tax Act are required to be covered under this chapter.

CHAPTER 256

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 2497 - By Delegates Kump, Pushkin, N. Brown, S. Brown, Lovejoy, Canestraro, Fluharty, Householder and C. Thompson)

[Passed February 18, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on February 28, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §6C-1-3, §6C-1-4, and §6C-1-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to the whistle-blower law; protecting promotion or increase in compensation; lengthening the statute of limitations; allowing the use of grievance procedure; protecting use of other right or legal action; protecting rights related to political activity; and protecting rights related to membership in organizations of employees.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. WHISTLE-BLOWER LAW.

§6C-1-3. Discriminatory and retaliatory actions against whistle-blowers prohibited; promotion, increased compensation protected.

(a) No employer may discharge, threaten, or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against an employee by changing the employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment because the employee, acting on his or her own volition, or a person acting on behalf of or under the direction of the employee, makes a good faith report, or is about to report, verbally or in writing, to the employer or appropriate authority, an instance of wrongdoing or waste.

(b) No employer may discharge, threaten, or otherwise discriminate or retaliate against an employee by changing the employee's compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment because the employee is requested or subpoenaed by an appropriate authority to participate in an investigation, hearing, or inquiry held by an appropriate authority or in a court action.

(c) No employer may deny a whistle-blower covered by the civil service system, because of his or her status or actions as a whistle-blower, a promotion or other increase in compensation that the whistle-blower otherwise would have received.

§6C-1-4. Civil action by whistle-blower for violation; limitation on actions; burden of proof; defense; use of evidence in civil service proceeding; grievance action available; other rights and actions not limited.

(a) A person who alleges that he or she is a victim of a violation of this article may bring a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for appropriate injunctive relief or damages, or both, within two years after the occurrence of the alleged violation.

(b) An employee alleging a violation of this article must show by a preponderance of the evidence that, prior to the alleged reprisal, the employee, or a person acting on behalf of or under the direction of the employee, had reported or was about to report in good faith, verbally or in writing, an instance of wrongdoing or waste to the employer or an appropriate authority.

(c) It shall be a defense to an action under this section if the defendant proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the action complained of occurred for separate and legitimate reasons, which are not merely pretexts.

(d) An employee covered by the civil service system who contests a civil service action, believing it to be motivated by the employee having made a disclosure of

information, may submit as admissible evidence any or all material relating to the action as whistle-blower and to the resulting alleged reprisal.

(e) Any employee covered by the civil service system who has suffered a retaliatory action as a result of being a whistle-blower may pursue a grievance under the West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Procedure.

(f) Nothing in this article shall impair or limit any other right or legal action of an employee covered by the civil service system.

§6C-1-7. Limitations on scope of construction; protections related to political activity and membership in organization of employee.

(a) The provisions of this article shall not be construed to require an employer to compensate an employee for participation in an investigation, hearing, or inquiry held by an appropriate authority or impair the rights of any employee covered by the civil service system to be a member of an organization of employees or to refrain from being a member of an organization of employees.

(b) Except when on duty or acting in an official capacity, and except where otherwise prohibited by state or federal law, no employee covered by the civil service system may be prohibited from engaging in political activity or be denied the right to refrain from engaging in political activity.

CHAPTER 257

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4363 - By Delegates Graves, Pack, Steele, Ellington, Kessinger, Jennings, Summers, Waxman, Maynard, Sypolt and Rowan)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect July 1, 2020.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §5-10-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §5-10D-1 of said code; to amend and reenact §7-14D-5 of said code; to amend and reenact §8-22A-6 of said code; to amend and reenact §16-5V-6 of said code; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §20-18-1, §20-18-2, §20-18-3, §20-18-4, §20-18-5, §20-18-6, §20-18-7, §20-18-8, §20-18-9, §20-18-10, §20-18-11, §20-18-12, §20-18-13, §20-18-14, §20-18-15, §20-18-16, §20-18-17, §20-18-18, §20-18-19, §20-18-20, §20-18-21, §20-18-22, §20-18-23, §20-18-24, §20-18-25, §20-18-26, §20-18-27, §20-18-28, §20-18-29, §20-18-30, §20-18-31, §20-18-32, §20-18-33, §20-18-34, §20-18-35 and §20-18-36, all relating to establishing the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System; providing for additional members of the Consolidated Public Retirement Board; and providing for criminal offense of defrauding the system and penalties therefor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 5. GENERAL POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL; BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS; MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, OFFICES, PROGRAMS, ETC.

ARTICLE 10. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ACT.

§5-10-17. Retirement system membership.

The membership of the retirement system consists of the following persons:

(a) All employees, as defined in §5-10-2 of this code, who are in the employ of a political subdivision the day preceding the date it becomes a participating public employer and who continue in the employ of the participating public employer on and after that date shall become members of the retirement system; and all persons who become employees of a participating public employer on or after that date shall thereupon become members of the system; except as provided in subdivisions (b), (c) and (d) of this section.

(b) The membership of the Public Employees Retirement System may not include any person who is an active contributing member of, or who has been retired by, any of the state teachers retirement systems, the Judges Retirement System, any retirement system of the West Virginia State Police, the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System or any municipal retirement system for either, or both, police or firefighter; and the Bureau of Employment Programs, by the Commissioner of the Bureau, may elect whether its employees will accept coverage under this article or be covered under the authorization of a separate enactment: *Provided*, That the exclusions of membership do not apply to any member of the State Legislature, the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the Clerk of the State Senate or to any member of the legislative body of any political subdivision provided he or she once becomes a contributing member of the retirement system: *Provided, however*, That any retired member of the State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund, the West Virginia State Police Retirement System, the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the Natural

Resources Police Officer Retirement System and any retired member of any municipal retirement system for either, or both, police or firefighter may on and after the effective date of this section become a member of the retirement system as provided in this article, without receiving credit for prior service as a municipal police officer or firefighter or as a member of the State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund, the West Virginia State Police Retirement System, the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, or the Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System: *Provided further*, That any retired member of the State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund, the West Virginia State Police Retirement System, the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System and any retired member of any municipal retirement system for either, or both, police or firefighters, who begins participation in the retirement system established in this article on or after July 1, 2005, may not receive a combined retirement benefit in excess of 105 percent of the member's highest annual salary earned while either a member of the retirement system established in this article or while a member of the other retirement system or systems from which he or she previously retired when adding the retirement benefit from the retirement system created in this article to the retirement benefit received by that member from the other retirement system or systems set forth herein from which he or she previously retired: *And provided further*, That the membership of the retirement system does not include any person who becomes employed by the Prestera Center for Mental Health Services, Valley Comprehensive Mental Health Center, Westbrook Health Services or Eastern Panhandle Mental Health Center on or after July 1,1997: *And provided further*, That membership of the retirement system does not include any person who becomes a member of the federal Railroad Retirement Act on or after July 1, 2000.

(c) Any member of the State Legislature, the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the Clerk of the State Senate, and

any employee of the State Legislature whose employment is otherwise classified as temporary and who is employed to perform services required by the Legislature for its regular sessions or during the interim between regular sessions and who has been or is employed during regular sessions or during the interim between sessions in seven consecutive calendar years, as certified by the Clerk of the House in which the employee served, or any member of the legislative body of any other political subdivision shall become a member of the retirement system provided he or she notifies the retirement system in writing of his or her intention to be a member of the system and files a membership enrollment form as prescribed by the Board of Trustees, and each person, upon filing his or her written notice to participate in the retirement system, shall by that act authorize the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Clerk of the State Senate or such person or legislative agency as the legislative body of any other political subdivision shall designate to deduct the member's contribution, as provided in §5-10-29(b) of this code, and after the deductions have been made from the member's compensation, the deductions shall be forwarded to the retirement system.

(d) Any employee, as defined in §5-10-2 of this code, who has concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs which would require the employee to be a member of the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System, the Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System or the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System shall abide by the concurrent employment statutory provisions of said retirement system and shall participate in only one retirement system administered by the board.

(e) If question arises regarding the membership status of any employee, the Board of Trustees has the final power to decide the question.

(f) Any individual who is a leased employee is not eligible to participate in the system. For the purposes of this article, the term "leased employee" means any individual who performs services as an independent contractor or pursuant to an agreement with an employee leasing organization or other similar organization. If a question arises regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final authority to decide the question.

ARTICLE 10D. CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC RETIREMENT BOARD.

§5-10D-1. Consolidated Public Retirement Board continued; members; vacancies; investment of plan funds.

(a) The Consolidated Public Retirement Board is continued to administer all public retirement plans in this state. It shall administer the Public Employees Retirement System established in §5-10-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Teachers Retirement System established in §18-7A-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System created by §18-7B-1 *et seq.* of this code; the West Virginia State Police Death, Disability, and Retirement Fund created by §15-2-1 *et seq.* of this code; the West Virginia State Police Retirement System created by §15-2A-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Deputy Sheriff Death, Disability, and Retirement Fund created by §7-14D-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Judges' Retirement System created under §51-9-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System established in §16-5V-1 *et seq.* of this code; and the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System established in §8-22A-1 *et seq.* of this code, and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Retirement System created by §20-18-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) The membership of the Consolidated Public Retirement Board consists of:

(1) The Governor or his or her designee;

(2) The State Treasurer or his or her designee;

(3) The State Auditor or his or her designee;

(4) The Secretary of the Department of Administration or his or her designee;

(5) Four residents of the state, who are not members, retirants, or beneficiaries of any of the public retirement systems, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate; and

(6) A member, annuitant, or retirant of the Public Employees Retirement System who is or was a state employee; a member, annuitant, or retirant of the Public Employees Retirement System who is not or was not a state employee; a member, annuitant, or retirant of the Teachers Retirement System; a member, annuitant, or retirant of the West Virginia State Police Death, Disability, and Retirement Fund; a member, annuitant, or retirant of the West Virginia State Police Retirement System; a member, annuitant, or retirant of the Deputy Sheriff Death, Disability, and Retirement Fund; a member, annuitant, or retirant of the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System; a member, annuitant, or retirant of the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System; one person who is a member, annuitant, or retirant of a municipal policemen's or firemen's pension and relief fund or the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System, and beginning as soon as practicable after January 1, 2022, one person who is a member, annuitant or retirant of the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System, all to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor shall choose the member representing the municipal policemen's or firemen's pension and relief fund or the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System from two names submitted

by the state's largest organization of professional police officers and two names submitted by the state's largest organization of professional firefighters. Representation of the municipal police officers and firefighters shall alternate after each term on the board between persons having police officer and firefighter affiliation so that each professional group is represented on the board every other term.

All appointees to the board shall have recognized competence or significant experience in pension management or administration, actuarial analysis, institutional management, or accounting. Those members appointed prior to January 1, 2010, shall be considered to have met these qualifications. One trustee shall be an attorney experienced in finance and pension matters and one trustee shall be a certified public accountant. Each member of the board must complete annual fiduciary training and timely complete any conflict of interest forms required to serve as a trustee.

(c) The appointed members of the board shall serve five-year terms. A member appointed pursuant to subdivision (6), subsection (b) of this section ceases to be a member of the board if he or she ceases to be a member of the represented system. If a vacancy occurs in the appointed membership, the Governor, within 60 days, shall fill the vacancy by appointment for the unexpired term. No more than seven appointees may be of the same political party.

(d) The Consolidated Public Retirement Board has all the powers, duties, responsibilities, and liabilities of the Public Employees Retirement System established pursuant to §5-10-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Teachers' Retirement System established pursuant to §18-7A-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System established pursuant to §18-7B-1 *et seq.* of this code; the West Virginia State Police Death, Disability, and Retirement Fund created pursuant to §15-2-1 *et seq.* of this code; the West Virginia State Police Retirement System created by §15-2A-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Deputy Sheriff

Death, Disability, and Retirement Fund created pursuant to §7-14D-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Judges' Retirement System created pursuant to §51-9-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System established in §16-5V-1 *et seq.* of this code; the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System created pursuant to §8-22A-1 *et seq.* of this code, and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement System created and established pursuant to article §20-18-1 *et seq.* of this code and their appropriate governing boards.

(e) The Consolidated Public Retirement Board may propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, necessary to effectuate its powers, duties, and responsibilities: *Provided*, That the board may adopt any or all of the rules, previously promulgated, of a retirement system which it administers.

(f)(1) The Consolidated Public Retirement Board shall continue to transfer all funds received for the benefit of the retirement systems, including, but not limited to, all employer and employee contributions, to the West Virginia Investment Management Board: *Provided*, That the employer and employee contributions of the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System, established in §18-7B-3 of this code, and voluntary deferred compensation funds invested by the West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board pursuant to §5-10B-5 of this code may not be transferred to the West Virginia Investment Management Board.

(2) The board may recover from a participating employer that fails to pay any amount due a retirement system in a timely manner the contribution due and an additional amount not to exceed interest or other earnings lost as a result of the untimely payment, or a reasonable minimum fee, whichever is greater, as provided by legislative rule promulgated pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. Any amounts recovered shall

be administered in the same manner in which the amount due is required to be administered.

(g) Notwithstanding any provision of this code or any legislative rule to the contrary, all assets of the public retirement plans set forth in subsection (a) of this section shall be held in trust. The Consolidated Public Retirement Board is a trustee for all public retirement plans, except with regard to the investment of funds: *Provided*, That the Consolidated Public Retirement Board is a trustee with regard to the investments of the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System and any other assets of the public retirement plans administered by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board as set forth in subsection (a) of this section for which no trustee has been expressly designated in this code.

(h) The board may employ the West Virginia Investment Management Board to provide investment management consulting services for the investment of funds in the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System.

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 14D. DEPUTY SHERIFF RETIREMENT SYSTEM ACT.

§7-14D-5. Members.

(a) Any deputy sheriff first employed by a county in covered employment after the effective date of this article shall be a member of this retirement system and does not qualify for membership in any other retirement system administered by the board, so long as he or she remains employed in covered employment: *Provided*, That any deputy sheriff who has concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs which would require the deputy sheriff to be a member of the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System, the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System or the West Virginia Natural Resources Police

Officers Retirement System shall participate in only one retirement system administered by the board, and the retirement system applicable to the concurrent employment for which the employee has the earliest date of hire shall prevail. The membership of any person in the plan ceases: (1) Upon the withdrawal of accumulated contributions after the cessation of service; (2) upon retirement; (3) at death; or (4) upon the date, if any, when after the cessation of service, the outstanding balance of any loan obtained by the member pursuant to §7-14D-23 of this code, plus accrued interest, equals or exceeds the accumulated contributions of the member.

(b) Any deputy sheriff employed in covered employment on the effective date of this article shall within six months of that effective date notify in writing both the county commission in the county in which he or she is employed and the board, of his or her desire to become a member of the plan: *Provided*, That this time period is extended to January 30, 1999, in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals in West Virginia Deputy Sheriffs' Association, et al v. James L. Sims, et al, No. 25212: *Provided, however*, That any deputy sheriff employed in covered employment on the effective date of this article has an additional time period consisting of the 10-day period following the day after which the amended provisions of this section become law to notify in writing both the county commission in the county in which he or she is employed and the board of his or her desire to become a member of the plan. Any deputy sheriff who elects to become a member of the plan ceases to be a member or have any credit for covered employment in any other retirement system administered by the board and shall continue to be ineligible for membership in any other retirement system administered by the board so long as the deputy sheriff remains employed in covered employment in this plan: *Provided further*, That any deputy sheriff who elects during the time period from July 1, 1998 to January 30, 1999 or who so elects during the 10-day time period occurring

immediately following the day after the day the amendments made during the 1999 legislative session become law, to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System to the plan created in this article shall contribute to the plan created in this article at the rate set forth in §7-14D-7 of this code retroactive to July 1, 1998. Any deputy sheriff who does not affirmatively elect to become a member of the plan continues to be eligible for any other retirement system as is from time to time offered to other county employees but is ineligible for this plan regardless of any subsequent termination of employment and rehire.

(c) Any deputy sheriff employed in covered employment on the effective date of this article who has timely elected to transfer into this plan as provided in subsection (b) of this section shall be given credited service at the time of transfer for all credited service then standing to the deputy sheriff's service credit in the Public Employees Retirement System regardless of whether the credited service (as that term is defined in §5-10-2 of this code) was earned as a deputy sheriff. All the credited service standing to the transferring deputy sheriff's credit in the Public Employees Retirement Fund System at the time of transfer into this plan shall be transferred into the plan created by this article, and the transferring deputy sheriff shall be given the same credit for the purposes of this article for all service transferred from the Public Employees Retirement System as that transferring deputy sheriff would have received from the Public Employees Retirement System as if the transfer had not occurred. In connection with each transferring deputy sheriff receiving credit for prior employment as provided in this subsection, a transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System to this plan shall be made pursuant to the procedures described in §7-14D-8 of this code: *Provided*, That a member of this plan who has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System into this plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may not, after having transferred into and

become an active member of this plan, reinstate to his or her credit in this plan any service credit relating to periods of nondeputy sheriff service which were withdrawn from the Public Employees Retirement System prior to his or her elective transfer into this plan.

(d) Any deputy sheriff who was employed as a deputy sheriff prior to the effective date of this article, but was not employed as a deputy sheriff on the effective date of this article, shall become a member upon rehire as a deputy sheriff. For purposes of this subsection, the member's years of service and credited service in the Public Employees Retirement System prior to the effective date of this article shall not be counted for any purposes under this plan unless: (1) The deputy sheriff has not received the return of his or her accumulated contributions in the Public Employees Retirement System pursuant to §5-10-30 of this code; or (2) the accumulated contributions returned to the member from the Public Employees Retirement System have been repaid pursuant to §7-14D-13 of this code. If the conditions of subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection are met, all years of the deputy sheriff's covered employment shall be counted as years of service for the purposes of this article.

(e) Once made, the election provided in this section is irrevocable. All deputy sheriffs first employed after the effective date and deputy sheriffs electing to become members as described in this section shall be members as a condition of employment and shall make the contributions required by §7-14D-7 of this code.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any individual who is a leased employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. For purposes of this plan, a "leased employee" means any individual who performs services as an independent contractor or pursuant to an agreement with an employee leasing organization or similar organization. If a question arises regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final power to decide the question.

CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 22A. WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

§8-22A-6. Members.

(a) A police officer or firefighter hired in covered employment after the effective date of this article by a municipality or municipal subdivision which has established and maintained a policemen's pension and relief fund or a firemen's pension and relief fund pursuant to §8-22-16 of this code and which is a participating employer or which is a participating public employer as authorized by, §8-22A-33 of this code, shall be a member of this retirement plan: *Provided*, That any police officer or firefighter who has concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs which would require the police officer or firefighter to be a member of the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System, or the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System shall participate in only one retirement system administered by the board, and the retirement system applicable to the concurrent employment for which the employee has the earliest date of hire shall prevail.

(b) Except as provided in §8-22A-32 of this code, a police officer or firefighter who is a member of the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System may not have credit for covered employment in any other retirement system applied as service credit in the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any individual who is a leased employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. For purposes of this plan, a "leased employee" means any individual who performs services as

an independent contractor or pursuant to an agreement with an employee leasing organization or similar organization. If a question arises regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final power to decide the question.

CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTICLE 5V. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RETIREMENT SYSTEM ACT.

§16-5V-6. Members.

(a) Any emergency medical services officer first employed by a county or political subdivision in covered employment after the effective date of this article shall be a member of this retirement plan as a condition of employment and upon membership does not qualify for membership in any other retirement system administered by the board, so long as he or she remains employed in covered employment: *Provided*, That any emergency medical services officer who has concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs which would require the emergency medical services officer to be a member of the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System or the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System shall participate in only one retirement system administered by the board, and the retirement system applicable to the concurrent employment for which the employee has the earliest date of hire shall prevail.

(b) Any emergency medical services officer employed in covered employment by an employer which is currently a participating public employer of the Public Employees Retirement System shall notify in writing both the county commission in the county or officials in the political subdivision in which he or she is employed and the board of his or her desire to become a member of the plan by

December 31, 2007. Any emergency medical services officer who elects to become a member of the plan ceases to be a member or have any credit for covered employment in any other retirement system administered by the board and shall continue to be ineligible for membership in any other retirement system administered by the board so long as the emergency medical services officer remains employed in covered employment by an employer which is currently a participating public employer of this plan: *Provided*, That any emergency medical services officer who does not affirmatively elect to become a member of the plan continues to be eligible for any other retirement system as is, from time to time, offered to other county employees but is ineligible for this plan regardless of any subsequent termination of employment and rehire.

(c) Any emergency medical services officer who was employed as an emergency medical services officer prior to the effective date, but was not employed on the effective date of this article, shall become a member upon rehire as an emergency medical services officer. For purposes of this section, the member's years of service and credited service prior to the effective date shall not be counted for any purposes under this plan unless the emergency medical services officer has not received the return of his or her accumulated contributions in the Public Employees Retirement System pursuant to §5-10-30 of this code. The member may request in writing to have his or her accumulated contributions and employer contributions from covered employment in the Public Employees Retirement System transferred to the plan. If the conditions of this subsection are met, all years of the emergency medical services officer's covered employment shall be counted as years of service for the purposes of this article.

(d) Any emergency medical services officer employed in covered employment on the effective date of this article who has timely elected to transfer into this plan as provided in subsection (b) of this section shall be given credited

service at the time of transfer for all credited service then standing to the emergency medical services officer's service credit in the Public Employees Retirement System regardless of whether the credited service (as that term is defined in §5-10-2 of this code) was earned as an emergency medical services officer. All credited service standing to the transferring emergency medical services officer's credit in the Public Employees Retirement System at the time of transfer into this plan shall be transferred into the plan created by this article and the transferring emergency medical services officer shall be given the same credit for the purposes of this article for all service transferred from the Public Employees Retirement System as that transferring emergency medical services officer would have received from the Public Employees Retirement System as if the transfer had not occurred. In connection with each transferring emergency medical services officer receiving credit for prior employment as provided in this subsection, a transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System to this plan shall be made pursuant to the procedures described in this article: *Provided*, That any member of this plan who has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System into this plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may not, after having transferred into and becoming an active member of this plan, reinstate to his or her credit in this plan any service credit relating to periods in which the member was not in covered employment as an emergency medical services officer and which service was withdrawn from the Public Employees Retirement System prior to his or her elective transfer into this plan.

(e) Once made, the election made under this section is irrevocable. All emergency medical services officers employed by an employer which is a participating public employer of the Public Employees Retirement System after the effective date and emergency medical services officers electing to become members as described in this section shall be members as a condition of employment and shall make the contributions required by this article.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any individual who is a leased employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. For purposes of this plan, a "leased employee" means any individual who performs services as an independent contractor or pursuant to an agreement with an employee leasing organization or similar organization. If a question arises regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final power to decide the question.

CHAPTER 20. NATURAL RESOURCES.

ARTICLE 18. WEST VIRGINIA DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES POLICE OFFICER RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

§20-18-1. Short title.

This article is known and may be cited as the "West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement System Act."

§20-18-2. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless a federal law or regulation or the context clearly requires a different meaning:

(a) "Accrued benefit" means on behalf of any member two and one-quarter percent of the member's final average salary multiplied by the member's years of credited service: *Provided*, That members who retire after July 1, 2025, shall have an accrued benefit of two and one-half percent of the member's final average salary multiplied by the member's years of credited service. A member's accrued benefit may not exceed the limits of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and is subject to the provisions of §20-18-13 of this code.

(b) "Accumulated contributions" means the sum of all amounts deducted from the annual compensation of a member or paid on his or her behalf pursuant to §5-10C-1

et seq. of this code, either pursuant to §20-18-8(a) or §5-10-29 of this code as a result of covered employment together with regular interest on the deducted amounts.

(c) "Active member" means a member who is active and contributing to the plan.

(d) "Active military duty" means full-time active duty with any branch of the armed forces of the United States, including service with the National Guard or reserve military forces when the member has been called to active full-time duty and has received no compensation during the period of that duty from any board or employer other than the armed forces.

(e) "Actuarial equivalent" means a benefit of equal value computed upon the basis of the mortality table and interest rates as set and adopted by the retirement board in accordance with the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That when used in the context of compliance with the federal maximum benefit requirements of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code, "actuarial equivalent" shall be computed using the mortality tables and interest rates required to comply with those requirements.

(f) "Annual compensation" means the wages paid to the member during covered employment within the meaning of Section 3401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, but determined without regard to any rules that limit the remuneration included in wages based upon the nature or location of employment or services performed during the plan year plus amounts excluded under Section 414(h)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code and less reimbursements or other expense allowances, cash or noncash fringe benefits or both, deferred compensation, and welfare benefits. Annual compensation for determining benefits during any determination period may not exceed the maximum compensation allowed as adjusted for cost of living in accordance with §5-10D-7 of this code and Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(g) "Annual leave service" means accrued annual leave.

(h) "Annuity starting date" means the first day of the first calendar month following receipt of the retirement application by the board or the required beginning date, if earlier: *Provided*, That the member has ceased covered employment and reached normal retirement age.

(i) "Board" means the Consolidated Public Retirement Board created pursuant to §5-10D-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(j) "Covered employment" means either: (1) Employment as a Natural Resources Police Officer and the active performance of the duties required of a Natural Resources Police Officer; (2) the period of time which active duties are not performed but disability benefits are received under §20-18-21 or §20-18-22 of this code; or (3) concurrent employment by a Natural Resources Police Officer in a job or jobs in addition to his or her employment as a Natural Resources Police Officer where the secondary employment requires the Natural Resources Police Officer to be a member of another retirement system which is administered by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board pursuant to §5-10D-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That the Natural Resources Police Officer contributes to the fund created in §20-18-7 of this code the amount specified as the Natural Resource Police Officer's contribution in §20-18-8 of this code.

(k) "Credited service" means the sum of a member's years of service, active military duty, disability service, and annual leave service.

(l) "Dependent child" means either:

(1) An unmarried person under age 18 who is:

(A) A natural child of the member;

(B) A legally adopted child of the member;

(C) A child who at the time of the member's death was living with the member while the member was an adopting parent during any period of probation; or

(D) A stepchild of the member residing in the member's household at the time of the member's death; or

(2) Any unmarried child under age 23:

(A) Who is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited college or university;

(B) Who was claimed as a dependent by the member for federal income tax purposes at the time of the member's death; and

(C) Whose relationship with the member is described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), paragraph (1) of this subdivision.

(m) "Dependent parent" means the father or mother of the member who was claimed as a dependent by the member for Federal Income Tax purposes at the time of the member's death.

(n) "Director" means Director of the Division of Natural Resources.

(o) "Disability service" means service credit received by a member, expressed in whole years, fractions thereof or both, equal to one half of the whole years, fractions thereof, or both, during which time a member receives disability benefits under §20-18-21 or §20-18-22 of this code.

(p) "Division of Natural Resources" or "division" means the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources.

(q) "Effective date" means January 2, 2021.

(r) "Employer error" means an omission, misrepresentation, or violation of relevant provisions of the West Virginia Code or of the West Virginia Code of State

Rules or the relevant provisions of both the West Virginia Code and of the West Virginia Code of State Rules by the participating public employer that has resulted in an underpayment or overpayment of contributions required. A deliberate act contrary to the provisions of this section by a participating public employer does not constitute employer error.

(s) "Final average salary" means the average of the highest annual compensation received for covered employment by the member during any five consecutive plan years within the member's last 10 years of service. If the member did not have annual compensation for the five full plan years preceding the member's attainment of normal retirement age and during that period the member received disability benefits under §20-18-21 or §20-18-22 of this code then "final average salary" means the average of the monthly salary determined paid to the member during that period determined as if the disability first commenced after the effective date of this article with monthly compensation equal to that average monthly compensation which the member was receiving in the plan year prior to the initial disability multiplied by 12.

(t) "Fund" means the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement Fund created pursuant to §20-18-7 of this code.

(u) "Hour of service" means:

(1) Each hour for which a member is paid;

(2) Each hour for which a member is paid but where no duties are performed due to vacation, holiday, illness, incapacity including disability, layoff, jury duty, military duty, leave of absence, or any combination thereof, and without regard to whether the employment relationship has terminated. Hours under this paragraph shall be calculated and credited pursuant to West Virginia Division of Labor rules. A member will not be credited with any hours of

service for any period of time he or she is receiving benefits under §20-18-21 or §20-18-22 of this code; and

(3) Each hour for which back pay is either awarded or agreed to be paid by the Division of Natural Resources, irrespective of mitigation of damages. The same hours of service may not be credited both under this subdivision and subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection. Hours under this paragraph shall be credited to the member for the plan year or years to which the award or agreement pertains rather than the plan year in which the award, agreement, or payment is made.

(v) "Member" means a person first hired as a Natural Resources Police Officer, as defined in subsection (x) of this section, on or after January 2, 2021, or a Natural Resources Police Officer first hired prior to the effective date and who elects to become a member pursuant to §20-18-6 of this code. A member shall remain a member until the benefits to which he or she is entitled under this article are paid or forfeited or until cessation of membership pursuant to §20-18-6 of this code.

(w) "Monthly salary" means the portion of a member's gross annual compensation which is paid to him or her per month.

(x) "Natural Resources Police Officer" means any person regularly employed in the service of the division as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article, and who is eligible to participate in the fund. The term shall not include Emergency Natural Resources Police Officers as defined in §20-7-1(c) of this code, Special Natural Resources Police Officers as defined in §20-7-1(d) of this code, Forestry Special Natural Resources Police Officers as defined in §20-7-1(e) of this code, or Federal Law Enforcement Officer as defined in §20-7-1b of this code.

(y) "Normal form" means a monthly annuity which is 1/12 of the amount of the member's accrued benefit which is payable for the member's life. If the member dies before the sum of the payments he or she receives equals his or her accumulated contributions on the annuity starting date, the named beneficiary or beneficiaries shall receive in one lump sum the difference between the accumulated contributions at the annuity starting date and the total of the retirement income payments made to the member.

(z) "Normal retirement age" means the first to occur of the following: (1) Attainment of age 55 years and the completion of 15 or more years of service; (2) while still in covered employment, attainment of at least age 55 years, and when the sum of current age plus years of service equals or exceeds 70 years; or (3) attainment of at least age 62 years, and completion of 10 years of service: *Provided*, That any member shall in qualifying for retirement pursuant to this article have 10 or more years of service, all of which years shall be actual, contributory ones.

(aa) "Partially disabled" means a member's inability to engage in the duties of a Natural Resources Police Officer by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. A member may be determined partially disabled for the purposes of this article and maintain the ability to engage in other gainful employment which exists within the state but which ability would not enable him or her to earn an amount at least equal to two thirds of the average annual compensation earned by all active members of this plan during the plan year ending as of the most recent June 30, as of which plan data has been assembled and used for the actuarial valuation of the plan.

(bb) "Plan" means the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement System established by this article.

(cc) "Plan year" means the 12-month period commencing on July 1 of any designated year and ending the following June 30.

(dd) "Public Employees Retirement System" means the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System created by §5-10-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(ee) "Qualified public safety employee" means any employee of the division who provides police protection, fire-fighting services, or emergency medical services for any area within the jurisdiction of the state or political subdivision, or such other meaning given to the term by Section 72(t)(10)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code or by Treasury Regulation §1.401(a)-1(b)(2)(v) as they may be amended from time to time.

(ff) "Regular interest" means the rate or rates of interest per annum, compounded annually, as the board adopts in accordance with the provisions of this article.

(gg) "Required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of: (i) The calendar year in which the member attains age 72; or (ii) the calendar year in which he or she retires or otherwise separates from covered employment.

(hh) "Retirant" means any member who commences an annuity payable by the retirement system.

(ii) "Retire" or "retirement" means a member's termination from the employ of a participating public employer and the commencement of an annuity by the plan.

(jj) "Retirement income payments" means the annual retirement income payments payable under the plan.

(kk) "Spouse" means the person to whom the member is legally married on the annuity starting date.

(ll) "Substantial gainful employment" or "gainful employment" means employment is which an individual may earn up to an amount that is determined by the United States Social Security Administration as substantial gainful activity and still receive total disability benefits.

(mm) "Surviving spouse" means the person to whom the member was legally married at the time of the member's death and who survived the member.

(nn) "Totally disabled" means a member's inability to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determined physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death or that has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months. For purposes of this subdivision:

(1) A member is totally disabled only if his or her physical or mental impairment or impairments are so severe that he or she is not only unable to perform his or her previous work as a Natural Resources Police Officer but also cannot, considering his or her age, education, and work experience, engage in any other kind of substantial gainful employment which exists in the state regardless of whether: (A) The work exists in the immediate area in which the member lives; (B) a specific job vacancy exists; or (C) the member would be hired if he or she applied for work.

(2) "Physical or mental impairment" is an impairment that results from an anatomical, physiological, or psychological abnormality that is demonstrated by medically accepted clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques. A member's receipt of Social Security disability benefits creates a rebuttable presumption that the member is totally disabled for purposes of this plan. Substantial gainful employment rebuts the presumption of total disability.

(oo) "Year of service." A member shall, except in his or her first and last years of covered employment, or within the plan year of the effective date, be credited with year of

service credit, based upon the hours of service performed as covered employment and credited to the member during the plan year based upon the following schedule:

Hours of Service	Years of Service Credited
Less than 500	0
500 to 999	1/3
1,000 to 1,499	2/3
1,500 or more	1

During a member's first and last years of covered employment or within the plan year of the effective date, the member shall be credited with 1/12 of a year of service for each month during the plan year in which the member is credited with an hour of service. A member is not entitled to credit for years of service for any time period during which he or she received disability payments under §20-18-21 or §20-18-22 of this code. Except as specifically excluded, years of service include covered employment prior to the effective date. Years of service which are credited to a member prior to his or her receipt of accumulated contributions upon termination of employment pursuant to §20-18-20 or §5-10-30 of this code, shall be disregarded for all purposes under this plan unless the member repays the accumulated contributions with interest pursuant to §20-18-20 of this code or had prior to the effective date made the repayment pursuant to §5-10-18 of this code.

§20-18-3. Meaning of terms.

Any term used in this article has the same meaning as when used in a comparable context in the laws of the United States, unless a different meaning is clearly required. Any reference in this article to the Internal Revenue Code means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as it has been amended.

§20-18-4. Creation and administration of West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement System; specification of actuarial assumptions.

There is hereby created the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement System. The purpose of this system is to provide for the orderly retirement of Natural Resources Police Officers who become superannuated because of age or permanent disability and to provide certain survivor death benefits, and it is contemplated that substantially all of the members of the retirement system shall be qualified public safety employees as defined in §20-18-2 of this code. The retirement system shall come into effect January 1, 2021: *Provided*, That if the number of members in the system are fewer than 100 on July 1, 2022, then all of the provisions of this article are void and of no force and effect, and memberships in the plan will be merged into the Public Employees Retirement System created in §5-10-1 *et seq.* of this code. The retirement system constitutes a body corporate. All business of the system shall be transacted in the name of the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement System. The board shall specify and adopt all actuarial assumptions for the plan at its first meeting of every calendar year or as soon thereafter as may be practicable, which assumptions shall become part of the plan.

§20-18-5. Article to be liberally construed; supplements federal social security; federal qualification requirements.

(a) The provisions of this article shall be liberally construed to provide a general retirement system for Natural Resources Police Officers eligible to retire under the provisions of this plan. Nothing in this article may be construed to permit the state to substitute this plan for federal social security now in force in West Virginia.

(b) The board shall administer the plan in accordance with its terms and may construe the terms and determine all questions arising in connection with the administration,

interpretation and application of the plan. The board may sue and be sued, contract and be contracted with and conduct all the business of the system in the name of the plan. The board may employ those persons it considers necessary or desirable to administer the plan. All start-up costs to modify the existing line of business computer system and all personnel salary, including benefits, shall be paid by the board from funds received by the board through gifts and bequests to the fund and any accretions and accumulations which may properly be paid into and become a part of the fund. The board may receive gifts and bequests for purposes of paying start-up costs as set forth in this subsection. The board shall administer the plan for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries subject to the specific provisions of the plan.

(c) The plan is intended to meet the federal qualification requirements of Section 401(a) and related sections of the Internal Revenue Code as applicable to governmental plans. Notwithstanding any other provision of state law, the board shall administer the plan to fulfill this intent for the exclusive benefit of the members and their beneficiaries. Any provision of this article referencing or relating to these federal qualification requirements shall be effective as of the date required by federal law. The board may promulgate rules and amend or repeal conflicting rules in accordance with the authority granted to the board pursuant to §5-10D-1 of this code to assure compliance with the requirements of this section.

§20-18-6. Members.

(a) Any Natural Resources Police Officer first employed in covered employment after the effective date of this article shall be a member of this retirement system and does not qualify for membership in any other retirement system administered by the board, so long as he or she remains employed in covered employment: *Provided,* That any Natural Resources Police Officer who has concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs which would

require the Natural Resources Police Officer to be a member of the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System or the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System shall participate in only one retirement system administered by the board, and the retirement system applicable to the concurrent employment for which the employee has the earliest date of hire shall prevail. The membership of any person in the plan ceases: (1) Upon the withdrawal of accumulated contributions after the cessation of service; (2) upon retirement; or (3) at death.

(b) Any Natural Resources Police Officer employed in covered employment on July 1, 2020, shall notify in writing both the Division of Natural Resources and the board no later than September 30, 2020, of his or her desire to become a member of the plan beginning January 2, 2021: *Provided*, That any Natural Resources Police Officer hired after July 1, 2020, but before January 2, 2021, shall make this required notification to the division and the board no later than 30 days from receipt of the notice required by §20-18-11 of this code or September 30, 2020, whichever is later. Any Natural Resources Police Officer who elects to become a member of the plan ceases to be an active member in the Public Employees Retirement System and shall continue to be ineligible for future membership in any other retirement system administered by the board so long as the Natural Resources Police Officer remains employed in covered employment in this plan; any Natural Resources Police Officer who does not affirmatively elect to become a member of the plan continues to be eligible for any other retirement system as is from time to time offered to other state employees but is ineligible for this plan regardless of any subsequent termination of employment and rehire.

(c) Any Natural Resources Police Officer employed in covered employment on the effective date of this article, who has timely elected to transfer into this plan as provided in subsection (b) of this section, shall be given credited

service at the time of transfer for all credited service then standing to the Natural Resources Police Officer service credit in the Public Employees Retirement System regardless of whether the credited service (as that term is defined in §5-10-2 of this code) was earned as a Natural Resources Police Officer. All the credited service standing to the transferring Natural Resources Police Officer's credit in the Public Employees Retirement Fund System at the time of transfer into this plan shall be transferred into the plan created by this article, and the transferring Natural Resources Police Officer shall be given the same credit for the purposes of this article for all service transferred from the Public Employees Retirement System, as that transferring Natural Resources Police Officer would have received from the Public Employees Retirement System as if the transfer had not occurred. In connection with each transferring Natural Resources Police Officer receiving credit for prior employment as provided in this subsection, a transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System to this plan shall be made pursuant to the procedures described in §20-18-10 of this code: *Provided,* That a member of this plan who has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System into this plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may not, after having transferred into and become an active member of this plan, reinstate to his or her credit in this plan any service credit relating to periods of non-Natural Resources Police Officer service which were withdrawn from the Public Employees Retirement System prior to his or her elective transfer into this plan.

(d) Any Natural Resources Police Officer who was employed as a Natural Resources Police Officer prior to the effective date of this article but was not employed as a Natural Resources Police Officer on the effective date of this article and has not commenced retirement under the Public Employees Retirement System, shall become a member upon rehire as a Natural Resources Police Officer. For purposes of this subsection, the member's years of service and credited service prior to the effective date shall

not be counted for any purposes under this plan unless the Natural Resources Police Officer has not received the return of his or her accumulated contributions in the Public Employees Retirement System pursuant to §5-10-30 of this code. The member may request in writing within one year of first becoming a member of the plan to have his or her accumulated contributions and employer contributions from covered employment in the Public Employees Retirement System transferred to the plan. If the conditions of the subsection are met, all years of the Natural Resources Police Officer's covered employment shall be counted as years of service for the purposes of this article.

(e) Once made, the election provided in this section is irrevocable. All Natural Resources Police Officers first employed after the effective date and Natural Resources Police Officers electing to become members as described in this section shall be members as a condition of employment and shall make the contributions required by §20-18-8 of this code.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article to the contrary, any individual who is a leased employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. For purposes of this plan, a "leased employee" means any individual who performs services as an independent contractor or pursuant to an agreement with an employee leasing organization or similar organization. If a question arises regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final power to decide the question. Additionally, any individual who is an Emergency Natural Resources Police Officer as defined in §20-7-1(c) of this code, Special Natural Resources Police Officer as defined in §20-7-1(d) of this code, Forestry Special Natural Resources Police Officer as defined in §20-7-1(e) of this code, or Federal Law Enforcement Officer as defined in §20-7-1b of this code, is not eligible to participate in the plan.

§20-18-7. Creation of fund; investments.

(a) There is hereby created the "West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement Fund" for the benefit of the members of the retirement system created pursuant to this article and the dependents of any deceased or retired member of the system.

(b) All moneys paid into and accumulated in the fund, except such amounts as are designated by the board for payment of benefits as provided in this article, shall be held in trust and invested in the consolidated pensions fund as administered by the state Investment Management Board as provided by law.

§20-18-8. Members' contributions; employer contributions.

(a) There shall be deducted from the monthly salary of each member and paid into the fund an amount equal to nine and one-half percent of his or her monthly salary.

(b) An additional 12 percent of the monthly salary of each member shall be paid to the fund by the employer.

(c) If the board finds that the benefits provided by this article can be actuarially funded with a lesser contribution, then the board shall reduce the required member or employer contributions or both. The sums withheld each pay date shall be paid to the fund no later than 15 days following the end of the pay date.

(d) Any active member who has concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs and the additional employment requires the Natural Resources Police Officer to be a member of another retirement system which is administered by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board pursuant to §5-10D-1 *et seq.* of this code shall make an additional contribution to the fund of eight and one-half percent of his or her monthly salary earned from any additional employment which requires the Natural Resources Police Officer to be a member of another retirement system which is administered by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board pursuant to §5-10D-1 *et seq.* of this code. An

additional employer contribution shall be paid to the fund by the concurrent employer for which the member is employed in an amount equal to 12 percent of his or her monthly salary. If the board finds that the benefits provided by this article can be funded with a lesser contribution, then the board shall reduce the required member, or employer contributions or both. The sums withheld each calendar month shall be paid to the fund no later than 15 days following the end of the calendar month.

§20-18-9. Correction of errors; underpayments; overpayments.

(a) General rule: Upon learning of errors, the board shall correct errors in the retirement plan in a timely manner whether the individual, division or board was at fault for the error with the intent of placing the affected individual, division and board in the position each would have been in had the error not occurred.

(b) Underpayments to the plan: Any error resulting in an underpayment to the plan may be corrected by the member or retirant remitting the required employee contribution or underpayment and the division remitting the required employer contribution or underpayment. Interest shall accumulate in accordance with the legislative rule 162 CSR 7 concerning retirement board refund, reinstatement, retroactive service, loan and correction of error interest factors and any accumulating interest owed on the employee and employer contributions or underpayments resulting from an employer error is the responsibility of the division. The division may remit total payment and the employee reimburse the division through payroll deduction over a period equivalent to the time period during which the employer error occurred. If the correction of an error involving an underpayment to the plan will result in the plan paying a retirant an additional amount, this additional payment may be made only after the board receives full payment of all required employee and employer contributions or underpayments, including interest.

(c) Overpayments to the plan by the division: When mistaken or excess employer contributions or other employer overpayments have been made to the plan, the board shall credit the division with an amount equal to the overpayment, to be offset against the employer's future liability for employer contributions to the plan. If the division has no future liability for employer contributions to the retirement system, the board shall refund the erroneous contributions directly to the division. Earnings or interest may not be returned, offset or credited to the division under any of the means used by the board for returning employer overpayments made to the plan.

(d) Overpayments to the plan by an employee: When mistaken or excess employee contributions or overpayments have been made to the retirement system, the board has sole authority for determining the means of return, offset or credit to or for the benefit of the individual making the mistaken or excess employee contribution of the amounts, and may use any means authorized or permitted under the provisions of Section 401(a), *et seq.* of the Internal Revenue Code and guidance issued thereunder applicable to governmental plans. Alternatively, the board may require the division to pay the individual the amounts as wages, with the board crediting the division with a corresponding amount to offset against its future contributions to the plan. If the division has no future liability for employer contributions to the plan, the board shall refund said amount directly to the division: *Provided*, That the wages paid to the individual shall not be considered compensation for any purposes of this article. Earnings or interest shall not be returned, offset, or credited under any of the means used by the board for returning employee overpayments.

(e) Overpayments from the plan: If any error results in any member, retirant, beneficiary, the division or other individual receiving from the system more than he or she would have been entitled to receive had the error not occurred the board shall correct the error in a timely manner.

If correction of the error occurs after annuity payments to a retirant or beneficiary have commenced, the board shall prospectively adjust the payment of the benefit to the correct amount. In addition, the member, retirant, beneficiary, the division or other person who received the overpayment from the plan shall repay the amount of any overpayment to the plan in any manner permitted by the board. Interest shall not accumulate on any corrective payment made to the plan pursuant to this subsection.

(f) Underpayments from the plan: If any error results in any member, retirant, beneficiary, the division or other individual receiving from the plan less than he or she would have been entitled to receive had the error not occurred, the board, upon learning of the error, shall correct the error in a timely manner. If correction of the error occurs after annuity payments to a retirant or beneficiary have commenced, the board shall prospectively adjust the payment of the benefit to the correct amount. In addition, the board shall pay the amount of such underpayment to the member, retirant, beneficiary or other individual in a lump sum. Interest shall not be paid on any corrective payment made by the plan pursuant to this subsection.

(g) Eligibility errors: If the board finds that an individual is not eligible to participate, the board shall notify the individual and the division of the determination and terminate his or her participation in the plan. Any erroneous payments to the retirement system shall be returned to the division and individual in accordance with the methods described in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and any erroneous payments from the plan to such individual shall be returned to the plan in accordance with the methods described in subsection (e) of this section. Any erroneous service credited to the individual shall be removed. If the board determines that an individual has not been participating in the plan, but was eligible to and required to be participating in the plan, the board shall as soon as practicable notify the individual and the division of the

determination, and the individual shall prospectively commence participation in the plan as soon as practicable. Service credit for service prior to the date on which the individual prospectively commences participation in the plan shall be granted only if the board receives the required employer and employee contributions for such service, in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, including interest.

(h) Correction of errors occurring prior to transfer from Public Employee Retirement System. — If any errors requiring correction occurred prior to establishment of the plan created pursuant to this article or prior to the transfer of funds from the Public Employee Retirement System, into the plan, or both, the employer and member contributions, if any, required to be calculated in order to effect correction shall be based on the rates in effect for the retirement system under which such employer or member contributions would have been made had the error not occurred. For purposes of this subsection, "retirement system" means either the Public Employees Retirement System or the plan. The board shall have full discretion when applying this subsection (h), consistent with the general principles of subsection (a) of this section. The intent of any correction is to place the affected individual, division and board in the position in which each would have been had the error not occurred.

§20-18-10. Transfer from Public Employees Retirement System.

(a) The Consolidated Public Retirement Board shall, within 90 days of the effective date transfer assets from the Public Employees Retirement System trust fund into the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement trust fund.

(b) The amount of assets to be transferred for each transferring Natural Resources Police Officer shall be computed as of January 1, 2021, using the actuarial valuation assumptions in effect for July 1, 2020, actuarial

valuation of Public Employees Retirement System, and updated with seven and one-half percent annual interest to the date of the actual asset transfer. The market value of the assets of the transferring Natural Resources Police Officer in the Public Employees Retirement System shall be determined as of the end of the month preceding the actual transfer. To determine the computation of the asset share to be transferred the board shall:

(1) Compute the market value of the Public Employees Retirement System assets;

(2) Compute the accrued liability for all Public Employees Retirement System retirees, beneficiaries, disabled retirees and terminated inactive members;

(3) Reduce the market value of Public Employees Retirement System assets by the accrued liability determined in subdivision (2) of this subsection;

(4) Compute the entry age method accrued liability for all active Public Employees Retirement System members;

(5) Compute the share of accrued liability as determined pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection, that is attributable to those Natural Resources Police Officers in Public Employees Retirement System who have elected to transfer to the plan;

(6) Compute the percentage of active's accrued liability computed to the Natural Resources Police Officers by dividing subdivision (5) by subdivision (4) of this subsection;

(7) Determine the asset share to be transferred from Public Employees Retirement System to the plan by multiplying subdivision (3) times subdivision (6) of this subsection.

(c) Once a Natural Resources Police Officer has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System,

transfer of that amount as calculated in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of this section by the Public Employees Retirement System shall operate as a complete bar to any further liability to the Natural Resource Police Officer transferring from the Public Employees Retirement System, and constitutes an agreement whereby the transferring Natural Resources Police Officer forever indemnifies and holds harmless the Public Employees Retirement System from providing him or her any form of retirement benefit whatsoever until such time as that Natural Resources Police Officer obtains other employment which would make him or her eligible to reenter the Public Employees Retirement System with no credit whatsoever for the amounts transferred to the Natural Resources Police Officer retirement system.

§20-18-11. Notice requirements.

(a) The Division of Natural Resources shall prepare a written notice no later than August 1, 2020, to be delivered to each Natural Resources Police Officer actively employed by the division: *Provided*, That the division shall also deliver this notice on the first day of employment to any Natural Resources Police Officer hired after July 1, 2020, but before January 2, 2021. This notice shall clearly and accurately explain the benefits, financial implications and consequences to a Natural Resources Police Officer of electing to participate in the retirement plan created in this article, including the consequences and financial implications in regard to the benefits under the public employees insurance plan as set forth in §5-16-1 *et seq.* of this code. This notice shall be distributed to each Natural Resources Police Officer and the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources shall obtain a signed receipt from each Natural Resources Police Officer acknowledging that the Natural Resources Police Officer was provided a copy of the notice required in this subsection. If a Natural Resources Police Officer makes the election provided for in §20-18-6 of this code, he or she shall be considered to have made a

voluntary, informed decision in regard to the election to participate in the retirement system created in this article.

(b) Nothing in this section may be construed to alter, affect or change any of the rights and benefits of any Natural Resources Police Officer who has insurance coverage under §5-16-1 *et seq.* of this code as a result of being a spouse or dependent of a participant who is the primary insured under §5-16-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(c) Nothing contained in this section may be construed to affect or pertain to any life insurance coverage under §5-16-1 *et seq.* of this code.

§20-18-12. Retirement; commencement of benefits.

A member may retire and commence to receive retirement income payments on the first day of the calendar month following the board's receipt of the member's voluntary written application for retirement or the required beginning date, if earlier. Before receiving retirement income payments, the member shall have ceased covered employment and reached normal retirement age. The retirement income payments shall be in an amount as provided under §20-18-18 of this code: *Provided*, That retirement income payments under this plan shall be subject to the provisions of this article. Upon receipt of a request for estimation of benefits, the board shall promptly provide the member with an explanation of his or her optional forms of retirement benefits and the estimated gross monthly annuity. Upon receipt of properly executed retirement application forms from the member, the board shall process the member's request and commence payments as soon as administratively feasible.

§20-18-13. Federal law maximum benefit limitations.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this article or state law, the board shall administer the retirement system in compliance with the limitations of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and regulations under that section,

to the extent applicable to governmental plans (hereafter sometimes referred to as the "415 limitation(s)" or "415 dollar limitation(s)"), so that the annual benefit payable under this system to a member may not exceed those limitations. Any annual benefit payable under this system shall be reduced or limited, if necessary, to an amount which does not exceed those limitations. The extent to which any annuity or other annual benefit payable under this retirement system shall be reduced, as compared to the extent to which an annuity, contributions or other benefits under any other defined benefit plans or defined contribution plans required to be taken into consideration under Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code shall be reduced, shall be proportional on a percentage basis to the reductions made in such other plans administered by the board and required to be so taken into consideration under Section 415, unless a disproportionate reduction is determined by the board to maximize the aggregate benefits payable to the member. If the reduction is under this retirement system, the board shall advise affected members of any additional limitation on the annuities or other annual benefit required by this section. For purposes of the 415 limitations, the "limitation year" shall be the calendar year. The 415 limitations are incorporated herein by reference, except to the extent the following provisions may modify the default provisions thereunder:

(a) The annual adjustment to the 415 dollar limitations made by Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder shall apply for each limitation year. The annual adjustments to the dollar limitations under Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code which become effective: (i) After a retirant's severance from employment with the employer; or (ii) after the annuity starting date in the case of a retirant who has already commenced receiving benefits, shall apply with respect to a retirant's annual benefit in any limitation year. A retirant's annual benefit payable in any limitation year from this retirement system may not be greater than the limit applicable at the annuity

starting date, as increased in subsequent years pursuant to Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code and the regulations thereunder.

(b) For purposes of this section, the "annual benefit" means a benefit that is payable annually in the form of a straight life annuity. Except as provided below, where a benefit is payable in a form other than a straight life annuity, the benefit shall be adjusted to an actuarially equivalent straight life annuity that begins at the same time as such other form of benefit, using factors prescribed in the 415 limitation regulations, before applying the 415 limitations. No actuarial adjustment to the benefit shall be made for: (1) Survivor benefits payable to a surviving spouse under a qualified joint and survivor annuity to the extent such benefits would not be payable if the member's benefit were paid in another form; (2) benefits that are not directly related to retirement benefits (such as a qualified disability benefit, preretirement incidental death benefits, and post-retirement medical benefits); or (3) the inclusion in the form of benefit of an automatic benefit increase feature, provided the form of benefit is not subject to Section 417(e)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and would otherwise satisfy the limitations of this article, and the plan provides that the amount payable under the form of benefit in any limitation year shall not exceed the limits of this article applicable at the annuity starting date, as increased in subsequent years pursuant to Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code. For this purpose, an automatic benefit increase feature is included in a form of benefit if the form of benefit provides for automatic, periodic increases to the benefits paid in that form.

(c) Adjustment for benefit forms not subject to Section 417(e)(3). — The straight life annuity that is actuarially equivalent to the member's form of benefit shall be determined under this subsection if the form of the member's benefit is either: (1) A nondecreasing annuity (other than a straight life annuity) payable for a period of

not less than the life of the member (or, in the case of a qualified preretirement survivor annuity, the life of the surviving spouse); or (2) an annuity that decreases during the life of the member merely because of: (i) The death of the survivor annuitant (but only if the reduction is not below 50 percent of the benefit payable before the death of the survivor annuitant); or (ii) the cessation or reduction of Social Security supplements or qualified disability payments (as defined in Section 411(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code). The actuarially equivalent straight life annuity is equal to the greater of: (I) The annual amount of the straight life annuity (if any) payable to the member under the plan commencing at the same annuity starting date as the member's form of benefit; and (II) the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the member's form of benefit, computed using a five percent interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table defined in Treasury Regulation §1.417(e)-1(d)(2) (Revenue Ruling 2001-62 or any subsequent Revenue Ruling modifying the applicable provisions of Revenue Ruling 2001-62) for that annuity starting date.

(d) Adjustment for benefit forms subject to Section 417(e)(3). — The straight life annuity that is actuarially equivalent to the member's form of benefit shall be determined under this subsection if the form of the member's benefit is other than a benefit form described in subdivision (c) of this section. The actuarially equivalent straight life annuity shall be determined as follows: The actuarially equivalent straight life annuity is equal to the greatest of: (1) The annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the member's form of benefit, computed using the interest rate specified in this retirement system and the mortality table (or other tabular factor) specified in this retirement system for adjusting benefits in the same form; (2) the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity

starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the member's form of benefit, computed using a five and a half percent interest rate assumption and the applicable mortality table defined in Treasury Regulation §1.417(e)-1(d)(2) (Revenue Ruling 2001-62 or any subsequent Revenue Ruling modifying the applicable provisions of Revenue Ruling 2001-62) for that annuity starting date; and (3) the annual amount of the straight life annuity commencing at the same annuity starting date that has the same actuarial present value as the member's form of benefit, computed using the applicable interest rate defined in Treasury Regulation §1.417(e)-1(d)(3) and the applicable mortality table defined in Treasury Regulation §1.417(e)-1(d)(2) (the mortality table specified in Revenue Ruling 2001-62 or any subsequent Revenue Ruling modifying the applicable provisions of Revenue Ruling 2001-62), divided by 1.05.

(e) Benefits payable prior to age 62:

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this subdivision, if the member's retirement benefits become payable before age 62, the 415 dollar limitation prescribed by this section shall be reduced in accordance with regulations issued by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to the provisions of Section 415(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, so that the limitation (as so reduced) equals an annual straight life benefit (when the retirement income benefit begins) which is equivalent to an annual benefit in the amount of the applicable dollar limitation of Section 415(b)(1)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code (as adjusted pursuant to Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code) beginning at age 62.

(2) The limitation reduction provided in paragraph (1) of this subdivision may not apply if the member commencing retirement benefits before age 62 is a qualified participant. A qualified participant for this purpose is a participant in a defined benefit plan maintained by a state, or any political subdivision of a state, with respect to whom the service taken into account in determining the amount of

the benefit under the defined benefit plan includes at least 15 years of service: (i) As a full-time employee of any police or fire department organized and operated by the state or political subdivision maintaining the defined benefit plan to provide police protection, fire-fighting services or emergency medical services for any area within the jurisdiction of such state or political subdivision; or (ii) as a member of the armed forces of the United States.

(3) The limitation reduction provided in paragraph (1) of this subdivision is not applicable to preretirement disability benefits or preretirement death benefits.

(4) For purposes of adjusting the 415 dollar limitation for benefit commencement before age 62 or after age 65 (if the plan provides for such adjustment), no adjustment is made to reflect the probability of a member's death: (i) After the annuity starting date and before age 62; or (ii) after age 65 and before the annuity starting date.

(f) Adjustment when member has less than 10 years of participation. — If a member has less than 10 years of participation in the retirement system (within the meaning of Treasury Regulation §1.415(b)-1(g)(1)(ii)), the 415 dollar limitation (as adjusted pursuant to Section 415(d) of the Internal Revenue Code and subdivision (e) of this section) shall be reduced by multiplying the otherwise applicable limitation by a fraction, the numerator of which is the number of years of participation in the plan (or one, if greater), and the denominator of which is 10. This adjustment is not applicable to preretirement disability benefits or preretirement death benefits.

(g) The application of the provisions of this section may not cause the maximum annual benefit provided to a member to be less than the member's accrued benefit as of December 31, 2008 (the end of the limitation year that is immediately prior to the effective date of the final regulations for this retirement system as defined in Treasury Regulation §1.415(a)-1(g)(2)), under provisions of the

retirement system that were both adopted and in effect before April 5, 2007, provided that these provisions satisfied the applicable requirements of statutory provisions, regulations, and other published guidance relating to Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code in effect as of December 31, 2008, as described in Treasury Regulation §1.415(a)-1(g)(4). If additional benefits are accrued for a member under this retirement system after January 1, 2009, then the sum of the benefits described under the first sentence of this subsection and benefits accrued for a member after January 1, 2009, shall satisfy the requirements of Section 415, taking into account all applicable requirements of the final 415 Treasury Regulations.

§20-18-14. Federal law minimum required distributions.

The requirements of this section apply to any distribution of a member's or beneficiary's interest and take precedence over any inconsistent provisions of this plan. This section applies to plan years beginning after December 31, 1986. Notwithstanding anything in the plan to the contrary, the payment of benefits under this article shall be determined and made in accordance with Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code and the federal regulations promulgated thereunder as applicable to governmental plans. Any term used in this article has the same meaning as when used in a comparable context in Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code and the federal regulations promulgated thereunder unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context or definition in this article. The following provisions apply to payments of benefits required under this article:

(a) The payment of benefits under the plan to any member shall be distributed to him or her not later than the required beginning date, or be distributed to him or her commencing not later than the required beginning date, in accordance with regulations prescribed under Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code, over the life of the member or over the lives of the member and his or her

beneficiary or over a period not extending beyond the life expectancy of the member and his or her beneficiary: *Provided*, That the requirements of this section may not be construed to grant a right to a form of benefit which is not otherwise available to a particular member under this retirement system. Benefit payments under this section may not be delayed pending, or contingent upon, receipt of an application for retirement from the member.

(b) If a member dies after distribution to him or her has commenced pursuant to this section but before his or her entire interest in the plan has been distributed, then the remaining portion of that interest shall be distributed at least as rapidly as under the method of distribution being used at the date of his or her death.

(c) If a member dies before distribution to him or her has commenced, then his or her entire interest in the retirement system is to be distributed by December 31 of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the member's death, unless the provisions of subsection (d) of this section apply.

(d) If a member dies before distribution to him or her has commenced, and the member's interest is eligible to be paid in the form of a survivor annuity to a designated beneficiary, distributions are to be made over the life of that beneficiary or over a period certain not greater than the life expectancy of that beneficiary, commencing on or before the following:

(1) December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the member died; or

(2) If the member's sole designated beneficiary is either the surviving spouse or a former spouse who, as an alternate payee under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order, is receiving 100 percent of the survivor benefit, distributions are to commence on or before the later of:

(A) December 31 of the calendar year in which the member would have attained age 72; or

(B) December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the member died.

(e) If a member dies before distribution to him or her has commenced and the survivor annuity provisions of subsection (d) of this section are not applicable, any designated beneficiary who is eligible to receive a distribution pursuant to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section may elect to have life expectancy treatment apply to the distribution for purposes of determining whether any portion of the distribution is an eligible rollover distribution: *Provided*, That any such election may not delay the required distribution of the deceased member's entire interest in the retirement system beyond December 31 of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the member's death as required by subsection (c) of this section: *Provided, however*, That the election is timely made in a form acceptable to the board on or before the following:

(1) December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the member died; or

(2) If the member's sole designated beneficiary is either the surviving spouse or a former spouse who, as an alternate payee under a Qualified Domestic Relations Order, is receiving 100 percent of the survivor benefit, election of life expectancy treatment must be made on or before the earlier of (A) or (B) below:

(A) The later of: (i) December 31 of the calendar year immediately following the calendar year in which the member died; or (ii) December 31 of the calendar year in which the member would have attained age 72; or

(B) October 31 of the calendar year containing the fifth anniversary of the member's death.

§20-18-15. Direct rollovers.

Except where otherwise stated, this section applies to distributions made on or after January 1, 1993. Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary that would otherwise limit a distributee's election under this plan, a distributee may elect, at the time and in the manner prescribed by the board, to have any portion of an eligible rollover distribution paid directly to an eligible retirement plan specified by the distributee in a direct rollover. For purposes of this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Eligible rollover distribution" means any distribution of all or any portion of the balance to the credit of the distributee, except that an eligible rollover distribution does not include any of the following: (A) Any distribution that is one of a series of substantially equal periodic payments not less frequently than annually made for the life or life expectancy of the distributee or the joint lives or the joint life expectancies of the distributee and the distributee's designated beneficiary, or for a specified period of 10 years or more; (B) any distribution to the extent the distribution is required under Section 401(a)(9) of the Internal Revenue Code; (C) the portion of any distribution that is not includable in gross income determined without regard to the exclusion for net unrealized appreciation with respect to employer securities; (D) any hardship distribution described in Section 401(k)(2)(B)(i)(iv) of the Internal Revenue Code. For distributions after December 31, 2001, a portion of a distribution may not fail to be an eligible rollover distribution merely because the portion consists of after-tax employee contributions which are not includable in gross income. However, this portion may be paid only to an individual retirement account or annuity described in Section 408(a) or (b) of the Internal Revenue Code, or (for taxable years beginning before January 1, 2007) to a qualified trust which is part of a defined contribution plan described in Section 401(a) or (for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2006) to a qualified trust or to an annuity contract described in Section 403(a) or (b) of the Internal

Revenue Code that agrees to separately account for amounts transferred (including interest or earnings thereon), including separately accounting for the portion of the distribution which is includable in gross income and the portion of the distribution which is not so includable, or (for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2007) to a Roth IRA described in Section 408A of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2) "Eligible retirement plan" means an individual retirement account described in Section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, an individual retirement annuity described in Section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, an annuity plan described in Section 403(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or a qualified plan described in Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code that accepts the distributee's eligible rollover distribution: *Provided*, That in the case of an eligible rollover distribution prior to January 1, 2002, to the surviving spouse, an eligible retirement plan is limited to an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity. For distributions after December 31, 2001, an eligible retirement plan also means an annuity contract described in Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and an eligible plan under Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code which is maintained by a state, political subdivision of a state, or any agency or instrumentality of a state or political subdivision of a state and which agrees to separately account for amounts transferred into the plan from this system. For distributions after December 31, 2007, an eligible retirement plan also means a Roth IRA described in Section 408A of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided*, That in the case of an eligible rollover distribution after December 31, 2007, to a designated beneficiary (other than a surviving spouse) as that term is defined in Section 402(c)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code, an eligible retirement plan is limited to an individual retirement account or individual retirement annuity which meets the conditions of Section 402(c)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(3) "Distributee" means an employee or former employee. In addition, the employee's or former employee's surviving spouse and the employee's or former employee's spouse or former spouse who is the alternate payee under a qualified domestic relations order, as defined in Section 414(p) of the Internal Revenue Code with respect to governmental plans, are distributees with regard to the interest of the spouse or former spouse. For distributions after December 31, 2007, "distributee" also includes a designated beneficiary (other than a surviving spouse) as such term is defined in Section 402(c)(11) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(4) "Direct rollover" means a payment by the plan to the eligible retirement plan.

§20-18-16. Rollovers and transfers to purchase service credit or repay withdrawn contributions.

(a) This section applies to rollovers and transfers as specified in this section made on or after January 1, 2002. Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary that would otherwise prohibit or limit rollovers and plan transfers to this system, the retirement system shall accept the following rollovers and plan transfers on behalf of a member solely for the purpose of purchasing permissive service credit, in whole or in part, as otherwise provided in this article or for the repayment of withdrawn or refunded contributions, in whole and in part, with respect to a previous forfeiture of service credit as otherwise provided in this article: (i) One or more rollovers within the meaning of Section 408(d)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code from an individual retirement account described in Section 408(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or from an individual retirement annuity described in Section 408(b) of the Internal Revenue Code; (ii) one or more rollovers described in Section 402(c) of the Internal Revenue Code from a retirement plan that is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code or from a plan described in Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code; (iii) one or more rollovers described in

Section 457(e)(16) of the Internal Revenue Code from a governmental plan described in Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code; or (iv) direct trustee-to-trustee transfers or rollovers from a plan that is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, from a plan described in Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code or from a governmental plan described in Section 457 of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided*, That any rollovers or transfers pursuant to this section shall be accepted by the system only if made in cash or other asset permitted by the board and only in accordance with such policies, practices and procedures established by the board from time to time. For purposes of this article, the following definitions and limitations apply:

(1) "Permissive service credit" means service credit which is permitted to be purchased under the terms of the retirement system by voluntary contributions in an amount which does not exceed the amount necessary to fund the benefit attributable to the period of service for which the service credit is being purchased, all as defined in Section 415(n)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided*, That no more than five years of "nonqualified service credit", as defined in Section 415(n)(3)(C) of the Internal Revenue Code, may be included in the permissive service credit allowed to be purchased (other than by means of a rollover or plan transfer), and no nonqualified service credit may be included in any such purchase (other than by means of a rollover or plan transfer) before the member has at least five years of participation in the retirement system.

(2) "Repayment of withdrawn or refunded contributions" means the payment into the retirement system of the funds required pursuant to this article for the reinstatement of service credit previously forfeited on account of any refund or withdrawal of contributions permitted in this article, as set forth in Section 415(k)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(3) Any contribution (other than by means of a rollover or plan transfer) to purchase permissive service credit under any provision of this article must satisfy the special limitation rules described in Section 415(n) of the Internal Revenue Code, and shall be automatically reduced, limited, or required to be paid over multiple years if, necessary, to ensure such compliance. To the extent any such purchased permissive service credit is qualified military service within the meaning of Section 414(u) of the Internal Revenue Code, the limitations of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code shall be applied to such purchase as described in Section 414(u)(1)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(4) For purposes of Section 415(b) of the Internal Revenue Code, the annual benefit attributable to any rollover contribution accepted pursuant to this section shall be determined in accordance with Treasury Regulation §1.415(b)-1(b)(2)(v), and the excess, if any, of the annuity payments attributable to any rollover contribution provided under the retirement system over the annual benefit so determined shall be taken into account when applying the accrued benefit limitations of Section 415(b) of the Internal Revenue Code and §20-18-13 of this code.

(b) This section does not permit rollovers or transfers into this system or any other system administered by the retirement board other than as specified in this section and no rollover or transfer may be accepted into the system in an amount greater than the amount required for the purchase of permissive service credit or repayment of withdrawn or refunded contributions.

(c) This section does not permit the purchase of service credit or repayment of withdrawn or refunded contributions except as otherwise permitted in this article.

§20-18-17. Conversion of annual and sick leave authorized for health or retirement benefits.

(a) Any member, who was a member of the Public Employee Retirement System prior to July 1, 2015, and who elected to become a member of this plan pursuant to §20-18-6 of this code and who has accrued annual leave or sick leave days with the division may elect to use the days at the time of retirement to acquire additional credited service in this retirement system. The accrued days shall be applied on the basis of two workdays credit granted for each one day of such accrued annual or sick leave days, with each month of retirement service credit to equal 20 workdays and with any remainder of 10 workdays or more to constitute a full month of additional credit and any remainder of less than 10 workdays to be dropped and not used. Additional service credited pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be allowed and not deemed to controvert the requirement of no more than 12 months credited service in any year's period.

(b) Nothing in this article may be construed to change a member's eligibility to use accrued annual or sick leave days for extended insurance coverage as authorized pursuant to the provisions of §5-16-13 of this code. Any use of accrued annual or sick leave days for extended insurance coverage shall be as authorized by the provisions of §5-16-13 of this code.

§20-18-18. Retirement benefits.

This section provides for a member's accrued benefit payable starting at the member's annuity starting date which follows the completion of a written application for the commencement of benefits. The member shall receive the accrued retirement benefit in the normal form or in an actuarial equivalent amount in an optional form as provided under §20-18-19 of this code, subject to reduction, if necessary to comply with the maximum benefit provisions of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code and §20-18-13 of this code. The first day of the calendar month following the calendar month of birth shall be used in lieu of any birth date that does not fall on the first day of a calendar month.

(a) *Normal retirement.* — A member whose annuity starting date is the date the member attains normal retirement age or later is entitled to his or her accrued retirement benefit based on years of service and final average salary at termination of employment.

(b) Retirement benefits shall be paid monthly in an amount equal to one twelfth of the retirement income payments elected and at those times established by the board.

§20-18-19. Annuity options.

(a) Prior to the effective date of retirement, but not thereafter, except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, a member may elect to receive retirement income payments in the normal form, or the actuarial equivalent of the normal form from the following options:

(1) *Joint and Survivor Annuity.* — A life annuity payable during the joint lifetime of the retirant and his or her beneficiary who is a natural person with an insurable interest in the retirant's life. Upon the death of the retirant, the benefit shall continue as a life annuity to the survivor in an amount equal to 50 percent, 66 and two-thirds percent, 75 percent, or 100 percent of the amount paid while both were living as selected by the member. If the beneficiary dies first, the monthly amount of benefits may not be reduced, but shall be paid at the amount that was in effect before the death of the beneficiary. If the retiring member is married, the spouse shall sign a waiver of benefit rights if the beneficiary is to be other than the spouse.

(2) *Ten Years Certain and Life Annuity.* — A life annuity payable during the retirant's lifetime but in any event for a minimum of 10 years. If the retirant's dies before the expiration of 10 years, the remaining payments shall be made to a designated beneficiary, if any, or otherwise to the member's estate.

(3) *Level Income Annuity.* — A life annuity payable monthly in an increased amount "A" from the time of retirement until the member is Social Security retirement age, and then a lesser amount "B" payable for the retirant's lifetime thereafter, with these amounts computed actuarially to satisfy the following two conditions:

(A) *Actuarial equivalence.* — The actuarial present value at the date of retirement of the retirant's annuity if taken in the normal form must equal the actuarial present value of the term life annuity in amount "A" plus the actual present value of the deferred life annuity in amount "B"; and

(B) *Level income.* — The amount "A" equals the amount "B" plus the amount of the retirant's estimated monthly Social Security primary insurance amount that would commence at the date amount "B" becomes payable. For this calculation, the primary insurance amount is estimated when the member applies for retirement, using Social Security law then in effect, using assumptions established by the board.

(b) If a retirant who has elected the options set forth in subdivision (1), subsection (a) of this section, whose beneficiary dies prior to the retirant's death, the retirant may name an alternative beneficiary. If an alternative beneficiary is named within 18 months following the death of the prior beneficiary, the benefit shall be adjusted to be the actuarial equivalent of the benefit the retirant is receiving just after the death of the retirant's named beneficiary. If the election is not made until 18 months after the death of the prior beneficiary, the amount shall be reduced so that it is only 90 percent of the actuarial equivalent of the benefit the retirant is receiving just after the death of the retirant's named beneficiary.

(c) (1) If a retirant who has elected an option set forth in subdivision (1), subsection (a) of this section, designated his or her spouse as beneficiary, upon divorce or annulment, the retirant may elect to change the retirement benefit

options offered by those subdivisions to a life annuity in an amount adjusted on a fair basis to be of equal actuarial value of the annuity prospectively in effect relative to the retirant at the time the option is elected: *Provided*, That the retirant furnishes to the board satisfactory proof of entry of a final decree of divorce or annulment: *Provided, however*, That the retirant certifies under penalty of perjury that no qualified domestic relations order, final decree of divorce or other court order that would restrict the election is in effect: *Provided further*, That no cause of action against the board arises or may be maintained on the basis of having permitted the retirant to change the retirement benefit option pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision.

(2) Upon remarriage, a retirant may name the new spouse as an annuitant for any of the retirement benefit options offered by subdivision (1), subsection (a) of this section: *Provided*, That the retirant shall furnish to the board proof of marriage: *Provided, however*, That the retirant certifies under penalty of perjury that no qualified domestic relations order, final decree of divorce or other court order that would restrict the designation is in effect: *Provided further*, That no cause of action against the board arises or may be maintained on the basis of having permitted the retirant to name a new spouse as annuitant for any of the survivorship retirement benefit options. The value of the new survivorship annuity shall be the actuarial equivalent of the retirant's benefit prospectively in effect at the time the new annuity is elected.

§20-18-20. Refunds to certain members upon discharge or resignation; deferred retirement; forfeitures.

(a) Any member who terminates covered employment and is not eligible to receive disability or retirement income benefits under this article is, by written request filed with the board, entitled to receive from the fund the member's accumulated contributions. Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, upon withdrawal the member

shall forfeit his or her accrued benefit and cease to be a member.

(b) Any member of this plan who ceases employment in covered employment and active participation in this plan, and who thereafter becomes reemployed in covered employment may not receive any credited service for any prior withdrawn accumulated contributions from either this plan or the Public Employees Retirement System relating to the prior covered employment unless following his or her return to covered employment and active participation in this plan, the member redeposits in this plan the amount of the withdrawn accumulated contributions submitted on salary earned while a Natural Resources Police Officer, together with interest on the accumulated contributions at the rate determined by the board from the date of withdrawal to the date of redeposit. Upon repayment he or she shall receive the same credit on account of his or her former service in covered employment as if no refund had been made. The repayment authorized by this subsection shall be made in a lump sum within 60 months of the Natural Resources Police Officer's reemployment in covered employment or if later, within 60 months of the effective date of this article.

(c) A member of this plan who has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System into this plan pursuant to §20-18-6(b) of this code may not, after having transferred into and become an active member of this plan, reinstate to his or her credit in this plan any service credit relating to periods of non-Natural Resources Police Officer service which were withdrawn from the Public Employees Retirement System plan prior to his or her elective transfer into this plan.

(d) Any member of this plan who: (1) Was employed as a Natural Resource Police Officer prior to the effective date of this article; and (2) was not employed as a Natural Resource Police Officer on the effective date of this article; and (3) thereafter becomes reemployed in covered

employment, may not receive any credited service for any previously withdrawn accumulated contributions from either this plan or the Public Employees Retirement System relating to the prior covered employment unless, following his or her return to covered employment and active participation in this plan, the member redeposits in this plan the amount of the withdrawn accumulated contributions submitted on salary earned while a Natural Resources Police Officer, together with interest on the accumulated contributions at the rate determined by the board from the date of withdrawal to the date of redeposit. Upon repayment he or she shall receive the same credit for his or her former service in covered employment as if no refund had been made. The repayment required by this subsection shall be made in a lump sum within 60 months of the Natural Resource Police Officers reemployment in covered employment.

(e) Every member who completes 120 months of covered employment is eligible, upon cessation of covered employment, to either withdraw his or her accumulated contributions in accordance with subsection (a) of this section, or to choose not to withdraw his or her accumulated contribution and to receive retirement income payments upon attaining normal retirement age.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, forfeitures under the plan may not be applied to increase the benefits any member would otherwise receive under the plan.

§20-18-21. Awards and benefits for disability — Duty related.

(a) Any member who after the effective date of this article and during covered employment: (1) Has been or becomes either totally or partially disabled by injury, illness or disease; and (2) the disability is a result of an occupational risk or hazard inherent in or peculiar to the services required of members; or (3) the disability was incurred while performing law-enforcement functions

during either scheduled work hours or at any other time; and (4) in the opinion of two physicians, one of whom shall be named by the board and one by the member, the member is by reason of the disability unable to perform adequately the duties required of a Natural Resources Police Officer, is entitled to receive and shall be paid from the fund in monthly installments the compensation under either subsection (b) or (c) of this section.

(b) If the member is totally disabled, the member shall receive 90 percent of his or her average full monthly compensation for the 12-month contributory period preceding the member's disability award, or the shorter period if the member has not worked 12 months.

(c) If the member is partially disabled, the member shall receive 45 percent of his or her average full monthly compensation for the 12-month contributory period preceding the member's disability award, or the shorter period if the member has not worked 12 months.

(d) If the member remains partially disabled until attaining 60 years of age, the member shall then receive the retirement benefit provided in §20-18-18 and §20-18-19 of this code with the accrued benefit being computed with the multiplier in effect as of his or her effective date of retirement.

(e) The disability benefit payments will begin the first day of the month following termination of employment and receipt of the disability retirement application by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

§20-18-22. Awards and benefits for disability — Due to other causes.

(a) Any member with ten or more years of contributing service and who after the effective date of this article and during covered employment: (1) Has been or becomes totally or partially disabled from any cause other than those

set forth in §20-18-21 of this code and not due to vicious habits, intemperance, or willful misconduct on his or her part; and (2) in the opinion of two physicians, one of whom shall be named by the board and one by the member, he or she is by reason of the disability unable to perform adequately the duties required of a Natural Resources Police Officer, is entitled to receive and shall be paid from the fund in monthly installments the compensation set forth in either subsection (b) or (c) of this section.

(b) If the member is totally disabled, he or she shall receive 66 and two-thirds percent of his or her average full monthly compensation for the 12-month contributory period preceding the disability award, or the shorter period, if the member has not worked 12 months.

(c) If the member is partially disabled, he or she shall receive 33 and one-third percent of his or her average full monthly compensation for the 12-month contributory period preceding the disability award, or the shorter period, if the member has not worked 12 months.

(d) If the member remains disabled until attaining 60 years of age, then the member shall receive the retirement benefit provided in §20-18-18 and §20-18-19 of this code with the accrued benefit being computed with the multiplier in effect as of his or her effective date of retirement.

(e) The board shall propose legislative rules for promulgation in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code concerning member disability payments so as to ensure that the payments do not exceed 100 percent of the average current salary for the position last held by the member.

(f) The disability benefit payments will begin the first day of the month following termination of employment and receipt of the disability retirement application by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

§20-18-23. Awards and benefits for disability — Physical examinations; termination of disability.

(a) The board may require any member who has applied for or any retirant who is receiving disability benefits under this article to submit to a physical examination, mental examination or both, by a physician or physicians selected or approved by the board and may cause all costs incident to the examination and approved by the board to be paid from the fund. The costs may include hospital, laboratory, X ray, medical, and physicians' fees. A report of the findings of any physician shall be submitted in writing to the board for its consideration. If, from the report, independent information, or from the report and any hearing on the report, the board is of the opinion and finds that: (1) The member has become reemployed as a law-enforcement officer; (2) two physicians who have examined the member have found that considering the opportunities for law enforcement in West Virginia, the member could be so employed as a Natural Resources Police Officer; or (3) other facts exist to demonstrate that the member is no longer totally disabled or partially disabled as the case may be, then the disability benefits shall cease. If the member was totally disabled and is found to have recovered, the board shall determine whether the member continues to be partially disabled. If the board finds that the member is no longer totally disabled but is partially disabled, then the member shall continue to receive partial disability benefits in accordance with this article. Benefits shall cease once the member has been found to be no longer either totally or partially disabled: *Provided*, That the board shall require recertification for each partial or total disability at regular intervals.

(b) If from the report, or from the report and hearing on the report, the board is of the opinion and finds that the disabled retirant has recovered from the disability to the extent that he or she is able to perform adequately the duties of a law-enforcement officer, the board shall within five working days provide written notice of the finding to the

Director of the Division of Natural Resources, who shall reinstate the retirant to active duty as a member of the department at his or her rank or classification and assigned to his or her area of assignment prior to the disability retirement within 45 days of the finding, unless the retirant declines to be reinstated.

(c) A disability retirant who is returned to active duty as a Natural Resources Police Officer for the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources shall again become a member of the retirement system in which he or she was enrolled and the retirant's credited service in force at the time of retirement shall be restored.

(d) If a retirant refuses to submit to a medical examination or submit a statement by his or her physician certifying continued disability in any period, his or her disability annuity may be discontinued by the board until the retirant complies. If the refusal continues for one year, all the retirant's rights in and to the annuity may be revoked by the board.

§20-18-24. Prior disability.

Any Natural Resources Police Officer who became totally disabled as a result of illness or injury incurred in the line of duty prior to the effective date of this article may not be a member of the Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System.

§20-18-25. Awards and benefits to surviving spouse — When member dies in performance of duty, etc.

(a) The surviving spouse of any member who, after the effective date of this article while in covered employment, has died or dies by reason of injury, illness or disease resulting from an occupational risk or hazard inherent in or peculiar to the service required of members, while the member was or is engaged in the performance of his or her duties as a Natural Resources Police Officer, or the survivor spouse of a member who dies from any cause while

receiving benefits pursuant to §20-18-21 of this code, is entitled to receive and shall be paid from the fund benefits as follows: To the surviving spouse annually, in equal monthly installments during his or her lifetime an amount equal to the greater of: (i) Two thirds of the annual compensation received in the preceding 12-month period by the deceased member; or (ii) if the member dies after his or her normal retirement age, the monthly amount which the spouse would have received had the member retired the day before his or her death, elected a 100 percent joint and survivor annuity with the spouse as the joint annuitant, and then died.

(b) Benefits for a surviving spouse received under this section, §20-18-27 and §20-18-28 of this code, are in lieu of receipt of any other benefits under this article for the spouse, or any other person, or under the provisions of any other state retirement system based upon the member's covered employment.

§20-18-26. Awards and benefits to surviving spouse — When member dies from nonservice-connected causes.

(a) In any case where a member who has been a member for at least 10 years, while in covered employment after the effective date of this article, has died or dies from any cause other than those specified in §20-18-25 of this code, and not due to vicious habits, intemperance, or willful misconduct on his or her part, the fund shall pay annually in equal monthly installments to the surviving spouse during his or her lifetime, a sum equal to the greater of: (i) One half of the annual compensation received in the preceding 12-month employment period by the deceased member; or (ii) if the member dies after his or her early or normal retirement age, the monthly amount which the spouse would have received had the member retired the day before his or her death, elected a 100 percent joint and survivor annuity with the spouse as the joint annuitant, and then died.

(b) Benefits for a surviving spouse received under §20-18-27 and §20-18-28 of this code, are in lieu of receipt of any other benefits under this article for the spouse or any other person or under the provisions of any other state retirement system based upon the member's covered employment.

§20-18-27. Additional death benefits and scholarships - Dependent children.

(a) In addition to the spouse death benefits in §20-18-25 and §20-18-26 of this code, the surviving spouse is entitled to receive and there shall be paid to the spouse $100 monthly for each dependent child.

(b) If the surviving spouse dies or if there is no surviving spouse, the fund shall pay monthly to each dependent child a sum equal to one fourth of the surviving spouse's entitlement under either §20-7-25 or §20-18-26 of this code. If there is neither a surviving spouse nor a dependent child, the fund shall pay in equal monthly installments to the dependent parents of the deceased member during their joint lifetimes a sum equal to the amount which a surviving spouse, without children, would have received: *Provided*, That when there is only one dependent parent surviving, that parent is entitled to receive during his or her lifetime one-half the amount which both parents, if living, would have been entitled to receive: *Provided, however*, That if there is no surviving spouse, dependent child nor dependent parent of the deceased member the accumulated contributions shall be paid to a named beneficiary or beneficiaries: *Provided further*, That if there is no surviving spouse, dependent child, nor dependent parent of the deceased member, nor any named beneficiary or beneficiaries then the accumulated contributions shall be paid to the estate of the deceased member.

(c) Any person qualifying as a dependent child under this section, in addition to any other benefits due under this or other sections of this article, is entitled to receive a

scholarship to be applied to the career development education of that person. This sum, up to but not exceeding $7,500 per year, shall be paid from the fund to any higher education institution in this state, career-technical education provider in this state, or other entity in this state approved by the board, to offset the expenses of tuition, room and board, books, fees or other costs incurred in a course of study at any of these institutions so long as the recipient makes application to the board on an approved form and under such rules as the board may provide, and maintains scholastic eligibility as defined by the institution or the board. The board may propose legislative rules for promulgation in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code which define age requirements, physical and mental requirements, scholastic eligibility, disbursement methods, institutional qualifications and other requirements as necessary and not inconsistent with this section. Scholarship benefits awarded pursuant to this subsection are not subject to division or payable to an alternate payee by any Qualified Domestic Relations Order.

§20-18-28. Burial benefit.

Any member who dies as a result of any service related illness or injury after the effective date is entitled to a lump sum burial benefit of $5,000. If the member is married, the burial benefit shall be paid to the member's spouse. If the member is not married, the burial benefit shall be paid to the member's estate for the purposes of paying burial expenses, settling the member's final affairs, or both. Any unspent balance shall be distributed as a part of the member's estate. Burial benefits awarded pursuant to this section are not subject to division or payable to an alternate payee by any Qualified Domestic Relations Order.

§20-18-29. Double death benefits prohibited.

A surviving spouse is not entitled to receive simultaneous death benefits under this article as a result of the death of two or more members to whom the spouse was

4 married. Any spouse who becomes eligible for a subsequent
5 death benefit under this article while receiving a death
6 benefit under this article shall receive the higher benefit, but
7 not both.

§20-18-30. Return to covered employment by retired member.

1 The annuity of any member who retires under the
2 provisions of this article and who resumes service in
3 covered employment shall be suspended while the member
4 continues in covered employment. The monthly annuity
5 payment for the month in which the service resumes shall
6 be prorated to the date of commencement of service, and the
7 member shall again become a contributing member during
8 resumption of service. At the conclusion of resumed service
9 in covered employment the member shall have his or her
10 annuity recalculated to take into account the entirety of
11 service in covered employment.

§20-18-31. Exemption from garnishment and other process; exception for certain qualified domestic relations orders.

1 The moneys in the fund and the right of a member,
2 spouse or other beneficiary to benefits under this article, to
3 the return of contributions, or to any retirement, death, or
4 disability payments under the provisions of this article are
5 not subject to execution, garnishment, attachment, or any
6 other process whatsoever with the exception that the
7 benefits or contributions under the system shall be subject
8 to "qualified domestic relations orders" as that term is
9 defined in Section 414(p) of the Internal Revenue Code with
10 respect to governmental plans, and are unassignable except
11 as is provided in this article.

§20-18-32. Fraud; penalties; and repayment.

1 Any person who knowingly makes any false statement
2 or who falsifies or permits to be falsified any record of the
3 retirement system in any attempt to defraud that system is
4 guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined
5 not to exceed $1,000 or confined in jail not to exceed one

year, or both fined and confined. Any increased benefit received by any person as a result of the falsification or fraud shall be returned to the fund upon demand by the board.

§20-18-33. Credit toward retirement for member's prior military service; credit toward retirement when member has joined armed forces in time of armed conflict; qualified military service.

(a) Any member who has previously served on active military duty is entitled to receive additional years of service for the purpose of determining his or her years of credited service for a period equal to the active military duty not to exceed five years, subject to the following:

(1) That he or she has been honorably discharged from the armed forces;

(2) That he or she substantiates by appropriate documentation or evidence his or her period of active military duty; and

(3) That he or she is receiving no benefits from any other retirement system for his or her active military duty.

(b) In addition, any member who while in covered employment was commissioned, enlisted or inducted into the armed forces of the United States or, being a member of the reserve officers' corps, was called to active duty in the armed forces between September 1, 1940, and the close of hostilities in World War II, or between the June 27, 1950, and the close of the armed conflict in Korea on July 27, 1953, between August 1, 1964, and the close of the armed conflict in Vietnam, or during any other period of armed conflict by the United States whether sanctioned by a declaration of war by Congress or by executive or other order of the President, is entitled to and shall receive credited service, for a period equal to the full time that he or she has or, pursuant to that commission, enlistment,

27 induction or call, shall have served with the armed forces
28 subject to the following:

29 (1) That he or she has been honorably discharged from
30 the armed forces;

31 (2) That within 90 days after honorable discharge from
32 the armed forces, he or she presented himself or herself to
33 the West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and
34 offered to resume service as a Natural Resources Police
35 Officer; and

36 (3) That he or she has made no voluntary act, whether
37 by reenlistment, waiver of discharge, acceptance of
38 commission or otherwise, to extend or participate in
39 extension of the period of service with the armed forces
40 beyond the period of service for which he or she was
41 originally commissioned, enlisted, inducted or called.

42 (c) The total amount of service allowable under
43 subsections (a) and (b) of this section may not exceed five
44 years.

45 (d) Any service credit allowed under this section may
46 be credited one time only for each Natural Resources Police
47 Officer, regardless of any changes in job title or
48 responsibilities.

49 (e) Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this
50 section, contributions, benefits, and service credit with
51 respect to qualified military service shall be provided in
52 accordance with Section 414(u) of the Internal Revenue
53 Code. For purposes of this section, "qualified military
54 service" has the same meaning as in Section 414(u) of the
55 Internal Revenue Code. The retirement board is authorized
56 to determine all questions and make all decisions relating to
57 this section and, pursuant to the authority granted to the
58 retirement board in §5-10D-1 of this code, may promulgate
59 rules relating to contributions, benefits and service credit to
60 comply with Section 414(u) of the Internal Revenue Code.

§20-18-34. Pro rata reduction of annuities.

Any provision in this article to the contrary notwithstanding, if at the end of any fiscal year the total of the annuities paid from the retirement fund during the said fiscal year is more than 10 percent of the sum of the balances in the fund at the end of the said fiscal year, the said annuities payable in the next ensuing fiscal year shall be reduced, pro rata, so that the sum of the annuities so reduced shall not exceed 10 percent of the sum of the said balances in the fund. The said pro rata reduction shall be applied to all annuities payable in the said ensuing fiscal year.

§20-18-35. Liability of participating public employer for delinquent retirement contributions; liability of participating public employer's successor for delinquent retirement contributions; lien for delinquent contributions; collection by suit.

The requirements for this section shall be the same as the requirements of §5-10D-11 of this code.

§20-18-36. Benefits not forfeited if system terminates.

If the retirement system is terminated or contributions are completely discontinued, the rights of all members to benefits accrued or contributions made to the date of such termination or discontinuance, to the extent then funded, are not forfeited.

CHAPTER 258

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 240 - By Senators Jeffries, Hamilton, Lindsay and Cline)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-6-22b; and to amend and reenact §16-6-23 of said code, all relating to requiring hotels and restaurants to secure manhole covers of certain grease traps by a certain date; providing methods for securing the manhole covers; authorizing the commissioner to specify the method of limiting access to the manhole; authorizing the promulgation of emergency rules; and increasing the civil penalty for noncompliance with the requirements of the article.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. HOTELS AND RESTAURANTS.

§16-6-22b. Hotels and restaurants to secure covers of grease traps.

(a) This section applies to hotels and restaurants that use grease traps that are outdoors or are in areas that are accessible to members of the general public.

(b)(1) Grease traps with manhole covers shall be designed to withstand expected loads and prevent access by children.

(A) The manhole cover shall be secured by a bolt or locking mechanism and be constructed of round cast iron or

similar construction with sufficient weight to prevent unauthorized access.

(B) The commissioner may specify either method of limiting access to the manhole, if the method conforms to paragraph (A) of this subdivision and prevents unauthorized access.

(2) A hotel or restaurant shall ensure that a grease trap manhole is closed and secured or locked, if applicable, at all times.

(c) The secretary shall propose emergency rules for promulgation in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code for the implementation and administration of this section.

(d) All hotels and restaurants using grease traps shall comply with subsection (b) of this section no later than October 1, 2020.

§16-6-23. Offenses.

Any person, firm, or corporation operating a hotel or a restaurant in this state, or who shall let a building to be used for such purposes, without first having complied with the provisions of this article, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined $50 for each day the failure to comply continues.

CHAPTER 259

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 269 - By Senators Stollings, Rucker, Roberts, Cline and Jeffries)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated †§16-5CC-1, †§16-5CC-2, †§16-5CC-3, †§16-5CC-4, †§16-5CC-5, and †§16-5CC-6, all relating to establishing an Advisory Council on Rare Diseases; creating the advisory council; providing for its composition; setting terms of members; defining terms; defining duties, subject to the availability of resources; defining powers of the advisory council; setting out particular discretionary duties of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources; terminating the council; and establishing a special revenue account.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

†ARTICLE 5CC. WEST VIRGINIA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RARE DISEASES.

†§16-5CC-1. Establishment and composition of the West Virginia Council on Rare Diseases.

1 (a) There is hereby established the West Virginia
2 Advisory Council on Rare Diseases to advise state agencies
3 on research, diagnosis, treatment, and education relating to
4 rare diseases.

5 (b) The council shall consist of 12 voting members,
6 constituted as follows:

† Redesignated

7 (1) The Secretary of the Department of Health and
8 Human Resources or his or her designee; and

9 (2) Eleven members who shall be appointed by the
10 Governor as follows:

11 (A) Three physicians licensed and practicing in the state
12 with experience researching, diagnosing, or treating rare
13 diseases;

14 (B) Three persons over the age of 18 who either have a
15 rare disease or are a family member of a person with a rare
16 disease;

17 (C) A registered nurse or advanced practice registered
18 nurse licensed and practicing in the state with experience
19 treating rare disease;

20 (D) A person with an advanced degree in public health
21 or other health-related field; and

22 (E) Three representatives from a patient-based
23 organization or advocacy group for rare disease, with
24 preference given to organizations based in West Virginia.

25 Appointments to the advisory council are for terms of
26 three years.

27 (c) The chairperson and vice-chairperson of the council
28 shall be elected from the council's membership by a simple
29 majority vote of the total membership of the council.

30 (d) Members serve without compensation. Travel
31 expenses may only be reimbursed if travel is related to
32 activities provided for under a grant or private donation.

†§16-5CC-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 "Department" means the West Virginia Department of
3 Health and Human Resources;

† Redesignated

"Rare disease" means any disease which affects fewer than 200,000 people in the United States and is known to be substantially under-diagnosed and unrecognized as a result of lack of adequate diagnostic and research information, including diseases known as "orphan diseases" for research purposes; and

"Secretary" means the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

†§16-5CC-3. Duties of the advisory council.

The advisory council shall exercise the following duties to the degree that resources are available, including, but not limited to:

(1) Coordinate statewide efforts for the study of the incidence of rare disease within the state;

(2) Act as the advisory board to the secretary and the West Virginia Legislature on research, treatment, and education relating to rare diseases;

(3) Research and identify priorities relating to the quality of, and access to, treatment and services provided to persons with rare diseases in the state;

(4) Develop, in conjunction and cooperation with the state's medical schools, policy recommendations relating to the quality of, and access to, treatment and services provided to persons with rare diseases in the state;

(5) Advise, consult, and cooperate with other offices of the department, other agencies of state government, and patient-based organizations in the development of information and programs of benefit to the public and the health care community relating to the diagnosis, treatment, and awareness of rare diseases;

† Redesignated

(6) Identify best practices for rare disease care as implemented in other states and at the national level that will improve rare disease care in the state;

(7) Develop recommendations for effective strategies to raise public awareness of rare diseases in the state;

(8) Develop recommendations for best practices for ensuring that health care providers are sufficiently informed of the most effective strategies for recognizing and treating rare disease; and

(9) Report to the Governor, secretary, and West Virginia Legislature not later than January 1, 2021, and annually thereafter on the activities of the advisory council and its findings and recommendations regarding rare disease research and care in West Virginia, including any recommendations for statutory changes and amendments to the structure, organization, and powers and duties of the advisory council. The advisory council shall terminate on January 1, 2023.

†§16-5CC-4. Powers of the advisory council.

In order to carry out the duties described in this article, the advisory council has the following powers:

(1) To pursue and accept gifts, grants, and bequests of funds from individuals, foundations, corporations, federal government, government agencies, and other organizations or institutions to fund the activities of the advisory council;

(2) To schedule and conduct meetings;

(3) To the degree that funds are available, publish findings, recommendations, and reports on diagnosis, treatment, research, and education for rare diseases for the use and benefit of the department, other agencies of the state, the medical community, general public, and organizations representing the patients affected.

† Redesignated

†§16-5CC-5. Duties and powers of the secretary.

The secretary at his or her discretion may provide the advisory council with administrative support reasonably necessary for the advisory council to carry out its duties. In addition, the secretary may make and sign any agreements and may do and perform any acts that are necessary to receive, accept, or secure gifts, grants, and bequests of funds in the name of the advisory council.

†§16-5CC-6. Rare Disease Advisory Council Fund.

There is hereby created a special revenue account in the State Treasury to be known as the Rare Disease Advisory Council Information Fund into which gifts, grants, and bequests may be received for the use of the advisory council to carry out its duties as specified in §16-5AA-3 of this code. The advisory council has the discretion to expend such moneys in this fund from collections as may be reasonable to carry out the duties of the advisory council as are consistent with the terms of the gifts, grants, or bequests providing those moneys. The presence of funds in this special revenue account does not preclude the Legislature from appropriating such funds as it may deem necessary for the use and mission of the advisory council.

CHAPTER 260

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 288 - By Senator Tarr)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-2B-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to family planning; extending family planning resources provided by Bureau for

† Redesignated

Public Health to other entities; providing that Bureau for Medical Services shall not require multiple office visits for women who select long-acting reversible contraceptive methods unless medically necessary; requiring Bureau for Medical Services to provide payments; requiring Bureau for Medical Services to update managed care contract; authorizing Bureau for Public Health to make long-acting reversible contraceptive products available in practitioner offices without upfront practitioner costs; requiring Bureau for Public Health to develop statewide plan; providing requirements for plan; and requiring an annual report by Department of Health and Human Resources.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2B. FAMILY PLANNING AND CHILD SPACING.

§16-2B-1. Family planning and child spacing; authorized functions; funds.

(a) The Bureau for Public Health may provide printed material, guidance, advice, financial assistance, appliances, devices, drugs, approved methods, and medicines to local boards of health and other entities requesting the same for use in the operation of family planning and child spacing clinics to the extent of funds appropriated by the Legislature and any federal funds made available for such purpose.

(b) The Bureau for Medical Services shall not require multiple office visits or prior authorization for a woman who selects long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC) methods unless medically necessary. The bureau shall provide payment for LARC devices and their insertion, maintenance, removal, and replacement. The Bureau for Medical Services shall update the managed care contract to include language that the contracted managed care company may not present barriers that delay or prevent access, such as prior authorizations or step-therapy failure requirements;

18 and should receive patient-centered education and
19 counseling on all FDA-approved birth control methods.

20 (c) The Bureau for Public Health may make LARC
21 products available in practitioner offices without upfront
22 practitioner costs.

23 (d) The Bureau for Public Health shall develop a
24 statewide plan with the goal of reducing exposure of a fetus
25 to illicit substances by increasing the number of clients
26 served and enabling access to LARC and other family
27 planning methods. The plan shall include strategies for
28 increasing LARC accessibility and training of health care
29 providers, and shall provide a fiscal analysis of plan
30 implementation and potential impact.

31 (e) The Department of Health and Human Resources
32 shall report annually to the Legislative Oversight
33 Commission on Health and Human Resources
34 Accountability. The report shall include, at a minimum, the
35 number of LARC treatments provided and the number of
36 children born with intrauterine substance exposure and
37 neonatal abstinence syndrome in West Virginia during the
38 past three years.

CHAPTER 261

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 560 - By Senators Takubo, Maroney, Cline, Rucker and Roberts)

[Passed February 18, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to repeal §30-7D-1, §30-7D-2, §30-7D-3, §30-7D-4, §30-7D-5, §30-7D-6, §30-7D-7, §30-7D-8, §30-7D-9, §30-7D-10, §30-7D-11, §30-7D-12, and §30-7D-13 of the Code of

West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §16-5AA-1, §16-5AA-2, §16-5AA-3, §16-5AA-4, §16-5AA-5, §16-5AA-6, §16-5AA-7, §16-5AA-8, §16-5AA-9, and §16-5AA-10, all relating to permitting a nursing home to use trained individuals to administer medication under the direction of a registered professional nurse; defining terms; authorizing approved medication assistive personnel (AMAP) to administer medication in nursing homes; providing certain exemptions from chapter 30 licensing requirements; establishing requirements for training curricula and national Medication Aide Certification Examination procedures; establishing eligibility criteria; establishing requirements for AMAP to administer medication; requiring compliance with legislative rules promulgated by the authorizing agency; requiring nursing homes using AMAP to establish an administrative monitoring system; permitting a registered professional nurse to withdraw authorization for AMAP to administer medications in certain circumstances; allowing certain fees to be collected; providing limits on administration of medication by AMAP; providing that use of AMAP in nursing homes is permissive; and repealing a pilot program designed to monitor the practice of unlicensed personnel administering medication in a nursing home setting.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTICLE 5AA. MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION BY UNLICENSED PERSONNEL IN NURSING HOMES.

§16-5AA-1. Definitions.

1 For the purposes of this article:

2 "Administration of medication" means assisting a
3 person in the ingestion, application, or inhalation of
4 medications, or the supervision of or the providing of
5 assistance with self-administered medication, both
6 according to the legibly written or printed directions of the

health care professional, or as written on the prescription label. "Administration" does not include judgment, evaluation, assessments, or injections of medication.

"Approved medication assistive personnel (AMAP)" means a staff member who meets eligibility requirements, has successfully completed a nationally recognized model curriculum for certified medication assistants, has passed a national medication aide certification examination approved by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and is considered competent by the authorized registered professional nurse to administer medications to residents of the nursing home in accordance with this article.

"Authorized practitioner" means a physician actively licensed under the provisions of §30-3-1 *et seq.* or §30-14-1 *et seq.* of this code, an advanced practice registered nurse with prescriptive authority actively licensed under the provisions of §30-7-1 *et seq.* of this code, a physician's assistant actively licensed under the provisions of §30-3E-1 *et seq.* of this code, an optometrist actively licensed under the provisions of §30-8-1 *et seq.* of this code, or a dentist actively licensed under the provisions of §30-4-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Authorized registered professional nurse" means a person who is actively licensed pursuant to §30-7-1 *et seq.* of this code and meets the requirements to train and supervise approved medication assistive personnel pursuant to this article, and has completed and passed the facility trainer/instructor course developed by the authorizing agency.

"Authorizing agency" means the Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification.

"Delegation" means transferring to a competent individual, as determined by the authorized registered

professional nurse, the authority to administer medications or perform a health maintenance task.

"Health care professional" means an allopathic physician, osteopathic physician, registered professional nurse, advanced practice registered nurse, physician's assistant, dentist, optometrist, or respiratory therapist licensed pursuant to the provisions of chapter 30 of this code.

"Health maintenance tasks" means: Administering glucometer tests; administering gastrostomy tube feedings; administering enemas; and performing tracheostomy and ventilator care for residents.

"Medication" means a drug, as defined in §60A-1-101 of this code, which has been prescribed by a health care professional to be ingested through the mouth, inhaled through the nose or mouth using an inhaler or nebulizer, applied to the outer skin, eye, or ear, or applied through nose drops, or applied through vaginal or rectal suppositories. Medication does not mean a controlled substance listed in Schedule I as provided in §60A-2-204 of this code, Schedule II as provided in §60A-2-206 of this code, buprenorphine, or benzodiazepines.

"Medication reconciliation" means the process of creating an accurate list of all medications a resident is taking, including drug name, dosage, frequency, and route, so correct medications are being provided to the resident.

"Nursing home" means the same as it is defined in §16-5C-2 of this code.

"Prescribing practitioner" means an individual who has prescriptive authority as provided in chapter 30 of this code.

"Registered professional nurse" means a person who is actively licensed pursuant to §30-7-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Resident" means a person living in a nursing home who is in stable condition.

"Self-administration of medication" means the act of a resident, who is independently capable of reading and understanding the labels of medication ordered by an authorized practitioner, opening and accessing prepackaged drug containers, and accurately identifying and taking the correct dosage of the drugs as ordered by the health care professional at the correct time and under the correct circumstances.

"Self-administration of medication with assistance" means assisting residents who are otherwise able to self-administer their own medications, except their physical disabilities prevent them from completing one or more steps in the process.

"Stable" means the resident's health condition is predictable and consistent as determined by the registered professional nurse, and the resident's medications have been reconciled.

"Staff member" means an individual employed by a nursing home but does not include a health care professional acting within his or her scope of practice.

"Supervision of self-administration of medication" means a personal service which includes reminding residents to take medications, opening medication containers for residents, reading the medication label to residents, observing residents while they take medication, checking the self-administered dosage against the label on the container, and reassuring residents that they have obtained and are taking the dosage as prescribed.

§16-5AA-2. Administration of medications.

(a) The authorizing agency shall create a program for the administration of medications in nursing homes.

(b) Administration of medication shall be performed by an approved medication assistive personnel (AMAP) who has been trained and retrained every two years, passed a national medication aide certification examination, and who is subject to the supervision of, and approval by, an authorized registered professional nurse.

(c) After assessing the health status of a resident, a registered professional nurse, in collaboration with the resident's prescriber, may allow an AMAP to administer medication.

(d) Nothing in this article prohibits a staff member from administering medications or performing health maintenance tasks or providing any other prudent emergency assistance to aid any person who is in acute physical distress or requires emergency assistance.

§16-5AA-3. Exemption from licensure; statutory construction.

(a) A staff member who is not authorized by law to administer medication may do so in a nursing home if he or she meets the requirements of this article.

(b) An approved medication assistive personnel is exempt from the licensing requirements of chapter 30 of this code.

(c) A health care professional remains subject to his or her respective licensing laws.

(d) This article shall not be construed to violate or conflict with chapter 30 of this code.

§16-5AA-4. Instruction and training.

(a) The authorizing agency's training curricula shall be based on a nationally recognized model curriculum for certified medication assistants. The authorizing agency shall consult with the West Virginia Board of Respiratory Care

Practitioners in developing the training curricula relating to the use of an inhaler or nebulizer. The certification examination must be a national Medication Aide Certification Examination.

(b) The program developed by the authorizing agency shall require that a person who applies to act as an approved medication assistive personnel shall:

(1) Hold a high school diploma or its equivalent;

(2) Be a nurse aide with at least one year of full-time experience;

(3) Be certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid;

(4) Participate in the initial training program as set forth in §16-5AA-1 of this code;

(5) Pass a national certification examination as set forth in §16-5AA-1 of this code;

(6) Not have a statement on the stated administered nurse aide registry indicating that the staff member has been the subject of finding of abuse or neglect of a long-term care nursing home resident or convicted of the misappropriation of a resident's property; and

(7) Participate in a retraining program every two years.

(c) A nursing home may offer the training program developed by the authorizing agency to its staff members. The training shall be provided by the nursing home through a registered professional nurse.

(d) A registered professional nurse who is authorized to train staff members to administer medications in nursing homes shall:

(1) Possess a current active license as set forth in §30-7-1 *et seq.* of this code to practice as a registered professional nurse;

(2) Have practiced as a registered professional nurse in a position or capacity requiring knowledge of medications for the immediate two years prior to being authorized to train staff members;

(3) Be familiar with the nursing care needs of the residents as described in this article; and

(4) Have completed and passed the nursing home trainer/instructor course developed by the authorizing agency.

§16-5AA-5. Eligibility requirements of nursing home staff.

In order to administer medication, an approved medication assistive personnel (AMAP) shall:

(1) Determine the medication to be administered is in its original container in which it was dispensed by a pharmacist or the physician;

(2) Make a written record of assistance of medication with regard to each medication administered, including the time, route, and amount taken;

(3) Display the title Approved Medication Assistive Personnel; and

(4) Comply with the legislative rules promulgated by the authorizing agency pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code relating to the provisions of this article, which shall address, at a minimum, the supervision provided by the registered professional nurse to the AMAP.

§16-5AA-6. Oversight of approved medication assistive personnel.

A nursing home using an approved medication assistive personnel shall establish an administrative monitoring

system and shall comply with the applicable provisions of the legislative rules promulgated pursuant to §16-5O-11 of this code.

§16-5AA-7. Withdrawal of authorization.

(a) The registered professional nurse who supervises an approved medication assistive personnel (AMAP) may withdraw authorization for an AMAP to administer medications if the nurse determines that the AMAP is not performing the function in accordance with the training and written instructions.

(b) The withdrawal of the authorization shall be documented and relayed to the nursing home and the authorizing agency. The agency shall remove the AMAP from the list of authorized individuals. The department shall maintain a list of the names of persons whose authorization has been withdrawn and the reasons for withdrawal of authorization. The list may be accessed by registered professional nurses and administrative personnel of nursing homes.

§16-5AA-8. Fees.

The authorizing agency may set and collect any appropriate fees necessary for the implementation of the provisions of this article pursuant to the legislative rules authorized by this article.

§16-5AA-9. Limitations on medication administration.

(a) An approved medication assistive personnel (AMAP) may not:

(1) Administer the first dose of a medication;

(2) Perform an injection;

(3) Administer irrigations or debriding agents to treat a skin condition or minor abrasions;

(4) Act upon verbal medication orders;

(5) Transcribe medication orders;

(6) Convert or calculate drug dosages;

(7) Administer medications to be given "as needed" as ordered by the health care professional, unless the supervising nurse has first performed and documented a bedside assessment, and then the AMAP may administer the medication based on the written order with specific parameters which preclude independent judgment; or

(8) Perform health maintenance tasks.

(b) An AMAP may not be assigned to both medication administration duty and typical nurse aide duties related to resident care and assistance with activities of daily living simultaneously. When assigned to medication administration, the AMAP's responsibility shall be to administer medication and tasks related to the administration of medication. An AMAP may be assigned to other resident care and assistance with activities of daily living during such times that the AMAP is not engaged in, or scheduled to be engaged in, the administration of medication.

§16-5AA-10. Permissive participation.

The provisions of this article are not mandatory upon any nursing home or nursing home employee. A nursing home may not, as a condition of employment, require a nurse aide to become an approved medication assistive personnel (AMAP) or require its health care professionals to use AMAPs.

CHAPTER 30. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

ARTICLE 7D. MEDICATION ASSISTIVE PERSONS.

§30-7D-1. Pilot program.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-2. Definitions.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-3. Certificate required.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-4. Designated facilities.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-5. Qualifications.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-6. Scope of work.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-7. Renewal of certifications.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-8. Disciplinary actions.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-9. Offenses and penalties.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-10. Injunction.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-11. Medication Assistive Person Advisory Committee.

1 [Repealed.]

§30-7D-12. Applicability of article.

[Repealed.]

§30-7D-13. Rulemaking authority.

[Repealed.]

CHAPTER 262

(S. B. 647 - By Senators Takubo, Mann, Maroney, Stollings and Plymale)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-30C-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting physician's assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to issue do-not-resuscitate orders.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 30C. DO NOT RESUSCITATE ACT.

§16-30C-6. Issuance of a do-not-resuscitate order; order to be written by a physician, a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse.

(a) An attending physician, a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse may issue a do-not-resuscitate order for persons who are present in or residing at home or in a health care facility if the person, representative, or surrogate has consented to the order. A do-not-resuscitate order shall be issued in writing in the form as described in this section for a person not present or residing in a health care facility. For persons present in

health care facilities, a do-not-resuscitate order shall be issued in accordance with the policies and procedures of the health care facility or in accordance with the provisions of this article.

(b) Persons may request their physicians, physician's assistants, or advanced practice registered nurses to issue do-not-resuscitate orders for them.

(c) The representative or surrogate decisionmaker may consent to a do-not-resuscitate order for a person with incapacity. A do-not-resuscitate order written by a physician, a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse for a person with incapacity with the consent of the representative or surrogate decisionmaker is valid and shall be respected by health care providers.

(d) A parent may consent to a do-not-resuscitate order for his or her minor child, provided that a second physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse who has examined the child concurs with the opinion of the attending physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse that the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation would be contrary to accepted medical standards. If the minor is between the ages of 16 and 18 and, in the opinion of the attending physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse the minor is of sufficient maturity to understand the nature and effect of a do-not-resuscitate order, then no such order shall be valid without the consent of such minor. In the event of a conflict between the wishes of the parents or guardians and the wishes of the mature minor, the wishes of the mature minor shall prevail. For purposes of this section, no minor less than 16 years of age shall be considered mature. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to conflict with the provisions of the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act and implementing regulations at 45 CFR 1340. In the event conflict is unavoidable, federal law and regulation shall govern.

(e) If a surrogate decisionmaker is not reasonably available or capable of making a decision regarding a do-not-resuscitate order, an attending physician, physician's assistant, or advance practice registered nurse may issue a do-not-resuscitate order for a person with incapacity in a health care facility: *Provided*, That a second physician who has personally examined the person concurs in the opinion of the attending physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse that the provision of cardiopulmonary resuscitation would be contrary to accepted medical standards.

(f) For persons not present or residing in a health care facility, the do-not-resuscitate order shall be noted on a physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse orders for scope of treatment form or in the following form on a card suitable for carrying on the person:

Do-Not-Resuscitate Order

"As treating physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse of _____ and a licensed physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse, I order that this person SHALL NOT BE RESUSCITATED in the event of cardiac or respiratory arrest. This order has been discussed with _____ or his/her representative _____ or his/her surrogate decisionmaker _____ who has given consent as evidenced by his/her signature below.

Provider Name_____

Provider Signature_____

Address_____

Person Signature _____

Address _____

Surrogate Decision Maker Signature _____

Address _____".

(g) For persons residing in a health care facility, the do-not-resuscitate order shall be reflected in at least one of the following forms:

(1) Forms required by the policies and procedures of the health care facility;

(2) The do-not-resuscitate card as set forth in subsection (f) of this section; or

(3) The physician, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse orders for scope of treatment form.

CHAPTER 263

(S. B. 664 - By Senators Takubo and Maroney)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-30-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adding a physician's assistant to the list of medical professionals able to determine an individual lacks capacity; updating terminology related to advanced practice registered nurses; removing terminology related to physicians; and permitting a psychologist, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse to inform a person, if conscious, that he or she has been determined to be incapacitated.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 30. WEST VIRGINIA HEALTH CARE DECISIONS ACT.

§16-30-7. Determination of incapacity.

(a) For the purposes of this article, a person may not be presumed to be incapacitated merely by reason of advanced age or disability. With respect to a person who has a diagnosis of mental illness or intellectual disability, such a diagnosis is not a presumption that the person is incapacitated. A determination that a person is incapacitated shall be made by the attending physician, a physician, a qualified psychologist, a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse who has personally examined the person.

(b) The determination of incapacity shall be recorded contemporaneously in the person's medical record by the attending physician, a physician, a physician's assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse or a qualified psychologist. The recording shall state the basis for the determination of incapacity, including the cause, nature, and expected duration of the person's incapacity, if these are known.

(c) If the person is conscious, the attending physician, psychologist, physician's assistant, or advanced practice registered nurse shall inform the person that he or she has been determined to be incapacitated and that a medical power of attorney representative or surrogate decision-maker may be making decisions regarding life-prolonging intervention or mental health treatment for the person.

CHAPTER 264

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 746 - By Senators Maroney, Stollings, Takubo and Palumbo)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-4E-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing that contracted managed care companies with the Bureau for Medical Services may be provided data from the uniform maternal screening tool regarding their own covered members; providing that the Bureau for Medical Services may be provided data from the screening tool regarding their own covered members; and requiring confidentiality must be maintained.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4E. UNIFORM MATERNAL SCREENING ACT.

§16-4E-6. Confidentiality of screening tool.

(a) The uniform maternal screening tool shall be confidential and shall not be released or disclosed to anyone, including any state or federal agency for any reason other than data analysis of high-risk and at-risk pregnancies for planning purposes by public health officials: *Provided*, That managed care organizations, with respect to their Medicaid or CHIP plans or contracts, which are reviewed and approved by the Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Medical Services, and the Department of Health and Human Resources' Bureau for Medical Services may be provided data from the screening tool regarding their own covered members. The contracted

managed care companies and the Bureau for Medical Services must maintain the confidentiality of the data received.

(b) Proceedings, records, and opinions of the advisory council are confidential and are not subject to discovery, subpoena, or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding. Nothing in this subsection is to be construed to limit or restrict the right to discover, or use in any civil or criminal proceeding anything that is available from another source and entirely independent of the proceedings of the advisory council.

(c) Members of the advisory council may not be questioned in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding information presented in, or opinions formed as a result of, a meeting of the panel. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent a member of the advisory council from testifying to information obtained independently of the panel or which is public information.

CHAPTER 265

(S. B. 747 - By Senators Maroney, Takubo, Cline, Prezioso, Romano, Plymale and Stollings)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated †§16-1-21, relating to requiring the Bureau for Public Health to develop a Diabetes Action Plan.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

† Redesignated

ARTICLE 1. STATE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM.

†§16-1-21. Creation of Diabetes Action Plan.

The Bureau for Public Health shall create a Diabetes Action Plan. The action plan shall include the following: (a) Convening a diabetes task force consisting of a cross-sector of stakeholders to develop the scope of the plan; (b) conducting necessary data and infrastructure/gap analyses; (c) drafting a plan to include long and short term goals, high impact and outcome driven strategies for prevention, disease management and treatment, and evaluation strategies to be published for public comment; (d) produce briefing documents in support of and promoting the use of strategies outlined in the plan for distribution to stakeholders; (e) finalize and share the completed plan; (f) track and trend relevant statistics regarding diabetes; and (g) implement strategies identified in the plan to decrease the prevalence of diabetes in West Virginia. The plan shall be completed and presented to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability by January 1, 2021.

CHAPTER 266

(S. B. 748 - By Senators Maroney, Takubo, Cline, Prezioso, Romano, Plymale and Stollings)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated †§16-61-1, †§16-61-2, and †§16-61-3, all relating to increasing awareness of palliative care services; defining terms; and requiring the State

† Redesignated

Advisory Coalition on Palliative Care, in conjunction with the Bureau for Public Health to develop education materials.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

†ARTICLE 61. PALLIATIVE CARE.

†§16-61-1. Purpose and findings.

(a) The purpose of this article is to increase awareness regarding the palliative care services in West Virginia.

(b) The Legislature finds that palliative care access remains a challenge across the state and increasing awareness of the availability of this service will align with many of the state's goals to improve patients' health care experience and care quality.

†§16-61-2. Definitions.

As used in this article:

"Palliative care" means an interdisciplinary team-based model of care process designed to relieve suffering and improve quality of life for patients and families facing serious, though not necessarily terminal, illness. The care should be available at any stage of illness from birth to advanced age and may be offered simultaneously with disease modifying interventions, including attempts for cure or remission.

"Interdisciplinary team" means a care team comprised of medical and nonmedical disciplines with specialty training or certification in palliative care and may include volunteers and lay workers. This team includes, at a minimum, the following: (1) A physician; (2) an advanced practice registered nurse or a registered nurse; (3) a social worker; and may include (4) a member of the clergy; (5) a counselor; and (6) a consulting pharmacist.

† Redesignated

†§16-61-3. Development of educational materials and database.

(a) The State Advisory Coalition on Palliative Care, working in conjunction with the Bureau for Public Health, shall develop a work group to create the content of educational materials regarding palliative care for distribution to providers and to the general public. These materials should at a minimum provide an overview of the different models of palliative care services offered throughout the continuum of care and a description of the interdisciplinary team.

CHAPTER 267

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 749 - By Senators Maroney, Stollings, Takubo, Prezioso, Romano and Plymale)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §61-12A-2 and §61-12A-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-12A-5, all relating to requiring the Bureau for Public Health to submit its maternal mortality data to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for data aggregation; permitting peer review report to be made to birth hospital; requiring Infant and Mortality Review Panel to annually analyze factors impacting maternal and infant mortality and prepare report; and requiring the Bureau for Public Health to perform multi-year analysis to recommend system change to reduce maternal and infant deaths.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

† Redesignated

ARTICLE 12A. FATALITY AND MORTALITY REVIEW TEAM.

§61-12A-2. Responsibilities of the Fatality and Mortality Review Team and advisory panels.

(a) The Fatality and Mortality Review Team shall establish the following advisory panels to carry out the purposes of this article, including:

(1) An unintentional pharmaceutical drug overdose fatality review panel to examine, analyze, and review deaths resulting from unintentional prescription or pharmaceutical drug overdose;

(2) A child fatality review panel to examine, analyze, and review deaths of children under the age of 18 years;

(3) A domestic violence fatality review panel to examine, analyze, and review deaths resulting from suspected domestic violence; and

(4) An infant and maternal mortality review panel to examine, analyze, and review the deaths of infants and women who die during pregnancy, at the time of birth, or within one year of the birth of a child.

(b) The members of the Fatality and Mortality Review Team shall serve as members of each of the advisory panels established pursuant to this article.

(c) The Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health, in consultation with the Fatality and Mortality Review Team, shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code that the advisory panels shall follow. Those rules shall include, at a minimum:

(1) The representatives that shall be included on each advisory panel;

(2) The responsibilities of each of the advisory panels, including but not limited to, each advisory panel's responsibility to:

(A) Review and analyze all deaths as required by this article;

(B) Ascertain and document the trends, patterns, and risk factors; and

(C) Provide statistical information and analysis regarding the causes of certain fatalities;

(3) The standard procedures for the conduct of the advisory panels;

(4) The processes and protocols for the review and analysis of fatalities and mortalities of those who were not suffering from mortal diseases shortly before death;

(5) The processes and protocols to ensure confidentiality of records obtained by the advisory panel;

(6) That the advisory panels must submit a report to the Fatality and Mortality Review Team annually, the date the annual report must be submitted, and the contents of the annual report;

(7) That the advisory panel may include any additional persons with expertise or knowledge in a particular field that it determines are needed in the review and consideration of a particular case as a result of a death in §61-12A-1(a) of this code;

(8) That the advisory panel may provide training for state agencies and local multidisciplinary teams on the matters examined, reviewed, and analyzed by the advisory panel;

(9) The advisory panel's responsibility to promote public awareness on the matters examined, reviewed, and analyzed by the advisory panel;

(10) Actions the advisory panel may not take or engage in, including:

(A) Call witnesses or take testimony from individuals involved in the investigation of a fatality;

(B) Contact a family member of the deceased;

(C) Enforce any public health standard or criminal law or otherwise participate in any legal proceeding; or

(D) Otherwise take any action which, in the determination of a prosecuting attorney or his or her assistants, impairs the ability of the prosecuting attorney, his or her assistants or any law-enforcement officer to perform his or her statutory duties; and

(11) Other rules as may be deemed necessary to effectuate the purposes of this article.

(d) The Fatality and Mortality Review Team shall submit an annual report to the Governor and to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability concerning its activities within the state and the activities of the advisory panels. The report is due annually on December 1. The report is to include statistical information concerning cases reviewed during the year, trends and patterns concerning these cases and the team's recommendations to reduce the number of fatalities and mortalities that occur in the state.

(e) The Fatality and Mortality Review Team may provide reporting to birth facilities to inform internal peer review activities. Such information shall be deemed confidential and shall be used only for peer review purposes.

§61-12A-4. Confidentiality.

(a) Proceedings, records, and opinions of the Fatality and Mortality Review Team and the advisory panels established by the team pursuant to this article are

confidential and are not subject to discovery, subpoena, or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal proceeding. This section does not limit or restrict the right to discover or use in any civil or criminal proceeding anything that is available from another credible source and entirely independent of the proceedings of the team or advisory panels.

(b) Members of the Fatality and Mortality Review Team and members of the advisory panels established by the team may not be questioned in any civil or criminal proceeding regarding information presented in or opinions formed as a result of a meeting of the team. This subsection does not prevent a member of the team or an advisory panel from testifying to information obtained independently of the team or advisory panel which is public information.

(c) Proceedings, records, and opinions of the Fatality and Mortality Review Team and the advisory panels established by the team are exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act as provided in chapter 29B of this code.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provisions to the contrary, the Fatality and Mortality Review Team may prepare a data compilation to be shared, on an annual basis or more often as needed, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to study maternal mortality in an effort to reduce mortality rates. No individually identifiable records may be produced.

§61-12A-5. Required reporting and analysis.

(a) The infant and mortality review panel shall annually analyze data to identify themes, underlying risk factors, and gaps in care, to understand factors related to deaths during pregnancy, delivery, and the postpartum period. This analysis is required to follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's best practices for maternal mortality review and infant mortality review, and include

health care and clinical factors as well as social determinants of health. Using data gathered, the panel may provide recommendations and develop strategies to prevent problems that arise during the prenatal and postpartum period.

(b) The following variables should be routinely analyzed to describe pregnancy-associated deaths:

(1) Age at death;

(2) Race and ethnicity;

(3) Education;

(4) Insurance status;

(5) Marital status;

(6) County type (urban or rural) of maternal residence;

(7) Timing of death in relation to pregnancy; and

(8) Causes of death.

(c) Reports of aggregated nonindividually identifiable data shall be compiled on a routine basis for distribution in an effort to further study the causes and problems associated with maternal and infant deaths.

(d) Reports shall be distributed to the Commission on Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability, a member of the infant and maternal mortality review panel, health care providers, key government agencies, and others as identified to reduce the maternal and infant mortality rate.

(e) The Bureau for Public Health, working in conjunction with the infant and mortality review panel, shall perform a multiyear detailed analysis, utilizing data from vital records, the infant and mortality review panel, and other sources as necessary and, in partnership with other

38 providers, including the perinatal collaborative, make
39 recommendations for systems change to reduce maternal
40 and infant mortality. Such report shall be made available to
41 the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and
42 Human Resources Accountability by December 31, 2020.

CHAPTER 268

(S. B. 767 - By Senators Maroney, Tarr and Roberts)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to repeal §16-5B-6a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §16-5B-5a of said code, relating to the licensure of hospitals; allowing hospitals to use other accrediting organizations which have been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; and eliminating hospital board composition requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5B. HOSPITALS AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.

§16-5B-5a. Accreditation reports accepted for periodic license inspections.

1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, a
2 periodic license inspection shall not be conducted by the
3 Department of Health and Human Resources for a hospital
4 if the hospital has applied for and received an exemption
5 from that requirement: *Provided*, That no exemption
6 granted diminishes the right of the Department of Health
7 and Human Resources to conduct complaint inspections.

8 The Department of Health and Human Resources shall
9 grant an exemption from a periodic license inspection

10 during the year following accreditation if a hospital applies
11 by submitting evidence of its accreditation by the Joint
12 Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations
13 or the American Osteopathic Association, or any
14 accrediting organization approved by the Centers for
15 Medicare and Medicaid Services, and submits a complete
16 copy of the accrediting organization's accreditation report.

17 If the accreditation of a hospital is for a period longer
18 than one year, the Department of Health and Human
19 Resources may conduct at least one license inspection of the
20 hospital after the first year of accreditation and before the
21 accreditation has expired and may conduct additional
22 license inspections if needed. Hospitals receiving a three-
23 year accreditation shall conduct annual self-evaluations
24 using the current year accreditation manual for hospitals
25 unless the Department of Health and Human Resources
26 informs the hospital that the hospital will be inspected by
27 the Department of Health and Human Resources. Hospitals
28 are not required to conduct self-evaluations for any calendar
29 year during which they are inspected by the Department of
30 Health and Human Resources. These self-evaluations shall
31 be completed and placed on file in the hospital by March 31
32 of each year. Hospitals shall make the results of the self-
33 evaluation available to the Department of Health and
34 Human Resources if requested.

35 Accreditation reports filed with the Department of
36 Health and Human Resources shall be treated as
37 confidential in accordance with §16-5B-10 of this code.

§16-5B-6a. Consumer majorities on hospital boards of directors.

1 [Repealed.]

CHAPTER 269

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 797 - By Senators Takubo, Cline and Stollings)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-5B-19; to amend and reenact §17C-1-6 of said code; and to amend and reenact §30-29-1, §30-29-5, and §30-29-8 of said code, all relating generally to law-enforcement officers; authorization by governing boards of public and private hospitals to appoint and employ hospital police officers; providing for the qualifications, training, authority, compensation, and removal of hospital police officers; providing for training and examinations of law-enforcement officers; providing for the assistance of local law-enforcement agencies upon request; and providing limitations on liability of hospital police officers.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTICLE 5B. HOSPITALS AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.

§16-5B-19. Hospital police departments; appointment of hospital police officers; qualifications; authority; compensation and removal; law-enforcement grants; limitations on liability.

(a) The governing board of a hospital licensed under §16-5B-2 of this code may establish a hospital police department and appoint qualified individuals to serve as hospital police officers upon any premises owned or leased

by the hospital and under the jurisdiction of the governing board, subject to the conditions and restrictions established in this section.

(1) A person who fulfills the certification requirements for law-enforcement officers under §30-29-5 of this code is considered qualified for appointment as a hospital police officer.

(2) A retired police officer may qualify for appointment as a hospital police officer if he or she meets the certification requirements under §30-29-5 of this code.

(3) Before performing duties as a hospital police officer in any county, a person shall qualify as is required of county police officers by:

(A) Taking and filing an oath of office as required by §6-1-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(B) Posting an official bond as required by §6-2-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) A hospital police officer may carry a gun and any other dangerous weapon while on duty if the officer fulfills the certification requirement for law-enforcement officers under §30-29-5 of this code.

(c) It is the duty of a hospital police officer to preserve law and order:

(1) On the premises under the jurisdiction of the governing board and its affiliated properties; and

(2) On any street, road, or thoroughfare, except controlled access highways, immediately adjacent to or passing through the premises under the jurisdiction of the governing board, to which the officer is assigned by the chief executive officer or his or her designee: *Provided*, That a hospital police officer may only enforce the

provisions of §17C-1-1 *et seq.* of this code upon request of a local law-enforcement agency.

(A) For the purposes of this subdivision, the hospital police officer is a law-enforcement officer pursuant to the provisions of §30-29-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(B) The hospital police officer has and may exercise all the powers and authority of a law-enforcement officer as to offenses committed within the area assigned;

(C) The hospital police officer is subject to all the requirements and responsibilities of a law-enforcement officer;

(D) Authority assigned pursuant to this subdivision does not supersede in any way the authority or duty of other law-enforcement officers to preserve law and order on such hospital premises;

(E) Hospital police officers may assist a local law-enforcement agency on public highways. The assistance may be provided to control traffic in and around premises owned by the state or political subdivision when:

(i) Traffic is generated as a result of activities or events conducted or sponsored by the hospital; and

(ii) The assistance has been requested by the local law-enforcement agency;

(F) Hospital police officers may assist a local law-enforcement agency in any location under the agency's jurisdiction at the specific request of the agency; and

(G) Hospital police officers shall enforce the general policies and procedures of the hospital as established by the chief executive officer or his or her designee.

(d) The salary of a hospital police officer is paid by the employing hospital's governing board. The hospital shall

furnish each hospital police officer with a firearm and an official uniform to be worn while on duty. The hospital shall furnish, and require each officer while on duty to wear, a shield with the appropriate inscription and to carry credentials certifying the person's identity and authority as a hospital police officer.

(e) The governing board of the employing hospital may at its pleasure revoke the authority of any hospital police officer and such officers serve at the will and pleasure of the governing board. The chief executive officer of the hospital or his or her designee shall report the termination of employment of a hospital police officer by filing a notice to that effect in the office of the clerk of each county in which the hospital police officer's oath of office was filed.

(f) For the purpose of hospital police officers appointed and established in this section, the civil service provisions of §8-14-1 *et seq.* of this code and the investigation and interrogation provisions of §8-14A-1 *et seq.* of this code shall not apply.

(g) A hospital police officer shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability unless one of the following applies:

(1) His or her acts or omissions were manifestly outside the scope of employment or official responsibilities;

(2) His or her acts or omissions were with malicious purpose, in bad faith, or in a wanton or reckless manner; or

(3) Liability is expressly imposed upon the hospital police officer by any other provision of this code.

(h) A hospital police officer shall be trained in crisis de-escalation techniques consistent with the goals and objectives of this section: *Provided*, That within 180 days of beginning work as a hospital police officer, the employing hospital shall provide crisis management training to a hospital police officer through a program

100 approved by the Law-Enforcement Professional Standards
101 Subcommittee established by §30-29-2 of this code.

CHAPTER 17C. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND LAWS OF THE ROAD.

ARTICLE 1. WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED.

§17C-1-6. Authorized emergency vehicle.

1 "Authorized emergency vehicle" means vehicles of a
2 fire department, duly chartered rescue squad, police
3 department, ambulance service, hospital police department,
4 state, county, or municipal agency, and such privately
5 owned ambulances, tow trucks, wreckers, flag car services,
6 vehicles providing road service to disabled vehicles, service
7 vehicles of a public service corporation, postal service
8 vehicles, snow removal equipment, Class A vehicles of
9 firefighters, Class A vehicles of members of ambulance
10 services, and Class A vehicles of members of duly chartered
11 rescue squads, and all other emergency vehicles as are
12 designated by the agency responsible for the operation and
13 control of these persons or organizations. Class A vehicles
14 are as defined by §17A-10-1 of this code. Agency
15 authorization and emergency equipment are provided in
16 §17C-15-26 of this code. Agencies responsible for issuing
17 authorization for emergency vehicle permits may
18 promulgate such regulations that are necessary for the
19 issuance of permits for emergency vehicles.

CHAPTER 30. PROFESSIONS AND OCCUPATIONS.

ARTICLE 29. LAW-ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.

§30-29-1. Definitions.

1 For the purposes of this article, unless a different
2 meaning clearly appears in the context:

3 (1) "Approved law-enforcement training academy"
4 means any training facility which is approved and

authorized to conduct law-enforcement training as provided in this article;

(2) "Chief executive" means the Superintendent of the State Police; the chief Natural Resources police officer of the Division of Natural Resources; the sheriff of any West Virginia county; any administrative deputy appointed by the chief Natural Resources police officer of the Division of Natural Resources; or the chief of any West Virginia municipal law-enforcement agency;

(3) "County" means the 55 major political subdivisions of the state;

(4) "Exempt rank" means any noncommissioned or commissioned rank of sergeant or above;

(5) "Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction" or "Governor's committee" means the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction established as a state planning agency pursuant to §15-9-1 of this code;

(6) "Law-enforcement officer" means any duly authorized member of a law-enforcement agency who is authorized to maintain public peace and order, prevent and detect crime, make arrests, and enforce the laws of the state or any county or municipality thereof, other than parking ordinances, and includes those persons employed as campus police officers at state institutions of higher education in accordance with the provisions of §18B-4-5 of this code, persons employed as hospital police officers in accordance with the provisions of §16-5B-19 of this code, and persons employed by the Public Service Commission as motor carrier inspectors and weight-enforcement officers charged with enforcing commercial motor vehicle safety and weight restriction laws, although those institutions and agencies may not be considered law-enforcement agencies. The term also includes those persons employed as county litter control officers charged with enforcing litter laws:

Provided, That those persons have been trained and certified as law-enforcement officers and that certification is currently active. The term also includes those persons employed as rangers by resort area districts in accordance with the provisions of §7-25-23 of this code, although no resort area district may be considered a law-enforcement agency: *Provided, however*, That the subject rangers shall pay the tuition and costs of training. As used in this article, the term "law-enforcement officer" does not apply to the chief executive of any West Virginia law-enforcement agency or any watchman or special Natural Resources police officer;

(7) "Law-enforcement official" means the duly appointed chief administrator of a designated law-enforcement agency or a duly authorized designee;

(8) "Municipality" means any incorporated town or city whose boundaries lie within the geographic boundaries of the state;

(9) "Subcommittee" or "law-enforcement professional standards subcommittee" means the subcommittee of the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction created by §30-29-2 of this code; and

(10) "West Virginia law-enforcement agency" means any duly authorized state, county, or municipal organization employing one or more persons whose responsibility is the enforcement of laws of the state or any county or municipality thereof: *Provided*, That neither the Public Service Commission nor any state institution of higher education nor any hospital nor any resort area district is a law-enforcement agency.

***§30-29-5. Certification requirements and power to decertify or reinstate.**

(a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (e) of this section, a person may not be employed as a law-

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***NOTE:** This section was also amended by S. B. 706 (Chapter 242), which passed prior to this act.

enforcement officer by any West Virginia law-enforcement agency or by any state institution of higher education or by a hospital or by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia on or after the effective date of this article unless the person is certified, or is certifiable in the manner specified in subsection (c) of this section, by the subcommittee as having met the minimum entry level law-enforcement qualification and training program requirements promulgated pursuant to this article: *Provided*, That the provisions of this section do not apply to persons hired by the Public Service Commission as motor carrier inspectors and weight enforcement officers before July 1, 2007.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a person who is not certified, or certifiable in the manner specified in subsection (c) of this section, may be conditionally employed as a law-enforcement officer until certified: *Provided*, That within 90 calendar days of the commencement of employment or the effective date of this article, if the person is already employed on the effective date, he or she makes a written application to attend an approved law-enforcement training academy and that the person satisfactorily completes the approved law-enforcement training academy within 18 consecutive months of the commencement of his or her employment: *Provided, however,* That the subcommittee may grant an extension, one-time only, not to exceed six months, based upon a written request from the person justifying the need for such an extension: *Provided further*, That the subcommittee, in its sole discretion, may grant an additional extension upon demonstration of a hardship warranting it. The person's employer shall provide notice, in writing, of the 90-day deadline to file a written application to the academy within 30 calendar days of that person's commencement of employment. The employer shall provide full disclosure as to the consequences of failing to file a timely written application. The academy shall notify the applicant in writing of the receipt of the application and

of the tentative date of the applicant's enrollment. Any applicant who, as the result of extenuating circumstances acceptable to his or her employing law-enforcement official, is unable to attend the scheduled training program to which he or she was admitted may reapply and shall be admitted to the next regularly scheduled training program. One year after the effective date of this section, certification as a law-enforcement officer within this state of persons who are not certifiable as provided in subsection (c) of this section shall, in addition to graduation from an established academy in the state, be based on: Current employment as a sworn law-enforcement officer by any West Virginia law-enforcement agency or any state institution of higher education or the Public Service Commission; and the person's successful completion of an approved entry level law-enforcement examination established by legislative rule of the subcommittee, which shall include, at a minimum, written testing requirements, medical standards, physical standards, and good moral character standards conducted in accordance with such rule. The production of a record of successful passage of the approved entry level law-enforcement examination shall indicate the applicant as qualified under the law-enforcement training and certification standards within this state. An applicant who satisfactorily completes the program and successfully passes the approved entry level law-enforcement examination shall, within 30 days of completion, make written application to the subcommittee requesting certification as having met the minimum entry level law-enforcement qualification and training program requirements. Upon determining that an applicant has met the requirements for certification as set forth in this section, the subcommittee shall forward to the applicant documentation of certification. An applicant who fails to complete the training program to which he or she is first admitted, or was admitted upon reapplication, or who fails to pass the approved entry level law-enforcement examination, may not be certified by the subcommittee: *And provided further,* That an applicant who has completed

the minimum training and examination required by the subcommittee may be certified as a law-enforcement officer, notwithstanding the applicant's failure to complete additional training hours required in the training program to which he or she originally applied. If more than 24 months but less than 60 months have passed since the applicant for certification has successfully completed the approved entry level law-enforcement examination, the person may be certified but must complete the additional training set forth in legislative rules promulgated by the subcommittee addressing the recertification requirements of certified officers. If more than 60 months have passed since the applicant for certification has successfully completed the approved entry level law-enforcement examination, the person must then attend a subcommittee-approved training program and successfully complete a separate subcommittee entry level law-enforcement examination.

(c) Any person who begins employment on or after the effective date of this article as a law-enforcement officer is certifiable as having met the minimum entry level law-enforcement training program requirements and is exempt from attending a law-enforcement training academy if the person has satisfactorily completed a course of instruction in law enforcement equivalent to or exceeding the minimum applicable law-enforcement training curricula promulgated by the subcommittee. To receive certification, the person shall make written application within 90 calendar days following the commencement of employment to the subcommittee requesting certification. The application shall include a notarized statement of the applicant's satisfactory completion of the course of instruction in law enforcement, a notarized transcript of the applicant's relevant scholastic records, and a notarized copy of the curriculum of the completed course of instruction. The subcommittee shall review the application and, if it finds the applicant has met the requirements for certification, shall forward to the applicant documentation of certification. The subcommittee may set the standards for required records to be provided by

or on behalf of the applicant officer to verify his or her training, status, or certification as a law-enforcement officer. The subcommittee may allow an applicant officer to participate in the approved equivalent certification program to gain certification as a law-enforcement officer in this state.

(d) Except as provided in subdivisions (1) through (3), inclusive, of this subsection, any person who is employed as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article and fails to be certified shall be automatically terminated and no further emoluments shall be paid to such officer by his or her employer. Any person terminated shall be entitled to reapply, as a private citizen, to the subcommittee for training and certification, and upon being certified may again be employed as a law-enforcement officer in this state: *Provided*, That if a person is terminated under this subsection because an application was not timely filed to the academy, and the person's employer failed to provide notice or disclosure to that person as set forth in subsection (b) of this section, the employer shall pay the full cost of attending the academy if the person's application to the subcommittee as a private citizen is subsequently approved.

(1) Any person who is employed as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article and fails to be certified as a result of hardship and/or circumstance beyond his or her control may apply to the director of a training academy for reentry to the next available academy.

(2) Any person who is employed as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article and fails to be certified as a result of voluntary separation from an academy program shall be automatically terminated and no further emoluments may be paid to such officer by his or her employer. Any person terminated as a result of voluntary separation from an academy program may not be conditionally employed as a law-enforcement officer for a period of two years from the date of voluntary separation.

(3) Any person who is employed as a law-enforcement officer on or after the effective date of this article and fails to be certified as a result of dismissal from an academy program shall be automatically terminated and no further emoluments may be paid to such officer by his or her employer. Any person terminated as a result of dismissal from an academy program may not be conditionally employed as a law-enforcement officer for a period of five years from the date of dismissal and receiving approval from the subcommittee.

(e) Nothing in this article may be construed as prohibiting any governing body, Civil Service Commission, or chief executive of any West Virginia law-enforcement agency from requiring their law-enforcement officers to meet qualifications and satisfactorily complete a course of law-enforcement instruction which exceeds the minimum entry level law-enforcement qualification and training curricula promulgated by the subcommittee.

(f) The subcommittee, or its designee, may decertify or reactivate a law-enforcement officer pursuant to the procedure contained in this article and legislative rules promulgated by the subcommittee.

(g) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the subcommittee made pursuant to this article may contest the decision in accordance with the provisions of §29A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(h) The subcommittee may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production of necessary evidence or documents in any proceeding, review, or investigation relating to certification or hearing before the subcommittee.

§30-29-8. Compensation for employees attending law-enforcement training academy; limitations; agreements to reimburse employers for wages and expenses of employees trained but not continuing employment.

(a) A West Virginia law-enforcement agency shall, and a governing board may, pay compensation to employees, including wages, salaries, benefits, tuition, and expenses, for the employees' attendance at a law-enforcement training academy. The compensation paid to the employees for such attendance may not include overtime compensation under the provisions of §21-5C-3 of this code and shall be at the regular rate to which each employee would be entitled for a workweek of 40 hours in regular employment with the employer.

(b) In consideration for such compensation, the governing board, hospital, county commission, or municipal government may require each employee to enter into a written agreement in advance of such attendance that obligates the employee to repay the employer if he or she voluntarily discontinues employment within one year immediately following completion of the training curriculum. The amount of repayment shall be a pro rata portion of the total compensation which is equal to the portion of the year which the employee chose not to remain employed.

(c) As used in this section, "governing board" has the meaning ascribed in §18B-1-2 of this code.

CHAPTER 270

(S. B. 846 - By Senators Maroney, Tarr, Takubo, Weld, Azinger, Rucker, Maynard, Roberts, Stollings, Unger, Plymale and Palumbo)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-5B-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring a hospital to publish notification prior to facility closure regarding patient medical records, including films; requiring publication to take place upon closure; requiring publication to take place upon change in location of patient medical records; providing time frame to respond to patient request for medical records; providing penalty; and providing effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

§16-5B-16. Public notice regarding the closure of a licensed health care facility or hospital.

(a) Any hospital, extended care facility operated in connection with a hospital, ambulatory health care facility, or ambulatory surgical facility freestanding or operated in connection with a hospital licensed in the State of West Virginia under this article that intends to terminate operations shall provide at least three weeks' notice of such intent to the public prior to the actual termination of operations. Pursuant to the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, the hospital or facility shall cause a Class III legal advertisement to be published in all qualified newspapers of general circulation where the hospital or facility is geographically located and a notice shall be published on the facility's web page within the same time frame. The first

14 publication of the Class III legal advertisement shall occur
15 at least three weeks prior to the date the hospital or facility
16 intends to terminate operations. The Class III legal
17 advertisement shall include, but is not limited to, a
18 statement, along with the specific or proximate date, that the
19 hospital, extended care facility operated in connection with
20 a hospital, ambulatory health care facility, or ambulatory
21 surgical facility freestanding or operated in connection with
22 a hospital, intends to terminate operations, and where
23 medical records, including, but not limited to, all imaging
24 studies may be obtained.

25 (b) Upon closure, the hospital or facility shall cause a
26 Class III legal advertisement to be published in all qualified
27 newspapers of general circulation where the hospital or
28 facility is geographically located informing the public
29 where medical records, including, but not limited to, all
30 imaging studies may be obtained. This notice shall include
31 contact information. A notice shall also be placed on the
32 facility web page.

33 (c) The hospital or facility shall respond to requests for
34 medical records made pursuant to the publication
35 requirements in this section within 30 days.

36 (d) A notification of any change in location of the
37 patients' medical records shall be published in a newspaper
38 of general circulation as set forth in subsection (a) of this
39 section. The confidentiality of the medical records shall be
40 maintained during storage.

41 (e) If the facility fails to produce the requested records
42 within 30 days, a penalty of $25 per day may be assessed by
43 a court with jurisdiction.

44 (f) This section is effective retroactively to September
45 1, 2019, and continues in effect thereafter. The applicable
46 penalties are only effective for requests for medical records
47 made after the effective date of passage of this section.

CHAPTER 271

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 2961 - By Delegates Fast, C. Martin, Foster, Mandt and Butler)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-1-9 and §16-1-9a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating generally to public health and sanitation of water; providing that the Commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health may require a water supply system to be equipped with a backflow prevention assembly in certain circumstances; establishing procedures for determining whether installation of a backflow prevention assembly is required; setting forth the process by which a customer may seek a waiver to backflow prevention assembly requirements and challenge a determination by the commissioner; requiring documentation of certain activities related to backflow prevention assembly; and requiring reporting and communication of boiled water advisories and lifting of advisories by certain means.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. STATE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM.

§16-1-9. Duties and powers of the commissioner; supervision over local sanitation; violations; jurisdiction; penalties.

No person, firm, company, corporation, institution or association, whether public or private, county or municipal, may install or establish any system or method of drainage, water supply, or sewage or excreta disposal without first obtaining a written permit to install or establish the system or method from the commissioner or his or her authorized

representative. All systems or methods shall be installed or established in accordance with plans, specifications and instructions issued by the commissioner or which have been approved in writing by the commissioner or his or her authorized representative.

Whenever the commissioner or his or her authorized representative finds, upon investigation, that any system or method of drainage, water supply, or sewage or excreta disposal, whether publicly or privately owned, has not been installed in accordance with plans, specifications and instructions issued by the commissioner or approved in writing by the commissioner or his or her authorized representative, the commissioner or his or her authorized representative shall issue an order requiring the owner of the system or method to make alterations necessary to correct the improper condition. The alterations shall be made within a reasonable time, which shall not exceed 30 days, unless a time extension is authorized by the commissioner or his or her authorized representative.

The commissioner or his or her designee may determine, upon conducting a risk assessment, that any water supply system must be equipped with a backflow prevention assembly to protect the health and sanitation of water, whether publicly or privately owned: *Provided*, That water supply systems shall not require a backflow prevention assembly unless any of the following are met:

(i) it cross-connects with a sprinkler or fire suppression system;

(ii) it cross-connects with an active auxiliary water source or water well;

(iii) it cross-connects with any fluid storage tank, tub, pool or cistern 85 gallons or larger with a public water inlet that can be below the water level;

(iv) it cross-connects with a boiler system;

(v) it cross-connects with any land irrigation system; or

(vi) the property serviced by the public water supply is a funeral home or mortuary, restaurant, dry cleaner, medical facility, beauty and nail salon, car wash, multi-tenant retail space, commercial building three stories or taller, or commercial space with a dedicated fire service line/sprinkler system, industrial facility, salvage and/or wastewater facility, food processing facility, recycling facility where cross-connected to the public water supply, correctional facility, or any other customer using chemicals harmful to human health that are cross-connected to the public water supply.

Prior to requiring installation of a backflow prevention assembly to a water supply system, a risk assessment is required and may be performed based upon the known type of water activity and usage involving the use of the public water supply, by written responses to a written questionnaire presented by the commissioner or his or her designee to the owner or occupier of the water use facility, building or dwelling, or by personal inspection made by the commissioner or his or her designee if the owner or occupier of the premises allows entrance.

Provided however, That any customer deemed required to install a backflow prevention assembly may appeal the determination and seek a waiver by the water utility, and if not satisfied, may appeal further to the Public Service Commission pursuant to §24-1-1 *et seq.*, §24-2-1 *et seq.* and §29A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code: *And provided further*, That the customer shall have the freedom to choose the brand of any required backflow prevention assembly that otherwise meets the required specifications of the commissioner or his or her designee.

The presence of sewage or excreta being disposed of in a manner not approved by the commissioner or his or her authorized representative constitutes prima facie evidence of the existence of a condition endangering public health.

The personnel of the Bureau for Public Health shall be available to consult and advise with any person, firm, company, corporation, institution or association, whether publicly or privately owned, county or municipal, or public service authority, as to the most appropriate design, method of operation or alteration of any system or method.

Any person, firm, company, corporation, institution or association, whether public or private, county or municipal, violating any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punished by a fine of not less than $50 nor more than $500. Any continuing failure or refusal of the convicted person, firm, company, corporation, institution or association, whether public or private, county or municipal, to make the alterations necessary to protect the public health required by the commissioner or his or her authorized representative is a separate, distinct and additional offense for each 24 hour period of failure or refusal, and, upon conviction thereof, the violator shall be fined not less than $50 nor more than $500 for each conviction: *Provided*, That none of the provisions contained in this section apply to those commercial or industrial wastes that are subject to the regulatory control of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection.

Magistrates have concurrent jurisdiction with the circuit courts of this state for violations of any provisions of this section.

§16-1-9a. Regulation of public water systems.

(a) The commissioner shall regulate public water systems as prescribed in this section.

(b) The commissioner shall establish by legislative rule, in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code:

(1) The maximum contaminant levels to which all public water systems shall conform in order to prevent adverse effects on the health of individuals;

(2) Treatment techniques that reduce the contaminant or contaminants to a level which will not adversely affect the health of the consumer;

(3) Provisions to protect and prevent contamination of wellheads and well fields used by public water supplies so that contaminants do not reach a level that would adversely affect the health of the consumer;

(4) Minimum requirements for:

(A) Sampling and testing;

(B) System operation;

(C) Public notification by a public water system on being granted a variance or exemption or upon failure to comply with specific requirements of this section and regulations promulgated under this section;

(D) Recordkeeping;

(E) Laboratory certification; and

(F) Procedures and conditions for granting variances and exemptions to public water systems from state public water systems' regulations;

(5) Requirements covering the production and distribution of bottled drinking water;

(6) Requirements governing the taste, odor, appearance and other consumer acceptability parameters of drinking water;

(7) Any requirement for any water supply system the commissioner determines is necessary to be equipped with a backflow prevention assembly, all maintenance activities must be documented and provided to the commissioner upon request; and

(8) Any other requirement the commissioner finds necessary to effectuate the provisions of this article.

(c) The commissioner or his or her authorized representatives or designees may enter any part of a public water system, whether or not the system is in violation of a legal requirement, for the purpose of inspecting, sampling or testing and shall be furnished records or information reasonably required for a complete inspection.

(d) The commissioner, his or her authorized representative or designee may conduct an evaluation necessary to assure the public water system meets federal safe drinking water requirements. The public water system shall provide a written response to the commissioner within 30 days of receipt of the evaluation by the public water system, addressing corrective actions to be taken as a result of the evaluation.

(e)(1) Any individual or entity who violates any provision of this article, or any of the rules or orders issued pursuant to this article, is liable for a civil penalty not less than $1,000 nor more than $5,000. Each day's violation shall constitute a separate offense.

(2) For a willful violation of a provision of this article, or of any of the rules or orders issued under this article, an individual or entity shall be subject to a civil penalty of not more than $10,000 and each day's violation shall be grounds for a separate penalty.

(3) Civil penalties are payable to the commissioner. All moneys collected under this section shall be deposited into a restricted account known as the Safe Drinking Water Fund. All moneys deposited into the fund shall be used by the commissioner to provide technical assistance to public water systems.

(f) The commissioner, or his or her authorized representative, may also seek injunctive relief in the circuit

court of the county in which all or part of the public water system is located for threatened or continuing violations.

(g) By July 1, 2020, a public water system supplying water to the public within the state shall immediately, but in no instance later than six hours, report the occurrence and the lifting of each advisory to local departments of health and to local office of emergency management 911 answering point.

(h) By July 1, 2021, a public water system shall make available to interested customers boiled water advisories promptly through a text and a voice alert mass notification system.

CHAPTER 272

(H. B. 4007 - By Delegates Rowan, D. Jeffries, Pack, Maynard, Porterfield, Foster, Waxman, Bibby, Hanna, Barnhart and Kump)

[Passed February 19, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 2, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-2P-1, relating to creating the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act generally; defining terms requiring medical practitioners to use the same degree of reasonable medical judgment to preserve the life of a fetus which is born alive as would be used in a live non-abortion birth of the same gestational age; making the failure to exercise such judgment a crime; establishing penalties; and making failure to exercise such judgment a violation of medical licensure standards.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2P. BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT.

§16-2P-1. Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

1 (a) *Definitions.* — For purposes of this section:

2 (1) "Abortion" has the same meaning as that set forth in
3 §16-2F-2 of this code.

4 (2) "Attempt to perform an abortion" has the same
5 meaning as that set forth in §16-2M-2 of this code.

6 (3) "Born alive" means the complete expulsion or
7 extraction from its mother of the fetus, at any stage of
8 development, who after such expulsion or extraction
9 breathes or has a beating heart, pulsation of the umbilical
10 cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, regardless
11 of whether the umbilical cord has been cut, and regardless
12 of whether the expulsion or extraction occurs as a result of
13 natural or induced labor, cesarean section, or induced
14 abortion.

15 (4) "Fetus" has the same meaning as that set forth in
16 §16-2M-2 of this code.

17 (5) "Licensed Medical Professional" means a person
18 licensed under Chapter 30 of this code practicing within his
19 or her scope of practice.

20 (6) "Physician" has the same meaning as set forth in
21 §16-2M-2 of this code.

22 (7) "Reasonable medical judgment" has the same
23 meaning as set forth in §16-2M-2 of this code.

24 (b) *Prohibition.* —

25 (1) If a physician performs or attempts to perform an
26 abortion that results in a child being born alive the physician
27 shall:

(A) Exercise the same degree of reasonable medical judgment to preserve the life and health of the child as a physician would render to any other child born alive at the same gestational age; and

(B) Ensure that the child born alive is immediately transported and admitted to a hospital.

(2) A person who has knowledge of a failure to comply with the requirements of this subsection shall report the failure to the applicable licensing board.

(c) *Enforcement.* —

(1) Any physician or other licensed medical professional who knowingly and willingly violates subsection (b) of this section is considered to have breached the standard of care owed to patients, and is subject to discipline from the applicable licensure board for that conduct, including, but not limited to, loss of professional license to practice.

(2) Any person, not subject to subdivision (1) of this subsection, who knowingly and willfully violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of the unauthorized practice of medicine in violation of §30-3-13 of this code, and, upon conviction thereof, is subject to the penalties contained in that section.

(3) In addition to the penalties set forth in this section, a patient may seek any remedy otherwise available to the patient by applicable law.

(4) No penalty may be assessed against any patient upon whom an abortion is performed or attempted to be performed.

CHAPTER 273

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4009 - By Delegates Westfall, Higginbotham, Mandt, Atkinson, Toney, Pack, Linville and Rohrbach)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §27-1-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §27-5-2a; to amend and reenact §27-5-1, §27-5-2, §27-5-3, §27-5-4, and §27-5-10 of said code; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §27-6A-12, all relating to involuntary hospitalization and competency and criminal responsibility of persons charged with or convicted of a crime; defining terms; updating outdated language in the code; requiring the development of an orientation program for mental hygiene commissioners and magistrates who preside over involuntary hospitalization hearings; establishing criteria and time frames for the involuntary admission to and discharge of individuals from a mental health facility or state hospital; addressing the transportation of persons to a state hospital; relating to competency and criminal responsibility of persons charged with criminal offenses generally; requiring persons be committed to least restrictive setting; permitting an authorized staff physician, after examination, to order the involuntary hospitalization of an individual whom the physician believes is addicted or mentally ill and likely to cause serious harm to himself or herself or other individuals; setting forth a procedure; providing for payment for services; limiting liability; requesting the Supreme Court of Appeals to generate a statement for the attesting physician; providing the attesting physician statement be provided to the patient; requesting the

Supreme Court of Appeals to produce information to hospitals regarding contact information for mental hygiene commissioners, county magistrates, and circuit judges; and establishing that if a mental hygiene commissioner, county magistrate, or circuit judge does not respond to the request within 24 hours, a report shall be filed to the Supreme Court of Appeals; requiring release when staff physicians determine after three days that individual does not meet criteria for continued commitment; requiring specific finding that inpatient hospital treatment is required; directing the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources in collaboration with representatives of the judiciary, representatives of the prosecuting attorneys, the criminal defense bar, and advocates for the disability community to develop legislation to update and modify statutory provisions related to competence and criminal responsibility to ensure protection of constitutional rights and public safety; and requiring that proposed legislation be submitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates on or before July 31, 2020.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED.

§27-1-11. Addiction.

(a) As used in this chapter, "addiction" or substance use disorder means a maladaptive pattern of substance use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress as manifested by one or more of the following occurring within 30 days prior to the filing of the petition:

(1) Recurrent substance use resulting in a failure to fulfill major role obligations at work, school, or home, including, but not limited to, repeated absences or poor work performance related to substance use; substance-related absences, suspensions, or expulsions from school; or neglect of children or household;

(2) Recurrent use in situations in which it is physically hazardous, including, but not limited to, driving while intoxicated or operating a machine when impaired by substance use;

(3) Recurrent substance-related legal problems; or

(4) Continued use despite knowledge or having persistent or recurrent social or interpersonal problems caused or exacerbated by the effects of the substance.

(b) As used in this section, "substance" means alcohol, controlled substances as defined in sections §60A-2-204, §60A-2-206, §60A-2-208, and §60A-2-210 of this code, or anything consumed for its psychoactive effect whether or not designed for human consumption.

ARTICLE 5. INVOLUNTARY HOSITALIZATION.

§27-5-1. Appointment of mental hygiene commissioner; duties of mental hygiene commissioner; duties of prosecuting attorney; duties of sheriff; duties of Supreme Court of Appeals; use of certified municipal law-enforcement officers.

(a) *Appointment of mental hygiene commissioners.* — The chief judge in each judicial circuit of this state shall appoint a competent attorney and may, if necessary, appoint additional attorneys to serve as mental hygiene commissioners to preside over involuntary hospitalization hearings. Mental hygiene commissioners shall be persons of good moral character and of standing in their profession and they shall, before assuming the duties of a commissioner, take the oath required of other special commissioners as provided in §6-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

Prior to presiding over an involuntary hospitalization hearing, each newly appointed person to serve as a mental hygiene commissioner and all magistrates shall attend and complete an orientation course that consists of training provided annually by the Supreme Court of Appeals and

complete an orientation program to be developed by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources. In addition, existing mental hygiene commissioners and all magistrates trained to hold probable cause and emergency detention hearings involving involuntary hospitalization shall attend and complete a course provided by the Supreme Court of Appeals and complete an orientation program to be developed by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources. Persons attending the courses outside the county of their residence shall be reimbursed out of the budget of the Supreme Court—General Judicial for reasonable expenses incurred. The Supreme Court of Appeals shall establish curricula and rules for the courses, including rules providing for the reimbursement of reasonable expenses as authorized in this section. The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources shall consult with the Supreme Court of Appeals regarding the development of the orientation program.

(b) *Duties of mental hygiene commissioners.* —

(1) Mental hygiene commissioners may sign and issue summonses for the attendance, at any hearing held pursuant to §27-5-4 of this code, of the individual sought to be committed; may sign and issue subpoenas for witnesses, including subpoenas duces tecum; may place any witness under oath; may elicit testimony from applicants, respondents, and witnesses regarding factual issues raised in the petition; and may make findings of fact on evidence and may make conclusions of law, but the findings and conclusions are not binding on the circuit court. All mental hygiene commissioners shall be reasonably compensated at a uniform rate determined by the Supreme Court of Appeals. Mental hygiene commissioners shall submit all requests for compensation to the administrative director of the courts for payment. Mental hygiene commissioners shall discharge their duties and hold their offices at the pleasure of the chief judge of the judicial circuit in which he or she

is appointed and may be removed at any time by the chief judge. A mental hygiene commissioner shall conduct orderly inquiries into the mental health of the individual sought to be committed concerning the advisability of committing the individual to a mental health facility. The mental hygiene commissioner shall safeguard, at all times, the rights and interests of the individual as well as the interests of the state. The mental hygiene commissioner shall make a written report of his or her findings to the circuit court. In any proceedings before any court of record as set forth in this article, the court of record shall appoint an interpreter for any individual who is deaf or cannot speak, or who speaks a foreign language, and who may be subject to involuntary commitment to a mental health facility.

(2) A mental hygiene commissioner appointed by the circuit court of one county or multiple county circuits may serve in that capacity in a jurisdiction other than that of his or her original appointment if it is agreed upon by the terms of a cooperative agreement between the circuit courts and county commissions of two or more counties entered into to provide prompt resolution of mental hygiene matters during hours when the courthouse is closed or on nonjudicial days.

(c) *Duties of prosecuting attorney.* —The prosecuting attorney or one of his or her assistants shall represent the applicants in all final commitment proceedings filed pursuant to the provisions of this article. The prosecuting attorney may appear in any proceeding held pursuant to the provisions of this article if he or she determines it to be in the public interest.

(d) *Duties of sheriff.* — Upon written order of the circuit court, mental hygiene commissioner, or magistrate in the county where the individual formally accused of being mentally ill or having a substance use disorder is a resident or is found, the sheriff of that county shall take the individual into custody and transport him or her to and from the place of hearing and the mental health facility. The

sheriff shall also maintain custody and control of the accused individual during the period of time in which the individual is waiting for the involuntary commitment hearing to be convened and while the hearing is being conducted: *Provided*, That an individual who is a resident of a state other than West Virginia shall, upon a finding of probable cause, be transferred to his or her state of residence for treatment pursuant to §27-5-4(p) of this code: *Provided, however*, That where an individual is a resident of West Virginia but not a resident of the county in which he or she is found and there is a finding of probable cause, the county in which the hearing is held may seek reimbursement from the county of residence for reasonable costs incurred by the county attendant to the mental hygiene proceeding. Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, sheriffs may enter into cooperative agreements with sheriffs of one or more other counties, with the concurrence of their respective circuit courts and county commissions, by which transportation and security responsibilities for hearings held pursuant to the provisions of this article during hours when the courthouse is closed or on nonjudicial days may be shared in order to facilitate prompt hearings and to effectuate transportation of persons found in need of treatment. In the event an individual requires transportation to a state hospital as defined by §27-1-6 of this code, the sheriff shall contact the state hospital in advance of the transportation to determine if the state hospital has available suitable bed capacity to place the individual.

(e) *Duty of sheriff upon presentment to mental health care facility.* — When a person is brought to a mental health care facility for purposes of evaluation for commitment under this article, if he or she is violent or combative, the sheriff or his or her designee shall maintain custody of the person in the facility until the evaluation is completed, or the county commission shall reimburse the mental health care facility at a reasonable rate for security services provided by the mental health care facility for the period of

time the person is at the hospital prior to the determination of mental competence or incompetence.

(f) *Duties of Supreme Court of Appeals.* — The Supreme Court of Appeals shall provide uniform petition, procedure, and order forms which shall be used in all involuntary hospitalization proceedings brought in this state.

(g) *Duties of the Department of Health and Human Resources.* — The secretary shall develop an orientation program as provided in subsection (a) of this section. The orientation program shall include, but not be limited to, instruction regarding the nature and treatment of mental illness and substance use disorder; the goal and purpose of commitment; community-based treatment options; and less restrictive alternatives to inpatient commitment.

§27-5-2. Institution of proceedings for involuntary custody for examination; custody; probable cause hearing; examination of individual.

(a) Any adult person may make an application for involuntary hospitalization for examination of an individual when the person making the application has reason to believe that the individual to be examined has a substance use disorder as defined by the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, inclusive of substance use withdrawal, or is mentally ill and, because of his or her substance use disorder or mental illness, the individual is likely to cause serious harm to himself, herself, or to others if allowed to remain at liberty while awaiting an examination and certification by a physician, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed independent social worker, an advanced nurse practitioner, or physician assistant as provided in subsection (e) of this section: *Provided*, That a diagnosis of dementia alone may not serve as a basis for involuntary commitment.

Notwithstanding any language in this subsection to the contrary, if the individual to be examined under the provisions of this section is incarcerated in a jail, prison, or other correctional facility, then only the chief administrative officer of the facility holding the individual may file the application, and the application must include the additional statement that the correctional facility itself cannot reasonably provide treatment and other services for the individual's mental illness or substance use disorder.

(b) The person making the application shall make the application under oath.

(c) Application for involuntary custody for examination may be made to the circuit court, magistrate court, or a mental hygiene commissioner of the county in which the individual resides or of the county in which he or she may be found. A magistrate before whom an application or matter is pending may, upon the availability of a mental hygiene commissioner or circuit court judge for immediate presentation of an application or pending matter, transfer the pending matter or application to the mental hygiene commissioner or circuit court judge for further proceedings unless otherwise ordered by the chief judge of the judicial circuit.

(d) The person making the application shall give information and state facts in the application required by the form provided for this purpose by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

(e) The circuit court, mental hygiene commissioner, or magistrate may enter an order for the individual named in the application to be detained and taken into custody for the purpose of holding a probable cause hearing as provided in §27-5-2(g) of this code for the purpose of an examination of the individual by a physician, psychologist, a licensed professional counselor practicing in compliance with §30-31-1 *et seq.* of this code, a licensed independent clinical social worker practicing in compliance with §30-30-1 *et*

seq. of this code, an advanced nurse practitioner with psychiatric certification practicing in compliance with §30-7-1 *et seq.* of this code, a physician's assistant practicing in compliance with §30-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, or a physician's assistant practicing in compliance with §30-3E-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That a licensed professional counselor, a licensed independent clinical social worker, a physician's assistant, or an advanced nurse practitioner with psychiatric certification may only perform the examination if he or she has previously been authorized by an order of the circuit court to do so, the order having found that the licensed professional counselor, the licensed independent clinical social worker, physician's assistant, or advanced nurse practitioner with psychiatric certification has particularized expertise in the areas of mental health and mental hygiene or substance use disorder sufficient to make the determinations required by the provisions of this section. The examination is to be provided or arranged by a community mental health center designated by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources to serve the county in which the action takes place. The order is to specify that the hearing be held immediately and is to provide for the appointment of counsel for the individual: *Provided, however*, That the order may allow the hearing to be held up to 24 hours after the person to be examined is taken into custody rather than immediately if the circuit court of the county in which the person is found has previously entered a standing order which establishes within that jurisdiction a program for placement of persons awaiting a hearing which assures the safety and humane treatment of persons: *Provided further*, That the time requirements set forth in this subsection only apply to persons who are not in need of medical care for a physical condition or disease for which the need for treatment precludes the ability to comply with the time requirements. During periods of holding and detention authorized by this subsection, upon consent of the individual or in the event of a medical or psychiatric emergency, the individual may receive treatment. The medical provider shall exercise due

diligence in determining the individual's existing medical needs and provide treatment the individual requires, including previously prescribed medications. As used in this section, "psychiatric emergency" means an incident during which an individual loses control and behaves in a manner that poses substantial likelihood of physical harm to himself, herself, or others. Where a physician, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed independent clinical social worker, physician's assistant, or advanced nurse practitioner with psychiatric certification has, within the preceding 72 hours, performed the examination required by the provisions of this subsection, the community mental health center may waive the duty to perform or arrange another examination upon approving the previously performed examination. Notwithstanding the provisions of this subsection, §27-5-4(r) of this code applies regarding payment by the county commission for examinations at hearings. If the examination reveals that the individual is not mentally ill or has no substance use disorder, or is determined to be mentally ill or has a substance use disorder but not likely to cause harm to himself, herself, or others, the individual shall be immediately released without the need for a probable cause hearing and the examiner is not civilly liable for the rendering of the opinion absent a finding of professional negligence. The examiner shall immediately provide the mental hygiene commissioner, circuit court, or magistrate before whom the matter is pending the results of the examination on the form provided for this purpose by the Supreme Court of Appeals for entry of an order reflecting the lack of probable cause.

(f) A probable cause hearing is to be held before a magistrate, the mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit judge of the county of which the individual is a resident or where he or she was found. If requested by the individual or his or her counsel, the hearing may be postponed for a period not to exceed 48 hours.

The individual must be present at the hearing and has the right to present evidence, confront all witnesses and other evidence against him or her, and examine testimony offered, including testimony by representatives of the community mental health center serving the area. Expert testimony at the hearing may be taken telephonically or via videoconferencing. The individual has the right to remain silent and to be proceeded against in accordance with the Rules of Evidence of the Supreme Court of Appeals, except as provided in §27-1-12 of this code. At the conclusion of the hearing, the magistrate, mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit court judge shall find and enter an order stating whether or not it is likely that deterioration will occur without clinically necessary treatment, or there is probable cause to believe that the individual, as a result of mental illness or substance use disorder, is likely to cause serious harm to himself or herself or to others.

(g) Probable cause hearings may occur in the county where a person is hospitalized. The judicial hearing officer may: Use videoconferencing and telephonic technology; permit persons hospitalized for substance use disorder to be involuntarily hospitalized only until detoxification is accomplished; and specify other alternative or modified procedures that are consistent with the purposes and provisions of this article. The alternative or modified procedures shall fully and effectively guarantee to the person who is the subject of the involuntary commitment proceeding and other interested parties due process of the law and access to the least restrictive available treatment needed to prevent serious harm to self or others.

(h) If the magistrate, mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit court judge at a probable cause hearing or a mental hygiene commissioner or circuit judge at a final commitment hearing held pursuant to the provisions of §27-5-4 of this code finds that the individual, as a result of mental illness or substance use disorder, is likely to cause serious harm to himself, herself, or others and because of

mental illness or a substance use disorder requires treatment, the magistrate, mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit court judge may consider evidence on the question of whether the individual's circumstances make him or her amenable to outpatient treatment in a nonresidential or nonhospital setting pursuant to a voluntary treatment agreement. At the conclusion of the hearing, the magistrate, mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit court judge shall find and enter an order stating whether or not it is likely that deterioration will occur without clinically necessary treatment, or there is probable cause to believe that the individual, as a result of mental illness or substance use disorder, is likely to cause serious harm to himself or herself or others. The agreement is to be in writing and approved by the individual, his or her counsel, and the magistrate, mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit court judge. If the magistrate, mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit court judge determines that appropriate outpatient treatment is available in a nonresidential or nonhospital setting, the individual may be released to outpatient treatment upon the terms and conditions of the voluntary treatment agreement. The failure of an individual released to outpatient treatment pursuant to a voluntary treatment agreement to comply with the terms of the voluntary treatment agreement constitutes evidence that outpatient treatment is insufficient and, after a hearing before a magistrate, mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit judge on the issue of whether or not the individual failed or refused to comply with the terms and conditions of the voluntary treatment agreement and whether the individual as a result of mental illness or substance use disorder remains likely to cause serious harm to himself, herself, or others, the entry of an order requiring admission under involuntary hospitalization pursuant to the provisions of §27-5-3 of this code may be entered. Nothing in the provisions of this article regarding release pursuant to a voluntary treatment agreement or convalescent status may be construed as creating a right to receive outpatient mental health services or treatment, or as obligating any person or agency to provide outpatient services or treatment. Time

limitations set forth in this article relating to periods of involuntary commitment to a mental health facility for hospitalization do not apply to release pursuant to the terms of a voluntary treatment agreement: *Provided*, That release pursuant to a voluntary treatment agreement may not be for a period of more than six months if the individual has not been found to be involuntarily committed during the previous two years and for a period of no more than two years if the individual has been involuntarily committed during the preceding two years. If in any proceeding held pursuant to this article the individual objects to the issuance or conditions and terms of an order adopting a voluntary treatment agreement, then the circuit judge, magistrate, or mental hygiene commissioner may not enter an order directing treatment pursuant to a voluntary treatment agreement. If involuntary commitment with release pursuant to a voluntary treatment agreement is ordered, the individual subject to the order may, upon request during the period the order is in effect, have a hearing before a mental hygiene commissioner or circuit judge where the individual may seek to have the order canceled or modified. Nothing in this section affects the appellate and habeas corpus rights of any individual subject to any commitment order.

Notwithstanding anything in this article to the contrary, the commitment of any individual as provided in this article shall be in the least restrictive setting and in an outpatient community-based treatment program to the extent resources and programs are available, unless the clear and convincing evidence of the certifying professional under subsection (e) of this section, who is acting in a manner consistent with the standard of care, establishes that the commitment or treatment of that individual requires an inpatient hospital placement. Outpatient treatment will be based upon a plan jointly prepared by the department and the comprehensive community mental health center or licensed behavioral health provider.

(i) If the certifying professional determines that an individual requires involuntary hospitalization for a substance use disorder which, due to the degree of the disorder, creates a reasonable likelihood that withdrawal or detoxification will cause significant medical complications, the person certifying the individual shall recommend that the individual be closely monitored for possible medical complications. If the magistrate, mental hygiene commissioner, or circuit court judge presiding orders involuntary hospitalization, he or she shall include a recommendation that the individual be closely monitored in the order of commitment.

(j) The Supreme Court of Appeals and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources shall specifically develop and propose a statewide system for evaluation and adjudication of mental hygiene petitions which shall include payment schedules and recommendations regarding funding sources. Additionally, the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources shall also immediately seek reciprocal agreements with officials in contiguous states to develop interstate/intergovernmental agreements to provide efficient and efficacious services to out-of-state residents found in West Virginia and who are in need of mental hygiene services.

§27-5-2a. Process for involuntary hospitalization.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Addiction" has the same meaning as the term is defined in §27-1-11 of this code.

(2) "Authorized staff physician" means a physician, authorized pursuant to the provisions of §30-3-1 *et seq.* or §30-14-1 *et seq.* of this code, who is a bona fide member of the hospital's medical staff.

(3) "Hospital" means a facility licensed pursuant to the provisions of §16-5b-1 *et seq.* of this code, and any acute

care facility operated by the state government that primarily provides inpatient diagnostic, treatment, or rehabilitative services to injured, disabled, or sick individuals under the supervision of physicians.

(4) "Psychiatric emergency" means an incident during which an individual loses control and behaves in a manner that poses substantial likelihood of physical harm to himself, herself, or others.

(b)(1) If a mental hygiene commissioner, magistrate, and circuit judge are unavailable or unable to be immediately contacted, an authorized staff physician may order the involuntary hospitalization of an individual who is present at, or presented at, a hospital emergency department in need of treatment, if the authorized staff physician believes, following an examination of the individual, that the individual is addicted or is mentally ill and, because of his or her addiction or mental illness, is likely to cause serious harm to himself, herself or to others if allowed to remain at liberty. The authorized staff physician shall sign a statement attesting to his or her decision that the patient presents a harm to himself, herself or others and needs to be held involuntarily for up to 72 hours. The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals is requested to generate a form for the statement to be signed by the authorized staff physician or other person authorized by the hospital and provided to the individual.

(2) Immediately upon admission, or as soon as practicable thereafter, but in no event later than 24 hours after an involuntary hospitalization pursuant to this section, the authorized staff physician or designated employee shall file a mental hygiene petition in which the authorized staff physician certifies that the individual for whom the involuntary hospitalization is sought is addicted or is mentally ill and, because of his or her addiction or mental illness, is likely to cause serious harm to himself, herself, or to other individuals if allowed to remain at liberty. The authorized staff physician shall also certify the same in the

individual's health records. Upon receipt of this filing, the mental hygiene commissioner, a magistrate, or circuit judge shall conduct a hearing pursuant to §27-5-2 of this code.

(3) An individual who is involuntarily hospitalized pursuant to this section shall be released from the hospital within 72 hours, unless further detained under the applicable provisions of this article.

(c) During a period of involuntary hospitalization authorized by this section, upon consent of the individual, or in the event of a medical or psychiatric emergency, the individual may receive treatment. The hospital or authorized staff physician shall exercise due diligence in determining the individual's existing medical needs and provide treatment the individual requires, including previously prescribed medications.

(d) Each hospital or authorized staff physician which provides services under this section shall be paid for the services at the same rate the hospital or authorized staff physician negotiates with the patient's insurer. If the patient is uninsured, the hospital or authorized staff physician may file a claim for payment with the West Virginia Legislative Claims Commission in accordance with §14-2-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(e) Authorized staff physicians and hospitals and their employees carrying out duties or rendering professional opinions as provided in this section shall be free from liability for their actions, if the actions are performed in good faith and within the scope of their professional duties and in a manner consistent with the standard of care.

(f) The West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals is requested, by no later than July 1, 2020, to provide each hospital with a list of names and contact information of the mental hygiene commissioners, magistrates, and circuit judges to address mental hygiene petitions in the county where the hospital is located. The West Virginia Supreme

Court of Appeals is requested to update this list regularly and the list shall reflect on-call information. If a mental hygiene commissioner, county magistrate, or circuit judge does not respond to the request within 24 hours, a report shall be filed to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

(g) An action taken against an individual pursuant to this section may not be construed to be an adjudication of the individual, nor shall any action taken pursuant to this section be construed to satisfy the requirements of §61-7-7(a)(4) of this code.

§27-5-3. Admission under involuntary hospitalization for examination; hearing; release.

(a) *Admission to a mental health facility for examination.* — Any individual may be admitted to a mental health facility for examination and treatment upon entry of an order finding probable cause as provided in §27-5-2 of this code upon a finding by a licensed physician that the individual is medically stable, and upon certification by a physician, psychologist, licensed professional counselor, licensed independent clinical social worker practicing in compliance with the provisions of §30-30-1 *et seq.* of this code, an advanced nurse practitioner with psychiatric certification practicing in compliance with §30-7-1 *et seq.* of this code, or a physician's assistant practicing in compliance with §30-3E-1 *et seq.* of this code with advanced duties in psychiatric medicine that he or she has examined the individual and is of the opinion that the individual is mentally ill or has a substance use disorder and, because of the mental illness or substance use disorder, is likely to cause serious harm to himself, herself, or to others if not immediately restrained: *Provided*, That the opinions offered by an independent clinical social worker, an advanced nurse practitioner with psychiatric certification, or a physician's assistant with advanced duties in psychiatric medicine must be within his or her particular areas of

expertise, as recognized by the order of the authorizing court.

(b) *Three-day time limitation on examination.* — If the examination does not take place within three days from the date the individual is taken into custody, the individual shall be released. If the examination reveals that the individual is not mentally ill or has a substance use disorder, the individual shall be released.

(c) *Three-day time limitation on certification.* — The certification required in §27-5-3(a) of this code is valid for three days. Any individual with respect to whom the certification has been issued may not be admitted on the basis of the certification at any time after the expiration of three days from the date of the examination.

(d) *Findings and conclusions required for certification.* — A certification under this section must include findings and conclusions of the mental examination, the date, time, and place of the examination, and the facts upon which the conclusion that involuntary commitment is necessary is based.

(e) *Notice requirements.* — When an individual is admitted to a mental health facility or a state hospital pursuant to the provisions of this section, the chief medical officer of the facility shall immediately give notice of the individual's admission to the individual's spouse, if any, and one of the individual's parents or guardians or if there is no spouse and are no parents or guardians, to one of the individual's adult next of kin if the next of kin is not the applicant. Notice shall also be given to the community mental health facility, if any, having jurisdiction in the county of the individual's residence. The notices other than to the community mental health facility shall be in writing and shall be transmitted to the person or persons at his, her, or their last known address by certified mail, return receipt requested.

(f) *Three-day time limitation for examination and certification at mental health facility or state hospital.* — After the individual's admission to a mental health facility or state hospital, he or she may not be detained more than three days, excluding Sundays and holidays, unless, within the period, the individual is examined by a staff physician and the physician certifies that in his or her opinion the patient is mentally ill or has a substance use disorder and is likely to injure himself, herself, or others if allowed to be at liberty. In the event the staff physician determines that the individual does not meet the criteria for continued commitment, that the individual can be treated in an available outpatient community-based treatment program and poses no present danger to himself, herself or others, or that the individual has an underlying medical issue or issues that resulted in a determination that the individual should not have been committed, the staff physician shall release and discharge the individual as appropriate as soon as practicable.

(g) *Ten-day time limitation for institution of final commitment proceedings.* — If, in the opinion of the examining physician, the patient is mentally ill or has a substance use disorder and because of the mental illness or substance use disorder is likely to injure himself, herself, or others if allowed to be at liberty, the chief medical officer shall, within 10 days from the date of admission, institute final commitment proceedings as provided in §27-5-4 of this code. If the proceedings are not instituted within the 10-day period, the individual shall be immediately released. After the request for hearing is filed, the hearing may not be canceled on the basis that the individual has become a voluntary patient unless the mental hygiene commissioner concurs in the motion for cancellation of the hearing.

(h) *Twenty-day time limitation for conclusion of all proceedings.* — If all proceedings as provided in §27-3-1 *et seq.* and §27-4-1 *et seq.* of this code are not completed

within 20 days from the date of institution of the proceedings, the individual shall be immediately released.

§27-5-4. Institution of final commitment proceedings; hearing requirements; release.

(a) Involuntary commitment. — Except as provided in §27-5-3 of this code, no individual may be involuntarily committed to a mental health facility or state hospital except by order entered of record at any time by the circuit court of the county in which the person resides or was found, or if the individual is hospitalized in a mental health facility or state hospital located in a county other than where he or she resides or was found, in the county of the mental health facility and then only after a full hearing on issues relating to the necessity of committing an individual to a mental health facility or state hospital. If the individual objects to the hearing being held in the county where the mental health facility is located, the hearing shall be conducted in the county of the individual's residence.

(b) How final commitment proceedings are commenced. — Final commitment proceedings for an individual may be commenced by the filing of a written application under oath by an adult person having personal knowledge of the facts of the case. The certificate or affidavit is filed with the clerk of the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner of the county where the individual is a resident or where he or she may be found, or the county of a mental health facility if he or she is hospitalized in a mental health facility or state hospital located in a county other than where he or she resides or may be found.

(c) Oath; contents of application; who may inspect application; when application cannot be filed. —

(1) The person making the application shall do so under oath.

(2) The application shall contain statements by the applicant that the individual is likely to cause serious harm

to self or others due to what the applicant believes are symptoms of mental illness or substance use disorder. The applicant shall state in detail the recent overt acts upon which the belief is based.

(3) The written application, certificate, affidavit, and any warrants issued pursuant thereto, including any related documents, filed with a circuit court, mental hygiene commissioner, or magistrate for the involuntary hospitalization of an individual are not open to inspection by any person other than the individual, unless authorized by the individual or his or her legal representative or by order of the circuit court. The records may not be published unless authorized by the individual or his or her legal representative. Disclosure of these records may, however, be made by the clerk, circuit court, mental hygiene commissioner, or magistrate to provide notice to the Federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System established pursuant to section 103(d) of the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act, 18 U.S.C. §922, and the central state mental health registry, in accordance with §61-7A-1 *et seq.* of this code. Disclosure may also be made to the prosecuting attorney and reviewing court in an action brought by the individual pursuant to §61-7A-5 of this code to regain firearm and ammunition rights.

(4) Applications may not be accepted for individuals who only have epilepsy, dementia, or an intellectual or developmental disability.

(d) Certificate filed with application; contents of certificate; affidavit by applicant in place of certificate. —

(1) The applicant shall file with his or her application the certificate of a physician or a psychologist stating that in his or her opinion the individual is mentally ill or has a substance use disorder and that because of the mental illness or substance use disorder, the individual is likely to cause serious harm to self or others if allowed to remain at liberty and, therefore, should be hospitalized. The certificate shall

state in detail the recent overt acts on which the conclusion is based.

(2) A certificate is not necessary when an affidavit is filed by the applicant showing facts and the individual has refused to submit to examination by a physician or a psychologist.

(e) Notice requirements; eight days' notice required. — Upon receipt of an application, the mental hygiene commissioner or circuit court shall review the application, and if it is determined that the facts alleged, if any, are sufficient to warrant involuntary hospitalization, immediately fix a date for and have the clerk of the circuit court give notice of the hearing:

(1) To the individual;

(2) To the applicant or applicants;

(3) To the individual's spouse, one of the parents or guardians, or, if the individual does not have a spouse, parents or parent or guardian, to one of the individual's adult next of kin if the next of kin is not the applicant;

(4) To the mental health authorities serving the area;

(5) To the circuit court in the county of the individual's residence if the hearing is to be held in a county other than that of the individual's residence; and

(6) To the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the hearing is to be held.

(f) The notice shall be served on the individual by personal service of process not less than eight days prior to the date of the hearing and shall specify:

(1) The nature of the charges against the individual;

(2) The facts underlying and supporting the application of involuntary commitment;

(3) The right to have counsel appointed;

(4) The right to consult with and be represented by counsel at every stage of the proceedings; and

(5) The time and place of the hearing.

The notice to the individual's spouse, parents or parent or guardian, the individual's adult next of kin or to the circuit court in the county of the individual's residence may be by personal service of process or by certified or registered mail, return receipt requested, and shall state the time and place of the hearing.

(g) Examination of individual by court-appointed physician, psychologist, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant; custody for examination; dismissal of proceedings. —

(1) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, within a reasonable time after notice of the commencement of final commitment proceedings is given, the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner shall appoint a physician, psychologist, an advanced nurse practitioner with psychiatric certification, or a physician's assistant with advanced duties in psychiatric medicine to examine the individual and report to the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner his or her findings as to the mental condition or substance use disorder of the individual and the likelihood of causing serious harm to self or others.

(2) If the designated physician, psychologist, advanced nurse practitioner, or physician assistant reports to the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner that the individual has refused to submit to an examination, the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner shall order him or her to submit to the examination. The circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner may direct that the individual be detained or taken into custody for the purpose of an immediate examination by the designated physician,

psychologist, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. All orders shall be directed to the sheriff of the county or other appropriate law-enforcement officer. After the examination has been completed, the individual shall be released from custody unless proceedings are instituted pursuant to §27-5-3 of this code.

(3) If the reports of the appointed physician, psychologist, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant do not confirm that the individual is mentally ill or has a substance use disorder and might be harmful to self or others, then the proceedings for involuntary hospitalization shall be dismissed.

(h) Rights of the individual at the final commitment hearing; seven days' notice to counsel required. —

(1) The individual shall be present at the final commitment hearing, and he or she, the applicant and all persons entitled to notice of the hearing shall be afforded an opportunity to testify and to present and cross-examine witnesses.

(2) In the event the individual has not retained counsel, the court or mental hygiene commissioner, at least six days prior to hearing, shall appoint a competent attorney and shall inform the individual of the name, address, and telephone number of his or her appointed counsel.

(3) The individual has the right to have an examination by an independent expert of his or her choice and to present testimony from the expert as a medical witness on his or her behalf. The cost of the independent expert is paid by the individual unless he or she is indigent.

(4) The individual may not be compelled to be a witness against himself or herself.

(i) Duties of counsel representing individual; payment of counsel representing indigent. —

(1) Counsel representing an individual shall conduct a timely interview, make investigation, and secure appropriate witnesses, be present at the hearing, and protect the interests of the individual.

(2) Counsel representing an individual is entitled to copies of all medical reports, psychiatric or otherwise.

(3) The circuit court, by order of record, may allow the attorney a reasonable fee not to exceed the amount allowed for attorneys in defense of needy persons as provided in §29-21-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(j) Conduct of hearing; receipt of evidence; no evidentiary privilege; record of hearing. —

(1) The circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner shall hear evidence from all interested parties in chamber, including testimony from representatives of the community mental health facility.

(2) The circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner shall receive all relevant and material evidence which may be offered.

(3) The circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner is bound by the rules of evidence promulgated by the Supreme Court of Appeals except that statements made to health care professionals appointed under subsection (g) of this section by the individual may be admitted into evidence by the health care professional's testimony, notwithstanding failure to inform the individual that this statement may be used against him or her. A health care professional testifying shall bring all records pertaining to the individual to the hearing. The medical evidence obtained pursuant to an examination under this section, or §27-5-2 or §27-5-3 of this code, is not privileged information for purposes of a hearing pursuant to this section.

(4) All final commitment proceedings shall be reported or recorded, whether before the circuit court or mental

hygiene commissioner, and a transcript made available to the individual, his or her counsel or the prosecuting attorney within 30 days if requested for the purpose of further proceedings. In any case where an indigent person intends to pursue further proceedings, the circuit court shall, by order entered of record, authorize and direct the court reporter to furnish a transcript of the hearings.

(k) Requisite findings by the court. —

(1) Upon completion of the final commitment hearing and the evidence presented in the hearing, the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner shall make findings as to the following:

(A) Whether the individual is mentally ill or has a substance use disorder;

(B) Whether, because of illness or substance use disorder, the individual is likely to cause serious harm to self or others if allowed to remain at liberty;

(C) Whether the individual is a resident of the county in which the hearing is held or currently is a patient at a mental health facility in the county; and

(D) Whether there is a less restrictive alternative than commitment appropriate for the individual. The burden of proof of the lack of a less restrictive alternative than commitment is on the person or persons seeking the commitment of the individual: *Provided*, That for any commitment to a state hospital as defined by §27-1-6 of this code, a specific finding shall be made that the commitment of, or treatment for, the individual requires inpatient hospital placement and that no suitable outpatient community-based treatment program exists in the individual's area.

(2) The findings of fact shall be incorporated into the order entered by the circuit court and must be based upon clear, cogent, and convincing proof.

(l) Orders issued pursuant to final commitment hearing; entry of order; change in order of court; expiration of order. —

(1) Upon the requisite findings, the circuit court may order the individual to a mental health facility or state hospital for a period not to exceed 90 days except as otherwise provided in this subdivision. During that period and solely for individuals who are committed under §27-6A-1 *et seq.* of this code, the chief medical officer of the mental health facility or state hospital shall conduct a clinical assessment of the individual at least every 30 days to determine if the individual requires continued placement at the mental health facility or state hospital and whether the individual is suitable to receive any necessary treatment at an outpatient community-based treatment program. If at any time the chief medical officer, acting in good faith and in a manner consistent with the standard of care, determines that: (i) The individual is suitable for receiving outpatient community-based treatment; (ii) necessary outpatient community-based treatment is available in the individual's area as evidenced by a discharge and treatment plan jointly developed by the department and the comprehensive community mental health center or licensed behavioral health provider; and (iii) the individual's clinical presentation no longer requires inpatient commitment, the chief medical officer shall provide written notice to the court of record and prosecuting attorney as provided in subdivision (2) of this section that the individual is suitable for discharge. The chief medical officer may discharge the patient 30 days after the notice unless the court of record stays the discharge of the individual. In the event the court stays the discharge of the individual, the court shall conduct a hearing within 45 days of the stay, and the individual shall be thereafter discharged unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the individual is a significant and present danger to self or others, and that continued placement at the mental health facility or state hospital is required.

If the chief medical officer determines that the individual requires commitment at the mental health facility or state hospital at any time for a period longer than 90 days, then the individual shall remain at the mental health facility or state hospital until the chief medical officer of the mental health facility or state hospital determines that the individual's clinical presentation no longer requires further commitment. The chief medical officer shall provide notice to the court and the prosecuting attorney that the individual requires commitment for a period in excess of 90 days and, in the notice, the chief medical officer shall describe the reasons for ongoing commitment. In its discretion, the court or prosecuting attorney may request any information from the chief medical officer that the court or prosecuting attorney considers appropriate to justify the need for the individual's ongoing commitment.

(2) Notice to the court of record and prosecuting attorney shall be provided by personal service or certified mail, return receipt requested. The chief medical officer shall make the following findings:

(A) Whether the individual has a mental illness or substance use disorder that does not require inpatient treatment, and the mental illness or serious emotional disturbance is in remission;

(B) Whether the individual's condition resulting from mental illness or substance use disorder is likely to deteriorate to the point that the individual will pose a likelihood of serious harm to self or others unless treatment is continued;

(C) Whether the individual is likely to participate in outpatient treatment with a legal obligation to do so;

(D) Whether the individual is not likely to participate in outpatient treatment unless legally obligated to do so;

(E) Whether the individual is not a danger to self or others; and

(F) Whether mandatory outpatient treatment is a suitable, less restrictive alternative to ongoing commitment.

(3) The individual may not be detained in a mental health facility or state hospital for a period in excess of 10 days after a final commitment hearing pursuant to this section unless an order has been entered and received by the facility.

(4) An individual committed pursuant to §27-6A-3 of this code may be committed for the period he or she is determined by the court to remain an imminent danger to self or others.

(5) In the event the commitment of the individual as provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection exceeds two years, the individual or his or her counsel may request a hearing and a hearing shall be held by the mental hygiene commissioner or by the circuit court of the county as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(m) Dismissal of proceedings. — In the event the individual is discharged as provided in subsection (l) of this section, the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner shall dismiss the proceedings.

(n) Immediate notification of order of hospitalization. — The clerk of the circuit court in which an order directing hospitalization is entered, if not in the county of the individual's residence, shall immediately upon entry of the order forward a certified copy of the order to the clerk of the circuit court of the county of which the individual is a resident.

(o) Consideration of transcript by circuit court of county of individual's residence; order of hospitalization; execution of order. —

(1) If the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner is satisfied that hospitalization should be ordered but finds that the individual is not a resident of the county in which the hearing is held and the individual is not currently a resident of a mental health facility or state hospital, a transcript of the evidence adduced at the final commitment hearing of the individual, certified by the clerk of the circuit court, shall immediately be forwarded to the clerk of the circuit court of the county of which the individual is a resident. The clerk shall immediately present the transcript to the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner of the county.

(2) If the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner of the county of the residence of the individual is satisfied from the evidence contained in the transcript that the individual should be hospitalized as determined by the standard set forth in subdivision one of this subsection, the circuit court shall order the appropriate hospitalization as though the individual had been brought before the circuit court or its mental hygiene commissioner in the first instance.

(3) This order shall be transmitted immediately to the clerk of the circuit court of the county in which the hearing was held who shall execute the order promptly.

(p) Order of custody to responsible person. — In lieu of ordering the individual to a mental health facility or state hospital, the circuit court may order the individual delivered to some responsible person who will agree to take care of the individual and the circuit court may take from the responsible person a bond in an amount to be determined by the circuit court with condition to restrain and take proper care of the individual until further order of the court.

(q) Individual not a resident of this state. — If the individual is found to be mentally ill or to have a substance use disorder by the circuit court or mental hygiene commissioner is a resident of another state, this information

shall be immediately given to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources, or to his or her designee, who shall make appropriate arrangements for transfer of the individual to the state of his or her residence conditioned on the agreement of the individual, except as qualified by the interstate compact on mental health.

(r) Report to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources. —

(1) The chief medical officer of a mental health facility or state hospital admitting a patient pursuant to proceedings under this section shall immediately make a report of the admission to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources or to his or her designee.

(2) Whenever an individual is released from custody due to the failure of an employee of a mental health facility or state hospital to comply with the time requirements of this article, the chief medical officer of the mental health or state hospital facility shall immediately, after the release of the individual, make a report to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources or to his or her designee of the failure to comply.

(s) Payment of some expenses by the state; mental hygiene fund established; expenses paid by the county commission. —

(1) The state shall pay the commissioner's fee and the court reporter fees that are not paid and reimbursed under §29-21-1 *et seq.* of this code out of a special fund to be established within the Supreme Court of Appeals to be known as the Mental Hygiene Fund.

(2) The county commission shall pay out of the county treasury all other expenses incurred in the hearings conducted under the provisions of this article whether or not hospitalization is ordered, including any fee allowed by the circuit court by order entered of record for any physician,

psychologist, and witness called by the indigent individual. The copying and mailing costs associated with providing notice of the final commitment hearing and issuance of the final order shall be paid by the county where the involuntary commitment petition was initially filed.

§27-5-10. Transportation for the mentally ill or persons with substance use disorder.

(a) Whenever transportation of an individual is required under the provisions of §27-4-1 *et seq.* and §27-5-1 *et seq.* of this code, the sheriff shall provide immediate transportation to or from the appropriate mental health facility or state hospital: *Provided*, That, where hospitalization occurs pursuant to §27-4-1 *et seq.* of this code, the sheriff may permit, upon the written request of a person having proper interest in the individual's hospitalization, for the interested person to arrange for the individual's transportation to the mental health facility or state hospital if the sheriff determines that those means are suitable given the individual's condition.

(b) Upon written agreement between the county commission on behalf of the sheriff and the directors of the local community mental health center and emergency medical services, an alternative transportation program may be arranged. The agreement shall clearly define the responsibilities of each of the parties, the requirements for program participation, and the persons bearing ultimate responsibility for the individual's safety and well-being.

(c) Use of certified municipal law-enforcement officers. — Sheriffs and municipal governments may enter into written agreements by which certified municipal law-enforcement officers may perform the duties of the sheriff as described in this article. The agreement shall determine jurisdiction, responsibility of costs, and all other necessary requirements, including training related to the performance of these duties, and shall be approved by the county commission and circuit court of the county in which the

agreement is made. For purposes of this subsection, "certified municipal law-enforcement officer" means any duly authorized member of a municipal law-enforcement agency who is empowered to maintain public peace and order, make arrests, and enforce the laws of this state or any political subdivision thereof, other than parking ordinances, and who is currently certified as a law-enforcement officer pursuant to §30-29-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) In the event an individual requires transportation to a state hospital as defined by §27-1-6 of this code, the sheriff or certified municipal law-enforcement officer shall contact the state hospital in advance of the transportation to determine if the state hospital has suitable bed capacity to place the individual.

(e) Nothing in this section is intended to alter security responsibilities for the patient by the sheriff unless mutually agreed upon as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

ARTICLE 6A. COMPETENCY AND CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY OF PERSONS CHARGED OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME.

§27-6A-12. Study of adult criminal competency and responsibility issues; requiring and requesting report and proposed legislation; submission to legislature.

(a) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources shall, in collaboration with designees of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the Prosecuting Attorney's Institute, Prosecuting Attorney's Association, the Public Defender Services, Behavioral Health Providers Association, Disability Rights of West Virginia, and designees of the Board of Medicine, Board of Osteopathy, and the Board Examiners of Psychologists with experience in issues of competence and criminal responsibility, undertake an evaluation of the provisions of this article in the context of current constitutional requirements related to competency and responsibility issues, best medical

13 practices, and pharmacological developments and draft
14 proposed legislation to update the provisions of this article.

15 (b) The legislation required by the provisions of
16 subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted to the
17 President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of
18 Delegates on or before July 31, 2020.

CHAPTER 274

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4102 - By Delegates Rohrbach, Kessinger, Robinson, Walker, Bartlett, Ellington, Hanna, Hornbuckle, D. Kelly, Mandt and Pushkin)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-46-3 and §16-46-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §60A-9-4 of said code, all relating to opioid antagonists; prescribing an opioid antagonist; possessing an opioid antagonist; dispensing an opioid antagonist; providing an opioid antagonist; collecting data related to an opioid antagonist; requiring certain reporting of an opioid antagonist; providing immunity; making technical changes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTICLE 46. ACCESS TO OPIOID ANTAGONISTS ACT.

§16-46-3. Licensed health care providers may prescribe opioid antagonists to initial responders and certain individuals; required educational materials; limited liability.

(a) The following individuals may prescribe an opioid antagonist in the manner prescribed by this subsection:

(1) A licensed health care provider acting in good faith and exercising good reasonable care may directly or by standing order prescribe an opioid antagonist to:

(A) A person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose; or

(B) A family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

(2) A licensed health care provider acting in good faith and exercising reasonable care may directly or by standing order prescribe an opioid antagonist to any governmental or non-governmental organization, including a local health department, a law enforcement agency, or an organization that promotes scientifically proven ways of mitigating health risks associated with substance use disorders and other high risk behaviors, for the purpose of distributing, through its agents, the opioid antagonist, to:

(A) A person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose or

(B) A family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose.

(b) A pharmacist may dispense an opioid antagonist to a person or organization pursuant to a prescription issued in accordance with subsection (a) of this section.

(c)(1) A governmental or non-governmental organization, including a local health department, a law enforcement agency, or organization that promotes scientifically proven ways to mitigate health risks associated with substance use disorders and other high-risk behaviors may, through its trained agents, distribute an

34 opioid antagonist obtained pursuant to a prescription issued
35 in accordance with this section to:

36 (A) A person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related
37 overdose or

38 (B) A family member, friend, or other person in a
39 position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-
40 related overdose.

41 (2) An organization, through its trained agents, shall
42 include with any distribution of an opioid antagonist
43 pursuant to this subsection required education including
44 opioid-related overdose prevention and treatment programs
45 and instruction on how to administer the opioid antagonist.

46 (d) A person who receives an opioid antagonist that was
47 prescribed pursuant to subsection (a) or distributed pursuant
48 to subsection (c) may administer an opioid antagonist to
49 another person if:

50 (1) The person has a good faith belief that the other
51 person is experiencing a drug-related overdose; and

52 (2) The person exercises reasonable care in
53 administering the drug to another person.

54 (e) A person and organization acting in good faith under
55 the provisions of this section are immune from civil or
56 criminal liability.

57 (f) A person and organization may possess an opioid
58 antagonist, regardless of whether the person or organization
59 holds a prescription for the opioid antagonist.

§16-46-6. Data collection and reporting requirements; training.

1 (a) Beginning March 1, 2016, and annually after that the
2 following reports shall be compiled:

(1) The Office of Emergency Medical Services shall collect data regarding each administration of an opioid antagonist by an initial responder. The Office of Emergency Medical Services shall report this information to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability, Joint Committee on Health and the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities. The data collected and reported shall include:

(A) The number of training programs operating in an Office of Emergency Medical Services-designated training center;

(B) The number of individuals who received training to administer an opioid antagonist;

(C) The number of individuals who received an opioid antagonist administered by an initial responder;

(2) The distribution of an opioid antagonist by a governmental or non-governmental entity, granting institution, medical provider, or pharmacy whose software cannot automatically report to the West Virginia Controlled Substance Monitoring Program database must report to the West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy on a monthly basis. Report must be generated and submitted by the 10th day of each month for the opioid antagonists dispensed or distributed in the previous month. The following information must be reported:

(A) The name and address of the entity dispensing or distributing the opioid antagonist;

(B) The name and national drug code for each formulation of opioid antagonist dispensed or distributed;

(C) The total quantity of each formulation of opioid antagonist dispensed or distributed.

(3) The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy shall query the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring

Program database to compile all data related to the dispensing of opioid antagonists and combine that data with any additional data maintained by the Board of Pharmacy related to prescriptions for and distribution of opioid antagonists. The aggregate data shall be reported to the West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy by the 10th day of each month. By February 1 and annually thereafter, the West Virginia Office of Drug Control Policy shall provide a report of this information, excluding any personally identifiable information, to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability, Joint Committee on Health and the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health and Health Facilities.

(b) To implement the provisions of this article, including establishing the standards for certification and approval of opioid overdose prevention and treatment training programs and protocols regarding a refusal to transport, the Office of Emergency Medical Services may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to the provisions of section fifteen, article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code and shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of said article.

CHAPTER 60A. UNIFORM CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.

ARTICLE 9. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MONITORING.

§60A-9-4. Required information.

(a) The following individuals shall report the required information to the Controlled Substances Monitoring Program Database when:

(1) A medical services provider dispenses a controlled substance listed in Schedule II, III, IV, or V;

(2) A prescription for the controlled substance or opioid antagonist is filled by:

(A) A pharmacist or pharmacy in this state;

(B) A hospital, or other health care facility, for outpatient use; or

(C) A pharmacy or pharmacist licensed by the Board of Pharmacy, but situated outside this state for delivery to a person residing in this state; and

(3) A pharmacist or pharmacy sells an opioid antagonist.

(b) The above individuals shall in a manner prescribed by rules promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy pursuant to this article, report the following information, as applicable:

(1) The name, address, pharmacy prescription number, and Drug Enforcement Administration controlled substance registration number of the dispensing pharmacy or the dispensing physician or dentist;

(2) The full legal name, address, and birth date of the person for whom the prescription is written;

(3) The name, address, and Drug Enforcement Administration controlled substances registration number of the practitioner writing the prescription;

(4) The name and national drug code number of the Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substance or opioid antagonist dispensed;

(5) The quantity and dosage of the Schedule II, III, IV, and V controlled substance or opioid antagonist dispensed;

(6) The date the prescription was written and the date filled;

(7) The number of refills, if any, authorized by the prescription;

(8) If the prescription being dispensed is being picked up by someone other than the patient on behalf of the

patient, information about the person picking up the prescription as set forth on the person's government-issued photo identification card shall be retained in either print or electronic form until such time as otherwise directed by rule promulgated by the Board of Pharmacy; and

(9) The source of payment for the controlled substance dispensed.

(c) Whenever a medical services provider treats a patient for an overdose that has occurred as a result of illicit or prescribed medication, the medical service provider shall report the full legal name, address, and birth date of the person who is being treated, including any known ancillary evidence of the overdose. The Board of Pharmacy shall coordinate with the Division of Justice and Community Services and the Office of Drug Control Policy regarding the collection of overdose data.

(d) The Board of Pharmacy may prescribe by rule promulgated pursuant to this article the form to be used in prescribing a Schedule II, III, IV, and V substance or opioid antagonist if, in the determination of the Board of Pharmacy, the administration of the requirements of this section would be facilitated.

(e) Products regulated by the provisions of §60A-10-1 *et seq.* of this code shall be subject to reporting pursuant to the provisions of this article to the extent set forth in said article.

(f) Reporting required by this section is not required for a drug administered directly to a patient by a practitioner. Reporting is, however, required by this section for a drug dispensed to a patient by a practitioner. The quantity dispensed by a prescribing practitioner to his or her own patient may not exceed an amount adequate to treat the patient for a maximum of 72 hours with no greater than two 72-hour cycles dispensed in any 15-day period of time.

(g) The Board of Pharmacy shall notify a physician prescribing buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone within 60 days of the availability of an abuse deterrent or a practitioner-administered form of buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone if approved by the Food and Drug Administration as provided in FDA Guidance to Industry. Upon receipt of the notice, a physician may switch his or her patients using buprenorphine or buprenorphine/naloxone to the abuse deterrent or a practitioner-administered form of the drug

CHAPTER 275

(H. B. 4103 - By Delegates Rohrbach, Kessinger, Robinson, Walker, Bartlett, Ellington, Hanna, Hornbuckle, D. Kelly, Mandt and Pushkin)

[Passed February 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on February 14, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-5T-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to office of drug control policy.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5T. OFFICE OF DRUG CONTROL POLICY.

§16-5T-2. Office of Drug Control Policy.

(a) The Office of Drug Control Policy is continued within the Department of Health and Human Resources under the direction and supervision of the secretary and with the assistance of the State Health Officer.

(b) The Office of Drug Control Policy shall create a state drug control policy in coordination with the bureaus of

the department and other state agencies. This policy shall include all programs which are related to the prevention, treatment, and reduction of substance abuse use disorder.

(c) The Office of Drug Control Policy shall:

(1) Develop a strategic plan to reduce the prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse and smoking by at least 10 percent by July 1, 2018;

(2) Monitor, coordinate, and oversee the collection of data and issues related to drug, alcohol, and tobacco access, substance use disorder policies, and smoking cessation and prevention, and their impact on state and local programs;

(3) Make policy recommendations to executive branch agencies that work with alcohol and substance use disorder issues, and smoking cessation and prevention, to ensure the greatest efficiency and consistency in practices will be applied to all efforts undertaken by the administration;

(4) Identify existing resources and prevention activities in each community that advocate or implement emerging best practice and evidence-based programs for the full substance use disorder continuum of drug and alcohol abuse education and prevention, including smoking cessation or prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery;

(5) Encourage coordination among public and private, state and local agencies, organizations, and service providers, and monitor related programs;

(6) Act as the referral source of information, using existing information clearinghouse resources within the Department of Health and Human Resources, relating to emerging best practice and evidence-based substance use disorder prevention, cessation, treatment and recovery programs, and youth tobacco access, smoking cessation and prevention. The Office of Drug Control Policy will identify gaps in information referral sources;

(7) Apply for grant opportunities for existing programs;

(8) Observe programs in other states;

(9) Make recommendations and provide training, technical assistance, and consultation to local service providers;

(10) Review existing research on programs related to substance use disorder prevention and treatment and smoking cessation and prevention, and provide for an examination of the prescribing and treatment history, including court-ordered treatment, or treatment within the criminal justice system, of persons in the state who suffered fatal or nonfatal opiate overdoses;

(11) Establish a mechanism to coordinate the distribution of funds to support any local prevention, treatment, and education program based on the strategic plan that could encourage smoking cessation and prevention through efficient, effective, and research-based strategies;

(12) Establish a mechanism to coordinate the distribution of funds to support a local program based on the strategic plan that could encourage substance use prevention, early intervention, treatment, and recovery through efficient, effective and research-based strategies;

(13) Oversee a school-based initiative that links schools with community-based agencies and health departments to implement school-based anti-drug and anti-tobacco programs;

(14) Coordinate media campaigns designed to demonstrate the negative impact of substance use disorder, smoking and the increased risk of tobacco addiction and the development of other diseases;

(15) Review Drug Enforcement Agency and the West Virginia scheduling of controlled substances and

recommend changes that should be made based on data analysis;

(16) Develop recommendations to improve communication between health care providers and their patients about the risks and benefits of opioid therapy for acute pain, improve the safety and effectiveness of pain treatment, and reduce the risks associated with long-term opioid therapy, including opioid use disorder and overdose;

(17) Develop and implement a program, in accordance with the provisions of §16-5T-3 of this code, to collect data on fatal and nonfatal drug overdoses caused by abuse and misuse of prescription and illicit drugs, from law enforcement agencies, emergency medical services, health care facilities and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner;

(18) Develop and implement a program that requires the collection of data on the dispensing and use of an opioid antagonist from law enforcement agencies, emergency medical services, health care facilities, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and other entities as required by the office;

(19) Develop a program that provides assessment of persons who have been administered an opioid antagonist; and

(20) Report semi-annually to the Joint Committee on Health on the status of the Office of Drug Control Policy.

(d) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, and to facilitate the collection of data and issues, the Office of Drug Control Policy may exchange necessary data and information with the bureaus within the department, the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, the Department of Administration, the Administrator of Courts, the Poison Control Center, and the Board of Pharmacy. The data and information may include, but is not limited to: data from the Controlled Substance

Monitoring Program; the all-payer claims database; the criminal offender record information database; and the court activity record information;

(e) Prior to July 1, 2018, the office shall develop a plan to expand the number of treatment beds in locations throughout the state which the office determines to be the highest priority for serving the needs of the citizens of the state.

CHAPTER 276

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4108 - By Delegates Summers, Waxman, Porterfield, Fast, Householder, Jennings and Ellington)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-2D-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to the process for certificate of need exemptions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2D. CERTIFICATE OF NEED.

§16-2D-11. Exemptions from Certificate of Need which require the submission of information to the authority.

(a) To obtain an exemption under this section a person shall:

(1) File an exemption application; and

(2) Provide a statement detailing which exemption applies and the circumstances justifying the exemption.

(b) Notwithstanding section eight and ten and except as provided in section nine of this article, the Legislature finds that a need exists and these health services are exempt from the certificate of need process:

(1) The acquisition and utilization of one computed tomography scanner with a purchase price up to $750,000 that is installed in a private office practice where at minimum seventy-five percent of the scans are performed on the patients of the practice. The private office practice shall obtain and maintain accreditation from the American College of Radiology prior to, and at all times during, the offering of this service. The authority may at any time request from the private office practice information relating to the number of patients who have been provided scans and proof of active and continuous accreditation from the American College of Radiology. If a physician owns or operates a private office practice in more than one location, this exemption shall only apply to the physician's primary place of business and if a physician wants to expand the offering of this service to include more than one computed topography scanner, he or she shall be required to obtain a certificate of need prior to expanding this service. All current certificates of need issued for computed tomography services, with a required percentage threshold of scans to be performed on patients of the practice in excess of seventy-five percent, shall be reduced to seventy-five percent: *Provided*, That these limitations on the exemption for a private office practice with more than one location shall not apply to a private office practice with more than twenty locations in the state on April 8, 2017.

(2) (A) A birthing center established by a nonprofit primary care center that has a community board and provides primary care services to people in their community without regard to ability to pay; or

(B) A birthing center established by a nonprofit hospital with less than one hundred licensed acute care beds.

(i) To qualify for this exemption, an applicant shall be located in an area that is underserved with respect to low-risk obstetrical services; and

(ii) Provide a proposed health service area.

(3) (A) A health care facility acquiring major medical equipment, adding health services or obligating a capital expenditure to be used solely for research;

(B) To qualify for this exemption, the health care facility shall show that the acquisition, offering or obligation will not:

(i) Affect the charges of the facility for the provision of medical or other patient care services other than the services which are included in the research;

(ii) Result in a substantial change to the bed capacity of the facility; or

(iii) Result in a substantial change to the health services of the facility.

(C) For purposes of this subdivision, the term "solely for research" includes patient care provided on an occasional and irregular basis and not as part of a research program;

(4) The obligation of a capital expenditure to acquire, either by purchase, lease or comparable arrangement, the real property, equipment or operations of a skilled nursing facility: *Provided,* That a skilled nursing facility developed pursuant to subdivision (17) of this section and subsequently acquired pursuant to this subdivision may not transfer or sell any of the skilled nursing home beds of the acquired skilled nursing facility until the skilled nursing facility has been in operation for at least ten years.

(5) Shared health services between two or more hospitals licensed in West Virginia providing health

services made available through existing technology that can reasonably be mobile. This exemption does not include providing mobile cardiac catheterization;

(6) The acquisition, development or establishment of a certified interoperable electronic health record or electronic medical record system;

(7) The addition of forensic beds in a health care facility;

(8) A behavioral health service selected by the Department of Health and Human Resources in response to its request for application for services intended to return children currently placed in out-of-state facilities to the state or to prevent placement of children in out-of-state facilities is not subject to a certificate of need;

(9) The replacement of major medical equipment with like equipment, only if the replacement major medical equipment cost is more than the expenditure minimum;

(10) Renovations within a hospital, only if the renovation cost is more than the expenditure minimum. The renovations may not expand the health care facility's current square footage, incur a substantial change to the health services, or a substantial change to the bed capacity;

(11) Renovations to a skilled nursing facility;

(12) The donation of major medical equipment to replace like equipment for which a certificate of need has been issued and the replacement does not result in a substantial change to health services. This exemption does not include the donation of major medical equipment made to a health care facility by a related organization;

(13) A person providing specialized foster care personal care services to one individual and those services are delivered in the provider's home;

(14) A hospital converting the use of beds except a hospital may not convert a bed to a skilled nursing home bed and conversion of beds may not result in a substantial change to health services provided by the hospital;

(15) The construction, renovation, maintenance or operation of a state owned veterans skilled nursing facilities established pursuant to the provisions of article one-b of this chapter;

(16) To develop and operate a skilled nursing facility with no more than thirty-six beds in a county that currently is without a skilled nursing facility;

(17) A critical access hospital, designated by the state as a critical access hospital, after meeting all federal eligibility criteria, previously licensed as a hospital and subsequently closed, if it reopens within ten years of its closure;

(18) The establishing of a heath care facility or offering of health services for children under one year of age suffering from Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome;

(19) The construction, development, acquisition or other establishment of community mental health and intellectual disability facility;

(20) Providing behavioral health facilities and services;

(21) The construction, development, acquisition or other establishment of kidney disease treatment centers, including freestanding hemodialysis units but only to a medically underserved population;

(22) The transfer, purchase or sale of intermediate care or skilled nursing beds from a skilled nursing facility or a skilled nursing unit of an acute care hospital to a skilled nursing facility providing intermediate care and skilled nursing services. The Department of Health and Human Resources may not create a policy which limits the transfer, purchase or sale of intermediate care or skilled nursing beds

from a skilled nursing facility or a skilled nursing unit of an acute care hospital. The transferred beds shall retain the same certification status that existed at the nursing home or hospital skilled nursing unit from which they were acquired. If construction is required to place the transferred beds into the acquiring nursing home, the acquiring nursing home has one year from the date of purchase to commence construction;

(23) The construction, development, acquisition or other establishment by a health care facility of a nonhealth related project, only if the nonhealth related project cost is more than the expenditure minimum;

(24) The construction, development, acquisition or other establishment of an alcohol or drug treatment facility and drug and alcohol treatment services unless the construction, development, acquisition or other establishment is an opioid treatment facility or programs as set forth in subdivision (4) of section nine of this article;

(25) Assisted living facilities and services;

(26) The creation, construction, acquisition or expansion of a community-based nonprofit organization with a community board that provides or will provide primary care services to people without regard to ability to pay and receives approval from the Health Resources and Services Administration; and

(27) The acquisition and utilization of one computed tomography scanner and/or one magnetic resonance imaging scanner with a purchase price of up to $750,000 by a hospital.

CHAPTER 277

(H. B. 4161 - By Delegates Worrell, Summers and Atkinson)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-38-1 and §16-38-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to tattoos; making it illegal to scleral tattoo a person; defining the term "scleral tattoo;" and reordering definitions so they will be in alphabetical order.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 38. TATTOO STUDIO BUSINESS.

§16-38-1. Definitions.

For purposes of this article:

"Adequate ventilation" means a free and unrestricted circulation of fresh air throughout the tattoo studio and the expulsion of foul or stagnant air.

"Antibacterial solution" means any solution used to retard the growth of bacteria approved for application to human skin and includes all products so labeled.

"Germicidal solution" means any solution which destroys germs and is so labeled.

"Minor" means any person under the age of 18 years.

"Scleral tattooing" means the practice of producing an indelible mark or figure on the human eye by scarring or inserting a pigment on, in, or under the fornix conjunctiva,

bulbar conjunctiva, ocular conjunctiva, or other ocular surface using needles, scalpels or other related equipment.

"Sterilization" means holding in an autoclave for 25 minutes at 15 pounds pressure at a temperature of 250 degrees Fahrenheit or 121 degrees Celsius.

"Tattoo" means to mark or color the skin by pricking in coloring matter so as to form indelible marks or figures or by the production of scars.

"Tattoo studio" means any room or space where tattooing is practiced or where the business of tattooing or any part thereof is conducted.

§16-38-3. Operation standards.

(a) *Records.* —

(1) Proper records of tattoos administered shall be maintained for each patron by the holder of the studio registration;

(2) A record shall be prepared for each patron prior to any procedure being performed and shall include the patron's name and signature, address, age, date tattooed, design of the tattoo, location of the tattoo on the patron's body and the name of the tattoo artist who performed the work;

(3) Record entries shall be in ink or indelible pencil and shall be available for examination by the inspecting authorities provided in §16-38-6 of this code;

(4) Before tattoo administration, the owner or tattoo artist shall discuss with the patron the risks involved in the tattoo requested, including the potential that a tattoo may interfere with the clinical reading of a magnetic resonance imaging study, should the patron intending to be tattooed ever encounter a medical need for such a study. The owner shall provide the patron with written information regarding

the possible complications that may arise from receiving a tattoo. The written information shall be prepared by the Department of Health and Human Resources. Receipt of the information shall be acknowledged in writing by the patron. The owner or tattoo artist shall also keep and maintain the acknowledgment as part of the patron's record pursuant to the provisions of subdivision (5) of this subsection.

(5) All records required by this section shall be kept on file for five years by the holder of the studio registration for the studio in which the tattoo was performed.

(b) *Consent.* —

(1) Prior written consent for tattooing of minors shall be obtained from one parent or guardian;

(2) All written consents shall be kept on file for five years by the holder of the studio registration for the tattoo studio in which the tattoo was performed;

(3) The person receiving the tattoo shall attest to the fact that he or she is not intoxicated or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

(c) *Tattooing procedures.* —

(1) Printed instructions on the care of the skin after tattooing shall be given to each patron as a precaution to prevent infection;

(2) A copy of the printed instructions shall be posted in a conspicuous place, clearly visible to the person being tattooed;

(3) Each tattoo artist shall wear a clean outer garment, i.e., apron, smock, T-shirt, etc.;

(4) Tattoo artists who are experiencing diarrhea, vomiting, fever, rash, productive cough, jaundice, draining or open skin infections such as boils which could be

indicative of more serious conditions such as, but not limited to, impetigo, scabies, hepatitis-b, HIV or AIDS shall refrain from tattooing activities until such time as they are no longer experiencing or exhibiting the aforementioned symptoms;

(5) Before working on each patron, the fingernails and hands of the tattoo artist shall be thoroughly washed and scrubbed with hot running water, antibacterial soap and an individual hand brush that is clean and in good repair;

(6) The tattoo artist's hands shall be air blown dried or dried by a single-use towel. In addition, disposable latex examination gloves shall be worn during the tattoo process. The gloves shall be changed each time there is an interruption in the tattoo application, the gloves become torn or punctured or whenever their ability to function as a barrier is compromised;

(7) Only sterilized or single-use, disposable razors shall be used to shave the area to be tattooed;

(8) Immediately prior to beginning the tattoo procedure, the affected skin area shall be treated with an antibacterial solution;

(9) If an acetate stencil is used by a tattoo artist for transferring the design to the skin, the acetate stencil shall be thoroughly cleaned and rinsed in a germicidal solution for at least 20 minutes and then dried with sterile gauze or dried in the air on a sanitized surface after each use;

(10) If a paper stencil is used by a tattoo artist for transferring the design to the skin, the paper stencil shall be single-use and disposable;

(11) If the design is drawn directly onto the skin, the design shall be applied with a single-use article only.

(d) *Dyes or pigments.* —

(1) Only nontoxic sterile dyes or pigments shall be used and shall be prepared in sterilized or disposable single-use containers for each patron;

(2) After tattooing, the unused dye or pigment in the single-use containers shall be discarded along with the container;

(3) All dyes or pigments used in tattooing shall be from professional suppliers specifically providing dyes or pigments for the tattooing of human skin.

(e) *Sterilization of needles.* —

(1) A set of individual, sterilized needles shall be used for each patron;

(2) No less than 24 sets of sterilized needles and tubes shall be on hand for the entire day or night operation. Unused sterilized instruments shall be re-sterilized at intervals of no more than six months from the date of the last sterilization;

(3) Used, nondisposable instruments shall be kept in a separate, puncture resistant container until brush scrubbed in hot water and soap and then sterilized by autoclaving;

(4) If used instruments are ultrasonically cleaned prior to being placed in the used instrument container, they shall be ultrasonically cleaned and then rinsed under running hot water prior to being placed in the used instrument container;

(5) The ultrasonic unit shall be sanitized daily with a germicidal solution;

(6) If used instruments are not ultrasonically cleaned prior to being placed in the used instrument container, they shall be kept in a germicidal or soap solution until brush scrubbed in hot water and soap and then sterilized by autoclaving;

(7) All nondisposable instruments, including the needle tubes, shall be sterilized and shall be handled and stored in such a manner as to prevent contamination. Instruments to be sterilized shall be sealed in bags made specifically for the purpose of autoclave sterilization and shall include the date of sterilization. If nontransparent sterilization bags are utilized, the bag shall also list the contents;

(8) Autoclave sterilization bags, with a color code indicator which changes color upon proper steam sterilization, shall be utilized during the autoclave sterilization process;

(9) Instruments shall be placed in the autoclave in such a manner as to allow live steam to circulate around them;

(10) No rusty, defective or faulty instruments shall be kept in the studio.

(f) *Aftercare of tattoo.* —

The completed tattoo shall be washed with a single-use towel saturated with an antibacterial solution.

(g) It is unlawful for any person to perform or offer to perform scleral tattooing upon a person.

CHAPTER 278

(H. B. 4179 - By Delegates Maynard, Jennings, Bibby, Campbell, J. Jeffries, Lovejoy, Miller, Pack, Sypolt and Worrell)

[Passed February 17, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated †§16-60-1, †§16-60-2, †§16-60-3, †§16-60-4, †§16-60-5, †§16-60-6, †§16-60-7, †§16-60-8, †§16-60-9, †§16-60-10, †§16-60-11, †§16-60-12, †§16-60-13, †§16-60-14, and †§16-60-15, all relating to enacting the Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact; entering into the Compact with all jurisdictions also enacting the Compact; stating purpose of Compact; defining terms; identifying member states as home states; retaining authority of member state to require license under circumstances not covered by Compact; setting conditions for home state's license to authorize practice in a remote state under the Compact; requiring member states to recognize licenses issued by another member state under certain conditions; setting requirements for individuals to exercise privilege to practice; setting scope of practice; making individuals practicing in remote states subject to that state's laws; authorizing remote states to take action against individual's privilege to practice within that state under certain circumstances; providing effect of restrictions on license on Compact privileges; setting conditions of practicing in remote state under Compact terms; defining relationship of Compact with Emergency Management Assistance Compact; setting terms and requirements for certification of veterans, certain service members, and their spouses; recognizing exclusive power of

† Redesignated

home states to impose adverse action against license issued by home state; providing consequences for Compact participation if individual's license is subject to adverse action by home state; requiring member states to report adverse actions against licenses; authorizing states to take action against individual's privilege to practice within that state; requiring home state EMS authority investigate and take appropriate action based on reported conduct in remote state; authorizing alternative programs in lieu of adverse action; authorizing member state's EMS authority to issue subpoenas; authorizing member state's EMS authority to issue certain cease and desist orders; establishing Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice; providing venue; maintaining state sovereign immunity; providing for membership; providing for voting; requiring annual meetings; requiring meetings to be public; providing exceptions; authorizing Commission prescribe bylaws and/or rules to govern conduct; granting certain powers to Commission; providing for financing for the Commission; making validity of annual assessment against state contingent upon funds being appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise being made available; providing for qualified immunity of certain persons; requiring Commission defend certain persons for actions arising out of actions occurring within the scope of duties related to the Commission; requiring Commission indemnify and hold harmless certain persons under certain circumstances; providing for development and maintenance of coordinated database and reporting system; requiring member states provide certain information to coordinated database; requiring notification by coordinated database administrator of adverse action taken against individual in member state; authorizing member state to designate information not to be shared with the public without express permission of contributing state; providing for removal of information from database when required to be expunged; authorizing rulemaking Commission; providing scope of rulemaking; providing procedures for rulemaking; authorizing emergency rulemaking by the Commission; providing that Commission rules are not binding on the State

of West Virginia until they have been authorized as legislative rules; providing timeline and procedure for proposing legislative rules; authorizing emergency rulemaking; directing state government to enforce Compact and take necessary actions to effectuate its purposes and intent; directing courts take judicial notice of Compact and rules promulgated pursuant to Compact; providing procedures for the Commission to follow if member state has defaulted; authorizing member state be terminated from the Compact under certain conditions; setting terms of termination; authorizing appeal; authorizing mediation and binding dispute resolution between Commission and member state; authorizing enforcement of the Compact by the Commission; authorizing legal action; establishing venue; providing for venue in West Virginia; providing implementation date for the Compact; making any state joining after implementation subject to rules as they exist when the Compact is adopted; authorizing member state withdraw from the Compact; maintaining member state authority to enter into licensure or cooperative agreements with nonmember state; authorizing amendment of the Compact; providing for liberal construction; providing for severability of the Compact if it is found to violate constitution of member state; directing Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council review decisions of the Commission; and authorizing Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council make recommendation to Legislature for withdrawal from the Compact.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

†ARTICLE 60. RECOGNITION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PERSONNEL LICENSURE INTERSTATE COMPACT.

†§16-60-1. Recognition of Emergency Medical Services Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact; purpose.

1 (a) The Recognition of Emergency Medical Services
2 Personnel Licensure Interstate Compact is hereby enacted

† Redesignated

into law and entered into with all jurisdictions legally joining therein.

(b) This Compact is intended to facilitate the day-to-day movement of EMS personnel across state boundaries in the performance of their EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate authority and authorize state EMS offices to afford immediate legal recognition to EMS personnel licensed in a member state. The Compact recognizes that states have a vested interest in protecting the public's health and safety through their licensing and regulation of EMS personnel and that such state regulation shared among the member states will best protect public health and safety. The Compact is designed to achieve the following purposes and objectives:

(1) Increase public access to EMS personnel;

(2) Enhance the state's ability to protect the public's health and safety, especially patient safety;

(3) Encourage the cooperation of member states in the areas of EMS licensure and regulation;

(4) Support licensing of military members who are separating from an active duty tour and licensing of their spouses;

(5) Facilitate the exchange of information between member states regarding EMS personnel licensure, adverse action, and significant investigatory information;

(6) Promote compliance with the laws governing EMS personnel practice in each member state; and

(7) Invest all member states with the authority to hold EMS personnel accountable through the mutual recognition of member state licenses.

†§16-60-2. Definitions.

"Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT)" means an individual licensed with cognitive knowledge and

† Redesignated

a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

"Adverse action" means any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by a state's laws which may be imposed against licensed EMS personnel by a state EMS authority or state court, including, but not limited to, actions against an individual's license such as revocation, suspension, probation, consent agreement, monitoring, or other limitation or encumbrance on the individual's practice, letters of reprimand or admonition, fines, criminal convictions, and state court judgments enforcing adverse actions by the state EMS authority.

"Alternative program" means a voluntary, nondisciplinary substance abuse recovery program approved by a state EMS authority.

"Certification" means the successful verification of entry-level cognitive and psychomotor competency using a reliable, validated, and legally defensible examination.

"Commission" means the national administrative body of which all states that have enacted the Compact are members.

"Emergency medical technician (EMT)" means an individual licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

"Home state" means a member state where an individual is licensed to practice emergency medical services.

"License" means the authorization by a state for an individual to practice as an EMT, AEMT, or paramedic or at a level in between EMT and paramedic.

"Medical director" means a physician licensed in a member state who is accountable for the care delivered by EMS personnel.

"Member state" means a state that has enacted this Compact.

"Privilege to practice" means an individual's authority to deliver emergency medical services in remote states as authorized under this Compact.

"Paramedic" means an individual licensed with cognitive knowledge and a scope of practice that corresponds to that level in the National EMS Education Standards and National EMS Scope of Practice Model.

"Remote state" means a member state in which an individual is not licensed.

"Restricted" means the outcome of an adverse action that limits a license or the privilege to practice.

"Rule" means a written statement by the interstate Commission promulgated pursuant to §16-60-12 of this code that is of general applicability; implements, interprets, or prescribes a policy or provision of the Compact; or is an organizational, procedural, or practice requirement of the Commission.

"Scope of practice" means defined parameters of various duties or services that may be provided by an individual with specific credentials. Whether regulated by rule, statute, or court decision, it tends to represent the limits of services an individual may perform.

"Significant investigatory information" means:

(1) Investigative information that a state EMS authority, after a preliminary inquiry that includes notification and an opportunity to respond if required by state law, has reason

to believe, if proved true, would result in the imposition of an adverse action on a license or privilege to practice; or

(2) Investigative information that indicates that the individual represents an immediate threat to public health and safety regardless of whether the individual has been notified and had an opportunity to respond.

"State" means any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States.

"State EMS authority" means the board, office, or other agency with the legislative mandate to license EMS personnel.

†§16-60-3. Home state licensure.

(a) Any member state in which an individual holds a current license shall be considered a home state for purposes of this Compact.

(b) Any member state may require an individual to obtain and retain a license to be authorized to practice in the member state under circumstances not authorized by the privilege to practice under the terms of this Compact.

(c) A home state's license authorizes an individual to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice only if the home state:

(1) Currently requires the use of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) examination as a condition of issuing initial licenses at the EMT and paramedic levels;

(2) Has a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about individuals;

(3) Notifies the Commission, in compliance with the terms herein, of any adverse action or significant investigatory information regarding an individual;

† Redesignated

(4) No later than five years after activation of the Compact, requires a criminal background check of all applicants for initial licensure, including the use of the results of fingerprint or other biometric data checks compliant with the requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with the exception of federal employees who have suitability determination in accordance with 5 C.F.R. §731.202 and submit documentation of such as promulgated in the rules of the Commission; and

(5) Complies with the rules of the Commission.

†§16-60-4. Compact privilege to practice.

(a) Member states shall recognize the privilege to practice of an individual licensed in another member state that is in conformance with §16-59-3 of this code.

(b) To exercise the privilege to practice under the terms and provisions of this Compact, an individual must:

(1) Be at least 18 years of age;

(2) Possess a current unrestricted license in a member state as an EMT, AEMT, paramedic, or state-recognized and licensed level with a scope of practice and authority between EMT and paramedic; and

(3) Practice under the supervision of a medical director.

(c) An individual providing patient care in a remote state under the privilege to practice shall function within the scope of practice authorized by the home state unless and until modified by an appropriate authority in the remote state as may be defined in the rules of the Commission.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, an individual practicing in a remote state is subject to the remote state's authority and laws. A remote state may, in accordance with due process and that state's laws, restrict, suspend, or revoke an individual's privilege to practice in

† Redesignated

the remote state and may take any other necessary actions to protect the health and safety of its citizens. If a remote state takes action, it shall promptly notify the home state and the Commission.

(e) If an individual's license in any home state is restricted or suspended, the individual may not be eligible to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice until the individual's home state license is restored.

(f) If an individual's privilege to practice in any remote state is restricted, suspended, or revoked, the individual may not be eligible to practice in any remote state until the individual's privilege to practice is restored.

†§16-60-5. Conditions of practice in a remote state.

An individual may practice in a remote state under a privilege to practice only in the performance of the individual's EMS duties as assigned by an appropriate authority, as defined in the rules of the Commission, and under the following circumstances:

(1) The individual originates a patient transport in a home state and transports the patient to a remote state;

(2) The individual originates in the home state and enters a remote state to pick up a patient and provide care and transport of the patient to the home state;

(3) The individual enters a remote state to provide patient care and/or transport within that remote state;

(4) The individual enters a remote state to pick up a patient and provide care and transport to a third member state; and

(5) Other conditions as determined by rules promulgated by the Commission.

† Redesignated

†§16-60-6. Relationship to Emergency Management Assistance Compact.

Upon a member state's governor's declaration of a state of emergency or disaster that activates the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), all relevant terms and provisions of EMAC apply, and to the extent any terms or provisions of this Compact conflict with EMAC, the terms of EMAC shall prevail with respect to any individual practicing in the remote state in response to such declaration.

†§16-60-7. Veterans, service members separating from active duty military, and their spouses.

(a) Member states shall consider a veteran, active military service member, and member of the National Guard and Reserves separating from an active duty tour, and a spouse thereof, who holds a current valid and unrestricted NREMT certification at or above the level of the state license being sought as satisfying the minimum training and examination requirements for the licensure.

(b) Member states shall expedite the processing of licensure applications submitted by veterans, active military service members, and members of the National Guard and Reserves separating from an active duty tour, and their spouses.

(c) All individuals functioning with a privilege to practice under this section remain subject to §16-59-8 of this code.

†§16-60-8. Adverse actions.

(a) A home state has exclusive power to impose adverse action against an individual's license issued by the home state.

(b) If an individual's license in any home state is restricted or suspended, the individual may not be eligible

† Redesignated

to practice in a remote state under the privilege to practice until the individual's home state license is restored.

(1) All home state adverse action orders shall include a statement that the individual's Compact privileges are inactive. The order may allow the individual to practice in remote states with prior written authorization from both the home state and remote state's EMS authority.

(2) An individual currently subject to adverse action in the home state may not practice in any remote state without prior written authorization from both the home state and remote state's EMS authority.

(c) A member state shall report adverse actions and any occurrences where the individual's Compact privileges are restricted, suspended, or revoked to the Commission in accordance with the rules of the Commission.

(d) A remote state may take adverse action on an individual's privilege to practice within that state.

(e) Any member state may take adverse action against an individual's privilege to practice in that state based on the factual findings of another member state, so long as each state follows its own procedures for imposing such adverse action.

(f) A home state's EMS authority shall investigate and take such appropriate action with respect to reported conduct in a remote state as it would if such conduct had occurred within the home state. In such cases, the home state's law shall control in determining the appropriate adverse action.

(g) Nothing in this Compact may override a member state's decision that participation in an alternative program may be used in lieu of adverse action and that such participation shall remain nonpublic if required by the member state's laws. Member states must require individuals who enter any alternative programs to agree not

to practice in any other member state during the term of the alternative program without prior authorization from such other member state.

†§16-60-9. Additional powers vested in a member state's EMS authority.

A member state's EMS authority, in addition to any other powers granted under state law, is authorized under this Compact to:

(1) Issue subpoenas for both hearings and investigations that require the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the production of evidence. Subpoenas issued by a member state's EMS authority for the attendance and testimony of witnesses, and/or the production of evidence from another member state, shall be enforced in the remote state by any court of competent jurisdiction, according to that court's practice and procedure in considering subpoenas issued in its own proceedings. The issuing state's EMS authority shall pay any witness fees, travel expenses, mileage, and other fees required by the service statutes of the state where the witnesses and/or evidence are located; and

(2) Issue cease and desist orders to restrict, suspend, or revoke an individual's privilege to practice in the state.

†§16-60-10. Establishment of the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice.

(a) General. — The Compact states hereby create and establish a joint public agency known as the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice.

(1) The Commission is a body politic and an instrumentality of the Compact states.

(2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the Commission is located: *Provided*,

† Redesignated

That pursuant to article VI, section 35 of the Constitution of West Virginia, neither the State of West Virginia nor any officer or agency thereof may be named as a defendant in an any court of law or equity except in the State of West Virginia. The Commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings.

(3) Nothing in this Compact may be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity.

(b) Membership, voting, and meetings. —

(1) Each member state shall have and be limited to one delegate. The responsible official of the state EMS authority or his designee shall be the delegate to this Compact for each member state. Any delegate may be removed or suspended from office as provided by the law of the state from which the delegate is appointed. Any vacancy occurring in the Commission shall be filled in accordance with the laws of the member state in which the vacancy exists. In the event that more than one board, office, or other agency with the legislative mandate to license EMS personnel at and above the level of EMT exists, the governor of the state will determine which entity will be responsible for assigning the delegate.

(2) Each delegate is entitled to one vote with regard to the promulgation of rules and creation of bylaws and shall otherwise have an opportunity to participate in the business and affairs of the Commission. A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates' participation in meetings by telephone or other means of communication.

(3) The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year. Additional meetings shall be held as set forth in the bylaws.

(4) All meetings shall be open to the public, and public notice of meetings shall be given in the same manner as required under the rulemaking provisions in §16-59-12 of this code.

(5) The Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting if the Commission must discuss:

(A) Noncompliance of a member state with its obligations under the Compact;

(B) The employment, compensation, discipline, or other personnel matters, practices, or procedures related to specific employees or other matters related to the Commission's internal personnel practices and procedures;

(C) Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation;

(D) Negotiation of contracts for the purchase or sale of goods, services, or real estate;

(E) Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person;

(F) Disclosure of trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential;

(G) Disclosure of information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;

(H) Disclosure of investigatory records compiled for law-enforcement purposes;

(I) Disclosure of information related to any investigatory reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for use of the Commission or other committee charged with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance issues pursuant to the Compact; or

(J) Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or member state statute.

(6) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed pursuant to this provision, the Commission's legal counsel or designee shall certify that the meeting may be closed and shall reference each relevant exempting provision. The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of actions taken, and the reasons therefor, including a description of the views expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting shall remain under seal, subject to release by a majority vote of the Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(c) Conduct of Commission proceedings. — The Commission shall, by a majority vote of the delegates, prescribe bylaws and/or rules to govern its conduct as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and exercise the powers of the Compact, including, but not limited to:

(1) Establishing the fiscal year of the Commission;

(2) Providing reasonable standards and procedures:

(A) For the establishment and meetings of other committees; and

(B) Governing any general or specific delegation of any authority or function of the Commission;

(3) Providing reasonable procedures for calling and conducting meetings of the Commission, ensuring reasonable advance notice of all meetings, and providing an opportunity for attendance of such meetings by interested parties, with enumerated exceptions designed to protect the public's interest, the privacy of individuals, and proprietary information, including trade secrets. The Commission may

meet in closed session only after a majority of the membership votes to close a meeting, in whole or in part. As soon as practicable, the Commission must make public a copy of the vote to close the meeting revealing the vote of each member with no proxy votes allowed;

(4) Establishing the titles, duties, and authority, and reasonable procedures for the election of the officers of the Commission;

(5) Providing reasonable standards and procedures for the establishment of the personnel policies and programs of the Commission. Notwithstanding any civil service or other similar laws of any member state, the bylaws shall exclusively govern the personnel policies and programs of the Commission;

(6) Promulgating a code of ethics to address permissible and prohibited activities of Commission members and employees;

(7) Providing a mechanism for concluding the operations of the Commission and the equitable disposition of any surplus funds that may exist after the termination of the Compact after the payment and/or reserving of all of its debts and obligations;

(8) Publishing its bylaws and filing a copy thereof, and a copy of any amendment thereto, with the appropriate agency or officer in each of the member states, if any;

(9) Maintaining its financial records in accordance with the bylaws; and

(10) Meeting and taking such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this Compact and the bylaws.

(d) Powers of the Commission. — The Commission may:

(1) Promulgate uniform rules to facilitate and coordinate implementation and administration of this Compact. The rules shall have the force and effect of law and shall be binding in all member states once authorized by the Legislature pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(2) Bring and prosecute legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission: *Provided*, That the standing of any state EMS authority or other regulatory body responsible for EMS personnel licensure to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected;

(3) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds;

(4) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a member state;

(5) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the Compact, and to establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters;

(6) Accept any and all appropriate donations and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services and to receive, utilize, and dispose of the same, provided that at all times the Commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest;

(7) Lease, purchase, accept appropriate gifts or donations of, or otherwise own, hold, improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed: *Provided*, That all times the Commission shall strive to avoid any appearance of impropriety;

(8) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property, real, personal, or mixed;

(9) Establish a budget and make expenditures;

(10) Borrow money;

(11) Appoint committees, including advisory committees composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives, consumer representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the bylaws;

(12) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law-enforcement agencies;

(13) Adopt and use an official seal; and

(14) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact consistent with the state regulation of EMS personnel licensure and practice.

(e) Financing of the Commission. —

(1) The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.

(2) The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources, donations, and grants of money, equipment, supplies, materials, and services.

(3) The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each member state or impose fees on other parties to cover the cost of the operations and activities of the Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount shall be allocated based upon a formula to be determined by the Commission, which shall promulgate a rule binding upon all member states: *Provided*, That no assessment may be binding upon the State of West Virginia unless the rule

setting forth the formula for determining the aggregate annual assessment has been authorized by the Legislature pursuant to the legislative rule-making procedures in §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided, however*, That the validity of any annual assessment levied on the State of West Virginia shall be contingent upon funds being appropriated by the Legislature or otherwise being made available.

(4) The Commission may not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the funds adequate to meet the same; nor may the Commission pledge the credit of any of the member states, except by and with the authority of the member state.

(5) The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be subject to the audit and accounting procedures established under its bylaws; however, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the Commission shall be audited yearly by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the audit shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the Commission.

(f) Qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification. —

(1) The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, either personally or in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property, or personal injury, or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred, within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to protect any such person from suit and/or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability

caused by the intentional, willful, or wanton misconduct of that person.

(2) The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing it occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities: *Provided*, That nothing herein may be construed to prohibit that person from retaining his or her own counsel, and that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

(3) The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee, or representative of the Commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

†§16-60-11. Coordinated database.

(a) The Commission shall provide for the development and maintenance of a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and significant investigatory information on all licensed individuals in member states.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a member state shall submit a uniform data set

† Redesignated

to the coordinated database on all individuals to whom this Compact is applicable as required by the rules of the Commission, including:

(1) Identifying information;

(2) Licensure data;

(3) Significant investigatory information;

(4) Adverse actions against an individual's license;

(5) An indicator that an individual's privilege to practice is restricted, suspended, or revoked;

(6) Nonconfidential information related to alternative program participation;

(7) Any denial of application for licensure and the reason(s) for such denial; and

(8) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact, as determined by the rules of the Commission.

(c) The coordinated database administrator shall promptly notify all member states of any adverse action taken against, or significant investigative information on, any individual in a member state.

(d) Member states contributing information to the coordinated database may designate information that may not be shared with the public without the express permission of the contributing state.

(e) Any information submitted to the coordinated database that is subsequently required to be expunged by the laws of the member state contributing the information shall be removed from the coordinated database.

†§16-60-12. Rulemaking.

(a) The Commission shall exercise its rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set forth in this section and the rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall become binding as of the date specified in each rule or amendment: *Provided*, That no rule may become binding on the State of West Virginia as law until it has been authorized by the Legislature pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) If a majority of the legislatures of the member states rejects a rule, by enactment of a statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact, then such rule shall have no further force and effect in any member state.

(c) Rules or amendments to the rules shall be adopted at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.

(d) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final rule or rules by the Commission, and at least 60 days in advance of the meeting at which the rule will be considered and voted upon, the Commission shall file a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking:

(1) On the website of the Commission; and

(2) On the website of each member state EMS authority or the publication in which each state would otherwise publish proposed rules.

(e) The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking shall include:

(1) The proposed time, date, and location of the meeting in which the rule will be considered and voted upon;

(2) The text of the proposed rule or amendment and the reason for the proposed rule;

(3) A request for comments on the proposed rule from any interested person; and

† Redesignated

(4) The manner in which interested persons may submit notice to the Commission of their intention to attend the public hearing and any written comments.

(f) Prior to adoption of a proposed rule, the Commission shall allow persons to submit written data, facts, opinions, and arguments, which shall be made available to the public.

(g) The Commission shall grant an opportunity for a public hearing before it adopts a rule or amendment if a hearing is requested by:

(1) At least 25 persons;

(2) A governmental subdivision or agency; or

(3) An association having at least 25 members.

(h) If a hearing is held on the proposed rule or amendment, the Commission shall publish the place, time, and date of the scheduled public hearing.

(1) All persons wishing to be heard at the hearing shall notify the executive director of the Commission or other designated member in writing of their desire to appear and testify at the hearing not less than five business days before the scheduled date of the hearing.

(2) Hearings shall be conducted in a manner providing each person who wishes to comment a fair and reasonable opportunity to comment orally or in writing.

(3) No transcript of the hearing is required, unless a written request for a transcript is made, in which case the person requesting the transcript shall bear the cost of producing the transcript. A recording may be made in lieu of a transcript under the same terms and conditions as a transcript. This subsection shall not preclude the Commission from making a transcript or recording of the hearing if it so chooses.

(4) Nothing in this section may be construed as requiring a separate hearing on each rule. Rules may be grouped for the convenience of the Commission at hearings required by this section.

(i) Following the scheduled hearing date, or by the close of business on the scheduled hearing date if the hearing was not held, the Commission shall consider all written and oral comments received.

(j) The Commission shall, by majority vote of all members, take final action on the proposed rule and shall determine the effective date of the rule, if any, based on the rule-making record and the full text of the rule.

(k) If no written notice of intent to attend the public hearing by interested parties is received, the Commission may proceed with promulgation of the proposed rule without a public hearing.

(l) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and adopt an emergency rule without prior notice, opportunity for comment, or hearing, provided that the usual rule-making procedures provided in the Compact and in this section shall be retroactively applied to the rule as soon as reasonably possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the rule. For the purposes of this provision, an emergency rule is one that shall be adopted immediately in order to:

(1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare;

(2) Prevent a loss of Commission or member state funds;

(3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative rule that is established by federal law or rule; or

(4) Protect public health and safety.

(m) The Commission or an authorized committee of the Commission may direct revisions to a previously adopted rule or amendment for purposes of correcting typographical errors, errors in format, errors in consistency, or grammatical errors. Public notice of any revisions shall be posted on the website of the Commission. The revision shall be subject to challenge by any person for a period of 30 days after posting. The revision may be challenged only on grounds that the revision results in a material change to a rule. A challenge shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the Commission prior to the end of the notice period. If no challenge is made, the revision will take effect without further action. If the revision is challenged, the revision may not take effect without the approval of the Commission.

(n) Applicability of West Virginia Administrative Procedures Act. —

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Compact to the contrary, no rule proposed or promulgated by the Commission may become binding on the State of West Virginia as law until it has been authorized by the Legislature pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(2) Within 30 days of a rule or operating procedure that affects the regulation of emergency medical services in the State of West Virginia is promulgated by the Commission, the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health shall propose the rule for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(3) The Commissioner has emergency rule-making authority. For purposes of this section, the Legislature finds that the promulgation of a rule or operating procedure by the Commission that affects the regulation of emergency medical services in the State of West Virginia constitutes an emergency for the purposes of filing an emergency rule pursuant to §29A-3-15 of this code.

(4) A rejection of a legislative rule proposed pursuant to this subsection shall have the effect of making that rule not binding on the State of West Virginia, notwithstanding any emergency rule previously promulgated pursuant thereto, and notwithstanding the failure of a majority of states to take action to invalidate the rule pursuant to the provisions of subsection (b) of this section.

†§16-60-13. Oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement.

(a) Oversight. —

(1) The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of state government in each member state shall enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to effectuate the Compact's purposes and intent. The provisions of this Compact and the rules promulgated hereunder shall have standing as statutory law once authorized by the Legislature pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1, *et seq.* of this code.

(2) All courts shall take judicial notice of the Compact and the rules in any judicial or administrative proceeding in a member state pertaining to the subject matter of this Compact which may affect the powers, responsibilities, or actions of the Commission.

(3) The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any such proceeding and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide service of process to the Commission shall render a judgment or order void as to the Commission, this Compact, or promulgated rules.

(b) Default, technical assistance, and termination. —

(1) If the Commission determines that a member state has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated rules, the Commission shall:

† Redesignated

(A) Provide written notice to the defaulting state and other member states of the nature of the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and/or any other action to be taken by the Commission; and

(B) Provide remedial training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.

(2) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the Compact upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the member states, and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred by this Compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.

(3) Termination of membership in the Compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the Commission to the Governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's Legislature, and each of the member states.

(4) A state that has been terminated from the Compact is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.

(5) The Commission may not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from the Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the Commission and the defaulting state.

(6) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices. The prevailing

member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

(c) Dispute Resolution. —

(1) Upon request by a member state, the Commission shall attempt to resolve disputes related to the Compact that arise among member states and between member and nonmember states.

(2) The Commission shall promulgate a rule providing for both mediation and binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate, subject to the provisions of §16-59-12(n) of this code.

(d) Enforcement. —

(1) The Commission, in the reasonable exercise of its discretion, shall enforce the provisions and rules of this Compact.

(2) By majority vote, the Commission may initiate legal action in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices, against a member state in default to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact and its promulgated rules and bylaws: *Provided*, That pursuant to article VI, section 35 of the Constitution of West Virginia, neither the State of West Virginia nor any officer or agency thereof shall be named as a defendant in any court of law or equity except in the State of West Virginia. The relief sought may include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the prevailing member shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorney fees.

(3) The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive remedies of the Commission. The Commission may pursue any other remedies available under federal or state law.

†§16-60-14. Date of implementation of the Interstate Commission for EMS Personnel Practice and associated rules; withdrawal; amendment.

(a) The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the Compact statute is enacted into law in the tenth member state. The provisions, which become effective at that time, shall be limited to the powers granted to the Commission relating to assembly and the promulgation of rules. Thereafter, the Commission shall meet and exercise rulemaking powers necessary to the implementation and administration of the Compact.

(b) Any state that joins the Compact subsequent to the Commission's initial adoption of the rules shall be subject to the rules as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes law in that state. Any rule that has been previously adopted by the Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the Compact becomes law in that state.

(c) Any member state may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a statute repealing the same. Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing state's EMS authority to comply with the investigative and adverse action reporting requirements of this act prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

(d) Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent any EMS personnel licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a member state and a nonmember state that does not conflict with the provisions of this Compact.

(e) This Compact may be amended by the member states. No amendment to this Compact may become effective and binding upon any member state until it is enacted into the laws of all member states.

† Redesignated

†§16-60-15. Construction and severability.

(a) This Compact shall be liberally construed so as to effectuate the purposes thereof. If this Compact shall be held contrary to the constitution of any member state thereto, the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining member states. Nothing in this Compact supersedes state law or rules related to licensure of EMS agencies.

(b) The Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council shall review decisions of the Interstate Commission for Emergency Medical Services Personnel Practice established pursuant to this Compact and, upon approval by the Interstate Commission for Emergency Medical Services Personnel Practice of any action that will have the result of increasing the cost to the state of membership in the Compact, may recommend to the Legislature that the state withdraw from the Compact.

CHAPTER 279

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4414 - By Delegates Rowan, Campbell, Rohrbach, Estep-Burton, Pyles, C. Martin, Boggs, Toney, Mandt, Lovejoy and Hanna)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-1-20, relating to authorizing certain modes of communication as a means for acquiring language for children from birth to five years of age; making implementation subject to appropriation by the Legislature; requiring reporting of measures specific to language and literacy for children age three to five to advisory

† Redesignated

committee; requiring the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education to jointly select language developmental milestones from existing standardized norms, to develop a family resource for use by families and service providers to understand and monitor deaf and hard-of-hearing children's receptive and expressive language acquisition and progress toward English literacy development; requiring the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education to prepare a list of valid and reliable existing tools for assessments for service providers that can be used periodically to determine the receptive and expressive language and literacy development of deaf and hard-of-hearing children; requiring dissemination of the family resource and the educator tools and assessments, as well as the provision of informational materials on the use of the resources, tools, and assessments; imposing certain requirements on the child's individualized family service plan team and individual education program team if a deaf or hard-of-hearing child does not demonstrate progress in receptive and expressive language skills; requiring the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education to establish an advisory committee to solicit input from certain stakeholders on the selection of language developmental milestones for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing that are equivalent to those for children who are not deaf or hard-of-hearing for inclusion in the family resource; setting forth membership of advisory committee; requiring the West Virginia Department of Education to annually produce an aggregated report that is specific to language and literacy development of children whose primary exceptionality is deaf and hard-of-hearing from birth to five years of age; and requiring that all of certain activities be consistent with federal law regarding the education of children with disabilities and federal law regarding the privacy of student information.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. STATE PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM.

§16-1-20. Definitions and purpose.

(a) For the purpose of this code:

"English" means and includes spoken English, written English, or English with the use of visual supplements;

"Language developmental milestones" means milestones of development aligned with the existing state instrument used to meet the requirements of federal law for the assessment of children from birth to five years of age, inclusive; and

"Language" includes American Sign Language (ASL) and English.

(b) For the purposes of developing and using language for a child who is deaf or hard-of-hearing, the following modes of communication may be used as a means for acquiring language: American Sign Language (ASL) services, spoken language services, dual language services, cued speech and tactile, or a combination thereof.

(c) This section shall apply only to children from birth to five years of age, inclusive.

(d) Implementation of this code is subject to an appropriation by the legislature.

(e) Federal regulations for children age birth through two do not require reporting of measures specific to language and literacy. However, this data is reported for children age three to five and the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education shall make this report available to the advisory committee, and available to others upon request.

(f) The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education through their agencies that serve children ages birth to five and their families shall jointly select language developmental milestones from existing standardized norms, to develop a family resource for use by families, providers, early interventionists, speech pathologists, educators, and other service providers to understand and monitor deaf and hard-of-hearing children's receptive and expressive language acquisition and progress toward English literacy development. This family resource shall include:

(1) Language that provides comprehensive and neutral, unbiased information regarding different modes used to learn and access language (e.g., English, American Sign Language (ASL), or both) and services and programs designed to meet the needs of children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing;

(2) Language developmental milestones selected pursuant to the process specified in this section;

(3) Language appropriate for use, in both content and administration, with deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth to five years of age, inclusive, who use both or one of the languages of American Sign Language (ASL) or English;

(4) Developmental milestones in terms of typical development of all children, by age range;

(5) Language written for clarity and ease of use by families;

(6) Language that is aligned with the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources' and the West Virginia Department of Education's existing infant, toddler, and preschool guidelines, the existing instrument used to assess the development of children with disabilities

pursuant to federal law, and state standards in language and literacy;

(7) Clarification that the parent(s) have the right to select which language (American Sign Language (ASL), English, or both) for their child's language(s) acquisition and developmental milestones;

(8) Clarification that the family resource is not a formal assessment of language and literacy development, and that a family's observations of their children may differ from formal assessment data presented at an individualized family service plan (IFSP) or individual education program (IEP) meeting; and

(9) Clarification that the family resource may be used during an individualized family service plan (IFSP) or individual education program (IEP) meeting for purposes of sharing the family's observations about their child's development.

(g) The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education shall also prepare a list of valid and reliable existing tools or assessments for providers, early interventionists, speech pathologists, educators, and other service providers that can be used periodically to determine the receptive and expressive language and literacy development of deaf and hard-of-hearing children. These educator tools and assessments:

(1) Shall be in a format that shows stages of language development;

(2) Shall be used by providers, early interventionists, speech pathologists, educators, and other service providers to determine the progressing development of deaf and hard-of-hearing children's receptive and expressive language acquisition and developmental stages toward English literacy;

(3) Shall be selected from existing instruments or assessments used to assess the development of all deaf and hard-of-hearing children from birth to five years of age, inclusive;

(4) Shall be appropriate, in both content and administration, for use with children who are deaf and hard-of-hearing;

(5) May be used, in addition to the assessment required by federal law, by the individualized family service plan (IFSP) team and individual education program (IEP) team, as applicable, to track deaf and hard-of-hearing children's progress, and to establish or modify individualized family service plans (IFSPs) and individual education programs (IEPs); and

(6) May reflect the recommendations of the advisory committee established pursuant to §16-1-20(e) of this code.

(h) To promote the intent of this code, the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education shall:

(1) Disseminate the family resource developed to families of deaf and hard-of-hearing children, as well as providers, early interventionists, speech pathologists, educators, and related service personnel; and

(2) Disseminate the educator tools and assessments selected to local educational agencies for use in the development and modification of individualized family service plans (IFSPs) and individual education programs (IEPs);

(3) Provide informational materials on the use of the resources, tools, and assessments to assist deaf and hard-of-hearing children in becoming linguistically ready for formal school entry (either itinerant services, West Virginia Universal PreK/PreK Special Needs, or Kindergarten) using

the mode(s) of communication and language(s) chosen by the parents.

(i) If a deaf or hard-of-hearing child does not demonstrate progress in receptive and expressive language skills, as measured by one of the educator tools or assessments, or by the existing instrument used to assess the development of children with disabilities pursuant to federal law, as applicable, the child's individualized family service plan (IFSP) team and individual education program (IEP) team shall, as part of the process required by federal law, explain in detail the reasons why the child is not meeting the language developmental milestones or progressing towards them, and shall recommend specific strategies, services, and programs that shall be provided to assist the child's success toward English literacy development.

(j) The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education shall establish an advisory committee to solicit input from stakeholders identified herein on the selection of language developmental milestones for children who are deaf or hard-of-hearing that are equivalent to those for children who are not deaf or hard-of-hearing, for inclusion in the family resource developed pursuant to this section.

(k) The advisory committee shall be comprised of volunteer individuals representing all known modes of communication, specifically including the following:

(1) One parent of a child who is hard-of-hearing who uses the dual languages of American Sign Language (ASL) and English;

(2) One parent of a child who is deaf or hard-of-hearing who uses assistive technology to communicate with spoken English;

(3) Two or three credentialed providers, early interventionists, speech pathologists, educators, or other

service providers of deaf or hard-of-hearing children who are knowledgeable in the use of the dual languages of English and American Sign Language (ASL);

(4) Two or three credentialed providers, early interventionists, speech pathologists, educators, or other service provider of deaf or hard-of-hearing children who are knowledgeable in the use of assistive technology to communicate with spoken English;

(5) One expert who researches or is knowledgeable in the research regarding language outcomes for deaf and hard-of-hearing children using American Sign Language (ASL) or English;

(6) One expert who researches or is knowledgeable in the research regarding language outcomes for deaf and hard-of-hearing children using assistive technology to communicate with spoken English;

(7) One credentialed educator of deaf and hard-of-hearing children whose expertise is in curriculum and instruction in American Sign Language (ASL) and English;

(8) One credentialed educator of deaf and hard-of-hearing children whose expertise is in curriculum and instruction in assistive technology to communicate with spoken English;

(9) One advocate for the teaching and use of the dual languages of American Sign Language (ASL) and English;

(10) One advocate for the teaching and use of instruction in assistive technology to communicate with spoken English; and,

(11) One educational audiologist who can address the issues of aural habilitation and assistive technology to advocate for children using spoken language in mainstream environments.

(l) The advisory committee may also advise the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education on the content and administration of the existing instrument used to assess the development of children with disabilities pursuant to federal law, as used to assess deaf and hard-of-hearing children's language and literacy development to ensure the appropriate use of that instrument with those children, and make recommendations regarding future research to improve the measurement of progress of deaf and hard-of-hearing children in language and literacy.

(m) The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education shall provide the advisory committee with a list of existing language developmental milestones from existing standardized norms, along with any relevant information held by the departments regarding those language developmental milestones for possible inclusion in the family resource developed pursuant to this section.

(n) After reviewing, the advisory committee shall recommend to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia Department of Education language developmental milestones for selection.

(o) Commencing on or before July 31, 2021, and on or before each July 31 thereafter, the West Virginia Department of Education shall annually produce an aggregated report, using existing data reported in compliance with the federally required state performance plan on children with disabilities, that is specific to language and literacy development of children whose primary exceptionality is deaf and hard-of-hearing from birth to five years of age, inclusive, including those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing and have other disabilities, relative to their peers who are not deaf or hard-of-hearing. The departments shall make this report available to the advisory committee, the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability, the Legislative Oversight Commission on

233 Health and Human Resources Accountability, and available
234 to others upon request.

235 (p) All activities of the West Virginia Department of
236 Health and Human Resources and the West Virginia
237 Department of Education in implementing this code shall be
238 consistent with federal law regarding the education of
239 children with disabilities and federal law regarding the
240 privacy of student information.

CHAPTER 280

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4422 - By Delegates Boggs, Rohrbach, Ellington, Staggers, Westfall, Lovejoy, N. Brown, Hartman, Shott, Evans and Mandt)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated †§16-62-1, †§16-62-2, and †§16-62-3, all relating to prohibiting patient brokering; defining terms; prohibiting causing or participating in acts that are intended to derive any benefit or profit from referral of a patient to a health care provider or health care facility; prohibiting patient brokering related to a recovery residence; establishing criminal penalties for persons and business entities engaged in unlawful patient brokering; and providing exceptions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

†ARTICLE 62. THE PATIENT BROKERING ACT.

†§16-62-1. Definitions.

1 For the purposes of this article:

† Redesignated

"Health care provider or health care facility" means any person or entity licensed or certified or authorized by law to provide professional health care service in this state to a patient during that patient's medical, remedial or behavioral health care, treatment, or confinement.

"Health care provider network entity" means a corporation, partnership, or limited liability company owned or operated by two or more health care providers, and organized for the purpose of entering into agreements with health insurers, health care purchasing groups, or the Medicare or Medicaid program.

"Health insurer" means any insurance company authorized to transact health insurance in the state, any insurance company authorized to transact health insurance or casualty insurance in the state that is offering a minimum premium plan or stop-loss coverage for any person or entity providing health care benefits, any self-insurance plan, any health maintenance organization, any prepaid health clinic, any prepaid limited health service organization, any multiple-employer welfare arrangement, or any fraternal benefit society providing health benefits to its members.

†§16-62-2. Patient brokering prohibited.

(a) It is unlawful for any person, including any health care provider or health care facility, to:

(1) Offer or pay a commission, benefit, bonus, rebate, kickback, or bribe, directly or indirectly, in cash or in kind, or engage in any split-fee arrangement, in any form whatsoever, to induce the referral of a patient or patronage to or from a health care provider or health care facility;

(2) Solicit or receive a commission, benefit, bonus, rebate, kickback, or bribe, directly or indirectly, in cash or in kind, or engage in any split-fee arrangement, in any form whatsoever, in return for referring a patient or patronage to or from a health care provider or health care facility;

† Redesignated

(3) Solicit or receive a commission, benefit, bonus, rebate, kickback, or bribe, directly or indirectly, in cash or in kind, or engage in any split-fee arrangement, in any form whatsoever, in return for the acceptance or acknowledgment of treatment from a health care provider or health care facility;

(4) Aid, abet, advise, or otherwise participate in the conduct prohibited under this subsection; or

(5) Engage in any of the unlawful acts provided for in this subsection in regard to a recovery residence as defined in §16-59-1 of this code.

(b) *Penalties.* –

(1) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $50,000, or imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one year nor more than five years, or both fined and imprisoned.

(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this section, any person who violates subsection (a) of this section, where the prohibited conduct involves 10 or more patients, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be fined not more than $100,000, or imprisoned in a state correctional facility not less than two years nor more than five years, or both fined and imprisoned.

†§16-62-3. Exceptions.

This article does not apply to the following payment practices:

(1) Any discount, payment, waiver of payment, or payment practice expressly authorized by 42 U.S.C. §1320a-7b(b)(3) or regulations adopted thereunder;

† Redesignated

(2) Any payment, compensation, or financial arrangement within a group practice provided the payment, compensation, or arrangement is not to or from persons who are not members of the group practice;

(3) Payments to a health care provider or health care facility for professional consultation services;

(4) Commissions, fees, or other remuneration lawfully paid to insurance agents;

(5) Payments by a health insurer who reimburses, provides, offers to provide, or administers health, mental health, or substance abuse goods or services under a health benefit plan;

(6) Payments to or by a health care provider or health care facility, or a health care provider network entity, that has contracted with a health insurer, a health care purchasing group, or the Medicare or Medicaid program to provide health, mental health, or substance abuse goods or services under a health benefit plan when the payments are for goods or services under the plan;

(7) Insurance advertising and promotional gifts;

(8) Commissions or fees paid to a person or entity providing a referral service to nurses which provide health care services;

(9) Payments by a health care provider or health care facility to a health, mental health, or substance abuse information service that provides information upon request and without charge to consumers about providers of health care goods or services to enable consumers to select appropriate providers or facilities, provided that the information service:

(A) Does not attempt through its standard questions for solicitation of consumer criteria or through any other means

38 to steer or lead a consumer to select or consider selection of
39 a particular health care provider or health care facility;

40 (B) Does not provide or represent itself as providing
41 diagnostic or counseling services or assessments of illness
42 or injury and does not make any promises of cure or
43 guarantees of treatment;

44 (C) Does not provide or arrange for transportation of a
45 consumer to or from the location of a health care provider
46 or health care facility; and

47 (D) Charges and collects fees from a health care
48 provider or health care facility participating in its services
49 that are set in advance, are consistent with the fair market
50 value for those information services, and are not based on
51 the potential value of a patient or patients to a health care
52 provider or health care facility or of the goods or services
53 provided by the health care provider or health care facility.

54 (10) Payments made by an assisted living facility to an
55 individual employed by the assisted living facility, or with
56 whom the facility contracts to provide marketing services
57 for the facility, if the individual clearly indicates that he or
58 she works with or for the facility; and

59 (11) Payments made to a resident of an assisted living
60 facility who refers a friend, family members, or other
61 individuals with whom the resident has a personal
62 relationship to the assisted living facility, in which case the
63 assisted living facility may provide a monetary reward to
64 the resident for making the referral.

CHAPTER 281

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4434 - By Delegates Summers, Hill, Pack, Cowles, Foster, Rowan, Worrell, Barrett, Diserio, Swartzmiller and Angelucci)

[Passed March 3, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated †§5B-1-10, relating to the study of the health care workforce; defining terms; directing the Department of Commerce to issue a report; setting forth the contents of the report; requiring certain entities to report information; and deeming any information received by the department for the purpose of creating the report to be confidential trade secrets which are exempt from disclosure.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

†§5B-1-10. West Virginia Health Care Workforce Sustainability Study.

1 (a) As used in this section, the following words and
2 terms have the following meanings:

3 (1) "Continuum of Care" means the following health
4 care providers or facilities, singularly or consecutively, that
5 provide care for an individual:

6 (A) Assisted Living residence, as regulated and defined
7 by §16-5D-1 *et seq.* of this code;

† Redesignated

(B) Behavioral Health service, as defined by §16-2D-2(7) of this code;

(C) Hospice, as regulated and defined by §16-5I-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(D) Hospitals, as regulated and defined by §16-5B-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(E) Home Health agency, as regulated and defined by §16-2C-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(F) Skilled Nursing Facility/Nursing Home, as regulated and defined by §16-5C-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(G) Emergency Medical Service Agency, as defined by §16-4C-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(2) "Department" means the Department of Commerce, including any and all agencies 11 within the Department of Commerce.

(3) "Direct-care status" means health care providers that for the majority of time deliver care or services to individuals in such a manner that the provider could be personally identifiable by the recipient of services.

(4) "Entity" means an individual, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that employs or plans to employ skilled workers.

(5) "Government agency" means any state, county, municipal, or local public agency, board, committee, or division, including educational, vocational, and technical schools.

(6) "Health care facility" means a publicly or privately owned facility, agency, or entity that offers or provides health services, whether a for-profit or nonprofit entity and whether or not licensed, or required to be licensed, in whole or in part.

(7) "Health care provider" means a person authorized by law to provide professional health services in this state to an individual.

(8) "Health services" means clinically related preventive, diagnostic, treatment, or rehabilitative services.

(9) "Indirect-care status" means health care providers that for the majority of time perform managerial or administrative functions and are not in direct contact with consumers of care.

(10) "New graduate employee" means a health care provider within 18 months of graduation from a program qualifying the individual as a health care provider.

(11) "Private third-party" means an individual, partnership, corporation, or other legal entity that employs or plans to employ skilled workers in the workforce or that teaches, trains, certifies, or provides licensure for individuals in the workforce.

(12) "Report" means the report required to be completed and issued by the Secretary pursuant to this article.

(13) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

(14) "Separations" means the number of full-time or part-time employees leaving an entity voluntarily or involuntarily excluding per diem, contract, agency, or traveling health care professionals.

(15) "Workforce" means an individual employed by an entity within the continuum of care.

(b) On or before February 1, 2021, the Secretary shall research, survey, study, and issue a public report on the existing workforce in the continuum of care, as well as the anticipated future workforce needs over the next 15 years.

(c) In addition to being made publicly available, the completed report shall be provided to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability (LOCHHRA), created pursuant to §16-29E-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) In order to create the report required in this section in the most cost-effective and efficient manner, the Secretary may seek or obtain grants to facilitate the research, survey, and study; may enter into agreements with other governmental agencies, committees, research divisions, including educational institutions, for the collection and analysis of information; and may contract with private persons or companies: *Provided*, That any and all agreements, grants, or contracts for the assistance or sharing of information shall include confidentiality provisions consistent with the provisions of this section.

(e) The findings in the report shall summarize the data collected utilizing the categories and professions contained in this section. In presenting the findings, the report shall also break down its summaries on a statewide, regional, and county basis.

(f) The report, or any other disclosure of collected data, shall not identify specific entities, providers, or facilities, nor make specific correlation between an entity, provider, or facility and the workforce numbers at that entity, provider, or facility.

(g) To facilitate the timely collection and accuracy of data, the department is expressly authorized to seek, and specifically request, information from any entity, government agency, health care provider, health care facility, or private third-party: *Provided*, That the department shall only request information reasonably designed to elicit the information that is sought by this section, and in a manner intended to minimize obstruction to the requested entities providing necessary health services. Any entity, government agency, heath care

provider, health care facility, or private third-party in receipt of a survey or request for information from the department shall comply with the request and provide any and all requested information pertinent to the research, survey, and study.

(h) The department shall research, survey, and study the following aspects of the continuum of care workforce:

(1) The number of individuals employed;

(2) The number of full-time and part-time individuals so employed;

(3) The number of contract, agency, or traveling nurse or specialists utilized;

(4) The number of vacancies;

(5) The number of employee separations;

(6) The number of new graduate employee separations;

(7) The average number of patients/residents treated at each entity;

(8) The overall number of individuals licensed, certified, or registered by the state to work in the health care continuum;

(9) The current rate of licensure, certification, or registration by the state to work in the health care continuum;

(10) The anticipated growth in the number of individuals that will be licensed, certified, or registered in the state to work in the continuum of care over the next 15 years;

(11) The availability of classes or courses offered by secondary, vocational, technical, community, and higher education schools or institutions to train those necessitating

licensure, certification, or registration to work in the health care continuum; and

(12) The average number of graduates per year in those classes or courses offered to train those necessitating licensure, certification, or registration to work in the health care continuum.

(i) In collecting and reporting the data, the department shall utilize, at a minimum, the following categories and professions within the continuum of care:

(1) Categories of entities:

(i) Assisted Living;

(ii) Behavioral Health;

(iii) Hospice;

(iv) Hospital;

(v) Home Health;

(vi) Skilled Nursing Facility/Nursing Home; and

(vii) Emergency Medical Service Agency.

(2) Job Professions delineated by direct-care or indirect-care status:

(i) Physician (M.D./D.O.) by specialty;

(ii) Physician Assistant;

(iii) Advanced Practice Registered Nurse by role and certification;

(iv) Registered Nurse;

(v) Licensed Professional Nurse;

(vi) Nurse Aide;

(vii) Medical Assistant;

(viii) Dietician;

(ix) Social Worker;

(x) Physical Therapist;

(xi) Physical Therapy Assistant;

(xii) Occupational Therapist;

(xiii) Occupational Therapy Assistant;

(xiv) Speech Therapist;

(xv) Respiratory Therapist;

(xvi) Psychologist;

(xvii) MDS/coding specialist;

(xviii) Pharmacist;

(xix) Pharmacy Technician;

(xx) Radiologic Technologist; and

(xxi) Emergency Medical Service Personnel.

(j) Any material, data, or other writing made or received by the department for the purpose of conducting the research, survey, study, or report, is deemed to be confidential trade secrets which are exempt from disclosure under the provisions of §29B-1-4 of this code.

CHAPTER 282

(H. B. 4447 - By Delegates Lavender-Bowe, Lovejoy, Campbell, Pack, Evans, Zukoff, Boggs, Walker, Graves, Paynter and Estep-Burton)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-5S-9a, relating to creation of the shared table initiative for senior citizens who suffer from food insecurity; stating findings; acknowledging the success of a similar initiative in public schools; stating the purpose of the bill; granting rule-making authority with certain minimum contents; stating certain requirements for guidelines and guidance policies; stating certain requirements regarding health guidelines, compliance, and coverage; authorizing certain collaboration; and authorizing the Bureau for Senior Services to make certain requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5S. OLDER WEST VIRGINIANS ACT.

§16-5S-9a. Shared table initiative for senior citizens.

1 (a) The Legislature finds and determines that:

2 (1) The enactment of §18-5D-5 of this code, creating the
3 shared table initiative in West Virginia Schools has been a
4 major success;

5 (2) Shared table initiatives can be successful in other
6 settings;

(3) Senior citizens are often some of our most vulnerable citizens; and

(4) There is no reason for food already produced by senior centers and other services aiding seniors to be wasted when that could help improve the living conditions of senior citizens in need.

(b) Therefore, the purpose of this section is to establish a statewide initiative to facilitate shared tables at senior centers and similar facilities where congregate meals are provided to seniors in need. The Bureau for Senior Services shall promulgate a rule in accordance with §29A-3B-1, *et seq.* of this code that provides guidelines to senior centers and other locations where congregate meals are provided to senior citizens on the management and distribution of excess food consistent with state and county health department and United States Food and Drug Administration requirements and guidelines for the distribution of excess food. The guidance policy at a minimum shall provide a list of food products and methodologies for distribution that include, but are not limited to:

(1) The types of foods that may be distributed;

(2) Methods of distribution to make excess food available;

(3) Methods of distributing excess food to persons or organizations providing food to seniors suffering from food insecurity; and

(4) Methods to otherwise donate excess food to persons or organizations providing food to persons or families suffering from food insecurity.

(c) The preparation, safety, and donation of food made available to senior citizens during a congregate meal and donated to a food bank or any other nonprofit charitable organization for distribution shall comply with and be

thereby covered by the Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, §55-7D-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) The methods of distributing excess food to senior citizens may include a sharing table where food service staff, senior citizens, and volunteers may return appropriate food items consistent with the promulgated rule to make those food items available to senior citizens during the day.

(e) The Bureau for Senior Services may coordinate with the State Department of Education to obtain best practices advice on implementation and the rules promulgated by the Bureau for Senior Services may require some or all locations where congregate meals are served to senior citizens to participate in the shared table initiative.

CHAPTER 283

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4494 - By Delegates Bates, Cowles, Lavender-Bowe, Pack, Rohrbach, Shott, Ellington, Boggs, Hill, Espinosa and Skaff)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated as §16-9G-1 and §16-9G-2, all relating to expanding tobacco use reduction and cessation initiatives; creating a task force to undertake studies and monitor and advise the Division of Tobacco Prevention and recommend policies to the Legislature; setting forth duties of the Division of Tobacco Prevention; and authorizing the Division of Tobacco Prevention to apply and administer private grants and donations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 9G. TOBACCO CESSATION INITIATIVE.

§16-9G-1. Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Task Force.

(a) The West Virginia Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Task Force is created for the purpose of recommending and monitoring the establishment and management of programs that are found to be effective in the reduction of tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products use by all state citizens, with a strong focus on the prevention of children and young adults use of tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products.

(b) The task force shall have the following members:

(1) The Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health or his or her designee, who shall serve as chair;

(2) The Superintendent of the Department of Education or his or her designee;

(3) Ten members to be appointed by the Governor:

(A) A representative of a nationwide nonprofit organization dedicated to the elimination of cancer;

(B) A representative of a nonprofit national organization that funds cardiovascular medical research;

(C) A dentist, licensed pursuant to §30-4-1 *et seq.*, with an expertise in oral health;

(D) A physician, licensed pursuant to either §30-3-1 *et seq.* or §30-14-1 *et seq.* with expertise in health impacts associated with tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products consumption;

(E) A representative of a national voluntary health organization whose mission is to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy, and research;

(F) A representative who is certified from one of the programs accredited by the Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs or has received a National Certificate in Tobacco Treatment Practice, who has advanced education in evidence-based tobacco treatment competencies, skills, and practices;

(G) A representative from a national youth tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products prevention organization;

(H) A representative from the West Virginia Prevention First Network within the West Virginia Bureau for Behavioral Health; and

(I) Two citizen members that through professional or medical experience or advocacy are committed to work and advocate for cessation of tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products consumption in all forms in the state.

(c) The task force shall meet quarterly at the call of the chair to study, monitor, and recommend funding and initiation of programs that reduce tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products consumption in West Virginia, and to initiate studies and processes to provide the most efficient and effective use of the funds dedicated for this purpose. The task force shall include a variety of persons in the health care field, including individuals certified from one of the programs accredited by the Council for Tobacco Treatment Training Programs or received a National Certificate in Tobacco Treatment Practice, advocates, and citizens, with the intention of the Legislature to create a dynamic and innovative group to focus, monitor, and facilitate state resources towards this goal.

(d) The Director of the Division of Tobacco Prevention shall attend each task force meeting and shall provide staff support services for the task force. The task force shall

monitor the Division of Tobacco Prevention's programs and make recommendations to the division on expenditures and programs which are being administered by that office. The task force shall report annually to the Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Resources Accountability by December 1st, which shall include at a minimum, the following:

(1) An assessment of each program administered by the Division of Tobacco Prevention towards reducing tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products consumption and include an overview of its budget for the prior year and how state moneys and any other funding or grants received by the office are being expended that year;

(2) Review and analysis the types of tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products consumption practices in the state and identify emerging trends related to tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products delivery devices and related activities impacting tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products use, with particular emphasis on youth consumption trends and practices; and,

(3) Recommend for legislation or implementation of legislation, public policies; and funding of programs that can further facilitate a reduction in tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, or vapor products usage in our state.

§16-9G-2. Division of Tobacco Prevention.

In addition to administering and coordinating the program on tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products cessation, the Division of Tobacco Prevention may apply for and administer federal and private grants and donations made for the purpose of reducing and eliminating tobacco, tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products consumption in this state.

CHAPTER 284

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4557 - By Delegate Hill)
[By Request of the Department of Health and Human Resources]

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §27-9-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §27-17-3 of said code, all relating to behavioral health centers and group residential facilities; to include the ability to impose civil money penalties against such centers and facilities for good cause; to update obsolete terminology; and requiring legislative rule making.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 9. LICENSING OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTERS.

§27-9-1. License from Secretary of Health and Human Resources; regulations.

No behavioral health center shall provide behavioral health services unless a license is first obtained from the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources. The secretary shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.*, in regard to the operation of behavioral health centers. The secretary, or any person authorized by the secretary, has authority to investigate and inspect any licensed behavioral health center. The secretary may impose a civil money penalty, suspend, or revoke the license of any center for good cause after reasonable notice, including due process rights as provided in legislative rule.

ARTICLE 17. GROUP RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.

§27-17-3. License from Secretary of Health and Human Resources; regulations; and penalties.

(a) No group residential facility shall be established or operated unless a license is obtained from the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources. The secretary shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.*, including the operation of the group residential facility; a statement of the rights of patients in group residential facilities to ensure the adequate care and supervision of patients; and shall have the authority to investigate and inspect a facility, and may impose a civil money penalty, suspend or revoke the license for good cause after notice, hearing, and other due process rights as provided by legislative rule.

(b) A group residential home is not required to obtain a license from the secretary.

CHAPTER 285

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4620 - By Delegate Rohrbach)

[Passed March 3, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-59-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to certification of recovery residences; and clarifying that building code applies to certain structures; and clarifying that fire code applies to certain structures.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 59. CERTIFICATION OF RECOVERY RESIDENCES.

§16-59-2. Voluntary certification of recovery residences.

(a) The department shall contract with an entity to serve as the certifying agency for a voluntary certification program for drug-free and alcohol-free recovery residences based upon standards determined by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) or a similar entity. The certifying agency shall establish and implement an accreditation program for drug-free and alcohol-free recovery residences that shall maintain nationally recognized standards that:

(1) Uphold industry best practices and support a safe, healthy, and effective recovery environment;

(2) Evaluate the residence's ability to assist persons in achieving long-term recovery goals;

(3) Protect residents of drug- and alcohol-free housing against unreasonable and unfair practices in setting and collecting fee payments.

(b) The department shall require the recovery residence to submit the following:

(1) Documentation verifying certification as specified and administered by the certifying agency;

(2) If a municipality or county offers or requires verification of compliance with local building, maximum occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to single-family housing, documentation of verification by the municipality or county where the recovery residence is located stating that the recovery residence is in compliance.

(c) If a municipality or county offers or requires verification of compliance with local building, maximum occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to

single-family housing, the municipality or county must perform requested or required inspections within 30 days of receiving a request for verification. If a residence is located within a municipality or county that offers or requires verification of compliance with local building, maximum occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to single-family housing, and the municipality or county fails to perform requested or required inspections within 30 days of receiving a request for verification, the residence may apply for and be granted certification directly through the certifying agency without the aforementioned verification.

(d) Upon receiving a complete application, the certifying agency shall evaluate the residence to determine if the residence is in compliance with national best-practice standards and safety requirements. Additionally, any application of the items specified in this section must comply with the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. §3601 *et seq.* and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C. §12101 *et seq.*

(1) If it is determined that the residence is in compliance, the certification agency shall issue a certificate of compliance to the recovery residence operator for the specific recovery residence location set forth in the application.

(2) Each residence location, even if operated by the same person or entity, must maintain a certificate of compliance for the purposes of this article.

(e) The certifying agency may suspend or revoke a certificate of compliance if the recovery residence is not in compliance with any provision of this section or has failed to remedy any deficiency identified in writing and served by certified mail. Suspension or revocation may take place after a notice of deficiency is served and has existed for at least 30 days.

(f) The certifying agency shall implement and maintain a process by which a residence whose certification has been suspended or revoked may apply for and be granted reinstatement. If a municipality or county offers or requires verification of compliance with local building, maximum occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to single-family housing, and if the residence's certification suspended or revoked for noncompliance with local building, maximum occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to single-family housing, the municipality or county may charge a fee of up to $100 for any requested reinspection of a recovery residence by the residence seeking reinstatement.

(g) The department shall periodically evaluate the quality, integrity, and efficacy of the accreditation program developed. The department shall promulgate rules subject to legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement this section that shall include a process for receiving complaints against drug-free and alcohol-free recovery residences and criteria by which such residences' certifications can be revoked.

(h) A person may not advertise to the public any recovery residence as a "certified recovery residence" unless the recovery residence has first secured a certificate of compliance under this section. A person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than $1,000 nor more than $5,000 for each infraction.

(i) This article does not permit a structure that would not be normally classified as a single family dwelling to be exempt from the state building code or fire code.

(j) Nothing herein shall be read to require any recovery residence to obtain certifications set forth herein in order to conduct operations.

CHAPTER 286

(H. B. 4655 - By Delegates Howell, Hott, Summers, Maynard, C. Martin, Jennings, Staggers, Angelucci, Ellington, Hamrick and Fast)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-4C-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to automatic certification as an emergency medical technician-paramedic or emergency medical technician-basic upon application; providing that an applicant may have previously served in any branch of the United States military, National Guard, Coast Guard, or the Reserve Components of the Armed Services; providing that an applicant must have been honorably discharged within two years of application; providing for similar military job titles that bear a rational nexus to the training and education required by the commissioner to be certified as a paramedic or emergency medical technician; providing that the commissioner must issue a license upon review of the application; and providing that if an individual permits a certification to expire the commissioner may require examination as a condition of recertification.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4C. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ACT.

§16-4C-8. Standards for emergency medical services personnel.

1 (a) Every ambulance operated by an emergency medical
2 services agency shall carry at least two personnel. At least
3 one person shall be certified in cardiopulmonary

resuscitation or first aid and the person in the patient compartment shall be certified as an emergency medical technician-basic at a minimum except that in the case of a specialized multi-patient medical transport, only one staff person is required and that person shall be certified, at a minimum, at the level of an emergency medical technician-basic. The requirements of this subsection will remain in effect until revised by the legislative rule to be promulgated pursuant to §16-4C-8(b) of this code.

(b) On or before May 28, 2010, the commissioner shall submit a proposed legislative rule to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council for review, and on or before June 30, 2010, shall file the proposed legislative rule with the Office of the Secretary of State, in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, to establish certification standards for emergency medical vehicle operators and to revise the requirements for emergency medical services personnel.

(c) As of the effective date of the legislative rule to be promulgated pursuant to §16-4C-8(b), emergency medical services personnel who operate ambulances shall meet the requirements set forth in the legislative rule.

(d) Any person desiring emergency medical services personnel certification shall apply to the commissioner using forms and procedures prescribed by the commissioner. Upon receipt of the application, the commissioner shall determine whether the applicant meets the certification requirements and may examine the applicant if necessary to make that determination.

(e) The applicant shall submit to a national criminal background check, the requirement of which is declared to be not against public policy.

(1) The applicant shall meet all requirements necessary to accomplish the national criminal background check, including submitting fingerprints, and authorizing the West

Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services, the West Virginia State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to use all records submitted and produced for the purpose of screening the applicant for certification.

(2) The results of the national criminal background check may not be released to or by a private entity.

(3) The applicant shall submit a fee of $75 for initial certification and a fee of $50 for recertification. The fees set forth in this subsection remain in effect until modified by legislative rule.

(f) An application for an original, renewal or temporary emergency medical service personnel certificate or emergency medical services agency license, shall be acted upon by the commissioner and the certificate or license delivered or mailed, or a copy of any order of the commissioner denying any such application delivered or mailed to the applicant, within 15 days after the date upon which the complete application, including test scores and background checks, if applicable, was received by the commissioner.

(g) Any person may report to the commissioner or the Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services information he or she may have that appears to show that a person certified by the commissioner may have violated the provisions of this article or legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article. A person who is certified by the commissioner, who knows of or observes another person certified by the commissioner violating the provisions of this article or legislative rules promulgated pursuant to this article, has a duty to report the violation to the commissioner or director. Any person who reports or provides information in good faith is immune from civil liability.

(h) The commissioner may issue a temporary emergency medical services personnel certificate to an applicant, with or without examination of the applicant,

when he or she finds that issuance to be in the public interest. Unless suspended or revoked, a temporary certificate shall be valid initially for a period not exceeding 120 days and may not be renewed unless the commissioner finds the renewal to be in the public interest.

(i) For purposes of certification or recertification of emergency medical services personnel, the commissioner shall recognize and give full credit for all continuing education credits that have been approved or recognized by any state or nationally recognized accrediting body.

(j) Notwithstanding any other provision of code or rule, the commissioner recognizes that military personnel, National Guardsmen, members of the United States Coast Guard, and members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Services have advanced skills and training necessary to meet the requirements of this section to be certified as an emergency medical technician-paramedic upon application. Any person may seek automatic certification as an emergency medical technician-paramedic in this state if he or she has:

(1) Been honorably discharged from any branch of the United States military;

(2) Received paramedic or similar life-saving medical training in positions including, but not limited to, United States Army Combat Medic, United States Air Force Pararescue, United States Air Force Combat Rescue Officer, United States Navy Hospital Corpsman – Advanced Technical Field, United States Coast Guard Health Services Technician, National Guard Health Care Specialist, the Reserve Components of any of the preceding positions, or can otherwise demonstrate that his or her occupation in the military received substantially similar training to be certified as required by the commissioner; and

(3) Received an honorable discharge within two years of the application date.

(k) Notwithstanding any other provision of code or rule, the commissioner recognizes that military personnel, National Guardsmen, members of the United States Coast Guard, and members of the Reserve Components of the Armed Services have advanced skills and training necessary to meet the requirements of this section to be certified as an emergency medical technician-basic upon application. Any person may seek automatic certification as an emergency medical technician-basic in this state if he or she has:

(1) Been honorably discharged from any branch in the United States military;

(2) Received emergency medical technician training or similar life-saving medical training in positions including, but not limited to, United States Army Infantryman, United States Air Force Security Forces, United States Navy Hospital Corpsman, United States Coast Guard Aviation Survival Technician, United States Marines Infantryman, National Guard Infantryman, and Reserve Components of any of the preceding positions, or can otherwise demonstrate that his or her occupation in the military received substantially similar training to be certified as required by the commissioner; and

(3) Received an honorable discharge within two years of the application date.

(l) Upon reviewing an application for certification pursuant to subsection (j) and subsection (k) of this section, the commissioner shall issue an appropriate certificate to the individual applying for certification as an emergency medical technician-paramedic or emergency medical technician-basic without further examination or education. If an individual certified pursuant to this section permits his or her certification to expire, the commissioner may require examination as a condition of recertification.

CHAPTER 287

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4773 - By Delegates Zukoff, Rowan, Ellington, Staggers, Rohrbach, Lavender-Bowe, Estep-Burton, Pyles, Pushkin and Lovejoy)

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated †§16-5BB-1, all relating to creating a workgroup; designating members; authorizing workgroup to develop recommended protocols; authorizing workgroup to develop recommended education and training requirements; authorizing staff; providing for public hearings; providing for report; providing for sunset; authorizing screening protocols; and providing for effective date for screening protocols.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

†ARTICLE 5BB. SCREENING PROTOCOLS FOR ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.

†§16-5BB-1. Development of Screening Protocols for Adverse Childhood Experiences.

1 (a) The Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health
2 may form a workgroup to conduct a study of adverse
3 childhood experiences and their impact on the people of
4 West Virginia. The workgroup may be comprised of the
5 following members:

6 (1) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Children and
7 Families, or his or her designee;

† Redesignated

(2) The Dean of the West Virginia University School of Medicine, or his or her designee;

(3) The Dean of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, or his or her designee;

(4) The Dean of the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, or his or her designee;

(5) The Executive Director of the West Virginia Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, or his or her designee;

(6) The Director of the Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health, or his or her designee;

(7) Up to three representatives of primary care providers chosen by the West Virginia Primary Care Association;

(8) Up to three representatives of behavioral healthcare providers chosen by the West Virginia Behavioral Healthcare Providers Association;

(9) Up to two members chosen by the Adverse Childhood Experiences Coalition of West Virginia;

(10) One member chosen by the West Virginia Rural Health Association;

(11) One member chosen by the West Virginia Hospital Association;

(12) One member chosen by the West Virginia Nurses Association;

(13) One member chosen by the West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics;

(14) One member chosen by the West Virginia State Medical Association;

(15) One member chosen by the West Virginia Osteopathic Medical Association;

(16) One member chosen by the West Virginia Academy of Family Physicians;

(17) One member chosen by the West Virginia Association of Physician Assistants;

(18) One member chosen by the West Virginia Association of School Nurses;

(19) One member representing parents chosen by the West Virginia Circle of Parents Network;

(20) One member chosen by the West Virginia Foster, Adoptive and Kinship Network;

(21) The Commissioner of the Bureau for Behavioral Health, or his or her designee;

(22) One representative of the West Virginia Defending Childhood Initiative, commonly referred to as "Handle With Care," chosen by the West Virginia Children's Justice Task Force;

(23) One member chosen by the West Virginia Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and

(24) The West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools, or his or her designee.

(b) The Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health may designate additional persons who may participate in the meetings of the workgroup: *Provided*, That any such person must be the administrative head of the office or division whose functions necessitate his or her inclusion in this process.

65 (c) The workgroup may develop recommended
66 guidance, tools, and protocols for primary health care
67 practitioners to undertake the following:

68 (1) Provide information to patients regarding the impact
69 of adverse and positive childhood experiences on physical
70 and mental health, and the risks and benefits of screening
71 patients for adverse child experiences;

72 (2) Screen patients for adverse child experiences,
73 childhood trauma, and positive childhood experiences that
74 may impact a patient's physical or mental health or the
75 provision of health care services to the patient; and

76 (3) Within the context of a comprehensive systems
77 approach, provide clinical response that medical providers
78 should follow after screening, such as:

79 (A) Applying principles of trauma-informed care;

80 (B) Identification and treatment of adverse childhood
81 experiences and associated health conditions;

82 (C) Patient education about toxic stress and
83 buffering interventions, including supportive relationships,
84 mental health treatment, exercise, sleep hygiene, healthy
85 nutrition, and mindfulness and meditation practices;

86 (D) Validation of existing strengths and protective
87 factors;

88 (E) Referral to patient resources which may include, but
89 are not limited to, counseling and treatment programs,
90 community-based medical and non-medical resources, and
91 family support programs; and

92 (F) Follow-up as necessary.

93 (d) The workgroup may develop recommendations for
94 education and training requirements to be completed for

administering the screening process, trauma-informed care, and clinical response as described in this section.

(e) The Bureau for Public Health may provide staff for the workgroup. The workgroup may schedule one public hearing in each of the congressional districts in West Virginia as it relates to the screening protocols for adverse childhood experiences. The workgroup may develop and approve a final report by June 30, 2021, and a copy may be submitted to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance of the Legislature and the Governor. The workgroup will sunset on March 31, 2022.

(f) The Bureau for Public Health may develop screening protocols for adverse childhood experiences and make recommendations in a report to be submitted to the Governor no later than December 31, 2021: *Provided*, That prior to submission, the bureau may present its proposed screening protocols for adverse childhood experiences to the Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Resources within 90 days after development of the drafts and prior to submission of the final protocols to the Governor. The Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Resources shall have 90 days to review the standards and provide input to the bureau, which shall consider such input when developing the final standards for submission to the Governor. Upon submission to the Governor, the report may be distributed to all health care provider organizations in the state for consideration for adoption.

(g) Any screening protocols for adverse childhood experiences drafted pursuant to this section shall not become effective until on or after March 31, 2021.

CHAPTER 288

(H. B. 4437 - By Delegates J. Jeffries, Toney, Maynard and Porterfield)
[By Request of the State Auditor]

[Passed February 29, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §12-3A-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the West Virginia Pay Card program; and providing additional eligible unbanked recipients of a pay card.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3A. FINANCIAL ELECTRONIC COMMERCE.

§12-3A-4. Payment by a West Virginia pay card.

The State Auditor and the State Treasurer may jointly establish a state-stored value debit card program known as the "West Virginia Pay Card" for recipients of employee payroll, retirement benefits, entitlement programs, vocational rehabilitation services funds disbursed pursuant to §18-10A-6 of this code, foster care and adoption stipends, subsidies, and other payments made under programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Resources, payments to contractors of the state, or other eligible payees of state funds, who do not possess a federally insured depository institution account. The State Auditor and the State Treasurer shall use every reasonable effort to encourage all identified unbanked recipients to obtain a federally insured depository account. The State Auditor shall include an unbanked recipient in the program upon determining that good cause exists. Once an unbanked recipient is included in the program, the State Auditor shall

provide the State Treasurer with an electronic file containing the necessary unbanked recipient information. The State Treasurer shall issue a request for proposals in accordance with §12-3A-3 of this code to aid in the administration of the program. The State Auditor shall assist in the review of pay card proposals. In carrying out the purposes of this article, the State Treasurer shall not compete with banks or other federally insured financial institutions, or for profit.

CHAPTER 289

(H. B. 4665 - By Delegates Capito, Queen, Shott and Nelson)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §12-3-10d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to a decrease from 15.5 percent to 10 percent the amount transferred to the Purchasing Improvement Fund; and creating a transfer of five and one half percent to the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Investment Fund from fees generated by the use of the State Purchasing Card Program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. APPROPRIATIONS, EXPENDITURES AND DEDUCTIONS.

§12-3-10d. Purchasing Card Fund continued; expenditures.

(a) All money received by the state pursuant to any agreement with vendors providing purchasing charge cards, and any interest or other return earned on the money, shall

be deposited in a special revenue revolving fund, designated the Purchasing Card Administration Fund, in the State Treasury to be administered by the Auditor. The fund shall be used to pay all expenses incurred by the Auditor in the implementation and operation of the Purchasing Card Program and may be used to pay expenses related to the general operation of the Auditor's office. The Auditor also may use the fund to pay expenses incurred by spending units associated with the use of the card, including system and program enhancements, and inspection and monitoring of compliance with all applicable rules and procedures. Expenditures from the fund shall be made in accordance with appropriations by the Legislature pursuant to the provisions of §12-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and upon fulfillment of the provisions of §5A-2-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) Within three days of receiving rebate moneys resulting from state spending unit purchasing card purchases, the Auditor shall transfer 10 percent of such rebate moneys to the Purchasing Improvement Fund created pursuant to §5A-3-58 of this code.

(c) Within three days of receiving rebate moneys resulting from state spending unit purchasing card purchases, the Auditor shall transfer five and one half percent of such rebate moneys to the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Investment Fund, 10 percent of such rebate moneys to the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreation Authority and 10 percent of such moneys to the State Park Operating Fund.

CHAPTER 290

(S. B. 600 - By Senators Weld, Cline and Maroney)

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §15-1J-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to creating a special revenue account of the State Treasury designated the Military Authority Fund to be administered by the Adjutant General for all nonfederal government entity revenues and expenses received by the West Virginia Military Authority.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1J. THE WEST VIRGINIA MILITARY AUTHORITY ACT.

§15-1J-4. Establishment and general powers of the authority.

(a) The West Virginia Military Authority is hereby established to administer national security, homeland security and other military-related or sponsored programs.

(b) The authority will be administered by the Adjutant General and the Adjutant General's department.

(c) Funds provided by the federal government and any state funds authorized by appropriation of the Legislature used as a required match to secure federal funding for programs administered by the authority pursuant to this section shall be administered by the Adjutant General subject to the provisions of §4-11-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) Except as otherwise prohibited by statute, the authority, as a governmental instrumentality exercising

public powers of the state, shall have and may exercise all powers necessary or appropriate to carry out the purpose of this article, including the authority to:

(1) Execute cooperative agreements between the guard and the federal and/or state governments;

(2) Contract on behalf of the guard with the federal government, its instrumentalities and agencies, any state, territory, or the District of Columbia and its agencies and instrumentalities, municipalities, foreign governments, public bodies, private corporations, partnerships, associations, and individuals;

(3) Use funds administered by the authority pursuant to subsection (c) of this section for the maintenance, construction, or reconstruction of capital repair and replacement items as necessary and approved by the authority;

(4) Accept and use funds from the federal government, its instrumentalities and agencies, any state, territory, or the District of Columbia and its agencies and instrumentalities, municipalities, foreign governments, public bodies, private corporations, partnerships, associations, and individuals for the purposes of national security, homeland security, and other military-related or sponsored programs;

(5) Procure insurance with state funds through BRIM covering property and other assets of the authority in amounts and from insurers that BRIM determines necessary;

(6) Contract on behalf of the guard with the federal government, its instrumentalities, and agencies, any state, territory, or the District of Columbia and its agencies and instrumentalities, municipalities, foreign governments, public bodies, private corporations, partnerships, associations, and individuals for specialized technical services at a rate commensurate with industry standards as

determined by the Adjutant General to support specific activities related to national security, homeland security, and other military-related programs;

(7) Hire employees at an appropriate salary equivalent to a competitive wage rate;

(8) Enroll employees in PERS, PEIA, and workers' compensation and unemployment programs, or their equivalents: *Provided*, That the authority, through the receipt of federal and/or state funds, pays the required employer contributions;

(9) Cooperate with economic development agencies in efforts to promote the expansion of industrial, commercial, and manufacturing in the state;

(10) Develop a human resources division that will administer and manage its employees and receive state matching funds as necessary to ensure maximum federal funds are secured;

(11) Due to the at-will employment relationship with the authority, its employees may not avail themselves of the state grievance procedure as set forth in §29-6A-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(12) Have the ability to secure all other bonding, insurance, or other liability protections necessary for its employees to fulfill their duties and responsibilities.

(e) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special revenue account designated the Military Authority Fund which shall be administered by the Adjutant General. All revenues received from nonfederal government entities shall be deposited into the special revenue account and may be used by the Adjutant General in accordance with the provisions of this article.

CHAPTER 291

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 676 - By Senators Mann, Baldwin, Jeffries, Takubo, Weld, Roberts and Maroney)

[Passed February 13, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 2, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §15-2C-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting fees from the central abuse registry to be used for costs relating to information technology support and infrastructure; and permitting the term "criminal recordkeeping" to include data creation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2C. CENTRAL ABUSE REGISTRY.

§15-2C-6. Fees.

The criminal identification bureau may charge, and any requester shall pay, a user charge of $10 for each request for information made by a requester to the central abuse registry. In order to expedite requests by requesters, the criminal identification bureau may establish a procedure permitting service providers or qualified entities as defined in §15-2C-1 of this code to deposit funds with the bureau in anticipation of requests. Fees pursuant to this section shall be paid into a special account in the State Treasury to be expended for: (1) Registry purposes and criminal recordkeeping; (2) information technology support and infrastructure; and (3) technology-related hardware and/or software that is associated with the routine operations of the West Virginia State Police Criminal Identification Bureau,

including, but not limited to, the creation, transport, storage, and delivery of criminal justice information: *Provided*, That for and after the fiscal year ending June 30, 1998, all expenditures shall be made in accordance with appropriation by the Legislature. Amounts collected which are found from time-to-time to exceed the funds needed for central abuse registry and criminal recordkeeping purposes may be transferred to other accounts or funds and redesignated for other purposes by appropriation of the Legislature. For purposes of this section, the term "criminal recordkeeping" means the compiling of fingerprints, photographs, criminal disposition reports, uniform crime report statistics, and other relevant data regarding the arrest, conviction, incarceration, and post-conviction status of criminal violators and sex offenders.

CHAPTER 292

(S. B. 712 - By Senators Plymale, Woelfel, Jeffries, Stollings and Takubo)

[Passed February 28, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §5-2-24c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to correcting the name of the Forensic Analysis Laboratory of the Marshall University Forensic Science Center.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE.

§15-2-24c. Relationship with Marshall University Forensic Science Center.

(a) The Forensic Analysis Laboratory of the Marshall University Forensic Science Center is hereby declared to be engaged in the administration of criminal justice as that term is defined in 28 C. F. R. 20.3(b).

(b) The Marshall University Forensic Science Center and the West Virginia State Police shall confer with each other as to available grants or similar possible funding sources and applications therefor.

(c) To avoid duplicative and wasteful use of limited resources and to ensure maximum utilization of available funds, the West Virginia State Police shall have primacy of decisionmaking over the Marshall University Forensic Science Center with regard to applications for particular grants or funding in which both entities may have an interest to which the Marshall University Forensic Science Center shall accede.

(d) The West Virginia State Police and the Marshall University Forensic Science Center shall execute a written agreement to ensure compliance with the provisions of subsection (c) of this section.

CHAPTER 293

(S. B. 838 - By Senators Azinger, Baldwin, Beach, Clements, Cline, Hardesty, Jeffries, Lindsay, Maynard, Pitsenbarger, Romano, Rucker, Smith, Takubo, Weld, Woelfel and Trump)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §15-2-55, relating to directing the State Police, in collaboration with the Office of Drug Control Policy of the Department of Health and Human Resources, to establish a referral program for

substance abuse treatment; limiting certain persons from the category of those voluntarily seeking assistance; exempting persons seeking treatment from arrest and prosecution; directing the destruction of controlled substances received from persons seeking treatment; requiring referrals to treatment of persons seeking same; specifying persons who are ineligible for referral; immunizing the State Police and its employees civilly for making referrals; and exempting records of program from freedom of information disclosure.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE.

§15-2-55. Referral program for substance abuse treatment.

(a) The State Police shall create a program and may, in collaboration with the Office of Drug Control Policy of the Department of Health and Human Resources and existing state government programs to refer persons to treatment for substance use who voluntarily seek assistance from the State Police.

(b) A person voluntarily seeking assistance through a program created pursuant to this section and who is not under arrest or the subject of a search warrant:

(1) Shall not be placed under arrest;

(2) Shall not be prosecuted for the possession of any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia surrendered to the State Police. Items surrendered pursuant to this subdivision shall be recorded by the State Police at the time of surrender and shall be destroyed; and

(3) Shall be promptly referred to a community mental health center, medical provider, or other entity for substance use treatment.

(c) A person is ineligible for placement through a program established pursuant to this section if the person:

(1) Has an outstanding arrest warrant issued by a West Virginia court or an extraditable arrest warrant issued by a court of another state;

(2) Places law enforcement or its representatives in reasonable apprehension of physical injury; or

(3) Is under the age of 18, is not a danger to self or others, or does not have the consent of a parent or guardian.

(d) Information gathered by a program created pursuant to this section related to a person who has voluntarily sought assistance under this section is exempt from disclosure under the provisions of chapter 29B of this code.

(e) Except for willful misconduct, the State Police and any employee of the State Police that provides referrals or services in accordance with subsection (b) of this section shall be immune from civil liability.

CHAPTER 294

(S. B. 851 - By Senators Azinger, Baldwin, Beach, Clements, Cline, Hardesty, Jeffries, Lindsay, Maynard, Pitsenbarger, Romano, Rucker, Smith, Takubo, Weld, Woelfel and Trump)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §15-9-7, relating to requiring the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction to propose a legislative rule in coordination with law enforcement and certain medical boards; developing policies and protocols for law

enforcement and medical professionals to create treatment referral programs for persons suffering from substance use disorder; setting forth requirements for policies and protocols; providing that existing criminal charges not affected; providing civil immunity for law-enforcement officers and medical professionals; and requiring proposal of legislative and emergency rules.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 15. PUBLIC SAFETY.

ARTICLE 9. GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON CRIME, DELIQUENCY, AND CORRECTION.

§15-9-7. Coordinated program for substance abuse treatment referral.

(a) The committee shall, on or before December 31, 2020, establish a program to coordinate with state, county, and local law enforcement, the Board of Medicine, the Board of Osteopathic Medicine, and the Board of Pharmacy to develop policies and protocols for law enforcement and medical professionals to create treatment referral programs for persons suffering from substance use disorder which:

(1) Allow for the surrender of illegal controlled substances or unlawfully possessed controlled substances to law enforcement or medical professionals for destruction; and

(2) Establish a confidential treatment referral program for persons presenting themselves as suffering from substance use disorder.

(b) A person voluntarily seeking assistance through a program developed pursuant to this section shall:

(1) Not be placed under arrest;

(2) Not be prosecuted for the possession of any controlled substance or drug paraphernalia already ingested or surrendered; and

(3) Be promptly referred to a community-based mental health center, medical provider, or other entity in substance use treatment.

(c) Nothing in this section may be construed to effect criminal charges which may exist independent of the controlled substance ingested or surrendered or paraphernalia surrendered.

(d) Except for willful misconduct, any law-enforcement officer or medical professional providing services or a referral under this section is immune from criminal or civil liability.

(e) The committee and the medical professional boards referenced in this section shall propose rules for legislative approval pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to §29A-3-15 of this code to effectuate the purposes of this section.

CHAPTER 295

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4123 - By Delegates Maynard, Staggers, Evans, Higginbotham, Lavender-Bowe, Walker, Caputo, S. Brown, Estep-Burton and Swartzmiller)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §15-5-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §24-6-2

and §24-6-5 of said code, all relating to emergency telecommunication; defining terms; requiring each county answering point be operated constantly by an emergency telecommunicator; permitting directors of county emergency phone systems to obtain mobile phone emergency lines and enter into service provider contracts; establishing payment of emergency mobile phone contracts; and requiring a report.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 15. PUBLIC SAFETY.

ARTICLE 5. DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

§15-5-2. Definitions.

As used in this article:

"Board" means the West Virginia Disaster Recovery Board created by this article;

"Code" means the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended;

"Community facilities" means a specific work, or improvement within this state or a specific item of equipment or tangible personal property owned or operated by any political subdivision or nonprofit corporation and used within this state to provide any essential service to the general public;

"Disaster" means the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural or terrorist or man-made cause, including weapons of mass destruction, fire, flood, earthquake, wind, snow, storm, chemical or oil spill or other water or soil contamination, epidemic, air contamination, blight, drought, infestation or other public calamity requiring emergency action;

"Disaster recovery activities" means activities undertaken prior to, during or following a disaster to provide, or to participate in the provision of, emergency services, temporary housing, residential housing, essential business activities, and community facilities;

"Emergency services" means the preparation for and the carrying out of all emergency functions, other than functions for which military forces are primarily responsible, to protect, respond, and recover, to prevent, detect, deter, and mitigate, to minimize and repair injury and damage resulting from disasters or other event caused by flooding, terrorism, enemy attack, sabotage, or other natural or other man-made causes. These functions include, without limitation, firefighting services, police services, medical and health services, communications, emergency telecommunications, radiological, chemical, and other special weapons defense, evacuation of persons from stricken areas, emergency welfare services, emergency transportation, existing or properly assigned functions of plant protection, temporary restoration of public utility services and other functions related to the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of this state, together with all other activities necessary or incidental to the preparation for and carrying out of these functions. Disaster includes the imminent threat of disaster as well as its occurrence and any power or authority exercisable on account of a disaster that may be exercised during the period when there is an imminent threat;

"Essential business activities" means a specific work or improvement within this state or a specific item of equipment or tangible personal property used within this state by any person to provide any essential goods or service determined by the authority to be necessary for recovery from a disaster;

"Local organization for emergency services" means an organization created in accordance with the provisions of

this article by state or local authority to perform local emergency services function;

"Mobile support unit" means an organization for emergency services created in accordance with the provisions of this article by state or local authority to be dispatched by the Governor to supplement local organizations for emergency services in a stricken area;

"Person" means any individual, corporation, voluntary organization or entity, partnership, firm, or other association, organization, or entity organized or existing under the laws of this or any other state or country;

"Political subdivision" means any county or municipal corporation in this state;

"Recovery fund" means the West Virginia Disaster Recovery Trust Fund created by this article;

"Residential housing" means a specific work or improvement within this state undertaken primarily to provide dwelling accommodations, including the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of land, buildings and improvements thereto, for residential housing, including, but not limited to, facilities for temporary housing and emergency housing, and any other nonhousing facilities that are incidental or appurtenant thereto;

"Secretary" means the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety; and

"Temporary housing" means a specific work or improvement within this state undertaken primarily to provide dwelling accommodations, including the acquisition, construction or rehabilitation of land, buildings and improvements thereto, for temporary residential shelters or housing for victims of a disaster and such other nonhousing facilities that are incidental or appurtenant thereto.

CHAPTER 24. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

§24-6-2. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

"Commercial mobile radio service provider" or "CMRS provider" means cellular licensees, broadband personal communications services (PCS) licensees and specialized mobile radio (SMR) providers, as those terms are defined by the Federal Communications Commission, which offer on a post-paid or prepaid basis or via a combination of those two methods, real-time, two-way switched voice service that is interconnected with the public switched network and includes resellers of any commercial mobile radio service.

"County answering point" means a facility to which enhanced emergency telephone system calls for a county are initially routed for response and where county personnel respond to specific requests for emergency service by directly dispatching the appropriate emergency service provider, relaying a message to the appropriate provider or transferring the call to the appropriate provider.

"Emergency services organization" means the organization established under article five, chapter fifteen of this code.

"Emergency service provider" means any emergency services organization or public safety unit.

"Emergency telecommunicator" means a professional telecommunicator meeting the training requirements set forth in §24-6-5 and is a first responder tasked with the gathering of information related to medical emergencies, the provision of assistance and instructions by voice, prior to the arrival of emergency medical services (EMS), and the

dispatching and support of EMS resources responding to an emergency call.

"Emergency telephone system" means a telephone system which through normal telephone service facilities automatically connects a person dialing the primary emergency telephone number to an established public agency answering point, but does not include an enhanced emergency telephone system.

"Enhanced emergency telephone system" means a telephone system which automatically connects the person dialing the primary emergency number to the county answering point and in which the telephone network system automatically provides to personnel receiving the call, immediately on answering the call, information on the location and the telephone number from which the call is being made and, upon direction from the personnel receiving the call, routes or dispatches the call by telephone, radio or any other appropriate means of communication to emergency service providers that serve the location from which the call is made.

"Prepaid wireless calling service" means prepaid wireless calling service as defined in section two, article fifteen, chapter eleven of this code.

"Public agency" means the state and any municipality, county, public district or public authority which provides or has authority to provide firefighting, police, ambulance, medical, rescue or other emergency services.

"Public safety unit" means a functional division of a public agency which provides firefighting, police, medical, rescue or other emergency services.

"Telephone company" means any public utility and any CMRS provider which is engaged in the provision of telephone service whether primarily by means of wire or wireless facilities.

"Comprehensive plan" means a plan pertaining to the installing, modifying or replacing of telephone switching equipment; a telephone utility(s response in a timely manner to requests for emergency telephone service by a public agency; a telephone utility(s responsibility to report to the Public Service Commission; charges and tariffs for the services and facilities provided by a telephone utility; and access to an emergency telephone system by emergency service organizations.

"Technical and operational standards" means those standards of telephone equipment and processes necessary for the implementation of the comprehensive plan as defined in subdivision (11) of this subsection.

***§24-6-5. Enhanced emergency telephone system requirements.**

(a) An enhanced emergency telephone system, at a minimum, shall provide that:

(1) All the territory in the county, including every municipal corporation in the county, which is served by telephone company central office equipment that will permit such a system to be established shall be included in the system: *Provided*, That if a portion of the county or a portion of a municipal corporation within the county is already being served by an enhanced emergency telephone system, that portion of the county or municipality may be excluded from the county enhanced emergency telephone system;

(2) Every emergency service provider that provides emergency service within the territory of a county participate in the system;

(3) Each county answering point be operated constantly by an emergency telecommunicator;

***NOTE:** This section was also amended by S. B. 649 (Chapter 70), which passed prior to this act.

(4) Each emergency service provider participating in the system maintain a telephone number in addition to the one provided in the system; and

(5) If the county answering point personnel reasonably determine that a call is not an emergency, the personnel provide the caller with the number of the appropriate emergency service provider.

(b) To the extent possible, enhanced emergency telephone systems shall be centralized.

(c) In developing an enhanced emergency telephone system, a county commission or the West Virginia State Police shall seek the advice of both the telephone companies providing local exchange service within the county and the local emergency providers.

(d) As a condition of employment, a person employed as the director of an emergency dispatch center who dispatches emergency calls or supervises the dispatching of emergency call takers is subject to an investigation of his or her character and background. This investigation shall include, at a minimum, a criminal background check conducted by the State Police at its expense. A felony conviction shall preclude a person from holding any of these positions.

(e) As a condition of continued employment, persons employed to dispatch emergency calls in county emergency dispatch centers shall successfully complete:

(1) A 40-hour nationally recognized training course for dispatchers within one year of the date of their employment;

(2) A nationally recognized training course in emergency cardiovascular care for telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation selected by the medical director of an emergency medical dispatch center. This training course shall incorporate protocols for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest and compression-only

cardiopulmonary resuscitation and continuing education, as appropriate. The training requirements of this subdivision are effective not later than July 1, 2020. Persons employed subsequent to July 1, 2019, shall complete the training within one year of the date of employment; and

(3) An additional nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch course or an emergency medical dispatch course approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services within one year of the date of employment.

(f) The director of each county emergency dispatch center shall develop policies and procedures to establish a protocol for dispatching emergency medical calls implementing a nationally recognized emergency medical dispatch program, or an emergency medical dispatch program approved by the Office of Emergency Medical Services. If a county emergency dispatch center uses a one-button transfer system, it may continue to use this system if the county emergency dispatch center establishes policies and procedures requiring the agency to whom the call is transferred to remain on the call until a first responder arrives.

(g) Each county or municipality shall appoint for each answering point an enhanced emergency telephone system advisory board consisting of at least six members to monitor the operation of the system. The board shall be appointed by the county or municipality and shall include at least one member from affected:

(1) Fire service providers;

(2) Law-enforcement providers;

(3) Emergency medical providers;

(4) Emergency services providers participating in the system; and

(5) Counties or municipalities.

(6) The director of the county or municipal enhanced telephone system shall serve as an ex officio member of the advisory board.

(h) All appointments to the advisory board shall be for terms of three years, except that an appointment to fill a vacancy shall be for the unexpired term. All members shall serve without compensation. The board shall adopt any policies, rules, and regulations necessary for its own guidance. The board shall meet monthly or quarterly. The board may make recommendations to the county or municipality concerning the operation of the system.

(i) The establishment of multijurisdictional or regional systems, or multijurisdictional or regional agreements for the establishment of enhanced emergency telephone systems, and any system established pursuant to this article may include the territory of more than one public agency, or may include only a portion of the territory of a public agency.

(j) All public safety answering points that answer calls for emergency medical conditions shall, in the appropriate circumstances, provide telephonic assistance in administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation directly or transfer calls to a call center to provide assistance in administering telephonic cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

(k) The director of the county or municipal enhanced telephone system shall have the authority to enter into mobile-phone contracts with service providers for the purpose of obtaining a mobile-phone emergency line for the county or municipality. The director must solicit bids for mobile-phone contracts from mobile-phone service providers in this state. The director may award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder, or designate in writing, why any other bidder other than the lowest responsible bidder was awarded a contract. The director may obtain as many lines as reasonably needed for emergencies where landlines are unavailable to serve the county or

municipality. The director and phone service provider should collaborate to obtain the following:

(1) The emergency mobile-phone number may be the county prefix and end in 0911, as feasible for the phone service provider;

(2) The emergency mobile-phone service provider should permit roll-over service to allow multiple callers to dial into the amount of lines purchased; and

(3) The emergency mobile-phone service provider should provide the lowest possible cost.

Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit or discourage in any way the establishment of multijurisdictional or regional systems, or multijurisdictional or regional agreements for the establishment of emergency mobile-telephone systems. This section shall be effective July 1, 2020.

(l) Emergency mobile-phone contracts entered into pursuant to subsection (j) of this section may be paid from funds received by the Public Service Commission relating to 911 fees remitted to the county or by other county funds. A report of the funds expended for subsection (j) of this section shall be presented to the interim Joint Committee on Government Organization no later than November 30, 2020, to ensure the fiscal responsibility and efficacy of this section.

CHAPTER 296

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4176 - By Delegates Miller, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Miley, Shott, D. Kelly, Kessinger, Canestraro and Lovejoy)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated †§15A-12-1, †§15A-12-2, †§15A-12-3, †§15A-12-4, †§15A-12-5, †§15A-12-6, †§15A-12-7 and †§15A-12-8, all relating to establishing and delineating the powers, duties, and responsibilities of the West Virginia Fusion Center; requiring Governor to establish West Virginia Fusion Center and defining its purpose; providing that Department of Homeland Security will operate fusion center and provide legal counsel; prohibiting the Fusion Center from gathering information or intelligence information for a political purpose, except for the limited purposes of certain dignitary visits and to insure fair elections; providing Fusion Center or its officers, directors, agents, or employees shall not engage in prohibited non-law enforcement intelligence gathering activities on citizens of the United States; providing Fusion Center shall be housed in secure facilities; providing Fusion Center shall collaborate to fulfill duties of State Resiliency Office; providing for operations of Fusion Center; providing limitations upon when the Fusion Center may cooperate, with any federal agency, or a contractor for any federal agency; providing operations of the West Virginia Fusion Center shall be overseen by the cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security; providing cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary shall either have a current, valid federal security clearance at the

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appropriate level; providing cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary may adopt policies and procedures for the operation of the West Virginia Fusion Center; establishing positions of fusion center director and deputy director; creating joint select oversight committee and establishing committee membership and powers; mandating entities participating in fusion center enter into memorandum of understanding with center and setting out minimum requirements of memorandum; limiting access to fusion center of certain persons; making certain information in possession of center confidential and not subject to disclosure; providing exceptions to confidentiality of information; establishing immunity from subpoena for individuals possessing criminal intelligence information gained from access to fusion center information; setting criminal penalties for knowing dissemination of fusion center information; providing whistleblower protections; prohibiting certain conduct by fusion center contractors and employees; defining terms; making persons providing or receiving certain information to or from center immune from civil liability and exceptions thereto; allowing participating agencies to share in costs of operating center; creating West Virginia Fusion Center Fund, and delineating uses and purposes of such fund; and authorizing Commissioner of Department of Motor Vehicles to issue license plates for state-owned fusion center vehicles.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

†ARTICLE 12. WEST VIRGINIA FUSION CENTER.

†§15A-12-1. West Virginia Fusion Center Established.

1 (a) The Governor shall establish, organize, equip, staff,
2 and maintain a multiagency information fusion center
3 ("Fusion Center") to receive, analyze, and disseminate all
4 hazard, crime, and threat information. The Department of
5 Homeland Security shall operate the facility, as directed by
6 the Governor, with oversight auditing and accountability to
7 the select committee of the Legislature as set forth herein,

† Redesignated

and in collaboration among federal, state, and local agencies, as well as private sector persons, organizations, entities, or agencies, including, but not limited to, those with the primary purposes of homeland security, counter-terrorism, public safety, public protection, and critical infrastructure: *Provided*, That the Fusion Center shall not knowingly participate in activity, or knowingly cooperate, with any federal agency, or a contractor for any federal agency, when that participation or cooperation involves illegal or improper actions. Further, the Fusion Center shall not allow a federal agency or contractor for a federal agency to work inside the Fusion Center when it knows or has reason to know that such federal agency or federal contractor is presently engaged or intends to engage in unlawful intelligence-gathering activity against a citizen of West Virginia.

(b) The Fusion Center shall collect, integrate, analyze, disseminate, and maintain such information to support local, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies, other governmental agencies, and private persons, organizations, entities, or agencies in detecting, preventing, investigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from any possible or actual criminal or terrorist activity, as well as any hazard, including to the state's critical infrastructure, in compliance with applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including 28 CFR 23: *Provided*, That as used in this article, "terrorism" shall mean only foreign or international terrorist groups or individuals, or domestic groups or individuals involved in transnational or domestic terrorism as defined in 6 U.S.C. §485: *Provided, however*, That under no circumstance shall the Fusion Center or its officers, directors, agents, or employees engage in, or be ordered or directed to engage in prohibited non-law enforcement intelligence gathering activities on citizens of the United States as set forth in any federal or state law or in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, nor shall the Fusion Center engage in any information or intelligence gathering for any political purpose nor be

solicited for, or cooperate in, any investigation of a public official or candidate for elected office, unless reasonable grounds exist to suspect the subject of the investigation is, or may be, involved in criminal conduct. This provision shall not prohibit the Fusion Center from participating in matters dealing with election fraud, election tampering, or other issues designed to provide the citizens of the state with tamper-free elections, and shall not restrict the Fusion Center from assisting in security matters involving political or dignitary visits to or within the State of West Virginia.

(c) The West Virginia Fusion Center shall be housed within secure facilities in order to access sensitive information, as permitted by state and federal law. Within the secure facilities, the Fusion Center shall house a Homeland Secure Data Network (HSDN) in order to access classified information as permitted by state and federal law and ensure that appropriate security measures are in place for: (1) the secure facilities; (2) data collected or stored at the secure facilities; and (3) personnel working at the secure facilities.

(d) The West Virginia Fusion Center shall do all acts necessary and proper to carry out the powers granted to the board of the State Resiliency Office.

†§15A-12-2. Operation of center.

(a) The West Virginia Department of Homeland Security shall operate the West Virginia Fusion Center under the direction of the Governor, with oversight auditing and accountability to the select committee of the Legislature as set forth herein, and shall cooperate with the United States Department of Homeland Security, local, county, state, or federal government agencies, and private organizations: *Provided*, That the Fusion Center shall not knowingly participate in activity, or knowingly cooperate, with any federal agency, or a contractor for any federal agency, when that participation or cooperation involves illegal or improper actions. Further, the Fusion Center shall

† Redesignated

not allow a federal agency or contractor for a federal agency to work inside the Fusion Center when it knows or has reason to know that such federal agency or federal contractor is presently engaged or intends to engage in unlawful intelligence-gathering activity against a citizen of West Virginia: *Provided, however*, That all Fusion Center operations shall be subject to applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, 28 CFR Part 23, and shall at all times strictly abide by all restrictions and prohibitions against conducting non-law enforcement intelligence operations against U.S. citizens as set forth in any federal or state law or in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, 50 U.S.C. §3036(d).

(b) The West Virginia Fusion Center shall: (1) Be the primary clearinghouse for the State of West Virginia for the collection, analysis, and proper distribution of information and actionable intelligence as defined in this section; (2) generate intelligence analyses critical for homeland security policy and relevant threat warning in order to protect life, liberty, and property in West Virginia; (3) promote and improve intelligence sharing among public safety and public service agencies at the federal, state, and local levels, and with critical infrastructure and key resource entities within the private sector subject to all restrictions and prohibitions recited in this article; (4) receive and integrate intelligence and information related to terrorism and other homeland security threats; (5) collect, analyze, produce, disseminate, and maintain such intelligence and information, as allowed by law, to support local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, other governmental agencies, and private organizations in: preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from any possible or actual terrorist attack or other homeland security threat; and (6) maximize intelligence and information sharing in strict accordance with all applicable state and federal laws, restrictions, and prohibitions: *Provided*, That the Fusion Center shall not knowingly participate in

activity, or knowingly cooperate, with any federal agency, or a contractor for any federal agency, when that participation or cooperation involves illegal or improper actions. Further, the Fusion Center shall not allow a federal agency or contractor for a federal agency to work inside the Fusion Center when it knows or has reason to know that such federal agency or federal contractor is presently engaged or intends to engage in unlawful intelligence-gathering activity against a citizen of West Virginia.

(c) The Governor shall provide facilities, budget, and administrative support for the West Virginia Fusion Center and its employees and participants. The cabinet secretary shall serve as security manager for the West Virginia Fusion Center.

(d) Private sector persons, organizations, entities, or agencies participating in the West Virginia Fusion Center shall not be considered governmental entities, nor shall employees or agents of private sector persons, organizations, entities, or agencies assigned to the West Virginia Fusion Center be considered state employees; however, private sector entities and their employees or agents are subject to the same confidentiality requirements and held to the same standards as an employee of the West Virginia Fusion Center, including, but not limited to, any and all restrictions and prohibitions against conducting non-law enforcement intelligence operations against U.S. citizens as set forth in federal or state law or in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, 50 U.S.C. §3036(d): *Provided*, That the Fusion Center shall not knowingly participate in any activity, or knowingly cooperate, with any federal agency, or a contractor for or any person or entity utilizing or collaborating with any federal agency, when that participation or cooperation involves illegal or improper actions: *Provided, however,* that the Fusion Center shall not allow a federal agency or contractor for a federal agency to work inside the Fusion Center when it knows or has reason

to know that such federal agency or federal contractor is presently engaged or intends to engage in unlawful intelligence-gathering activity against a citizen of West Virginia.

(e) The operations of the West Virginia Fusion Center shall be overseen by the cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security, with oversight auditing and accountability to the select committee of the Legislature as set forth herein.

(f) The cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary shall either have a current, valid federal security clearance at the appropriate level, and training and certifications commensurate with the position, or be eligible for that clearance, and be in the process of obtaining the appropriate clearance.

(g) The cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary may adopt policies and procedures for the operation of the West Virginia Fusion Center. The cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary may adopt rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, including rules and regulations concerning the operations of the West Virginia Fusion Center: *Provided*, That all policies, procedures, rules, and regulations shall be subject to any and all restrictions and prohibitions against conducting non-law enforcement intelligence operations against U.S. citizens as set forth in federal or state law or in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, including but not limited to, 50 U.S.C. §3036(d).

(h) Subject to appropriations, the West Virginia Fusion Center shall have the following employees, all in the unclassified service of the civil service act:

(1) A director, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the cabinet secretary. The director shall either have a current, valid federal security clearance at the

appropriate level, and training and certifications commensurate with the position, or be eligible for that clearance, and be in the process of obtaining the appropriate clearance, and shall:

(A) Be responsible for all operations of the West Virginia Fusion Center and shall report to the cabinet secretary or deputy cabinet secretary;

(B) Be responsible for:

(i) Facilitating and implementing applicable federal standards and programs by the West Virginia Fusion Center;

(ii) Ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and federal requirements, including, but not limited to, any and all restrictions and prohibitions against conducting non-law enforcement intelligence operations against U.S. citizens as set forth in federal or state law or in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, 50 U.S.C. §3036(d);

(iii) Maintaining proper separation between military and civilian capacities;

(iv) Providing support, as needed, to the cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary; and

(v) Other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary, subject to all restrictions and prohibitions described in this article.

(2) A deputy director, who shall be appointed by and serve at the pleasure of the director. The deputy director shall either have a current, valid federal security clearance at the appropriate level, and training and certifications commensurate with the position, or be eligible for that clearance, and be in the process of obtaining the appropriate clearance, and shall be responsible for assisting the director

in: (A) facilitating and implementing applicable federal standards and programs by the West Virginia Fusion Center; (B) ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and federal requirements; (C) maintaining proper separation between military and civilian capacities; (D) providing support, as needed, to the cabinet secretary and deputy cabinet secretary; and (E) other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned by the Fusion Center director.

†§15A-12-3. Joint Oversight Committee.

(a) The Speaker of the House of Delegates and President of the Senate shall establish a select committee which shall have oversight of the information collected by the West Virginia Fusion Center to ensure the proper collection, dissemination, storage, and destruction of information or intelligence. The committee shall be composed of: (1) The Speaker of the House of Delegates and four members of the House of Delegates, to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, no more than two of whom shall be appointed from the same political party; and (2) the President of the Senate and four members of the Senate, to be appointed by the President of the Senate, no more than two of whom shall be from the same political party; and counsel and staff to the Speaker and the Senate President: *Provided*, That in the event the membership of a political party is less than 15 percent in the House of Delegates or Senate, then the membership of that political party from the legislative house with less than 15 percent membership may be one from that house. The committee shall be chaired by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. All members appointed to the select committee by the select committee chairs serve until their successors are appointed as provided in this section. The select committee members, counsel, and staff must have the appropriate security clearance in order to obtain information that is classified and shall be subject to the same rules, regulations, and laws as the employees of the West Virginia Fusion Center for safeguarding both classified and law enforcement sensitive information or intelligence. These

† Redesignated

select committee members, counsel, and staff shall be advised of the restrictions and protocol for handling such information or intelligence and shall sign a statement of understanding as well as a confidentiality agreement.

(b) Members of the select committee may enter and inspect the West Virginia Fusion Center at any time staff is present with select committee counsel and staff, with or without notice to the West Virginia Fusion Center.

(c) Meetings of the select committee shall be confidential and the information and materials, in any medium, including hard copy and electronic, coming to the attention of or placed in the custody of the Select Committee shall not be subject to the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act as set forth in §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) The select committee may conduct proceedings in a confidential executive session for the purpose of conducting business, establishing policy, reviewing investigations, and interrogating a witness or witnesses.

(e) All witnesses appearing before the select committee shall testify under oath or affirmation, and any member of the select committee or its counsel may administer oaths or affirmations to such witnesses. To compel witnesses to attend a hearing or produce any books, records, documents, or papers, or any other tangible thing except where the records, documents, data, or items are protected from disclosure by privilege recognized by state or federal courts, the select committee may issue subpoenas, signed by one of the co-chairs: *Provided*, That the select committee may specifically authorize or delegate the power to any member of the select committee to sign subpoenas on its behalf. The subpoenas shall be served by any person authorized by law to serve and execute legal process, and service shall be made without charge. Witnesses subpoenaed to attend hearings shall be allowed the same mileage and per diem as is allowed witnesses before any petit jury in this state.

(f) If any person subpoenaed to appear at any hearing shall refuse to appear or to answer inquiries there propounded, or shall fail or refuse to produce books, records, documents, papers, or any other tangible thing within his or her control when the same are demanded, the select committee shall report the facts to the circuit court of Kanawha County or any other court of competent jurisdiction and that court may compel obedience to the subpoena as though the subpoena had been issued by that court in the first instance: *Provided*, That prior to seeking circuit court relief, the select committee may, in its discretion, first demand the Secretary of Homeland Security or the director of the West Virginia Fusion Center under whom an employee has failed to appear or which has failed to produce requested or subpoenaed material to appear before the select committee and address the basis for the failure to comply and whether compliance will be forthcoming.

(g) The select committee may direct the West Virginia Fusion Center to send its budgetary accounting to the State Auditor: *Provided*, That if budgetary expenditures are classified, or security or law enforcement sensitive such that disclosure would compromise an investigation, those entry descriptions, but not the expenditure amounts, may be redacted from the West Virginia Fusion Center accounting provided to the State Auditor: *Provided, however*, That the State Auditor shall bring any accounting issues of concern to the attention of the select committee, upon which the select committee shall subpoena the West Virginia Fusion Center for unredacted copies of the accounting items to be presented for explanation and justification of the necessity and legality of the concerns raised by the State Auditor. The select committee may take whatever action it deems necessary, if any, after review and analysis of the subpoenaed unredacted materials.

†§15A-12-4. Memoranda of understanding required.

(a) Each governmental and nongovernmental entity participating in the West Virginia Fusion Center shall enter

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a memorandum of understanding between the West Virginia Fusion Center and the participating entity. The memorandum of understanding shall at a minimum:

(1) Provide a framework and working mechanism for the organization of the West Virginia Fusion Center to address issues that are common to city, county, state, and federal governments' obligations to protect the safety and well-being of citizens and to enhance the success of the Fusion Center in responding to criminal, terrorist, and other threats to public safety through the achievement of coordination and cooperation;

(2) Clarify the working relationships between the governmental and nongovernmental entities and use limitations of shared information; and

(3) Outline the intent of the parties regarding the information provided by the governmental and non-governmental entities to the West Virginia Fusion Center.

(b) Nothing in any agreement shall obligate any nongovernmental entity to provide information nor establish any duty for any nongovernmental entity to assume any police or law enforcement responsibilities.

(c) Failure of any governmental or nongovernmental entity to abide by the restrictions and use limitations set forth by the West Virginia Fusion Center may result in the suspension or termination of use privileges, discipline sanctions imposed by the user's employing agency, or criminal prosecution.

(d) Any and all interagency memoranda of understanding and participating public or private persons, organizations, entities, or agencies described in this section shall be subject to all restrictions and prohibitions described in this section.

†§15A-12-5. Confidentiality and immunity from service of process; penalties.

† Redesignated

(a) Papers, records, documents, reports, materials, databases, or other evidence or information relative to criminal intelligence, any terrorism investigation, threat assessment, or information on infrastructure which if released would compromise the public safety in the possession of the West Virginia Fusion Center shall be confidential and shall not be subject to the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code): *Provided*, That this exemption from the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act may be lifted in the event a court determines in a state or federal whistleblower action that unlawful or unauthorized activity has taken place, and shall in no way restrict the Legislature's select oversight committee from access to all such information. Every five years, the West Virginia Fusion Center shall conduct a review of information contained in any database maintained by the West Virginia Fusion Center. Data that has been determined not to have a nexus to criminal or terrorist activity shall be removed from such database. A reasonable suspicion standard shall be applied when determining whether or not information has a nexus to terrorist activity for non-U.S. citizens, but a probable cause standard shall apply for U.S. citizens: *Provided, however*, That all such determinations shall be reported to the Legislature's select oversight committee at regularly scheduled oversight audit and committee meetings.

(b) No person having access to information maintained by the West Virginia Fusion Center shall be subject to subpoena in a civil action in any court of the state to testify concerning a matter of which he has knowledge pursuant to his access to criminal intelligence information maintained by the West Virginia Fusion Center.

(c) No person or agency receiving information from the West Virginia Fusion Center shall release or disseminate that information without prior authorization from the West Virginia Fusion Center.

(d) Intelligence data in the possession of a criminal or juvenile justice agency, state or federal regulatory agency, or peace officer, or disseminated by such agency or peace officer, are confidential records under §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(e) Any person who knowingly disseminates information in violation of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than $200 nor more than $1,000, or be confined in jail for not more than 20 days, or both fined and confined. If such unauthorized dissemination results in death or serious bodily injury to another person, such person is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility not less than one nor more than five years: *Provided*, That all state and federal Whistleblower Protection Act protections shall apply to any person whose disclosures are found to have been made to report or protect against violation or attempted violation of any and all restrictions and prohibitions against conducting non-law enforcement intelligence operations against U.S. citizens as set forth in federal or state law or in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, 50 U.S.C. §3036(d).

(f) Any person, being an officer or employee of the United States, the State of West Virginia or of any department, agency, or political subdivision thereof, or any person from the private sector or industry assigned to or working with the West Virginia Fusion Center in any capacity, who knowingly publishes, divulges, discloses, or makes known in any manner, or to any extent not authorized by law, any critical infrastructure or national intelligence information protected from disclosure by this section coming to him or her in the course of his or her employment, affiliation, or official duties with the West Virginia Fusion Center, or by reason of any examination or investigation made by, return, report, or record made to or filed with, such department or agency, officer or employee thereof, shall be

guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one year, and shall be removed from office or employment and affiliation with the West Virginia Fusion Center: *Provided*, That all state and federal Whistleblower Protection Act protections shall apply to any person whose disclosures are found to have been made to report or protect against violation or attempted violation of any and all restrictions and prohibitions against conducting non-law enforcement intelligence operations against U.S. citizens as set forth in federal or state law or in contravention of the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, 50 U.S.C. §3036(d).

(g) The West Virginia Department of Homeland Security shall provide legal counsel to the West Virginia Fusion Center to serve as privacy and civil liberties counsel to the West Virginia Fusion Center. Such attorney shall advise the West Virginia Fusion Center director and its deputy director on all matters necessary to ensure compliance with all applicable federal and state privacy or civil liberties laws, obligations, restrictions, and prohibitions as set forth herein.

(h) For purposes of this article:

(1) "Criminal intelligence information" means data or information that has been evaluated and determined to be relevant to the identification and criminal activity of individuals or organizations that are reasonably suspected of involvement in criminal activity.

(2) "Critical Infrastructure" means systems and assets as defined in 42 U.S.C. § 5195c(e).

(3) "National Intelligence" means data or information determined to meet the definition stated in 50 U.S.C. §3003 (5): *Provided*, That Fusion Center activities and operations relating to National Intelligence shall at all times strictly abide by all restrictions and prohibitions against conducting non-law enforcement intelligence operations against U.S. citizens as set forth in federal or state law or in

contravention of the Constitution of the United States, including, but not limited to, 50 U.S.C. §3036(d).

†§15A-12-6. Receipt of information; immunity from liability.

(a) No cause of action for defamation, invasion of privacy, or negligence shall arise against any person by reason of that person's furnishing information concerning any suspected, anticipated, or completed criminal violation or terrorist activity when the information is provided to or received from the West Virginia Fusion Center or any federal, state, or local governmental or private sector entity established for the purpose of detecting and preventing acts of criminal activity or terrorism: *Provided*, That with regard to any Fusion Center intelligence or information gathering activity or operation against a U.S. Citizen related to alleged terrorism or violation of a law, such allegation must be vetted and confirmed by procedures substantially in compliance with those set forth in laws, rules, and regulations developed in accordance with 50 U.S.C. §3036(d).

(b) No person shall be subject to such cause of action for cooperating with or furnishing evidence or information regarding any suspected criminal violation to the West Virginia Fusion Center.

(c) This section shall not provide immunity for those disclosing or furnishing false information with malice or willful intent to injure any person, nor for any person who does not comply with the procedures set forth in §15A-9-6(a) of this code.

(d) This section does not in any way abrogate or modify common law or statutory privilege or immunity heretofore enjoyed by any person or entity.

†§15A-12-7. Costs.

(a) The director, with approval of the cabinet secretary or deputy cabinet secretary, may enter into agreements with participating agencies or organizations, whether public or

† Redesignated

private, for their participation in the West Virginia Fusion Center. Such agreements: (1) Shall define the duties and responsibilities of each participating agency or organization; (2) may provide for payment by the participating agency or organization of a reasonable share of the cost to establish, maintain, and operate the West Virginia Fusion Center; and (3) shall require compliance with all requirements, restrictions, and prohibitions set forth in this article.

(b)(1) The West Virginia Fusion Center, with approval of the cabinet secretary or deputy cabinet secretary, may accept any gift, grant, payment, moneys, or assets seized by forfeiture as a result of collaborative efforts or contribution from any source, public or private, for the purpose of paying the costs to establish, maintain, or operate the West Virginia Fusion Center. Such gift, grant, payment, moneys, or assets seized by forfeiture as a result of collaborative works or contribution may be in the form of services, equipment, supplies, materials, or funds. All amounts received under this section shall be remitted to the State Treasurer in accordance with chapter 12 of this code, and the amendments thereto. Upon receipt of each such remittance, the State Treasurer shall deposit the entire amount in the State Treasury to the credit of the West Virginia Fusion Center Fund, that is hereby created in the State Treasury and shall be administered by the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security in accordance with this article and subject to regular auditing and oversight by the Legislature's select oversight committee.

(2) Moneys in the West Virginia Fusion Center Fund may be used by the director to pay any costs associated with establishing, maintaining, or operating the West Virginia Fusion Center. The director of the West Virginia Fusion Center Fund shall develop policy and procedures for purchasing, and expenditures shall be made in accordance with vouchers approved by the director or the director's designee. Any gift, grant, payment, moneys, or any assets seized by forfeiture as a result of collaborative efforts, or

contribution in any form other than funds may be accepted by the director, with approval of the cabinet secretary, and utilized and expended in any manner authorized by law to establish, maintain, or operate the West Virginia Fusion Center: *Provided*, That all moneys used by the director shall be subject to all restrictions and prohibitions set forth in this article, and also to regular auditing and oversight by the Legislature's select oversight committee.

(3) The moneys credited to the fund created in subsection (b) of this section shall be used for the purposes set forth in this section and for no other governmental purposes. It is the intent of the Legislature that the moneys deposited in this fund shall remain intact and inviolate for the purposes set forth in this act.

†§15A-12-8. Registration plates to official vehicles used in agency activities.

Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles is authorized to issue Class A license plates to authorized state-owned vehicles operated by the West Virginia Fusion Center when the director signs a written affidavit stating that the vehicle or vehicles for which the plates are being requested will be used by the West Virginia Fusion Center in fulfilling its mission.

† Redesignated

CHAPTER 297

(H. B. 4178 - By Delegates Miller, Lovejoy, Lavender-Bowe, D. Kelly, Hansen and S. Brown)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §24-6-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring calls which are recorded be maintained for a period of two years.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

§24-6-13. Confidentiality of certain calls to county answering points and records; retention of records.

(a) Except as provided by the provisions of this section, calls for emergency service to a county answering point are not confidential. All calls for emergency service reporting alleged criminal conduct which are recorded electronically, in writing or in any other form are to be kept confidential by the county answering point receiving the call and may be released only pursuant to an order entered by a court of competent jurisdiction, a valid subpoena or through the course of discovery in a criminal action requiring the release of the information: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this section may be construed as preventing the county answering point from releasing information to a responding agency as may be necessary for that agency's response on a call or the completion of necessary reports relating to that call.

(b) Upon proper request and payment of a reasonable fee set by the center director to cover the cost of production, a person or entity may obtain, without court order or a valid subpoena, a transcription of a call for emergency service reporting alleged criminal conduct. The answering point shall exclude from the transcription any information relating to the identity of the caller including, but not limited to, the caller's name, address, telephone number or his or her location in relation to the alleged offense or the alleged perpetrator. If the transcript of a call is such that it cannot be successfully redacted so as to protect the identity of the caller, the answering point may decline to provide the transcript. In that case, the person requesting the transcription may apply to a court of competent jurisdiction for a court order releasing the transcript.

(c) All calls for emergency service which are recorded electronically, in writing or in any other form are to be maintained for a period of at least two years or longer if required by an order entered by a court of competent jurisdiction or a valid subpoena.

(d) A county answering point may release information to bonafide law-enforcement agencies, the prosecuting attorney of a county or a United States attorney pursuant to a lawful criminal investigation. Nothing in this article may be construed as prohibiting a freedom of information request under §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code for information relating to the operation of the center or to calls for emergency service which do not involve reporting of alleged criminal conduct.

(e) Nothing in this article requires disclosure of any information that is specifically exempt from disclosure by statute. Except as otherwise provided in this article, nothing prohibits disclosure of information that is not specifically exempted from disclosure under a provision of this code.

(f) Every county answering point shall, within 90 days of the effective date of this section, promulgate a written

policy, available to the public, reflecting its compliance with the provisions of this section.

(g) No answering point or center personnel may be civilly liable for any injury arising from disclosure of information pursuant to the provisions of this section.

CHAPTER 298

(H. B. 4409 - By Delegates Maynard, J. Jeffries, Householder, Summers, Jennings, Linville, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Graves, Lovejoy, Miller and Nelson)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §33-3-33a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to transferring funds from the Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund to the Fire Service Equipment and Training Fund; and extending the sunset date to June 30, 2022.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. LICENSING, FEES AND TAXATION OF INSURERS.

§33-3-33a. Excess moneys of Fire Protection Fund deposited into Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund; other funding; special report from State Fire Marshal by December 15, 2015; termination of program June 30, 2022.

(a) There is hereby established a special fund in the State Treasury known as the Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund. The fund shall be administered by the State Auditor and shall consist

of moneys deposited in the fund pursuant to this section, any other funds appropriated by the Legislature for volunteer fire departments for the purposes of §12-4-14a of this code, and the interest or other earnings on the moneys in the fund. The State Auditor shall administer the distribution of moneys of the fund to volunteer fire departments to help defray workers' compensation insurance premium increases pursuant to said section. Balances in the fund at the end of any fiscal year may not expire but shall be expended for those purposes in ensuing fiscal years pursuant to appropriation of the Legislature.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2013, and in each fiscal year thereafter until June 30, 2022, the excess of the aggregate of amounts collected by the commissioner that are otherwise required under any provision of this code to be deposited into the Fire Protection Fund over the aggregate of those amounts deposited into the Fire Protection Fund during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, shall be deposited into the Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund and expended solely for the purposes established in §12-4-14a of this code.

(c) On or before August 1, 2013, the commissioner shall transfer $4 million from the Fire Marshal Fees Fund created under §29-3-12b of this code to the Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund to be expended solely for the purposes established in §12-4-14a of this code until June 30, 2022.

(d) The State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Insurance Commissioner, the State Auditor, the Secretary of Revenue and the Legislative Auditor, shall conduct a review of the needs of each volunteer or part volunteer fire company or volunteer fire department serving in the various counties of the state. On or before December 31, 2015, the State Fire Marshal shall submit to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance a comprehensive report of the review and the State Fire Marshal's recommendations, substantiated by the findings of the review, of steps that may

be taken to meet the needs of and sustain the volunteer and part volunteer fire companies and volunteer fire departments of this state, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) An assessment of all current funding received by the volunteer fire companies and departments, and a further assessment of the funding necessary to provide the community protections required for the areas served by the volunteer fire companies and departments, the extent to which those needs are being met, the extent to which they are not being met, and recommendations of sources of funds to meet additional needs and the amounts needed, if any;

(2) An assessment of the cost of workers' compensation coverage for the volunteer fire companies and departments and recommendations for any actions that may be undertaken by the volunteer fire companies and departments and others to reduce those costs;

(3) An assessment of the causes of any decline in recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters and recommendations for improvements in this area, including any recommendations for incentives that have a demonstrated record of significant increases in recruitment and retention as well as recommendations of sources of funds to provide those incentives, if funds are necessary;

(4) An assessment of the level of financial accountability that should be required of volunteer fire companies and departments in order to provide the Legislature the information necessary to target future funding for their activities based upon the safety and fire protection needs of the various areas of the state;

(5) An assessment of the comparative levels of funding for volunteer fire companies and departments provided by counties, municipalities and other political subdivisions and the means by which that funding is provided, including identification of those which contribute little or no funding

to the volunteer fire companies and departments within their jurisdictions, together with recommendations for increasing those levels of contributions;

(6) An assessment of the comparative levels of funding for volunteer fire companies and departments provided by their own efforts, and the means by which that funding is provided, including identification of those which provide little or no funding through their own efforts, together with recommendations for increasing these sources of funding;

(7) An assessment of the comparative economic and other benefits provided by the various volunteer fire companies and departments to their particular counties, municipalities and other political subdivisions, as well as to citizens of the local communities they serve;

(8) An assessment of the sustainability of the current model of providing fire and other protections to the citizens of rural communities through volunteer fire companies and departments and an assessment of alternative models for providing those protections; and

(9) Other assessments and recommendations which the State Fire Marshal deems appropriate in the circumstances.

(e) Upon the conclusion of the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, the provisions of this section and §12-4-14a of this code shall expire and be of no further force and effect and the Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund shall be closed. Upon closure of the fund, from any balances therein remaining, the State Auditor shall first, to the extent available, transfer to the Fire Protection Fund an amount equal to the aggregate of funds deposited into the Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund during the fiscal years ending June 30, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 pursuant to subsection (b) of this section that would otherwise have been required to be deposited into the Fire Protection Fund, and any balances

thereafter remaining in the Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund shall expire to the General Revenue Fund of the state. Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, on June 30, 2020, the State Auditor shall transfer one million eight hundred thousand dollars from the Volunteer Fire Department Workers' Compensation Premium Subsidy Fund to the Fire Service Equipment and Training Fund created pursuant to §29-3-5f of this code.

CHAPTER 299

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4444 - By Delegates Linville, Rohrbach, Lovejoy, Mandt, Worrell, Miller, Maynard, Little, Summers, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and D. Kelly)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §29-32-1, §29-32-2, §29-32-3, §29-32-4, and §29-32-5, all relating to establishing Medals of Valor for emergency medical service members, firefighters, and law-enforcement officers; establishing the Medal of Valor; establishing criteria for awarding the Medal of Valor; prohibiting awarding of Medal of Valor in any manner than otherwise set forth in this article; establishing the Firefighters Honors Board to recommend persons to receive the Medal of Valor; establishing the Law-Enforcement Honor Board to recommend persons to receive the Medal of Valor; establishing the Emergency Medical Services Honor Board to recommend persons to receive the Medal of Valor; providing duties and purpose of each board; setting forth the membership of each board, the manner of

membership selection, and the terms and conditions of service; setting forth process for identifying candidates to receive Medal of Valor; setting forth process for considering candidates to receive Medal of Valor; providing for submission of nominated persons to Speaker of the House of Delegates and President of the Senate; directing Governor to issue Medal of Valor to nominee upon adoption of concurrent resolution by Legislature; and directing the Department of Arts, Culture and History create design for Medal of Valor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 32. MEDALS OF VALOR.

§29-32-1. Medal of Valor.

(a) There is hereby established a Medal of Valor to be awarded to firefighters, law-enforcement officers, and emergency medical services personnel who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of their duties.

(b) A Medal of Valor can only be awarded in the manner set forth in this article.

§29-32-2. Firefighters Honor Board.

(a) The Firefighters Honor Board is hereby established as an advisory board to the Legislature. The purpose of the board is to recommend to the Legislature, firefighters in West Virginia who have distinguished themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of their duties, to be awarded a Medal of Valor.

(b) Board membership. —

(1) The board shall consist of two members from each of the state's senatorial districts. Each state senator shall appoint one member representing his or her district.

(2) The board shall be composed of firefighters, fire chiefs, and other professionals who are qualified to evaluate and determine whether the actions of firefighters rise to the level of being above and beyond the call of duty.

(3) Members shall serve a one-year term and shall serve without compensation.

(c) The board may consider candidates for the Medal of Valor who are identified by members of the board or by other citizens, and may design a system for the receipt of those recommendations.

(d) The board shall review identified individuals to determine if those firefighters have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their professional capacities. Upon determination that a firefighter is worthy of this honor, the board shall submit the nomination to the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate for consideration by the Legislature.

§29-32-3. Law Enforcement Officers Honor Board.

(a) The Law Enforcement Officers Honor Board is hereby established as an advisory board to the Legislature. The purpose of the board is to recommend to the Legislature, law enforcement officers in West Virginia who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of their duties, to be awarded a Medal of Valor.

(b) Board membership. —

(1) The board shall consist of two members from each of the state's senatorial districts. Each state senator shall appoint one member representing his or her district.

(2) The board shall be composed of law enforcement officials, such as sheriffs and police chiefs, and other professionals who are qualified to evaluate and determine

whether the actions of law enforcement officers rise to the level of being above and beyond the call of duty.

(3) Members shall serve a one-year term and shall serve without compensation.

(c) The board may consider candidates for the Medal of Valor who are identified by members of the board or by other citizens, and may design a system for the receipt of those recommendations.

(d) The board shall review identified individuals to determine if those law enforcement officers have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their professional capacities. Upon determination that a law enforcement officer is worthy of this honor, the board shall submit the nomination to the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate for consideration by the Legislature.

§29-32-4. Emergency Medical Services Honor Board.

(a) The Emergency Medical Services Honor Board is hereby established as an advisory board to the Legislature. The purpose of the board is to recommend to the Legislature, emergency medical services personnel in West Virginia who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of their duties, to be awarded a Medal of Valor.

(b) Board membership. —

(1) The board shall consist of two members from each of the state's senatorial districts. Each state senator shall appoint one member representing his or her district.

(2) The board shall be composed of emergency medical services personnel, medical officials, doctors, and other professionals who are qualified to evaluate and determine whether the actions of emergency medical services

personnel rise to the level of being above and beyond the call of duty.

(3) Members shall serve a one-year term and shall serve without compensation.

(c) The board may consider candidates for the Medal of Valor who are identified by members of the board or by other citizens, and may design a system for the receipt of those recommendations.

(d) The board shall review identified individuals to determine if those emergency medical services personnel have gone above and beyond the call of duty in their professional capacities. Upon determination that an emergency medical services provider is worthy of this honor, the board shall submit the nomination to the Speaker of the House of Delegates and the President of the Senate for consideration by the Legislature.

§29-32-5. Awarding of the Medal of Valor.

(a) The Legislature may act on a nomination from one of the Honor Boards established by this article by passing a concurrent resolution.

(b) Upon nomination by the Firefighters Honor Board, and adoption of a concurrent resolution by the Legislature, the Governor shall bestow the Medal of Valor for Firefighters upon the nominee.

(c) Upon nomination by the Law Enforcement Officers Honor Board, and adoption of a concurrent resolution by the Legislature, the Governor shall bestow the Medal of Valor for Law Enforcement Officers upon the nominee.

(d) Upon nomination by the Emergency Medical Services Honor Board, and adoption of a concurrent resolution by the Legislature, the Governor shall bestow the Medal of Valor for Emergency Medical Services personnel upon the nominee.

17 (e) The West Virginia Department of Arts, Culture and
18 History shall create the designs for the Medal of Valor for
19 Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officers, and Emergency
20 Medical Services personnel.

CHAPTER 300

(H. B. 4476 - By Delegates Shott, Criss, Steele, Howell, D. Kelly, Miller, N. Brown, Maynard, Lovejoy, Mandt and Fast)

[Passed February 18, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §15-9B-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto two new sections, designated §15-9B-1a and §15-9B-5; and to amend and reenact §15-9B-2 and §15-9B-4 of said code, all relating to providing for the collection, submission, testing, retention, and disposition of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases; transferring some duties of the Division of Justice and Community Services to the Division of Administrative Services; defining terms; requiring sexual assault forensic examination kits collected by health care providers to be directly submitted to the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory; requiring certain kits to be transported to Marshall University Forensic Science Center; establishing protocols for storage, retention, transmission and disposal of kits; notice to victim regarding disposal; establishing misdemeanor penalties; and granting rule-making authority.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 9B. SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION NETWORK.

§15-9B-1. Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Commission.

(a) The Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Commission is continued as a subcommittee of the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction. The purpose of the commission is to establish, manage, and monitor a statewide system to facilitate the timely and efficient collection, submission, testing, retention, tracking, and disposition of forensic evidence in sexual assault cases. As used in this article, the word "commission" means the Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Commission.

(b) Membership on the commission shall consist of the following:

(1) A representative chosen from the membership of the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Association who shall be chosen by the president of that organization;

(2) A representative chosen from the membership of the West Virginia Association of Counties who shall be chosen by the executive director of that organization;

(3) The Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health, or his or her designee;

(4) A representative from the State Police Forensic Laboratory who shall be chosen by the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police;

(5) A representative from the membership of the West Virginia Child Advocacy Network;

(6) The President of the West Virginia Hospital Association, or his or her designee;

(7) A representative from the membership of the West Virginia Foundation for Rape and Information Services who shall be chosen by the state coordinator of that organization;

(8) A representative of the West Virginia University Forensic and Investigative Sciences Program who shall be chosen by the director of that program; and

(9) A representative of the Marshall University Forensic Science Center who shall be chosen by the director of that organization.

(c) If any of the representative organizations listed in subsection (b) of this section cease to exist, the director of the Division of Administrative Services, or his or her designee, may select a person from a similar organization.

(d) The director of the Division of Administrative Services, or his or her designee, shall appoint the following additional members of the commission:

(1) An emergency room physician licensed to practice and practicing medicine in this state;

(2) A victim advocate from a rape crisis center employed in this state;

(3) A sexual assault nurse examiner who is engaged in an active practice within this state;

(4) A law-enforcement officer in this state with experience in sexual assault investigations;

(5) A health care provider with pediatric and child abuse expertise licensed in this state; and

(6) A director of a child advocacy center licensed and operating in this state.

(e) The commission shall establish mandatory statewide protocols for conducting sexual assault forensic examinations, including designating locations and providers to perform forensic examinations, establishing minimum qualifications and procedures for performing forensic

examinations, and establishing protocols to assure the proper collection of evidence.

§15-9B-1a. Definitions.

As used in this article:

(1) "Biological evidence" includes a sexual assault forensic examination kit, semen, blood, saliva, hair, skin tissue, or other identified biological material.

(2) "DNA" means deoxyribonucleic acid. DNA is located in the nucleus of cells and provides an individual's personal genetic blueprint. DNA encodes genetic information that is the basis of human heredity and forensic identification.

(3) "Nonreported kit" means a kit collected from an alleged victim who has consented to the collection of the kit, but has not consented to participation in the criminal justice process.

(4) "Sexual assault forensic examination kit" or "kit" means a set of materials, including, but not limited to, swabs and tools for collecting blood samples, clothing, or other materials used to gather forensic evidence from a victim of a reported sexual offense and the evidence obtained with the materials.

(5) "Sexual offense" means any offense or attempted offense in the jurisdiction of the state in which a sexual assault forensic examination kit is collected, including, but not limited to, the following sections:

(A) §61-8-12 of this code;

(B) §61-8A-2 of this code;

(C) §61-8A-4 of this code;

(D) §61-8A-5 of this code;

(E) Any offenses listed in §61-8B-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(F) Any offenses listed in §61-8C-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(G) Any offenses listed in §61-8D-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(6) "Unfounded" means evidence developed after reasonable investigation and supported by proper documentation proving no crime occurred or where the alleged victim has recanted.

§15-9B-2. Powers and duties of the commission.

(a) The commission shall facilitate the recruitment and retention of qualified health care providers that are properly qualified to conduct forensic examinations. The commission shall work with county and regional officials to identify areas of greatest need, and develop and implement recruitment and retention programs to help facilitate the effective collection of evidence.

(b) The commission shall authorize minimum training requirements for providers conducting exams and establish a basic standard of care for victims of sexual assault. The commission may adopt necessary and reasonable requirements relating to establishment of a statewide training and forensic examination system, including, but not limited to, developing a data collection system to monitor adherence to established standards, assisting exam providers to receive training and support services, advocating the fair and reasonable reimbursement to exam providers, and facilitating transportation services for victims to get to and from designated exam locations.

(c) The commission shall approve local plans for each area of the state or a county or regional basis. If the commission determines it necessary, it may add or remove a county or portion of a county from a region to assure that all areas of the state are included in an appropriate local plan. Upon the failure of any county or local region to

propose a plan, the commission may implement a plan for that county or region.

(d) Once a plan is approved by the commission, it can only be amended or otherwise altered as provided by the rules authorized pursuant to subsection (e) of this section. Designated facilities and organizations providing services shall give the commission 30 days' advance notice of their intent to withdraw from the plan. If there is a change of circumstances that would require a change in a county or regional plan, the members of the local board and the state commission shall be notified.

(e) The commission may adopt and modify bylaws, policies, and procedures for the conduct of its meetings and the operation of the committee. The commission may propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, that are necessary to implement this article.

(f) The commission shall elect a chair and a vice chair, and any other officers as it considers necessary. Special meetings may be held upon the call of the chair, vice chair, or a majority of the members of the commission. A majority of the members of the commission present in person, by proxy or designation, or by electronic means constitutes a quorum.

(g) Any member appointed to the commission who is a written, designated representative has the full rights of a member, including the right to vote, serve on subcommittees, or perform any other function.

(h) The commission may make recommendations to the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction for legislation related to the commission's duties and responsibilities, or for research or studies by the Division of Administrative Services, Justice and Community Services Section on topics related to the commission's duties and responsibilities.

(i) On or before December 1, 2020, the Commission shall develop a written plan to:

(1) Prioritize the testing of kits;

(2) Ensure all kits are tested; and

(3) Establish a system of tracking kits received which shall be available to victims;

(j) The Commission may suggest additional protocols to the superintendent which it determines might improve the efficacy of testing;

(k) Any reports generated by the Commission shall be submitted to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

§15-9B-4. Submission, testing, and retention of sexual assault forensic examination kits.

(a) The Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Commission created by §15-9B-1 of this code shall establish a subgroup of persons with subject matter expertise to establish best-practice protocols for the submission, testing, retention, and disposition of sexual assault forensic examination kits collected by health care providers. The commission shall propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, detailing best-practice protocols. Upon approval of the legislative rules, local sexual assault forensic examination boards shall follow the rules.

(b) Rules promulgated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include:

(1) Time frames for submission of sexual assault forensic examination kits in the possession of law enforcement; and

(2) Protocols for storage of DNA samples and sexual assault forensic examination kits.

(c) The commission may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-15 of this code in order to implement this section: *Provided*, That no emergency rule may permit the destruction of any DNA evidence.

(d) Upon collection, a sexual assault forensic examination kit shall be submitted for testing by the health care provider to the West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory within 30 days of collection or as soon thereafter as practicable. All packaging kits for transmittal and transmittal protocols shall be designed to meet applicable standards for maintaining the efficacy of the sample and chain of custody.

(e) No sexual assault forensic examination kit need be tested where the alleged victim has not consented to the testing, requests that the kit not be tested, where he or she recants as to the allegation of a sexual offense, or the allegation that a sexual offense occurred is determined to be unfounded. If the alleged victim does not consent to law enforcement involvement, the kit shall be designated a nonreported kit and transmitted to the Marshall University Forensic Science Center.

(f) The Commission shall, in cooperation with the West Virginia State Police, develop protocols for storage of previously tested materials to be made available for secondary testing upon a court order to do so.

(g) Biological evidence obtained through tests of a sexual assault forensic examination kit shall not be destroyed:

(1) During the time period of incarceration of a person whose DNA was identified by the use of the biological evidence, or while the person remains under continued supervision, whichever is later in time; or

(2) For as long as the offense from which the biological evidence is obtained remains unresolved;

(h) Notwithstanding any provision of this code, or any rule or policy promulgated thereunder, upon completion of the processing and testing set forth in subsection (d) of this section, the sexual assault forensic examination kit shall be transmitted to the appropriate investigating local or state law-enforcement agency which shall retain all identified biological material that is secured in connection with any sexual offense or attempted sexual offense for the periods set forth in subsection (g) of this section.

(i) After processing and testing of a sexual assault forensic examination kit, the West Virginia State Police Laboratory shall transmit the sexual assault forensic examination kit to the appropriate investigating state or local law-enforcement agency through any reasonable means sufficient to establish the proper chain of custody, including, but not limited to, use of the United States Postal Service or hand delivery by appropriate personnel or a law-enforcement officer. The appropriate investigating state or local law-enforcement agency shall preserve the sexual assault forensic examination kit for the period of time prescribed in subsection (g) of this section in a condition where any biological evidence is suitable for DNA testing. The lack of timely submission, or the inadvertent loss or destruction of a sexual assault forensic examination kit, standing alone, shall not constitute a bar to the prosecution of a sexual offense.

(j) Sexual assault forensic examination kits retained pursuant to this section shall be made available for DNA testing pursuant to §15-2B-7 of this code or pursuant to an appropriate order of a circuit court of competent jurisdiction for secondary testing.

(k) The appropriate investigating state or local law-enforcement agency responsible for retaining the sexual assault forensic examination kit shall obtain approval from

the circuit court of competent jurisdiction for the county in which the crime occurred before disposal of any biological evidence. Before the disposal of any sexual assault forensic examination kit, reasonable efforts shall be made to provide written notice to the victim by the prosecuting attorney of the county in which the crime occurred.

(l) Nothing in this section shall be construed as limiting a state or local law-enforcement agency's discretion concerning the conditions under which biological evidence is retained, preserved, or transferred among different entities if the evidence is retained in a condition that is suitable for DNA testing.

§15-9B-5. Offenses; penalty.

Any person who willfully neglects or refuses to do or perform any duty imposed by this article is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than $50 nor more than $200, or be confined in jail for a period of not more than 60 days, or both fined and confined.

CHAPTER 301

(H. B. 4715 - By Delegates Capito, Nelson, Byrd, Robinson, Pushkin, Estep-Burton, Rowe, Skaff, Bartlett and D. Jeffries)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §8-14-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §8-15-1 of said code, all relating to authorizing municipalities to grant certain fire department employees limited powers of arrest in relation to their duties; setting the limits of their

power to arrest; authorizing designated fire department employees to file complaints with appropriate courts; requiring initial and annual training of designated fire department employees as established by the State Fire Commission and the State Fire Marshal.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 14. LAW AND ORDER; POLICE FORCE OR DEPARTMENTS; POWERS, AUTHORITY, AND DUTIES OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS AND POLICEMEN; POLICE MATRONS; SPECIAL SCHOOL ZONE AND PARKING LOT OR PARKING BUILDING POLICE OFFICERS; CIVIL SERVICE FOR CERTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENTS.

§8-14-3. Powers, authority, and duties of law-enforcement officials and policemen.

The chief and any member of the police force or department of a municipality, any municipal sergeant, and any municipal fire marshal shall have all of the powers, authority, rights, and privileges within the corporate limits of the municipality with regard to the arrest of persons, the collection of claims, and the execution and return of any search warrant, warrant of arrest, or other process, which can legally be exercised or discharged by a deputy sheriff of a county: *Provided*, That any municipal fire marshal granted authority under this section shall have these powers, authority, rights, and privileges only to the limits described in §8-15-1 of this code. In order to arrest for the violation of municipal ordinances and as to all matters arising within the corporate limits and coming within the scope of his or her official duties, the powers of any chief, policeman, municipal fire marshal, or sergeant shall extend anywhere within the county or counties in which the municipality is located, and any chief, policeman, municipal fire marshal, or sergeant shall have the same authority of pursuit and arrest beyond his or her normal jurisdiction as has a sheriff. For an offense committed in his or her presence, any such

officer may arrest the offender without a warrant and take the offender before the mayor or police court or municipal court to be dealt with according to law. His or her sureties are liable to all the fines, penalties, and forfeitures which a deputy sheriff is liable to, for any failure or dereliction in such office, to be recovered in the same manner and in the same courts in which the fines, penalties, and forfeitures are recovered against a deputy sheriff. In addition to the mayor, or police court judge or municipal court judge, if any, of a city, the chief of police of any municipality and in the absence from the station house of the chief of police the captains of police and lieutenants of police shall each have authority to administer oaths to complainants and to issue arrest warrants thereon for all violations of the ordinances of the municipality.

The mayor and police officers of every municipality and any municipal sergeant shall aid in the enforcement of the criminal laws of the state within the municipality, independently of any charter provision or any ordinance or lack of an ordinance with respect thereto, and to cause the arrest of, or arrest, any offender and take him or her before a magistrate to be dealt with according to the law. Failure on the part of any such official or officer to discharge any duty imposed by the provisions of this section is official misconduct for which he or she may be removed from office. Any official or officer has the same authority to execute a warrant issued by a magistrate, and the same authority to arrest without a warrant for offenses committed in his or her presence, as a deputy sheriff.

An officer or member of the police force or department of a municipality may not aid or assist either party in any labor trouble or dispute between employer and employee. They shall in these cases see that the statutes and laws of this state and municipal ordinances are enforced in a legal way and manner. Nor shall he or she engage in off-duty police work for any party engaged in or involved in the labor dispute or trouble between employer and employee.

The chief of police shall be charged with the keeping and security of the jail, and at any time that one or more prisoners are being held in the jail, he or she shall require that the jail be attended by a police officer or other responsible person.

ARTICLE 15. FIREFIGHTING; FIRE COMPANIES AND DEPARTMENTS; CIVIL SERVICE FOR PAID FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

PART I. FIRE FIGHTING GENERALLY.

§8-15-1. Power and authority of governing body with respect to fires.

The governing body of every municipality shall have plenary power and authority to provide for the prevention and extinguishment of fires and, for this purpose, it may, among other things, regulate how buildings shall be constructed, procure proper engines and implements, provide for the organization, equipment, and government of volunteer fire companies or of a paid fire department, prescribe the powers and duties of the companies or department, and of the several officers, provide for the appointment of officers to have command of firefighting, prescribe what their powers and duties shall be, and impose on those who fail or refuse to obey any lawful command of the officers any penalty which the governing body is authorized by law to impose for the violation of an ordinance. It may give authority to any the officer or officers to direct the pulling down or destroying of any fence, house, building, or other thing, if determined necessary to prevent the spreading of a fire. It may give authority to municipal fire marshals to (1) arrest any individual disobeying lawful orders at the scene of a fire, (2) arrest any individual who violates prohibitions against arson and explosives offenses, malicious burning, obstructing a fire marshal, or failing to obey lawful orders, (3) arrest without a warrant, if the unlawful conduct occurs in their presence, and (4) file criminal complaints with the municipal court or other

appropriate judicial officer in order to obtain a warrant for the arrest and initiate a criminal matter: *Provided*, That any officer given this authority shall receive initial and annual training that complies with Law Enforcement Core Training Standards of the West Virginia State Fire Commission and the West Virginia State Fire Marshal.

CHAPTER 302

(H. B. 4859 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §8-15-8b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §12-4-14b of said code, all relating to accounting for state funds distributed to volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and departments; clarifying that use of such moneys for debt reduction is authorized only if the debts were incurred for specified purposes; authorizing the investment of such moneys with certain restrictions; and amending the definition of 'state funds accounts'.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 15. FIRE FIGHTING; FIRE COMPANIES AND DEPARTMENTS; CIVIL SERVICE FOR PAID FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

§8-15-8b. Authorized expenditures of revenues from the Municipal Pensions and Protection Fund and the Fire

Protection Fund; deductions for unauthorized expenditures; record retention.

(a) Money received from the state for volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and departments, pursuant to §33-3-14d, §33-3-33, and §33-12C-7 of this code, may not be commingled with moneys received from any other source, except money received as a grant from the Fire Service Equipment and Training Fund as provided in §29-3-5f of this code. Distributions from the Municipal Pensions and Protection Fund and the Fire Protection Fund allocated to volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and departments may be expended only for the following:

(1) Personal protective equipment, including protective head gear, bunker coats, pants, boots, combination of bunker pants and boots, coats, and gloves;

(2) Equipment for compliance with the national fire protection standard or automotive fire apparatus, NFPA-1901;

(3) Compliance with insurance service office recommendations relating to fire departments;

(4) Rescue equipment, communications equipment, and ambulance equipment: *Provided*, That no moneys received from the Municipal Pensions and Protection Fund or the Fire Protection Fund may be used for equipment for personal vehicles owned or operated by volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department members;

(5) Capital improvements reasonably required for effective and efficient fire protection service and maintenance of the capital improvements;

(6) Retirement of debts, but only if the debts were incurred exclusively for the purchase of the goods and services allowed under this subsection;

(7) Payment of utility bills;

(8) Payment of the cost of immunizations, including any laboratory work incident to the immunizations, for firefighters against hepatitis-b and other blood-borne pathogens: *Provided*, That the vaccine shall be purchased through the state immunization program or from the lowest-cost vendor available: *Provided, however*, That volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and departments shall seek to obtain no-cost administration of the vaccinations through local boards of health: *Provided further*, That in the event any volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department is unable to obtain no-cost administration of the vaccinations through a local board of health, the company or department shall seek to obtain the lowest cost available for the administration of the vaccinations from a licensed health care provider;

(9) Any filing fee required to be paid to the Legislative Auditor's Office under §12-4-14 of this code relating to sworn statements of annual expenditures submitted by volunteer or part- volunteer fire companies or departments that receive state funds or grants;

(10) Property/casualty insurance premiums for protection and indemnification against loss or damage or liability;

(11) Operating expenses reasonably required in the normal course of providing effective and efficient fire protection service, which include, but are not limited to, gasoline, bank fees, postage, and accounting costs;

(12) Dues paid to national, state, and county associations;

(13) Workers' compensation premiums;

(14) Life insurance premiums to provide a benefit not to exceed $20,000 for firefighters; and

(15) Educational and training supplies and fire prevention promotional materials, not to exceed $500 per year.

(b) If a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department spends any amount of money received from the Municipal Pensions and Protection Fund or the Fire Protection Fund for an item, service, or purpose not authorized by this section, that amount, when determined by an official audit, review, or investigation, shall be deducted from future distributions to the volunteer fire company or part-volunteer fire department.

(c) If a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department purchases goods or services authorized by this section, but then returns the goods or cancels the services for a refund, then any money refunded shall be deposited back into the same, dedicated bank account used for the deposit of distributions from the Municipal Pensions and Protection Fund and the Fire Protection Fund.

(d) Each volunteer or part-volunteer fire company and department shall retain, for five calendar years, all invoices, receipts, and payment records for the goods and services paid with money received from the state for volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and departments, pursuant to §33-3-14d, §33-3-33, and §33-12C-7 of this code and money received as a grant from the Fire Service Equipment and Training Fund as provided in §29-3-5f of this code.

(e) Volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and departments may also invest the received moneys, described in subsection (a) of this section, and collect interest thereon: *Provided*, That volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and departments shall not commingle the received moneys with funds received from any other source, shall not use the invested money as collateral or security for any loan, and shall retain all resulting statements of accounts and earnings for a minimum of five years from the date of the statements.

CHAPTER 12. PUBLIC MONEYS AND SECURITIES.

ARTICLE 4. ACCOUNTS, REPORTS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS.

§12-4-14b. Accountability of volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies or departments receiving state funds for equipment and training; review or audit of expenditures; withholding of state funds for delinquency or misuse; notifications.

(a) *Definitions.* — For the purposes of this section:

"Equipment and training grant" means a grant of money to a volunteer fire company or a part-volunteer fire department from the Fire Service Equipment and Training Fund created in §29-3-5f of this code;

"Formula distribution" means a distribution of money to volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies or departments made pursuant to §33-3-14d, §33-3-33, and §33-12C-7 of this code; and

"State funds accounts" means every bank account and investment account established by a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department into which the volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department has deposited or invested money from formula distributions and equipment and training grants.

(b) *Filing required documentation.* — Every volunteer and part-volunteer fire company or department seeking to receive formula distributions or an equipment and training grant shall file copies of bank statements and check images from the company's or department's state funds accounts for the previous calendar year with the Legislative Auditor on or before February 1 of each year.

(c) *Reviews and audits.* — The Legislative Auditor is authorized to conduct regular reviews or audits of deposits and expenditures from formula distribution and equipment

and training grant funds by volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies or departments. The Legislative Auditor may assign an employee or employees to perform audits or reviews at his or her direction. The State Treasurer shall provide the Legislative Auditor information, in the manner designated by the Legislative Auditor, concerning formula distributions and equipment and training grants paid to volunteer or part-volunteer fire companies and departments. The volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department shall cooperate with the Legislative Auditor, the Legislative Auditor's employees, and the State Auditor in performing their duties under the laws of this state.

(d) *State Auditor.* — Whenever the State Auditor performs an audit of a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department for any purpose, the Auditor shall also conduct an audit of other state funds received by the company or department pursuant to §33-3-14d, §33-3-33, and §33-12C-7 of this code. The Auditor shall send a copy of the audit to the Legislative Auditor. The Legislative Auditor may accept an audit performed by the Auditor in lieu of performing an audit under this section.

(e) *Withholding of funds.* —The Treasurer is authorized to withhold payment of a formula distribution or an equipment and training grant from a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department, when properly notified by the Legislative Auditor pursuant to this section, of any of the following conditions:

(1) Failure to file, in a timely manner, copies of bank statements and check images with the Legislative Auditor;

(2) Failure to cooperate with a review or audit conducted by the Legislative Auditor;

(3) Misapplication of state funds; or

(4) Failure to file a report or a sworn statement of expenditures as required by §12-4-14 of this code for a state grant other than an equipment and training grant.

(f) *Delinquency in filing.* — If, after February 1, a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department has failed to file the required bank statements and check images with the Legislative Auditor, the Legislative Auditor shall notify the delinquent company or department at two separate times in writing of the delinquency and of possible forfeiture of its Fire Service Equipment and Training Fund distribution for the year. If the required bank statements and check images are not filed with the Legislative Auditor by March 31, unless the time period is extended by the Legislative Auditor, the Legislative Auditor shall then notify the Treasurer who shall withhold payment of any amount that would otherwise be distributed to the company or department. Prior to each subsequent quarterly disbursement of funds by the Treasurer, the Legislative Auditor shall notify each delinquent company or department twice per each quarter in which the company or department is delinquent. The Legislative Auditor may choose the method or methods of notification most likely to be received by the delinquent company or department.

(g) *Noncooperation.* — If, in the course of an audit or review by the Legislative Auditor, a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department fails to provide documentation of its accounts and expenditures in response to a request of the Legislative Auditor, the Legislative Auditor shall notify the State Treasurer who shall withhold payment of any amount that would otherwise be distributed to the company or department under the provisions of §33-3-14d, §33-3-33, and §33-12C-7 of this code until the Legislative Auditor informs the State Treasurer that the company or department has cooperated with the review or audit.

(h) *Reporting of other grants.* — Nothing in this section alters the duties and responsibilities of a volunteer or part-

volunteer fire company or department imposed under §12-4-14 of this code if that company or department has received funds from any state grant program other than from the Fire Service Equipment and Training Fund. If the Legislative Auditor is notified by a grantor that a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department has failed to file a report or a sworn statement of expenditures for a state grant it received, the Legislative Auditor shall notify the State Treasurer who shall withhold further distributions to the company or department in the manner provided in this section.

(i) *Escrow and forfeiture of moneys withheld.* — The Volunteer Fire Department Audit Account previously created in the Treasury is hereby continued. When the State Treasurer receives notice to withhold the distribution of money to a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department pursuant to this section, the Treasurer shall instead deposit the amounts withheld into the Volunteer Fire Department Audit Account. If the Treasurer receives notice that the volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department has come into compliance in less than one year from the date of deposit into this special revenue account, then the Treasurer shall release and distribute the withheld amounts to the company or department, except that any interest that has accrued thereon shall be credited to the general revenue of the state. If, after one year from payment of the amount withheld into the special revenue account, the Legislative Auditor informs the State Treasurer of continued noncooperation by the company or department, the delinquent company or department forfeits the amounts withheld and the State Treasurer shall pay the amounts withheld into Fire Service Equipment and Training Fund created in §29-3-5f of this code.

(j) *Misuse of state money.* — If the Legislative Auditor determines that a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department has used formula distribution money for purposes not authorized by §8-15-8b of this code or has used

equipment and training grant money for purposes not authorized by the grant program, the Legislative Auditor shall give a written notice of noncompliance to the company or department. If a volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department disagrees or disputes the finding, the company or department may contest the finding by submitting a written objection to the Legislative Auditor within five working days of receipt of the Legislative Auditor's finding. The department or company shall then have 60 days from the date of the Legislative Auditor's finding to provide documentation to substantiate that the expenditures were made for authorized purposes. If the volunteer or part-volunteer fire company or department does not dispute the findings of the Legislative Auditor or if the company or department is not able to substantiate an authorized purpose for the expenditure, the Legislative Auditor shall notify the Treasurer of the amount of misapplied money and the Treasurer shall deduct that amount from future distributions to that company or department until the full amount of unauthorized expenditure is offset.

CHAPTER 303

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 579 - By Senators Cline and Roberts)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-15-30 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §24-6-6b of said code, all relating to changing the wireless enhanced 911 fee; and establishing a separate public safety fee and wireless tower fee.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 11. TAXATION.

ARTICLE 15. CONSUMERS SALES AND SERVICE TAX.

§11-15-30. Proceeds of tax; appropriation of certain revenues.

(a) The proceeds of the tax imposed by this article shall be deposited in the General Revenue Fund of the state except as otherwise expressly provided in this article.

(b) *School Major Improvement Fund.* — After the payment or commitment of the proceeds or collections of this tax for the purposes set forth in §11-15-16 of this code, on the first day of each month, there shall be dedicated monthly from the collections of this tax the amount of $416,667, and the amount dedicated shall be deposited on a monthly basis into the School Major Improvement Fund created pursuant to §18-9D-6 of this code: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2016, the amount so dedicated and deposited annually under this subsection is reduced by $2,000,004, and the amount so dedicated and deposited monthly is reduced to $250,000 for fiscal year 2016. This reduction shall cease for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2016: *Provided, however*, That for fiscal year 2017, the amount so dedicated and deposited annually under this subsection is reduced by $999,996, and the amount so dedicated and deposited monthly is reduced to $333,334 for fiscal year 2017. This reduction shall cease for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2017.

(c) *School Construction Fund.* — After the payment or commitment of the proceeds or collections of this tax for the purposes set forth in §11-15-16 of this code:

(1) On the first day of each month, there shall be dedicated monthly from the collections of this tax the amount of $1,416,667 and the amount dedicated shall be deposited into the School Construction Fund created pursuant to §18-9D-6 of this code.

(2) Except as provided in subdivision (3) of this subsection, effective July 1, 1998, there shall be dedicated from the collections of this tax an amount equal to any annual difference that may occur between the debt service payment for the 1997 fiscal year for school improvement bonds issued under the Better School Building Amendment under the provisions of §18-9C-1 et. seq. of this code and the amount of funds required for debt service on these school improvement bonds in any current fiscal year thereafter. This annual difference shall be prorated monthly, added to the monthly deposit in subdivision (1) of this subsection and deposited into the School Construction Fund created pursuant to §18-9D-6 of this code.

(3) After June 30, 2015, the provisions of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection shall have no force or effect. After June 30, 2015, there shall be dedicated from the collections of this tax the amount of $27,216,996 annually. This amount shall be prorated monthly and deposited into the School Construction Fund created pursuant to §18-9D-6 of this code: *Provided*, That for fiscal year 2016, the amount so dedicated annually under this subdivision is reduced by $6 million. This reduction shall cease for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2016: *Provided, however*, That for fiscal year 2017, the amount so dedicated and deposited annually under this subdivision is reduced by $3 million. This reduction shall cease for fiscal years beginning after June 30, 2017. Amendments to this subdivision enacted in the 2016 regular legislative session are retroactive, in accordance with dates and fiscal years specified herein.

(d) *Prepaid wireless calling service.* — The proceeds or collections of this tax from the sale of prepaid wireless service are dedicated as follows:

(1) The tax imposed by this article upon the sale of prepaid wireless calling service is in lieu of the wireless enhanced 911 fee, the public safety fee, and the wireless tower fee imposed by §24-6-6b of this code.

(2) Within 30 days following the end of each calendar month, the Tax Commissioner shall remit to the Public Service Commission the proceeds of the tax imposed by this article upon the sale of prepaid wireless calling service in the preceding month, determined as follows: For purposes of determining the amount of those monthly proceeds, the Tax Commissioner shall use an amount equal to one twelfth of the wireless enhanced 911 fees, the public safety fees, and the wireless tower fees collected from prepaid wireless calling service under §24-6-6b of this code during the period beginning on July 1, 2020, and ending on June 30, 2021. Beginning on July 1, 2022, the Tax Commissioner shall adjust this amount annually by an amount proportionate to the increase or decrease in the enhanced wireless 911 fees, the public safety fees, and the wireless tower fees paid to the Public Service Commission under said section during the previous 12 months. The Public Service Commission shall receive, deposit, and disburse the proceeds in the manner prescribed in said section.

CHAPTER 24. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

§24-6-6b. Wireless enhanced 911 fee; public safety wireless fee; wireless tower fee.

(a) All CMRS providers as defined in §24-6-2 of this code shall, on a monthly basis or otherwise for good cause and as directed by order of the Public Service Commission, collect from each of their in-state two-way service subscribers a wireless enhanced 911 fee, a public safety fee, and a wireless tower fee. As used in this section "in-state two-way service subscriber" has the same meaning as that set forth in the rules of the Public Service Commission. The CMRS providers shall, on a monthly basis, after retaining a billing fee of three percent of the sum of the wireless enhanced 911 fee, the public safety fee, and the wireless tower fee, send moneys collected from the wireless

enhanced 911 fee, the public safety fee, and the wireless tower fee to the Public Service Commission.

(b) The wireless enhanced 911 fee is $3.47 per month for each valid in-state two-way service subscriber, as that term is defined by Public Service Commission rules.

Beginning in the year 2021, and every two years thereafter, the Public Service Commission shall conduct a survey of the enhanced 911 fees imposed by counties and shall recalculate the wireless enhanced 911 fee so that increases or decreases by the same percentage as the change in the weighted average rounded to the nearest penny, as of March 1 of the respecification year, of all of the enhanced 911 fees imposed by the counties which have adopted an enhanced 911 ordinance: *Provided*, That the wireless enhanced 911 fee may never be increased by more than 25 percent of its value at the beginning of the respecification year: *Provided, however*, That the fee may never be less than the amount set in subsection (b) of this section.

(c) The Public Service Commission shall, on a quarterly and approximately evenly staggered basis, disburse wireless enhanced 911 fee revenue in the following manner:

(1) Each county that does not have a 911 ordinance in effect as of the original effective date of this section in the year 1997, or has enacted a 911 ordinance within the five years prior to the original effective date of this section in the year 1997, shall receive eight and one-half tenths of one percent of the fee revenues received by the Public Service Commission: *Provided*, That after the effective date of this section, in the year 2005, when two or more counties consolidate into one county to provide government services, the consolidated county shall receive one percent of the fee revenues received by the Public Service Commission for itself and for each county merged into the consolidated county. Each county shall receive eight and one-half tenths of one percent of the remainder of the wireless enhanced 911 fee revenues received by the Public Service

Commission: *Provided, however*, That after the effective date of this section, in the year 2005, when two or more counties consolidate into one county to provide government services, the consolidated county shall receive one percent of the fee revenues received by the Public Service Commission for itself and for each county merged into the consolidated county. Then, from any moneys remaining, each county shall receive a pro rata portion of that remainder based on that county's population as determined in the most recent decennial census as a percentage of the state total population. The Public Service Commission shall recalculate the county disbursement percentages on a yearly basis, with the changes effective on July 1, and using data as of the preceding March 1. The public utilities which normally provide local exchange telecommunications service by means of lines, wires, cables, optical fibers, or by other means extended to subscriber premises shall supply the data to the Public Service Commission on a county specific basis no later than June 1 of each year;

(2) Counties which have an enhanced 911 ordinance in effect shall receive their share of the wireless enhanced 911 fee revenue for use in the same manner as the enhanced 911 fee revenues received by those counties pursuant to their enhanced 911 ordinances;

(3) The Public Service Commission shall deposit the wireless enhanced 911 fee revenue for each county which does not have an enhanced 911 ordinance in effect into an escrow account which it has established for that county. Any county with an escrow account may, immediately upon adopting an enhanced 911 ordinance, receive the moneys which have accumulated in the escrow account for use as specified in subdivision (2) of this subsection: *Provided*, That a county that adopts a 911 ordinance after the original effective date of this section in the year 1997, or has adopted a 911 ordinance within five years of the original effective date of this section in the year 1997, shall continue to receive one percent of the total 911 fee revenue for a period

of five years following the adoption of the ordinance. Thereafter, each county shall receive that county's eight and one-half tenths of one percent of the remaining fee revenue, plus that county's additional pro rata portion of the fee revenues then remaining, based on that county's population as determined in the most recent decennial census as a percentage of the state total population: *Provided, however*, That every five years from the year 1997, all fee revenue residing in escrow accounts shall be disbursed on the pro rata basis specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection, except that data for counties without enhanced 911 ordinances in effect shall be omitted from the calculation and all escrow accounts shall begin again with a zero balance. From any funds distributed to a county pursuant to this section, a total of three percent shall be set aside in a special fund to be used exclusively for the purchase of equipment that will provide information regarding the x and y coordinates of persons who call an emergency telephone system through a commercial mobile radio service: *Provided further*, That upon purchase of the necessary equipment, the special fund shall be dissolved and any surplus shall be used for general operation of the emergency telephone system as may otherwise be provided by law.

(d) Beginning July 1, 2020, CMRS providers shall collect the public safety fee from each in-state two-way service subscriber. The public safety fee shall be 29 cents per month and will be shown as a separate fee on the subscriber's bill. On a monthly basis, the Public Service Commission will distribute 10 cents of the public safety fee to the West Virginia State Police to be used for equipment upgrades for improving and integrating their communication efforts with those of the enhanced 911 systems, and the Public Service Commission will deposit 19 cents of the public safety fee in a special fund established by the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to be used solely for the construction, maintenance, and upgrades of the West Virginia Interoperable Radio Project and any other costs associated

with establishing and maintaining the infrastructure of the system. Any funds remaining in this fund at the end of the fiscal year shall automatically be reappropriated for the following year.

(e) Beginning July 1, 2020, CMRS providers shall collect the wireless tower fee from each in-state two-way service subscriber. The wireless tower fee shall be 8 cents per month and will be shown as a separate fee on the subscriber's bill. On a monthly basis, the commission shall distribute the wireless tower fee to a fund administered by the Public Service Commission, entitled the Wireless Tower Access Assistance Fund, to subsidize the construction of wireless towers. The moneys shall be expended in accordance with an enhanced 911 wireless tower access matching grant order adopted by the Public Service Commission. The commission order shall contain terms and conditions designed to provide financial assistance loans or grants to state agencies, political subdivisions of the state, and wireless telephone carriers for the acquisition, equipping, and construction of new wireless towers, which would not be available otherwise due to marginal financial viability of the applicable tower coverage area: *Provided*, That the grants shall be allocated among potential sites based on application from county commissions demonstrating the need for enhanced 911 wireless coverage in specific areas of this state. Any tower constructed with assistance from the fund created by this subsection shall be available for use by emergency services, fire departments, and law-enforcement agencies' communications equipment, so long as that use does not interfere with the carriers' wireless signal.

(f) CMRS providers have the same rights and responsibilities as other telephone service suppliers in dealing with the failure by an in-state two-way service subscriber to timely pay the wireless enhanced 911 fee, the public safety fee, and the wireless tower fee.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of §24-6-1a of this code, for the purposes of this section, the term "county" means one of the counties provided in §1-1-1 of this code.

(h) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this code, prepaid wireless calling service is not subject to the wireless enhanced 911 fee, the public safety fee, and the wireless tower fee.

(i) The Public Service Commission shall promulgate rules in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to effectuate the provisions of this section. The Public Service Commission may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-15 of this code.

CHAPTER 304

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 583 - By Senators Rucker, Blair, Smith, Weld, Cline, Maroney, Roberts and Palumbo)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §24-2-1o, relating to creating a program to further the development of renewable energy resources and renewable energy facilities for solar energy by modifying the powers and duties of the Public Service Commission; providing for legislative findings and declarations; providing for definitions; providing for an application process and program for multiyear comprehensive renewable energy facilities for electric utilities, as defined, to plan, design, construct, purchase, own, and operate renewable energy-generating facilities, energy-storage resources, or both, under specified conditions, requirements, and limitations; providing that solar energy output is to be offered

for sale or sold to residential, commercial, or industrial customers under renewable special contracts or renewable tariffs; providing for commission review and approval of said programs; allowing cost recovery for said programs; providing for requirements for said programs; providing for application requirements and contents in lieu of applications for certificates of public convenience and necessity; providing for public notice at the direction of the commission for anticipated rates and rate increases in interested counties; providing for a hearing on applications within 90 days of notice; defining circumstances when a hearing can be waived for lack of opposition; defining a time period of 150 days within which the commission shall issue a final order after the application date; requiring the commission to find the programs as in the public interest; requiring the commission, after notice and hearing, to approve applications and allow cost recovery for just and reasonable expenditures; establishing accounting methods, practices, rates of return, calculations, dates, and procedures relevant for cost recovery; requiring a utility to place in effect commission-approved rates that include cost recovery with certain defined items; defining "concurrent cost recovery"; requiring yearly application filings by the utility with the commission regarding cost recovery; defining when a project is to be considered used and useful; limiting cost recovery from any one customer to a maximum increase of $1000 per month; providing for siting certificates for exempt wholesale solar-generation facilities to be processed in 150 days by the Public Service Commission; providing that no provision shall displace current levels of coal-fired generation capacity; and providing for a sunset date under conditions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

§24-2-1o. Renewable energy facilities program.

1 (a) The Legislature finds and declares that:

(1) West Virginia is rich in energy resources, which provide many advantages to the state, its economy and its citizens;

(2) West Virginia's abundant mineral reserves have created, and will continue to create, many benefits to the state and its citizens, including thousands of jobs, a strong tax base and a low-cost, reliable source of electricity;

(3) Coal-fired plants currently supply over 90 percent of electricity generation to the citizens and businesses of this state;

(4) Businesses that may otherwise locate or expand facilities in this state often require that a portion of the electricity that they purchase be generated via renewable sources;

(5) Creating a program for the development of certain renewable sources of electricity by electric utilities will result in increased economic development opportunities in the state, create jobs, and enhance the use of the state's electricity generation; and

(6) Creating a program to authorize electric utilities to provide a portion of the state's electricity needs through a process that allows them to plan, design, construct, purchase, own and operate renewable electric-generating facilities, energy storage resources, or both, pursuant to this section is in the public interest of the state.

(b) Definitions. – For the purpose of the section:

"Capital investments" include, but are not limited to, costs related to the planning, design, construction, purchase, and ownership of renewable electric-generating facilities, energy storage resources, and interconnections with transmission and distribution facilities.

"Commission" or "Public Service Commission" means the Public Service Commission of West Virginia.

"Electric utility" means any electric distribution company that sells electricity to retail customers in this state under rates regulated by the commission. Unless specifically provided for otherwise, for the purposes of this section, the term "electric utility" may not include rural electric cooperatives, municipally owned electric facilities or utilities serving less than 30,000 residential electric customers in West Virginia.

"Eligible site" means any site in this state that has been previously used in electric generation, industrial, manufacturing or mining operations, including, but not limited to, brownfields, closed landfills, hazardous waste sites, former industrial sites, and former mining sites. In the event that there is no available site that has been previously used in electric generation, industrial, manufacturing, or mining operations in the area to be served by a renewable electric facilities program, an eligible site may include any suitable site in this state approved for use in connection with a renewable electric facilities program by the Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

"Energy storage resource" means infrastructure located on an eligible site that allows for the energy absorption and release of electrical energy into the electric grid.

"Renewable electric facilities program" means a program proposed by an electric utility to plan, design, construct, purchase, own, and operate renewable electric-generating facilities, energy storage resources, or both, pursuant to this section: *Provided*, That a renewable electric facilities program may not consist solely of energy storage resources.

"Renewable electric-generating facility" means infrastructure located on an eligible site that generates electricity solely through solar photovoltaic methods or other solar methods.

(c) Electric utilities may file with the commission an application for a multiyear comprehensive renewable energy facilities program that complies with the provisions of this section for planning, designing, constructing, purchasing, owning, and operating renewable electric-generating facilities, energy storage resources, or both, by the electric utility. Subject to commission review and approval, a renewable energy facilities program may be amended and updated by the electric utility. The recovery of costs in support of the renewable energy facilities program shall be allowed in the manner set forth in this section.

(d) Any renewable energy facilities program shall comply with the following requirements:

(1) An electric utility may purchase each renewable electric-generating facility and each energy storage resource from a developer of renewable electric-generating facilities or energy storage resources or construct such facilities on its own, as applicable. Any purchase of a renewable electric-generating facility or energy storage resources shall be subject to a competitive procurement administered by the electric utility. An electric utility may select to purchase a renewable electric-generating facility, energy storage resource, or both, based on a myriad of factors, including, but not limited to, price and nonprice criteria, which shall include, but not be limited to, geographic distribution of generating capacity, areas of higher employment, or regional economic development.

(2) An electric utility may elect to petition the commission, outside of a base rate case proceeding, at any time for a prudency determination with respect to the purchase, construction, and ownership by the electric utility of one or more renewable electric-generating facilities, energy storage resources, or both. The commission's final order regarding any such petition shall be entered by the commission within 150 days after the date of the filing of such petition.

(3) No renewable electric-generating facility shall have a generating capacity greater than 50 megawatts until such time as 85 percent of that renewable electric-generating facility's annual energy output is being sold or is contracted to be sold to residential, commercial, or industrial customers pursuant to a renewable special contract or renewable tariff, and, thereafter, any expansion of that or another renewable energy-generating facility's generating capacity shall proceed in increments of up to 50 megawatts each until such time as 85 percent or more of all renewable energy-generating facility's aggregate, annual energy output is being sold or is contracted to be sold to customers pursuant to a renewable special contract or renewable tariff;

(4) No single renewable electric-generating facility shall have a generating capacity greater than 200 megawatts;

(5) The cumulative generating capacity of all renewable electric-generating facilities operating at any given time, and for which rate recovery is provided by the commission under this section, shall not exceed 400 megawatts among all investor-owned electric utilities in this state: *Provided*, That the cumulative generating capacity of all renewable electric-generating facilities operating at any one time, and for which rate recovery is provided by the commission under this section, shall not exceed 200 megawatts for all electric utilities within the state owned by the same corporate parent company;

(6) The calculation of maximum megawatts of generating capacity for renewable electric-generating facilities established in this subsection shall not include the storage capacity of energy storage resources;

(7) As part of the renewable energy facilities program, the electric utilities must offer the energy output for sale to customers from all classes of service.

(e) Applications made under this section are in lieu of an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to §24-2-11 of this code and shall contain the following:

(1) A description of the renewable electric-generating facilities, energy storage resources, or both, in such detail as the commission prescribes, including, but not limited to, the generating capacity and location of the facilities and a description of the competitive purchase procurement process administered by the electric utility that is required under this section;

(2) A proposed concurrent cost-recovery mechanism for actual and projected capital investments in the renewable electric-generating facilities, energy storage resources, or both, and for operation and maintenance expenses and taxes associated with such facilities; and

(3) Other information that the applicant considers relevant or the commission requires.

(f) Upon filing of an application, the applicant shall publish, in the form the commission directs, which form shall include, but not be limited to, the anticipated rates and, if any, rate increase under the proposal, by average percentage and dollar amount for customers within a class of service, as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.*, of this code, the publication area to be each county in which service is provided by the electric utility, a notice of the filing of the application and that the commission shall hold a hearing on the application within 90 days of the notice; unless no opposition to the rate change is received by the commission within one week of the proposed hearing date, in which case the hearing can be waived, and the commission shall issue a final order within 150 days of the application filing date.

(g) The planning, design, construction, purchase, ownership, and operation of renewable electric-generating

facilities, energy storage resources, or both, pursuant to this section is in the public interest, and the commission shall so find when considering applications for renewable energy facilities programs submitted by an electric utility pursuant to this section.

(h) Upon notice and hearing, if required by the commission, the commission shall approve the applications made under this section and allow concurrent recovery of costs related to the expenditures, as provided in subsection (i) of this section, if the commission finds that the expenditures and the associated rate requirements are just and reasonable and that the applications comply with the requirements of this section.

(i) Upon commission approval, electric utilities shall be authorized to implement renewable electric facilities programs and to concurrently recover their costs, including a return on capital investments, operation and maintenance, depreciation, and tax expenses directly attributable to the renewable electric facilities program capital investments, if any, as provided in the following:

(1) An allowance for return shall be calculated by applying a rate of return to the average planned net incremental increase to rate base attributable to the renewable electric facilities program for the coming year, considering the projected amount and timing of capital investments under the renewable electric facilities program plus any capital investments in previous years of the program. The rate of return shall be determined by utilizing the rate of return on equity and the capital structure authorized by the commission in the electric utility's most recent base rate case proceeding or in the case of a settled base rate case, a rate of return on equity set forth in or associated with such settlement or, if neither is set forth in or associated with such settlement, a rate of return on equity and a capital structure determined by the commission to be reasonable, and the projected average weighted cost of the electric utility's debt during the period of the renewable

electric facilities program to determine the weighted cost of capital based upon the electric utility's capital structure determined as specified above.

(2) Income taxes applicable to the return allowed on the renewable electric facilities program shall be calculated at the statutory rate for inclusion in rates.

(3) Incremental operation and maintenance, depreciation, and property tax expenses directly attributable to the renewable electric facilities program shall be estimated for the upcoming year.

(4) Following commission approval of its application made under this section, an electric utility shall place into effect rates that include an increment for concurrent cost recovery that recovers the allowance for return, related income taxes at the statutory rate, operation and maintenance, depreciation, and property tax expenses associated with the electric utility's actual and projected capital investments under the renewable electric facilities program for the upcoming year, net of contributions to recovery of those incremental costs provided by customers who have executed renewable special contracts, or who are taking power under renewable tariffs and are served by the renewable electric facilities program investments, if any (incremental cost-recovery increment). In each year subsequent to the order approving the renewable electric facilities program and the incremental cost-recovery increment, the electric utility shall file an application with the commission setting forth a new proposed incremental cost-recovery increment for concurrent cost recovery of forecasted costs to be made in the subsequent year, plus any under-recovery or minus any over-recovery of actual incremental costs attributable to the renewable electric facilities program, for the preceding year.

(5) The renewable electric-generating facilities, energy storage resources, or both, constructed, purchased, contracted, owned, installed, and in service pursuant to an

application approved by the commission shall be considered used and useful for rate recovery purposes. Any concurrent cost recovery mechanism approved by the commission shall limit the amount of cost to be recovered from any individual customer of the electric utility to a maximum of $1,000 per month: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not impact the electric utility's ability to recover all costs incurred pursuant to this section from other customers. Customers who have executed renewable special contracts or are taking power under renewable tariffs pursuant to an approved renewable electric facilities program are not subject to any such limits imposed by the commission.

(6) If an electric utility serves customers in more than one jurisdiction, and a jurisdiction other than this state denies the electric utility recovery of the costs incurred pursuant to a renewable electric facilities program approved by the commission and allocated to that jurisdiction, the electric utility shall recover all of the costs of the renewable electric facilities program from its West Virginia jurisdictional customers if the commission finds that the expenditures and the associated rate requirements are just and reasonable, and all attributes of the renewable electric facilities program, including energy, capacity, and renewable energy credits shall be assigned to this state.

(j) The electric utility may make any accounting accruals necessary to establish a regulatory asset or liability through which actual incremental costs incurred and costs recovered through the rate mechanism are tracked.

(k) With respect to renewable electric facilities programs, electric utilities may defer incremental operation and maintenance expenses attributable to regulatory and compliance-related requirements introduced after the electric utility's last base rate case proceeding and not included in the electric utility's current base rates or incremental cost-recovery increment in lieu of current recovery. In a future base rate case, the commission shall allow recovery of such deferred costs

amortized over a reasonable period of time to be determined by the commission provided the commission finds that the costs were reasonable and prudently incurred and were not reflected in rates in prior base rate cases.

(l) The provisions of this section shall expire on December 31, 2025. The expiration of this section shall not affect the full and timely cost recovery associated with a renewable energy facilities program for which an application has been filed with the commission pursuant to this section on or before December 31, 2025, nor for any projects previously approved by the commission pursuant to this section.

(m) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, no provision herein this section shall displace any current levels of coal-fired generation capacity.

(n) Notwithstanding the provisions of §24-2-11c of this code, any person or entity: (1) Who is not an electric utility; (2) who intends to purchase or construct and operate an electric generating facility as an exempt wholesale generator under federal law; (3) who will generate electricity solely through solar photovoltaic or other solar methods; and (4) who, if desired, intends to purchase or construct and operate energy storage for such electricity may file an application with the Public Service Commission under this section in such detail and with such publication requirements as the commission may prescribe; and the commission shall hold a hearing, unless waived, within 90 days of publication and issue a final order on a siting certificate or modification thereof within 150 days of the application filing date. No other provision of this section shall apply to these exempt wholesale generators.

CHAPTER 305

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 802 - By Senator Swope)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §24-2-20, relating generally to the regulation of public utilities; providing legislative findings; providing that certain large volume end users may receive natural gas service without the permission, consent, control, review, or input of the West Virginia Public Service Commission; requiring the end user pay for the minimum amount of gas required for the exception; providing that the end user shall make certain certifications to the commission; providing that the commission shall receive, file, and retain all end user certifications; providing that no person, entity, or body shall be a public utility, intrastate pipeline, common carrier, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission as a result of supplying such end users; and providing that provisions shall not prevent or impede the commission's safety regulation of pipelines.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

§24-2-20. Direct use of natural gas.

(a) The Legislature hereby finds that:

(1) Consumers of natural gas with an annual gas usage of at least 100 million cubic feet are sophisticated users of natural gas capable of choosing their source of natural gas supply;

(2) The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved bypass of local utilities and permitted construction of interstate pipeline facilities to serve end use customers;

(3) The production and use of West Virginia natural gas in West Virginia will provide jobs for West Virginians, generate additional income and property taxes for our governments and our law and regulations should not impede use of West Virginia gas in West Virginia;

(4) The ability of large natural gas users to choose among gas suppliers without regulatory supervision will save economic resources, foster competition in this state, and may induce new businesses to locate in West Virginia and employ West Virginians; and

(5) Commission approval of natural gas service is unnecessary for consumers of natural gas with an annual gas usage of at least 100 million cubic feet.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, any person, entity, or a facility that has not previously been a natural gas utility customer and has a projected annual natural gas usage in West Virginia of at least 100 million cubic feet annually may receive natural gas service from any person, corporation, limited liability company, or other entity without the permission, consent, review, or input of the commission if the using person or entity notifies the utility providing natural gas service in the area of use of its intent to receive service from a nonutility and certifies to the commission that: (i) The utility has been notified; (ii) its projected annual gas usage will be at least 100 million cubic feet per year; (iii) it desires to receive natural gas from a supplier other than a public utility; (iv) it will receive natural gas produced in West Virginia; and (v) the name and West Virginia tax identification number of the supplier or suppliers are identified in the certification: *Provided*, That the natural gas provider bills the customer and the customer pays for at least 100 million cubic feet during each full calendar year after the utility has been

notified, except in the event one or both of the contracting parties experiences a force majeure event or a condition beyond their reasonable control.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, no person, corporation, limited liability company, or other entity shall be or become a public utility, intrastate pipeline, common carrier, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission from or in connection with purchasing, using, selling, giving, buying, providing, transporting to or from, or otherwise supplying or using natural gas pursuant to subsection (b) of this section: *Provided*, That this subsection shall not prevent or impede the commission's safety regulation of natural gas pipelines pursuant to chapter 24B of this code.

(d) If a utility has an obligation to offer or provide service to an end user who elects its own supply pursuant to this section, the obligation shall terminate upon the commission's receipt of a certification provided by this section.

CHAPTER 306

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4587 - By Delegates D. Jeffries, C. Martin, Worrell, Cadle, Hamrick, Sypolt and Porterfield)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §24-2-4a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §24A-5-2 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto two new sections, designated §24A-5-2a and §24A-5-2b; all relating to the regulation of the collection, hauling, and disposal of solid

waste by motor carriers; authorizing indexed automatic rate increases for solid waste collection and hauling; setting procedures for the approval of rates; authorizing the Public Service Commission to approve alternative pick-up due to adverse conditions; and authorizing the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 24. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

*§24-2-4a. Procedure for changing rates after June 30, 1981.

(a) After June 30, 1981, no public utility subject to this chapter, except for those entities subject to the provisions of §24A-5-2a of this code and water and/or sewer utilities that are political subdivisions of the state providing separate or combined services and having at least 4,500 customers and annual gross revenue of $3 million or more from its separate or combined services, shall change, suspend or annul any rate, joint rate, charge, rental or classification except after thirty days' notice to the commission and the public, which notice shall plainly state the changes proposed to be made in the schedule then in force and the time when the changed rates or charges shall go into effect; but the commission may enter an order suspending the proposed rate as hereinafter provided. The proposed changes shall be shown by printing new schedules, or shall be plainly indicated upon the schedules in force at the time, and kept open to public inspection: *Provided*, That the commission may, in its discretion, and for good cause shown, allow changes upon less time than the notice herein specified, or may modify the requirements of this section in respect to publishing, posting and filing of tariffs, either by particular instructions or by general order.

(b) Whenever there shall be filed with the commission any schedule stating a change in the rates or charges, or joint

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***NOTE:** This section was also amended by S. B. 739 (Chapter 347), which passed prior to this act.

rates or charges, or stating a new individual or joint rate or charge or joint classification or any new individual or joint regulation or practice affecting any rate or charge, the commission may, either upon complaint or upon its own initiative without complaint, enter upon a hearing concerning the propriety of such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice; and, if the commission so orders, it may proceed without answer or other form of pleading by the interested parties, but upon reasonable notice, and, pending such hearing and the decisions thereon, the commission, upon filing with such schedule and delivering to the public utility affected thereby a statement in writing of its reasons for such suspension, may suspend the operation of such schedule and defer the use of such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice, but not for a longer period than two hundred seventy days beyond the time when such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice would otherwise go into effect; and after full hearing, whether completed before or after the rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice goes into effect, the commission may make such order in reference to such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice as would be proper in a proceeding initiated after the rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice had become effective: *Provided*, That in the case of a public utility having two thousand five hundred customers or less and which is not a political subdivision and which is not principally owned by any other public utility corporation or public utility holding corporation, the commission may suspend the operation of such schedule and defer the use of such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice, but not for a longer period than one hundred twenty days beyond the time when such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice would otherwise go into effect; and in the case of a public utility having more than two thousand five hundred customers, but not more than five thousand customers, and which is not a political subdivision and which is not principally owned by any other public utility corporation or public utility holding corporation, the commission may

suspend the operation of such schedule and defer the use of such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice, but not for a longer period than one hundred fifty days beyond the time when such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice would otherwise go into effect; and in the case of a public utility having more than five thousand customers, but not more than seven thousand five hundred customers, and which is not a political subdivision and which is not principally owned by any other public utility corporation or public utility holding corporation, the commission may suspend the operation of such schedule and defer the use of such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice, but not for a longer period than one hundred eighty days beyond the time when such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice would otherwise go into effect; and after full hearing, whether completed before or after the rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice goes into effect, the commission may make such order in reference to such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice as would be proper in a proceeding initiated after the rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice had become effective: *Provided, however*, That, in the case of rates established or proposed that increase by less than twenty-five percent of the gross revenue of the regulated public service district, there shall be no suspension period in the case of rates established by a public service district pursuant to section nine, article thirteen-a, chapter sixteen of this code and the proposed rates of public service districts shall go into effect upon the date of filing with the commission, subject to refund modification at the conclusion of the commission proceeding. In the case of rates established or proposed that increase by more than twenty-five percent of the gross revenue of the public service district, the district may apply for, and the commission may grant, a waiver of the suspension period and allow rates to be effective upon the date of filing with the commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the public service district shall provide notice by Class I legal advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in its

service territory of the percentage increase in rates at least fourteen days prior to the effective date of the increased rates. Any refund determined to be determined to be due and owing as a result of any difference between any final rates approved by the commission and the rates placed into effect subject to refund shall be refunded by the public service district as a credit against each customer's account for a period of up to six months after entry of the commission's final order. Any remaining balance which is not fully credited by credit within six months after entry of the commission's final order shall be directly refunded to the customer by check: *Provided further*, That if any such hearing and decision thereon is not concluded within the periods of suspension, as above stated, such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice shall go into effect at the end of such period not subject to refund: *And provided further*, That if any such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice goes into effect because of the failure of the commission to reach a decision, the same shall not preclude the commission from rendering a decision with respect thereto which would disapprove, reduce or modify any such proposed rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice, in whole or in part, but any such disapproval, reduction or modification shall not be deemed to require a refund to the customers of such utility as to any rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice so disapproved, reduced or modified. The fact of any rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice going into effect by reason of the commission's failure to act thereon shall not affect the commission's power and authority to subsequently act with respect to any such application or change in any rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice. Any rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice which shall be approved, disapproved, modified or changed, in whole or in part, by decision of the commission shall remain in effect as so approved, disapproved, modified or changed during the period or pendency of any subsequent hearing thereon or appeal therefrom. Orders of the commission affecting rates, charges, classifications,

regulations or practices which have gone into effect automatically at the end of the of the suspension period are prospective in effect.

(c) At any hearing involving a rate sought to be increased or involving the change of any rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice, the burden of proof to show the justness and reasonableness of the increased rate or proposed increased rate, or the proposed change of rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice shall be upon the public utility making application for such change. The commission shall, whenever practicable and within budgetary constraints, conduct one or more public hearings within the area served by the public utility making application for such increase or change, for the purpose of obtaining comments and evidence on the matter from local ratepayers.

(d) Each public utility subject to the provisions of this section shall be required to establish, in a written report which shall be incorporated into each general rate case application, that it has thoroughly investigated and considered the emerging and state-of-the-art concepts in the utility management, rate design and conservation as reported by the commission under subsection (c), section one, article one of this chapter as alternatives to, or in mitigation of, any rate increase. The utility report shall contain as to each concept considered the reasons for adoption or rejection of each. When in any case pending before the commission all evidence shall have been taken and the hearing completed, the commission shall render a decision in such case. The failure of the commission to render a decision with respect to any such proposed change in any such rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice within the various time periods specified in this section after the application therefor shall constitute neglect of duty on the part of the commission and each member thereof.

(e) Other than as provided in subsection (b) of this section relating to public service districts, where more than twenty members of the public are affected by a proposed change in rates, it shall be a sufficient notice to the public within the meaning of this section if such notice is published as a Class II legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code and the publication area for such publication shall be the community where the majority of the resident members of the public affected by such change reside or, in case of nonresidents, have their principal place of business within this state.

(f) The commission may order rates into effect subject to refund, plus interest in the discretion of the commission, in cases in which the commission determines that a temporary or interim rate increase is necessary for the utility to avoid financial distress, or in which the costs upon which these rates are based are subject to modification by the commission or another regulatory commission and to refund to the public utility. In such case the commission may require such public utility to enter into a bond in an amount deemed by the commission to be reasonable and conditioned upon the refund to the persons or parties entitled thereto of the amount of the excess if such rates so put into effect are subsequently determined to be higher than those finally fixed for such utility.

(g) No utility regulated under the provisions of this section may make application for a general rate increase while another general rate application is pending before the commission and not finally acted upon, except pursuant to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed so as to prohibit any such rate application from being made while a previous application which has been finally acted upon by the commission is pending before or upon appeal to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

CHAPTER 24A. COMMERCIAL MOTOR CARRIERS.

ARTICLE 2. COMMON CARRIERS BY MOTOR VEHICLES.

§24A-5-2. Certificate of convenience and necessity.

(a) *Required; application; hearing; granting.* — It shall be unlawful for any common carrier by motor vehicle to operate within this state without first having obtained from the commission a certificate of convenience and necessity. Upon the filing of an application for such certificate, the commission shall set a time a place for a hearing on the application: *Provided*, That the commission may, after giving proper notice and if no protest is received, waive formal hearing on the application. Notice shall be by publication which shall state that a formal hearing may be waived in the absence of a protest to such application. The notice shall be published as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of article three, chapter fifty-nine of this code and the publication area for such publication shall be the proposed area of operation. The notice shall be published at least ten days prior to the date of the hearing. After the hearing or waiver by the commission of the hearing, if the commission finds from the evidence that the public convenience and necessity require the proposed service or any part thereof, it shall issue the certificate as prayed for, or issue it for the partial exercise only of the privilege sought, and may attach to the exercise of the right granted by such certificate such terms and conditions as in its judgment the public convenience and necessity may require, and if the commission shall be of the opinion that the service rendered by any common carrier holding a certificate of convenience and necessity over any route or routes in this state is in any respect inadequate or insufficient to meet the public needs, such certificate holder shall be given reasonable time and opportunity to remedy such inadequacy or insufficiency before any certificate shall be granted to an applicant proposing to operate over such route or routes as a common carrier. Before granting a certificate to a common carrier by motor vehicle the

commission shall take into consideration existing transportation facilities in the territory for which a certificate is sought, and in case it finds from the evidence that the service furnished by existing transportation facilities is reasonably efficient and adequate, the commission shall not grant such certificate.

(b) *Rules and regulations; taking evidence at hearings; burden of proof.* — The commission shall prescribe such rules and regulations as it may deem proper for the enforcement of the provisions of this section and in establishing that public convenience and necessity do exist the burden of proof shall be upon the applicant. The commission may designate any of its employees to take evidence at the hearing of any application for a certificate and submit findings of fact as a part of a report or reports to be made to the commission.

(c) *Certificate not franchise, etc.; assignment or transfer.* — No certificate issued in accordance with the terms of this chapter shall be construed to be either a franchise or irrevocable or to confer any proprietary or property rights in the use of the public highways. No certificate issued under this chapter shall be assigned or otherwise transferred without the approval of the commission.

(1) Upon the death of a person holding a certificate, his or her personal representative or representatives may operate under such certificate while the same remains in force and effect and, with the consent of the commission, may transfer such certificate; and

(2) An application by a motor carrier to transfer a certificate of convenience and necessity, or a portion thereof, to another motor carrier possessing one or more certificates of public convenience and necessity for the same commodity shall be affirmed or denied within 90 days of the submission of a complete application for transfer. The commission shall make a determination within ten business

days of receiving a transfer application if the application is complete and notify the applicant if additional information is required. If the commission fails to act on a complete application within 90 days, the application to transfer the certificate shall be deemed approved.

(d) *Suspension, revocation or amendment.* — The commission may at any time, for good cause, suspend and, upon not less than fifteen days' notice to the grantee of any certificate and an opportunity to be heard, revoke or amend any certificate.

(e) The commission shall have the authority, after hearing, to ratify, approve and affirm those orders issued pursuant to this section since March 10, nineteen hundred seventy-nine. For the purposes of this subsection the commission may give notice by a Class I legal advertisement of such hearing in any newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in this state, and such other newspapers as the commission may designate.

ARTICLE 5. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION.

§24A-5-2a. Procedure for changing rates for collection and hauling of solid waste by motor carriers; rural rates.

(a) Unless a motor carrier collecting and hauling solid waste elects to increase rates under section 2 of this chapter and the commission's existing rules and regulations, effective July 1, 2020, no solid waste motor carrier subject to this chapter shall change, suspend, or annul any individual rate, joint rate, fare, charge, or classification for the collection or hauling of solid waste, except after 30 days' notice to the commission and the carrier's customers, with such notice to customers being sent as a bill insert or separately mailed statement that plainly states the changes proposed to be made in the schedule then in force and the time when the changed rates or charges will go into effect. The motor carrier shall file its proposed public notice with the commission for review. Within five business days of

the filing of the notice with the commission, the commission shall issue an order approving the notice.

(b) Any proposed rate changes shall be shown by printing new schedules, or shall be plainly indicated upon the schedules in force at the time, and kept open to public inspection: *Provided*, That the commission may, in its discretion, and for good cause shown, allow changes upon less time than the notice herein specified, or may modify the requirements of this section in respect to publishing, posting and filing of tariffs, either by particular instructions or by general order.

(c) Whenever a solid waste motor carrier shall file with the commission any schedule stating a change in the rates or charges, or joint rates or charges, or stating a new individual or joint rate or charge or joint classification or any new individual or joint regulation or practice affecting any rate or charge, except as set forth in subsection (d) below, the commission shall have authority, on its own initiative, or upon substantial protest filed with the commission within 30 days' notice of the proposed increase or change demonstrated by the complaints submitted by the lesser of: (i) 25 percent of the customers impacted by the proposed change in rates or charges; or (ii) 750 customers impacted by the proposed change in rates or charges to suspend the rates pending a hearing and final determination that the rate, charge, classification, regulation or practice is just, reasonable, and based primarily on the cost of service. At any hearing involving a rate sought to be increased or involving the change of any fare, charge, classification, regulation, or practice, the burden of proof to show that the increased rate or proposed increased rate, or the proposed change of fare, charge, classification, regulation or practice, is just, reasonable, and based primarily on the cost of service, shall be upon the motor carrier making application for such change. Any suspension of a rate, charge classification, regulation, or practice under this subsection shall not extend beyond such time that the commission enters a final decision in the case or 120 days from the date

notice was first given. The commission may extend the time in which a final decision is due by an additional 30 days if a motor carrier fails to provide material information requested by the commission more than 30 days in advance of the hearing.

(d) Urban Consumer Garbage Trash Collection Index rate change – Effective July 1, 2020, solid waste motor carriers shall be permitted to increase rates for the collection and hauling of solid waste once on January 1 of each year, without the filing of an application for approval by the commission and such increase shall be considered just and reasonable and not unfairly discriminatory, prejudicial or preferential if: (1) The carrier complies with the notice requirements of subsection (a) of this section; and (2) the percentage of the increase over the prior rate is equal to or less than the percentage of any increase in the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics Garbage and Trash Collection Index (the "Index") from January 1, of the preceding year. Any rate increase that a motor carrier believes is at or below the aforementioned increase in the Index shall be identified as such when filed with the commission. Such rate increases shall be subject to challenge by the commission only if it determines that the increase is in fact in excess of the amount of the increase in the Index for the relevant time period. If the commission determines a rate increase filed pursuant to this subsection is in excess of the increase in the Index for the relevant time period, it may enter an order suspending the rate increase consistent with subsection (c) of this section. If such an order is entered, the motor carrier shall be entitled to a hearing pursuant to the process authorized in subsection (c) of this section. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, the fact that a solid waste motor carrier has already raised its rates in a given year pursuant to this subsection shall not preclude that carrier from applying for and receiving from the commission a rate increase pursuant to subsection (c) of this section: *Provided*, That the commission shall take into account the prior rate increase

taken pursuant to this subsection when considering the carrier's application to increase rates. A motor carrier may implement up to four annual indexed rate increases under this subsection before filing for a rate increase under chapter 24A of this code: *Provided*, That the commission shall not engage in retroactive rate making.

(e) The commission shall prescribe such rules and regulations as to the giving of notice of a change in rates pursuant to this section as are reasonable and are deemed proper in the public interest.

§24A-5-2b. Authorizing Public Service Commission to approve alternative pick-up due to adverse conditions.

Every motor carrier of solid waste in residential service shall provide and maintain regularly scheduled pickup service. Exceptions to the regularly scheduled pickup service may be made for reasons beyond the motor carrier's control, including, but not limited to, dangerous road conditions, inclement weather, flooding, road closures. Exceptions to the regularly scheduled pickup service based on such conditions will be at the motor carrier's discretion: *Provided*, That nothing herein changes the universal service obligation of any motor carrier. Any interruption of service in this regard that lasts beyond five days shall be reported by the motor carrier to the commission and the motor carrier and the staff of the commission shall establish a contingency pickup arrangement for the affected customers that the motor carrier shall implement until the condition causing the service interruption is alleviated.

CHAPTER 307

(H. B. 4661 - By Delegates Anderson, J. Kelly, Maynard, Storch, Azinger, Pethtel, Hartman, Miller, P. Martin and C. Martin)

[Passed February 27, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §24-2-4c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §24-3-7 of said code, all relating to the powers of the Public Service Commission and the regulation of natural gas utilities; permitting natural gas utilities to seek proposals for drilling new natural gas wells and proposals for increasing production from existing natural gas wells; permitting natural gas utilities to create a process for identifying the cost to procure dependable supplies of natural gas to serve certain gas utility customers when dependable, lower-priced supplies of natural gas are not readily available to serve those customers; allowing natural gas utilities to petition the commission for approval of the related costs to serve such customers; providing that the commission may approve the petition the commission finds that: (1) The process of determining the costs and expected additional natural gas supply is reasonable; (2) the expected additional supply is dependable; and (3) the costs of the additional supply are reasonable and not contrary to the public interest; providing that natural gas utilities shall recover those costs pursuant to its annual purchased gas costs adjustment filings with the commission; allowing natural gas utilities to defer reasonable and prudent actual expenses attributable to converting each customer, incurred after the test year for the utility's last rate case proceeding, which are not included in the utility's current base rates; providing that natural gas utilities shall recover reasonable and prudent

deferred customer conversion expenses in future base rate cases through recovery of deferred expenses amortized over a reasonable period of time, as determined by the commission; providing that such recovery will be allowed only to the extent that the commission determines, based on evidence presented by the utility, that deferred amounts did not contribute to base rate earnings in excess of the utility's last authorized return on equity calculated since the effective date of base rates from the utility's last rate case proceeding; and adding lettering of subsections to an existing section of code.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

§24-2-4c. Rate increases for natural gas public utilities relating to purchase of natural gas from suppliers; obtaining new supplies of natural gas to meet obligations.

(a) Before granting any rate increase to a natural gas public utility the commission must determine that dependable lower-priced supplies of natural gas are not readily available to the applicant from other sources.

(b) At any hearing involving a rate increase for a natural gas public utility, the burden of proof to demonstrate that dependable lower-priced supplies of natural gas are not readily available from other sources and that contracts between the public utility and its suppliers for purchase of natural gas are negotiated at arm's length and are not detrimental to the customers of the utility's services shall be upon the public utility making application for such change. Should the applying public utility not satisfactorily meet this burden, then the commission may not authorize an increase greater than that which reflects the reasonable cost of natural gas which is determined to be readily available.

(c) If a gas utility purchases from an affiliate more than 50 percent of its gas supplied to its customers, any purchase cost adjustment increase shall be based on actual costs and

may be subject to the general rate case requirements and review of section four-a of this article.

(d) Before January 1, 1984, the commission shall promulgate rules and regulations detailing what an applying natural gas utility must show in providing that dependable, lower-priced supplies of natural gas are not readily available to the applicant from other sources. Such rules and regulations shall include a requirement that each such utility let out bids for the purchase of a substantial quantity of natural gas supplied to its customers and that each such public utility present evidence demonstrating that all available sources of gas have been thoroughly investigated and that the utility's purchases were at the lowest available price among reliable sources at the time of the purchase. Such evidence shall include a list of all persons, firms and corporations which were investigated as sources of gas; the price per thousand cubic feet at which each investigated person, firm or corporation offered gas for sale; the availability and cost of transporting such gas and the amount of gas potentially available each month by such person, firm or corporation. Such list shall also include the same information resulting from investigation of all "shut-in" wells.

(e) A gas utility may seek proposals for drilling new natural gas wells and proposals for increasing production from existing natural gas wells and may create a process for identifying the cost to procure dependable supplies of natural gas to serve certain gas utility customers when dependable, lower-priced supplies of natural gas are not readily available to serve those customers. A gas utility may petition the commission for approval of the related costs to serve such customers. Upon a finding by the commission that: (1) The process of determining the costs and expected additional natural gas supply is reasonable; (2) the expected additional supply is dependable; and (3) the costs of the additional supply are reasonable and not contrary to the public interest; the commission may approve the petition.

The gas utility shall recover those costs pursuant to its annual purchased gas costs adjustment filings with the commission under this section and the above-referenced rules of the commission.

ARTICLE 3. DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF PUBLIC UTILITIES SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS OF COMMISSION.

§24-3-7. Permit to abandon service; certificate; hearing upon intervention by consumer advocate; alternative service; recouping costs of converting customers.

(a) No railroad or other public utility shall abandon all or any portion of its service to the public or the operation of any of its lines which would affect the service it is rendering the public unless and until there shall first have been filed with the Public Service Commission of this state an application for a permit to abandon service and obtained from the commission an order stating that the present and future public convenience and necessity permits such abandonment.

(b) The consumer advocate's office shall be notified of all notices to abandon rail service. Within five days of the receipt of such notice the consumer advocate shall notify the West Virginia public port authority of such proposed abandonment. The public port authority shall advise the consumer advocate as to whether such abandonment is in the public interest or if such rail line or service is an integral part of the intermodal transportation system within West Virginia. If the public port authority deems such abandonment to be not in the public interest, then the consumer advocate shall intervene to block such abandonment before all appropriate state and federal agencies or courts.

(c) The Public Service Commissioner, to the extent permitted by federal law, shall promulgate rules and regulations to govern the abandonment of rail lines and rail

service, including, but not limited to, the providing of a hearing for the presentation of evidence in cases where the consumer advocate seeks intervention pursuant to subsection (b).

(d) In the event the commission determines that an application to abandon gas service or any part thereof is in the public interest and required by the present and future public convenience and necessity, it shall include in its order, as a condition of releasing any such utility from its public service obligation to provide gas service, a provision requiring the utility, prior to discontinuing service, to pay the cost reasonably necessary to convert each customer to an alternate fuel source. Natural gas utilities may defer reasonable and prudent actual expenses attributable to converting each customer incurred after the test year for the utility's last rate case proceeding and which are not included in the utility's current base rates. The utility shall recover its reasonable and prudent deferred customer conversion expenses in a future base rate case through recovery of the deferred expenses amortized over a reasonable period of time to be determined by the commission, but such recovery will be allowed only to the extent that the commission also determines, based on evidence presented by the utility, that deferred amounts did not contribute to base rate earnings in excess of the utility's last authorized return on equity calculated since the effective date of base rates from the utility's last rate case proceeding.

CHAPTER 308

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4823 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §24-6-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to emergency 911 telephone system and wireless enhanced 911 fees; and requiring the Public Service Commission in cooperation with the State Auditor to develop a plan for periodic audits of the expenditure of the fees from these systems.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. LOCAL EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

§24-6-3. Adoption of emergency telephone system plan.

(a) The Public Service Commission shall develop, adopt, and periodically review a comprehensive plan establishing the technical and operational standards to be followed in establishing and maintaining emergency telephone systems and enhanced emergency telephone systems.

(b) In developing the comprehensive plan, the Public Service Commission shall consult with telephone companies, and with the various public agencies and public safety units, including, but not limited to, emergency services organizations.

(c) The Public Service Commission shall annually review with each operating telephone company their construction and switching replacements projections.

During this review, the Public Service Commission shall ensure that all new switching facilities will accommodate the emergency telephone system.

(d) The State Auditor, in cooperation with the Public Service Commission, shall develop and adopt a comprehensive plan for periodic audits of the expenditure of emergency 911 telephone system fees and wireless enhanced 911 fees. The results of the audits shall be submitted to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, no less than annually.

CHAPTER 309

(S. B. 202 - By Senator Weld)

[Passed February 28, 2020; in effect 90 days from passage]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-13A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing one member of a public service board to be a county commissioner of the county commission with authority to appoint the members of the board, regardless of whether the commissioner resides within the district, when a board vacancy has existed for more than one year.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13A. PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICTS.

§16-13A-3. District to be a public corporation and political subdivision; powers thereof; public service boards.

From and after the date of the adoption of the order creating any public service district, it is a public corporation and political subdivision of the state, but without any power

to levy or collect ad valorem taxes. Each district may acquire, own, and hold property, both real and personal, in its corporate name, and may sue, may be sued, may adopt an official seal, and may enter into contracts necessary or incidental to its purposes, including contracts with any city, incorporated town, or other municipal corporation located within or without its boundaries for furnishing wholesale supply of water for the distribution system of the city, town, or other municipal corporation, or for furnishing stormwater services for the city, town, or other municipal corporation, and contract for the operation, maintenance, servicing, repair, and extension of any properties owned by it or for the operation and improvement or extension by the district of all or any part of the existing municipally owned public service properties of any city, incorporated town, or other municipal corporation included within the district: *Provided*, That no contract may extend beyond a maximum of 40 years, but provisions may be included therein for a renewal or successive renewals thereof and shall conform to and comply with the rights of the holders of any outstanding bonds issued by the municipalities for the public service properties.

The powers of each public service district shall be vested in and exercised by a public service board consisting of not less than three members who shall be persons residing within the district, who possess certain educational, business, or work experience which will be conducive to operating a public service district, with the exception, however, that in the event a public service board has had a vacancy for more than one year one member of the public service board may be a county commissioner of the county commission with authority to appoint the members of the board regardless of whether the commissioner resides within the district. In the event the public service district is providing any utility service and billing rates and charges to its customers, at least one board member shall be a rate-paying residential customer of the public service district: *Provided*, That if an existing public service board does not

have a member who is a rate-paying residential customer of the public service district on July 1, 2013, the next following appointment to the board shall be a rate-paying residential customer of that public service district. For purposes of this section, "rate-paying residential customer" means a person who:

(1) In the case of a water or sewer public service district, is physically connected to and actively receiving residential public service district utility services; or

(2) In the case of a stormwater public service district, has storm water conveyed away from the residential property by a utility-owned system; and

(3) Has an active account in good standing and is the occupier of the residential property which is on the public service district utility service account.

Each board member shall, within six months of taking office, successfully complete the training program to be established and administered by the Public Service Commission in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Protection and the Bureau for Public Health. Board members may not be or become pecuniarily interested, directly or indirectly, in the proceeds of any contract or service, or in furnishing any supplies or materials to the district nor may a former board member be hired by the district in any capacity within a minimum of 12 months after the board member's term has expired or the board member has resigned from the district board. The members shall be appointed in the following manner:

Each city, incorporated town, or other municipal corporation having a population of more than 3,000 but less than 18,000 is entitled to appoint one member of the board, and each city, incorporated town, or other municipal corporation having a population in excess of 18,000 shall be entitled to appoint one additional member of the board for each additional 18,000 in population. The members of the

board representing such cities, incorporated towns, or other municipal corporations shall be residents thereof and shall be appointed by a resolution of the governing bodies thereof and upon the filing of a certified copy or copies of the resolution or resolutions in the office of the clerk of the county commission which entered the order creating the district, the persons so appointed become members of the board without any further act or proceedings. If the number of members of the board so appointed by the governing bodies of cities, incorporated towns, or other municipal corporations included in the district equals or exceeds three, then no further members shall be appointed to the board and the members so appointed are the board of the district except in cases of merger or consolidation where the number of board members may equal five.

If no city, incorporated town, or other municipal corporation having a population of more than 3,000 is included within the district, then the county commission which entered the order creating the district shall appoint three members of the board, who are persons residing within the district and residing within the state of West Virginia, which three members become members of the board of the district without any further act or proceedings except in cases of merger or consolidation where the number of board members may equal five.

If the number of members of the board appointed by the governing bodies of cities, incorporated towns, or other municipal corporations included within the district is less than three, then the county commission which entered the order creating the district shall appoint such additional member or members of the board, who are persons residing within the district, as is necessary to make the number of members of the board equal three except in cases of merger or consolidation where the number of board members may equal five, and the member or members appointed by the governing bodies of the cities, incorporated towns, or other municipal corporations included within the district and the

additional member or members appointed by the county commission as aforesaid, are the board of the district. A person may serve as a member of the board in one or more public service districts.

The population of any city, incorporated town, or other municipal corporation, for the purpose of determining the number of members of the board, if any, to be appointed by the governing body or bodies thereof, is the population stated for such city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation in the last official federal census.

Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, whenever a district is consolidated or merged pursuant to §16-13A-2 of this code, the terms of office of the existing board members shall end on the effective date of the merger or consolidation. The county commission shall appoint a new board according to rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission. Whenever districts are consolidated or merged no provision of this code prohibits the expansion of membership on the new board to five.

The respective terms of office of the members of the first board shall be fixed by the county commission and shall be as equally divided as may be, that is approximately one third of the members for a term of two years, a like number for a term of four years, the term of the remaining member or members for six years, from the first day of the month during which the appointments are made. The first members of the board appointed as aforesaid shall meet at the office of the clerk of the county commission which entered the order creating the district as soon as practicable after the appointments and shall qualify by taking an oath of office: *Provided*, That any member or members of the board may be removed from their respective office as provided in §16-13A-3a of this code.

Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired term within 30 days; otherwise successor members of the board shall be appointed for terms of six years and the terms of

office shall continue until successors have been appointed and qualified. All successor members shall be appointed in the same manner as the member succeeded was appointed. The district shall provide to the Public Service Commission, within 30 days of the appointment, the following information: The new board member's name, home address, home and office phone numbers, date of appointment, length of term, who the new member replaces, and if the new appointee has previously served on the board. The Public Service Commission shall notify each new board member of the legal obligation to attend training as prescribed in this section.

The board shall organize within 30 days following the first appointments and annually thereafter at its first meeting after January 1 of each year by selecting one of its members to serve as chair and by appointing a secretary and a treasurer who need not be members of the board. The secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the board which shall be available for inspection as other public records. Duplicate records shall be filed with the county commission and shall include the minutes of all board meetings. The treasurer is lawful custodian of all funds of the public service district and shall pay same out on orders authorized or approved by the board. The secretary and treasurer shall perform other duties appertaining to the affairs of the district and shall receive salaries as shall be prescribed by the board. The treasurer shall furnish bond in an amount to be fixed by the board for the use and benefit of the district.

The members of the board, and the chair, secretary, and treasurer thereof, shall make available to the county commission, at all times, all of its books and records pertaining to the district's operation, finances, and affairs, for inspection and audit. The board shall meet at least monthly.

CHAPTER 310

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4748 - By Delegates Howell and C. Martin)
[By Request of the Secretary of State]

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §39-4-23 and §39-4-30 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to the increase of fees that private nongovernment notary publics may charge for notarial acts; clarifying the appropriate manner of advertising for non-government notarial services; and providing the proper manner and content of the required disclaimer to notarial customers by private notary publics, which disclaimer clearly notifies notary customers that nonattorney notary publics are not permitted to provide legal services including document drafting, document review, or legal advice.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4. REVISED UNIFORM LAW ON NOTARIAL ACTS.

§39-4-23. Prohibited acts.

1 (a) A commission as a notary public does not authorize
2 an individual to:

3 (1) Assist persons in drafting legal records, give legal
4 advice or otherwise practice law;

5 (2) Act as an immigration consultant or an expert on
6 immigration matters;

(3) Represent a person in a judicial or administrative proceeding relating to immigration to the United States, United States citizenship or related matters; or

(4) Receive compensation for performing any of the activities listed in this subsection.

(b) A notary public may not engage in false or deceptive advertising.

(c) A notary public, other than an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, may not use the term "notario" or "notario publico".

(d) A notary public, other than an attorney licensed to practice law in this state, may not advertise or represent that the notary public may assist persons in drafting legal records, give legal advice, or otherwise practice law.

(e) If a notary public who is not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state in any manner advertises or represents that the notary public offers notarial services, whether orally or in writing, the notary public shall provide a clear disclaimer that the notary is not authorized to practice law under the following conditions:

(1) If the form of advertisement or representation is not broadcast media, print media or the internet and does not permit inclusion of a disclaimer as required by subsection (e) because of size, it must be displayed prominently or provided at the place of performance of the notarial act before the notarial act is performed.

(2) If the form of advertisement is made through broadcast media, print media or the Internet, the following statement, or an alternate statement authorized or required by the Secretary of State, shall be prominently included in each advertisement or representation: "I am not an attorney licensed to practice law in this state. I am not permitted to draft legal records, give advice on legal matters, including

but not limited to, immigration, or charge a fee for those activities".

(f) Except as otherwise allowed by law, a notary public may not withhold access to or possession of an original record provided by a person that seeks performance of a notarial act by the notary public.

§39-4-30. Maximum fees.

(a) The maximum fee in this state for notarization of each signature and the proper recordation thereof in the journal of notarial acts is $10.00 for each signature notarized.

(b) The maximum fee in this state for certification of a facsimile of a document, retaining a facsimile in the notary's file, and the proper recordation thereof in the journal of notarial acts is $10.00 for each eight and one-half by eleven inch page retained in the notary's file.

(c) The maximum fee in this state is $10.00 for any other notarial act performed.

CHAPTER 311

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 136 - By Senator Swope)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect 90 days from passage]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §47-28-1, §47-28-2, §47-28-3, §47-28-4, and §47-28-5, all relating to prohibiting certain deceptive legal advertising practices; defining terms; setting forth prohibited legal advertising practices; requiring disclosures and warnings pertaining to

prescription drugs and medical devices; providing that engaging in prohibited legal advertising practices or failure to provide required disclosures and warnings constitute unfair and deceptive acts under the West Virginia Consumer and Credit Protection Act; prohibiting the use or disclosure of protected health information for solicitation of legal services; providing that the use or disclosure of protected health information constitutes a violation of West Virginia health privacy laws or the West Virginia Consumer and Credit Protection Act; providing criminal penalties for unauthorized use or disclosure of protected health information; and clarifying that the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals retains authority to regulate the practice of law.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 28. PREVENTION OF DECEPTIVE LAWSUIT ADVERTISING AND SOLICITATION PRACTICES REGARDING THE USE OF MEDICATIONS.

§47-28-1. Short title.

1 This article may be known and cited as the Prevention
2 of Deceptive Lawsuit Advertising and Solicitation Practices
3 Regarding the Use of Medications Act.

§47-28-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 (1) "Legal advertisement" means a solicitation for legal
3 services regarding the use of medications through
4 television, radio, newspaper or other periodical, outdoor
5 display, or other written, electronic, or recorded
6 communications wherein the advertisement solicits clients
7 or potential clients for legal services.

8 (2) "Person" means an individual or entity, including,
9 but not limited to: (i) Attorneys; (ii) law firms; or (iii) third
10 parties who solicit potential clients on behalf of attorneys or
11 law firms, which pays for or authorizes a legal

advertisement that solicits potential clients for attorneys or law firms under this article.

(3) "Protected health information" has the meaning given such term in 45 C.F.R. 160.103 (2013).

(4) "Solicit" means an offer to provide legal services regarding the use of medications by written, recorded, or electronic communication or by in-person, telephone, or real-time electronic contact.

§47-28-3. Deceptive legal advertising practices.

(a) Specifically prohibited legal advertising practices. — A person engages in an unfair or deceptive act or practice if, in a legal advertisement, the person does any of the following:

(1) Fails to contain the statement: "This is a paid advertisement for legal services.";

(2) Presents a legal advertisement as a "consumer medical alert", "health alert", "consumer alert", "public service health announcement", or substantially similar phrase suggesting to a reasonable recipient that the advertisement is offering professional, medical, or government agency advice about pharmaceuticals or medical devices rather than legal services;

(3) Displays the logo of a federal or state government agency in a manner that suggests affiliation with the sponsorship of that agency;

(4) Uses the word "recall" when referring to a product that has not been recalled by a government agency or through an agreement between a manufacturer and government agency;

(5) Fails to identify the sponsor of the legal advertisement; or

(6) Fails to indicate the identity of the attorney or law firm that will represent clients, or how potential clients or cases will be referred to attorneys or law firms that will represent clients if the sponsor of the legal advertisement may not represent persons responding to the advertisement.

(b) Disclosures and warnings for protection of patients. —

(1) A legal advertisement soliciting clients for legal services in connection with a prescription drug or medical device approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall include the following warning: "Do not stop taking a prescribed medication without first consulting with your doctor. Discontinuing a prescribed medication without your doctor's advice can result in injury or death.".

(2) A legal advertisement soliciting clients for legal services in connection with a prescription drug or medical device approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration shall disclose that the subject of the legal advertisement remains approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, unless the product has been recalled or withdrawn.

(c) Appearance of required statements, disclosures, and warnings. — Any words or statements required by this section to appear in an advertisement must be presented clearly and conspicuously.

(1) Written disclosures shall be clearly legible and, if televised or displayed electronically, shall be displayed for a sufficient time to enable the viewer to easily see and fully read the disclosure or disclaimer.

(2) Spoken disclosures shall be plainly audible and clearly intelligible.

(d) A person who willfully and knowingly violates this section engages in an unfair and deceptive act or practice in violation of §46A-6-101 *et seq.* of this code.

§47-28-4. Wrongful use or disclosure of protected health information for solicitation of legal services regarding the use of medications.

(a) Use or disclosure of protected health information for legal solicitation. — A person shall not use, cause to be used, obtain, sell, transfer, or disclose to another person without written authorization protected health information for the purpose of soliciting an individual for legal services regarding the use of medications.

(b) Enforcement. —

(1) A violation of this section is a violation of West Virginia's health privacy laws or §46A-6-101 *et seq.* of this code.

(2) In addition to any other remedy provided by law, a person who willfully and knowingly violates this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than $5,000 or confined in jail not more than one year, or both fined and confined.

(c) Construction. — This section does not apply to the use or disclosure of protected health information to an individual's legal representative, in the course of any judicial or administrative proceeding, or as otherwise permitted or required by law.

(d) Nothing in this section creates or implies liability on behalf of a broadcaster who holds a license for over-the-air terrestrial broadcasting from the federal communications commission, or against a cable operator as defined in 47 U.S.C. §522(5).

§47-28-5. Authority of judiciary or State Bar to regulate practice of law.

This article does not limit or otherwise affect the authority of the judiciary or the Lawyer Disciplinary Board to regulate the practice of law, enforce the West Virginia Rules of Professional Conduct, or discipline persons admitted to the bar.

CHAPTER 312

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 2478 - By Delegates Steele, Pack, Lovejoy, Mandt and Rohrbach)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §47-11A-2, §47-11A-6, and §47-11A-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to unfair trade practices; generally providing for invoice cost of each separate or distinct product or item of merchandise to retailer in calculation of cost to business of retailer; including applicable taxes in invoice cost in calculation of cost to business of retailer; clarifying application of misdemeanor offenses under the act; eliminating markup in calculation of cost to business of retailer; authorizing court to award treble damages, court costs, litigation costs, and attorney fees for violation; and making technical changes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 11A. UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES.

§47-11A-2. When selling below cost prohibited; penalty.

Except as otherwise provided in this article, it shall be unlawful for any person, partnership, firm, corporation, or other entity engaged in business as a retailer or wholesaler within this state to sell, offer for sale, or advertise for sale any product or item of merchandise at a price less than the cost thereof with the intent to destroy or the effect of destroying competition. Each violation shall constitute a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, any person, partnership, firm, corporation, or other entity violating this

section shall be subject to the penalty set forth in §47-11A-11 of this code.

§47-11A-6. How cost determined.

(a) The term "cost" when applicable to the business of retailer shall mean bona fide cost and shall mean: (i) The invoice cost of each separate or distinct product or item of merchandise to the retailer to include applicable taxes, or the replacement cost thereof to the retailer within 30 days prior to the date of sale, offer for sale, or advertisement for sale, as the case may be, in the quantity last purchased, whichever is lower, from either of which there shall be deducted all trade discounts, except customary discounts for cash; and (ii) to either of which there shall be added freight charges not otherwise included in the cost of the article, product, or item of merchandise, but which freight charges shall not be construed as including cartage to retail outlet if done or paid for by the retailer.

(b) The term "cost" when applicable to the business of a wholesaler shall mean bona fide cost and shall mean: (i) The invoice cost of the merchandise to the wholesaler to include applicable taxes, or the replacement cost of the merchandise to the wholesaler within 30 days prior to the date of sale, offer for sale, or advertisement for sale, as the case may be, in the quantity last purchased, whichever is lower, from either of which there shall be deducted all trade discounts except customary discounts for cash; and (ii) to either of which there shall be added the following items of expense:

(1) Freight charges not otherwise included in the cost of the article, product, or item of merchandise, but which freight charges shall not be construed as including cartage to the retail outlet if done or paid for by the wholesaler;

(2) A markup to cover, in part, the cost of doing business, which markup in the absence of proof of a lesser cost, shall be four percent of the aggregate of invoice cost

or replacement cost (whichever is used), less trade discounts as aforesaid, and plus said freight charges: *Provided*, That such a markup to cover the cost of doing business as provided for in this subdivision shall be exclusive of any federal and state motor fuel taxes.

§47-11A-9. Injunctions; damage suits; and jurisdiction.

(a) Any person, partnership, firm, corporation, or other entity injured by a violation of §47-11A-2 or §47-11A-3 of this code may maintain an action to enjoin a continuance of any such violation in the circuit court of the county wherein said violation is alleged to have occurred. If a violation is established in such an action, the court shall enjoin, restrain, or otherwise prohibit such violation. In such action, if damages are alleged and proven, the plaintiff in the action, in addition to injunctive relief, shall recover from the defendant the actual damages sustained and proven to be a result of the violation, and the court may award the plaintiff treble damages, court costs, litigation costs, and attorneys' fees.

(b) In the event no injunctive relief is sought or required, any person, partnership, firm, corporation, or other entity injured by a violation of the provisions of this article may maintain an action for damages alone in the circuit court of the county wherein said violation is alleged to have occurred. If a violation is established in such an action and proven, a plaintiff shall recover from the defendant the actual damages sustained and proven to be a result of the violation, and the court may award the plaintiff treble damages, court costs, litigation costs, and attorneys' fees.

(c) In any action under subsections (a) and (b) of this section it shall be an absolute defense that the sale price of any product or item of merchandise alleged to be in violation of this article is equal to or greater than the sales price of the same product or item being sold by a competitor of the defendant.

(d) A court may dismiss any action under subsections (a) and (b) of this section upon a motion for summary judgment if the court finds pursuant to Rule 56 of the West Virginia Rules of Civil Procedure that the provisions of subsection (c) of this section have been satisfied.

(e) The circuit courts of this state shall have jurisdiction of actions under this section.

CHAPTER 313

(S. B. 734 - By Senator Clements)

[Passed February 27, 2020; in effect 90 days from passage]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17-2A-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying the powers and duties of the Division of Highways in acquiring property for state road purposes to include depth as well as width; and updating antiquated language.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2A. WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS.

§17-2A-17. Acquisition of property for state road purposes; "state road purposes" defined.

In addition to all other powers given and assigned to the commissioner in this chapter, the commissioner may acquire, either temporarily or permanently, in the name of the Division of Highways all real or personal property, public or private, or any interests or rights therein, including any easement, riparian right, or right of access, deemed by the commissioner to be necessary for present or presently

foreseeable future state road purposes by gift, lease, grant, bequest, devise, agreement, purchase, exchange, right of eminent domain, or other lawful means. Real property may be acquired in fee simple or in any lesser estate or interest therein, except in the case of a public road, only the right-of-way shall be acquired. Acquisition of such personal property shall be subject to the provisions of §17-2A-13 and §17-2A-15 of this code. The acquisition of all such real and personal property is hereby declared to be a cost of highway construction. Nothing in this section restricts or relinquishes any right the state or any agency thereof now or hereafter possesses or may exercise by virtue of the police power or other lawful authority.

As used in this article, "state road purposes" shall include provision for, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(a) Constructing, establishing, laying out, widening, enlarging, extending, straightening, reconstructing, relocating, grading, altering, improving, and maintaining state roads;

(b) Rights-of-way for state roads, including those needed for such roads within municipalities, such rights-of-way to be to such width and depth as deemed necessary for the project by the commissioner and shall include all material therein;

(c) Adequate drainage of state roads;

(d) Controlled-access facilities, as defined in §17-4-39 of this code, including existing and vested rights of access, air, view and light, whether privately or publicly owned, and local service roads to controlled-access facilities;

(e) Broadcasting stations, weighing stations, shops, equipment sheds, office buildings, storage buildings and yards, snow fences, road maintenance, or construction sites;

(f) Road-building material storage sites, quarry sites, gravel pits, sites for the acquisition or manufacture of road-building materials including borrow pits, stockpile sites, waste-material sites and access roads to any such sites or places;

(g) The culture and support of trees which benefit any state road by aiding in the maintenance and preservation of the road;

(h) Landscape and roadside development, and maintenance thereof, within any state road right-of-way, and the acquisition and maintenance of lands and interests in lands for the restoration, preservation, and enhancement of places of scenic beauty, and other objects of attraction or scenic value adjacent to or near any state road, and the acquisition, development, and maintenance of publicly owned and controlled rest and recreation areas and sanitary and other facilities reasonably necessary for the accommodation of the traveling public, within, adjacent to, or near the right-of-way of any road within the state road system;

(i) Development and maintenance of parking places, auto camps, camp sites, roadside parks, historic roadside markers and sites, forest or timbered areas, or other places of attraction and scenic value which are adjacent to or near any state road and which in the judgment of the commissioner are necessary for the convenience of the public and will contribute to the general welfare and pleasure of the motoring public or road users;

(j) Maintenance of an unobstructed view of any portion of any state road in order to provide for the safety of the traveling public;

(k) Erection and maintenance of markers, warning signs and traffic signals;

(l) Construction and maintenance on state roads of sidewalks and highway illumination;

(m) Elimination or prevention of hazardous or undesirable points of entry to state roads from adjacent property;

(n) Acquisition of property, or any interest or right therein, for the purpose of exchanging it for other property, or any interest or right therein, which the Division of Highways is authorized to acquire by the other provisions of this section: *Provided*, That such substitute property, or any interest or right therein, may be acquired by the commissioner by condemnation only if the following conditions are satisfied: (1) Monetary compensation would be substantially inadequate for the property, or interest or right therein, which the commissioner is authorized to acquire by the other provisions of this section; and (2) the Division of Highways has entered into a written agreement to exchange the substitute property, or the right or interest therein, for the property, or right or interest therein, which is needed for state road purposes, regardless of whether the person who has agreed to accept the exchange has the right to condemn the substitute property, or the right or interest therein; and

(o) Acquisition of real property, not needed for a state road, for the purpose of moving and relocating thereon a building or other structure or appurtenance which is situated on a lot or tract of land all or a portion of which is needed for a state road and which, after relocation, will be suitable for the purpose for which it was used prior to its being relocated: *Provided*, That such additional real property may be acquired by the commissioner by condemnation only if the following conditions are satisfied: (1) The building or other structure or appurtenance is of substantial value; (2) the real property on which it is to be relocated is not substantially improved and is adjacent to or near the location from which it is to be removed; (3) the owner of the real property needed for the state road has entered into a

written agreement with the Division of Highways to accept in exchange the additional property with the relocated building or structure or appurtenance thereon; (4) substantial savings in expenditure of state road funds will result from condemning the additional property and relocating the building or structure or appurtenance rather than condemning the lot or tract, or the portion thereof, on which the building or other structure or appurtenance may be located; and (5) the real property with the relocated building or structure or appurtenance thereon will be relatively equal in value to the real property needed for the state road.

CHAPTER 314

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4017 - By Delegates Summers, D. Jeffries, Sypolt, D. Kelly, Toney, Hardy, Mandt, Maynard, Linville, Phillips and Criss)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia,1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §17-2A-6b, relating to establishing country roads accountability and transparency; directing the State Auditor to develop and maintain a searchable website of funding actions and expenditures relating state and public roads; setting forth the minimum content to be contained in the website; directing the Commissioner of Highways to provide information and data to the State Auditor; and requiring an annual update to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2A. WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS.

§ 17-2A-6b. Country roads accountability and transparency.

(a) The Legislature finds that taxpayers should be able to easily access the details of how the state is spending their tax dollars to build and repair state and public roads. The taxpayers should also be able to easily access and compare the budgeted moneys and the performance results that are achieved for those expenditures. It is the intent of the Legislature, therefore, to direct the Auditor to create and maintain a searchable website detailing where, how much, and from what source the taxpayer moneys in state government are expended for state and public roads.

(b) No later than July 1, 2020, the Auditor shall develop and make publicly available a searchable website containing, at a minimum, the following information for a given fiscal year, and the three immediately preceding fiscal years:

(1) The project number or name for each state and public road in which moneys have been expended to build or repair or in which funding has been directed;

(2) The county location for each such project;

(3) The funding source for a given funding action or expenditure;

(4) The budget program or activity related to a given funding action or expenditure;

(5) The name and the address, principal location or residence of the recipients of a given funding action or expenditure; and

(6) Additional information as to the funding action or expenditure the Auditor considers valuable for the public.

(c) For the purposes of this section:

"Auditor" means the State Auditor of West Virginia, by himself or herself, or by any person appointed, designated or approved by the State Auditor to perform the service;

"Funding action or expenditure" includes details on the type of spending (grant, contract, appropriations, etc.). This includes, but is not limited to, tax exemptions, tax credits, or any expenditure from any civil contingency or similar fund. Where possible, a hyperlink to the actual grants or contracts shall be provided: *Provided*, That any private or confidential information is redacted: *Provided*, That any private or confidential information contained in the contract shall be redacted;

"Funding source" means the state account from which the funding action or expenditure is appropriated;

"Recipients" means any individual, person, corporation, association, union, limited liability corporation, limited liability partnership, legal business entity including nonprofit organizations, grantees, contractors, or any county, municipal or other local government entity that directly receives the benefit of a funding action or expenditure;

"Searchable website" means a website that allows the public at no cost to search and aggregate information regarding the state's budget and spending.

(d) The searchable website shall be updated periodically as new data becomes available and is submitted by the commissioner to the Auditor. The commissioner shall provide to the Auditor, in a format specified by the Auditor, all the data that is required to be included in the searchable website no later than 30 days after the data becomes available to the agency. The Auditor shall provide guidance and specifications to the commissioner to promote compliance with this section.

(e) Nothing in this section may be construed to require the commissioner to provide information in a form that is not already available in the Division of Highways' accounting system: *Provided*, That when funding action or expenditure is not available separately for a road, the commissioner shall provide available information by county.

(f) The Auditor shall annually provide an update to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance as to the status of the website and shall make known to the Joint Committee and the public any failure by the commissioner to timely submit to the Auditor appropriate and requested information.

CHAPTER 315

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 623 - By Senators Rucker, Plymale, Roberts and Cline)

[Passed February 21, 2020; in effect from passage]
[Approved by the Governor on March 5, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18A-3-1 and §18A-3-1f of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to making a noncitizen of the United States eligible for a certificate to teach or an alternative program teacher certificate if he or she holds a valid Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Document, or work permit issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

§18A-3-1. Teacher preparation programs; program approval and standards; authority to issue teaching certificates.

(a) The education of professional educators in the state is under the general direction and control of the state board.

The education of professional educators in the state includes all programs leading to certification to teach or serve in the public schools. The programs include the following:

(1) Programs in all institutions of higher education, including student teaching and teacher-in-residence programs as provided in this section;

(2) Beginning teacher induction programs;

(3) Granting West Virginia certification to persons who received their preparation to teach outside the boundaries of this state, except as provided in subsection (b) of this section;

(4) Alternative preparation programs in this state leading to certification, including programs established pursuant to the provisions of §18A-3-1a, §18A-3-1b, §18A-3-1c, §18A-3-1d, §18A-3-1e, §18A-3-1f, §18A-3-1g, §18A-3-1h, and §18A-3-1i of this code and programs which are in effect on the effective date of this section; and

(5) Continuing professional education, professional development, and in-service training programs for professional educators employed in the public schools in the state.

(b) The state board shall adopt standards for the education of professional educators in the state and for awarding certificates valid in the public schools of this state. The standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) A provision for the study of the history and philosophical foundations of Western Civilization and the writings of the founders of the United States of America;

(2) A provision for the study of multicultural education. As used in this section, multicultural education means the study of the pluralistic nature of American society including its values, institutions, organizations, groups, status positions, and social roles;

(3) A provision for the study of classroom management techniques, including methods of effective management of disruptive behavior including addressing societal factors and their impact on student behavior; and

(4) A teacher from another state shall be awarded a teaching certificate for a comparable grade level and subject area valid in the public schools of this state, subject to §18A-3-10 of this code if he or she has met the following requirements:

(A) Holds a valid teaching certificate or a certificate of eligibility issued by another state;

(B) Has graduated from an educator preparation program at a regionally accredited institution of higher education or from another educator preparation program;

(C) Possesses the minimum of a bachelor's degree; and

(D) Meets all of the requirements of the state for full certification except employment.

(c) The state board may enter into an agreement with county boards for the use of the public schools in order to give prospective teachers the teaching experience needed to demonstrate competence as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the West Virginia public schools.

(d) An agreement established pursuant to subsection (c) of this section shall recognize student teaching as a joint

responsibility of the educator preparation institution and the cooperating public schools. The agreement shall include the following items:

(1) The minimum qualifications for the employment of public school teachers selected as supervising teachers, including the requirement that field-based and clinical experiences be supervised by a teacher fully certified in the state in which that teacher is supervising;

(2) The remuneration to be paid to public school teachers by the state board, in addition to their contractual salaries, for supervising student teachers;

(3) Minimum standards to guarantee the adequacy of the facilities and program of the public school selected for student teaching;

(4) Assurance that the student teacher, under the direction and supervision of the supervising teacher, shall exercise the authority of a substitute teacher;

(5) A provision requiring any higher education institution with an educator preparation program to document that the student teacher's field-based and clinical experiences include participation and instruction with multicultural, at-risk, and exceptional children at each programmatic level for which the student teacher seeks certification; and

(6) A provision authorizing a school or school district that has implemented a comprehensive beginning teacher induction program to enter into an agreement that provides for the training and supervision of student teachers consistent with the educational objectives of this subsection by using an alternate structure implemented for the support, supervision, and mentoring of beginning teachers. The agreement is in lieu of any specific provisions of this subsection and is subject to the approval of the state board.

(e) Teacher-in-residence programs. —

(1) In lieu of the provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section and subject to approval of the state board, an institution of higher education with a program for the education of professional educators approved by the state board may enter into an agreement with county boards for the use of teacher-in-residence programs in the public schools.

(2) A "teacher-in-residence program" means an intensively supervised and mentored residency program for prospective teachers during their senior year that refines their professional practice skills and helps them gain the teaching experience needed to demonstrate competence as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the West Virginia public schools.

(3) The authorization for the higher education institution and the county board to implement a teacher-in-residence program is subject to state board approval. The provisions of the agreement include, but are not limited to, the following items:

(A) A requirement that the prospective teacher in a teacher-in-residence program has completed all other preparation courses and has passed the appropriate basic skills and subject matter test or tests required by the state board for teachers to become certified in the area for which licensure is sought;

(B) A requirement that the teacher-in-residence serve only in a teaching position in the county which has been posted and for which no other teacher fully certified for the position has been employed;

(C) Specifics regarding the program of instruction for the teacher-in-residence setting forth the responsibilities for supervision and mentoring by the higher education institution's educator preparation program, the school principal, and peer teachers and mentors, and the responsibilities for the formal instruction or professional

development necessary for the teacher-in-residence to perfect his or her professional practice skills. The program also may include other instructional items as considered appropriate;

(D) A requirement that the teacher-in-residence hold a teacher-in-residence permit qualifying the individual to teach in his or her assigned position as the teacher of record;

(E) A requirement that the salary and benefit costs for the position to which the teacher-in-residence is assigned shall be used only for program support and to pay a stipend to the teacher-in-residence as specified in the agreement, subject to the following:

(i) The teacher-in-residence is a student enrolled in the teacher preparation program of the institution of higher education and is not a regularly employed employee of the county board;

(ii) The teacher-in-residence is included on the certified list of employees of the county eligible for state aid funding the same as an employee of the county at the appropriate level based on their permit and level of experience;

(iii) All state aid funding due to the county board for the teacher-in-residence shall be used only in accordance with the agreement with the institution of higher education for support of the program as provided in the agreement, including costs associated with instruction and supervision as set forth in paragraph (C) of this subdivision;

(iv) The teacher-in-residence is provided the same liability insurance coverage as other employees; and

(v) All state aid funding due to the county for the teacher-in-residence and not required for support of the program shall be paid as a stipend to the teacher-in-residence: *Provided*, That the stipend paid to the teacher-in-residence shall be no less than 65 percent of all state aid funding due the county for the teacher-in-residence;

(F) Other provisions that may be required by the state board.

(f) In lieu of the student teaching experience in a public school setting required by this section, an institution of higher education may provide an alternate student teaching experience in a nonpublic school setting if the institution of higher education meets the following criteria:

(1) Complies with the provisions of this section;

(2) Has a state board-approved educator preparation program; and

(3) Enters into an agreement pursuant to subdivisions (g) and (h) of this section.

(g) At the discretion of the higher education institution, an agreement for an alternate student teaching experience between an institution of higher education and a nonpublic school shall require one of the following:

(1) The student teacher shall complete at least one-half of the clinical experience in a public school; or

(2) The educator preparation program shall include a requirement that any student performing student teaching in a nonpublic school shall complete the following:

(A) At least 200 clock hours of field-based training in a public school; and

(B) A course, which is a component of the institution's state board-approved educator preparation program, that provides information to prospective teachers equivalent to the teaching experience needed to demonstrate competence as a prerequisite to certification to teach in the public schools in West Virginia. The course also shall include instruction on at least the following elements:

(i) State board policy and provisions of this code governing public education;

(ii) Requirements for federal and state accountability, including the mandatory reporting of child abuse;

(iii) Federal and state mandated curriculum and assessment requirements, including multicultural education, safe schools, and student code of conduct;

(iv) Federal and state regulations for the instruction of exceptional students as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*; and

(v) Varied approaches for effective instruction for students who are at-risk.

(h) In addition to the requirements set forth in subsection (g) of this section, an agreement for an alternate student teaching experience between an institution of higher education and a nonpublic school shall include the following:

(1) A requirement that the higher education institution with an educator preparation program shall document that the student teacher's field-based and clinical experiences include participation and instruction with multicultural, at-risk, and exceptional children at each programmatic level for which the student teacher seeks certification; and

(2) The minimum qualifications for the employment of school teachers selected as supervising teachers, including the requirement that field-based and clinical experiences be supervised by a teacher fully certified in the state in which that teacher is supervising.

(i) The state superintendent may issue certificates as provided in §18A-3-2a of this code to graduates of educator preparation programs and alternative educator preparation programs approved by the state board. The certificates are

issued in accordance with this section and rules adopted by the state board.

(1) A certificate to teach may be granted only to a person who meets the following criteria:

(A) Is a citizen of the United States, except as provided in subdivision (2) or (3) of this subsection;

(B) Is of good moral character;

(C) Is physically, mentally, and emotionally qualified to perform the duties of a teacher; and

(D) Is at least 18 years of age on or before October 1 of the year in which his or her certificate is issued.

(2) A permit to teach in the public schools of this state may be granted to a person who is an exchange teacher from a foreign country or an alien person who meets the requirements to teach.

(3) A certificate to teach may be granted to a noncitizen of the United States who holds a valid Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or work permit issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

(j) Institutions of higher education approved for educator preparation may cooperate with each other and with one or more county boards to organize and operate centers to provide selected phases of the educator preparation program. The phases include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Student teaching and teacher-in-residence programs;

(2) Beginning teacher induction programs;

(3) Instruction in methodology; and

(4) Seminar programs for college students, teachers with provisional certification, professional support team members, and supervising teachers.

By mutual agreement, the institutions of higher education and county boards may budget and expend funds to operate the centers through payments to the appropriate fiscal office of the participating institutions and the county boards.

(k) The provisions of this section do not require discontinuation of an existing student teacher training center or school which meets the standards of the state board.

(l) All institutions of higher education approved for educator preparation in the 1962-63 school year continue to hold that distinction so long as they meet the minimum standards for educator preparation. Nothing in this section infringes upon the rights granted to any institution by charter given according to law previous to the adoption of this code.

(m) Definitions. — For the purposes of this section, the following words have the meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(1) "Nonpublic school" means a private school, parochial school, church school, school operated by a religious order, or other nonpublic school that elects to meet the following conditions:

(A) Comply with the provisions of §18-28-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(B) Participate on a voluntary basis in a state-operated or state-sponsored program provided to this type school pursuant to this section; and

(C) Comply with the provisions of this section;

(2) "At-risk" means a student who has the potential for academic failure including, but not limited to, the risk of dropping out of school, involvement in delinquent activity, or poverty as indicated by free or reduced lunch status; and

(3) "Exceptional child" or "exceptional children" has the meaning ascribed to these terms pursuant to §18-20-1 of this code but, as used in this section, the terms do not include gifted students.

§18A-3-1f. Alternative program participation; eligibility for alternative program certificate; contract renewals; hiring preference.

(a) Alternative program participation. — A person may not participate in an alternative program unless he or she holds an alternative program teacher certificate issue by the state superintendent for the alternative program position in which he or she will be teaching. An alternative program teacher certificate is the same as a professional teaching certificate for the purpose of issuing a continuing contract.

(b) Eligibility for alternative program teacher certificate. — To be eligible for an alternative program teacher certificate, a person shall:

(1) Possess at least a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education;

(2) Pass the same basic skills and subject matter test or tests required by the state board for traditional program candidates to become certified in the area for which he or she is seeking licensure;

(3) Hold United States citizenship or, if a noncitizen of the United States, hold a valid Permanent Resident Card, Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or work permit issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS);

(4) Be of good moral character;

(5) Be physically, mentally, and emotionally qualified to perform the duties of a teacher;

(6) Attain the age of 18 years on or before October 1 of the year in which the alternative program teacher certificate is issued;

(7) Receive from a county superintendent a formal offer of employment in an area of critical need and shortage and by a school or school district that is a member of an approved educational provider;

(8) Have relevant academic or occupational qualifications that reasonably indicate that the person will be competent to fill the teaching position in which he or she would be employed. For the purposes of this section, "reasonably indicate" means an academic major or occupational area the same as or similar to the subject matter to which the alternative program teacher is being hired to teach; and

(9) Qualify for employment after a criminal history check made pursuant to §18A-3-10 of this code.

(c) Eligibility for alternative program certificate: American Sign Language. — If a person seeks certification to teach American Sign Language, in lieu of subdivisions (1) and (2), subsection (b) of this section, he or she shall pass one or more appropriate state board-approved tests demonstrating his or her proficiency in American Sign Language.

(d) Eligibility for alternative program certificate: selected vocational and technical areas. — If a person seeks certification to teach in selected vocational and technical areas, in lieu of subdivisions (1) and (2), subsection (b) of this section, he or she shall pass one or more appropriate state board-approved tests demonstrating his or her proficiency in the basic skills and occupational content areas.

(e) Contract renewals. —

(1) A county board shall renew an alternative program teacher's contract from year to year as long as he or she makes satisfactory progress in the applicable alternative education program and until he or she completes the alternative program, except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection.

(2) If the school or school district that employs the alternative program teacher reduces its overall number of teachers, the alternative program teacher is subject to the same force reduction rules and procedures as any other employee, except those that relate to seniority. In no event will an alternative program teacher displace a professional educator as defined in §18A-1-1 of this code.

CHAPTER 316

(S. B. 691 - By Senators Rucker, Cline and Roberts)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect 90 days from passage]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18A-3-1j, relating to additional alternative preparation programs for teachers; providing that certain programs adopted by the State Board of Education are separate from specified programs; providing that programs are subject to state board rules; and providing that programs may be an alternative to college and university programs for teacher education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

§18A-3-1j. Additional alternative preparation programs administered by the Department of Education.

(a) Additional alternative programs to prepare teachers established or adopted solely by the State Board of Education are separate from the programs established under §18A-3-1b, §18A-3-1g, and §18A-3-1h of this code, do not required any partner, and are applicable only to persons who hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education.

(b) These programs are subject to other provisions of this article only to the extent specifically provided in state board rules.

(c) These programs may be an alternative to the standard college and university programs for the education of teacher and also may address the content area preparation of these persons.

CHAPTER 317

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4378 - By Delegates Hill, Pack, Kessinger, Hanna, Ellington, Higginbotham, Foster, P. Martin and Worrell)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18A-2-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend §18A-3-6 of said code, all relating to school personnel; requiring a county board of education to complete an investigation of an employee that

involves evidence that the employee may have engaged in certain conduct despite the employee's resignation; limiting time period for a county superintendent to report any employee suspended, dismissed, or who resigned during the course of an investigation of the employee's alleged misconduct; authorizing suspension of teaching certificate in certain instances and for certain causes; authorizing additional sanction options by the state superintendent with respect to violations; authorizing superintendent to issue subpoenas to aid investigation of allegations against persons subject to licensure; adding to reasons for which a teacher's certificate or license is automatically revoked; requiring professional relationship with students; providing minimum revocation period for offenses and specifying offenses; defining grooming a student or minor; adding a public school principal and public charter school administrator to the requirement to report certain acts of any teacher to the State Superintendent; requiring the State Superintendent to maintain a public database of individuals who have had adverse action taken against their teaching certificate; providing that individuals whose certificate has been revoked are not eligible to be employed by a county board until their certificate is reinstated; clarifying that all of certain teacher certificate provisions apply to all public school teachers whether employed by a county board or a public charter school governing board; requiring State Superintendent to periodically ensure that county boards are in compliance with certain teacher certificate provisions; and allowing the state board to propose legislative rules that are necessary to implement certain provisions pertaining to action against a teacher certificate.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

§18A-2-8. Suspension and dismissal of school personnel by board; appeal.

1 (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, a board
2 may suspend or dismiss any person in its employment at any

time for: Immorality, incompetency, cruelty, insubordination, intemperance, willful neglect of duty, unsatisfactory performance, a finding of abuse by the Department of Health and Human Resources in accordance with §49-1-1 *et seq.* of this code, the conviction of a misdemeanor or a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere to a misdemeanor charge that has a rational nexus between the conduct and performance of the employee's job, the conviction of a felony or a guilty plea or a plea of nolo contendere to a felony charge.

(b) A charge of unsatisfactory performance shall not be made except as the result of an employee performance evaluation pursuant to §18A-2-12 of this code. The charges shall be stated in writing served upon the employee within two days of presentation of the charges to the board.

(c) The affected employee shall be given an opportunity, within five days of receiving the written notice, to request, in writing, a level three hearing and appeals pursuant to the provisions of §6C-2-1 *et seq.* of this code, except that dismissal for a finding of abuse or the conviction of a felony or guilty plea or plea of nolo contendere to a felony charge is not by itself a grounds for a grievance proceeding. An employee charged with the commission of a felony, a misdemeanor with a rational nexus between the conduct and performance of the employee's job, or child abuse may be reassigned to duties which do not involve direct interaction with pupils pending final disposition of the charges.

(d) A county board of education has the duty and authority to provide a safe and secure environment in which students may learn and prosper; therefore, it may take necessary steps to suspend or dismiss any person in its employment at any time should the health, safety, and welfare of students be jeopardized or the learning environment of other students has been impacted. A county board shall complete an investigation of an employee that involves evidence that the employee may have engaged in conduct that jeopardizes the health, safety, or welfare of

students despite the employee's resignation from employment prior to completion of the investigation.

(e) It shall be the duty of any county superintendent to report any employee suspended or dismissed, or resigned during the course of an investigation of the employee's alleged misconduct, in accordance with this section, including the rationale for the suspension or dismissal, to the state superintendent within seven business days of the suspension, dismissal, or resignation. The state superintendent shall maintain a database of all individuals suspended or dismissed for jeopardizing the health, safety, and welfare of students, or for impacting the learning environment of other students. The database shall also include the rationale for the suspension or dismissal. The database shall be confidential and shall only be accessible to county human resource directors, county superintendents, and the state superintendent.

ARTICLE 3. TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, LICENSING, PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

§18A-3-6. Grounds for revocation or suspension of certificates; other authorized actions by state superintendent; required reporting by county superintendents; and recalling certificates for correction.

(a) The State Superintendent may, after 10 days' notice and upon proper evidence, revoke or suspend the certificates of any teacher for any of the following causes: Intemperance; untruthfulness; cruelty; immorality; the conviction of a felony or a guilty plea or a plea of no contest to a felony charge; the conviction, guilty plea or plea of no contest to any charge involving sexual misconduct with a minor or a student; or for using fraudulent, unapproved or insufficient credit to obtain the certificates: *Provided,* That in order for any conduct of a teacher involving intemperance; cruelty; immorality; or using fraudulent, unapproved or insufficient credit to obtain the certificates to constitute grounds for the revocation of the certificates of

the teacher, there must be a rational nexus between the conduct of the teacher and the performance of his or her job. The State Superintendent shall also have the authority to limit certificates, issue letters of admonishment, or enter into consent agreements requiring specific training in order for a teacher to maintain a certificate. The State Superintendent may designate the West Virginia commission for professional teaching standards or members thereof to conduct hearings on revocations or certificate denials and make recommendations for action by the State Superintendent. The State Superintendent may issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum to obtain testimony and documents to aid in the investigation of allegations against any person subject to licensure by the State Superintendent.

(b) A teacher, as defined by West Virginia Code §18-1-1(g), convicted under §61-8D-3 or §61-8D-5 of this code or comparable statute in any other state, any criminal offense that requires the teacher to register as a sex offender, or any criminal offense which has as an element delivery or distribution of a controlled substance, or pleads guilty to or is convicted under the provisions of §61-2-1 of this code or has been so convicted under any law of the United States or any other state for an offense which has the same elements as those offenses described in §61-2-1, shall have his or her certificate or license automatically revoked. Should the conviction resulting in automatic revocation pursuant to this section be overturned by any Court of this State or the United States, the teacher's certification shall be reinstated unless otherwise prohibited by law.

(c) A teacher, as defined by §18-1-1(g) of this code, and including any individual holding a license granted pursuant to §18A-3-2a of this code, shall maintain a professional relationship with all students at all times, both in and out of the classroom. Following a hearing as provided in subsection (a) of this section, any teacher found to have committed any act of sexual abuse of a student or minor or to have engaged in inappropriate sexual conduct with a

student or minor; committed an act of cruelty to children or an act of child endangerment or solicited, encouraged, engaged in or consummated an inappropriate relationship with any student, minor, or individual; exploited a student by engaging in any of the aforementioned illegal or inappropriate conduct which then escalated into a relationship with the exploited student within 12 months of that student's graduation; or engaged in grooming a student or minor shall have his or her license revoked for a period of time not less than five years. For the purposes of this subsection, "grooming a student or minor" means befriending and establishing an emotional connection with a student or minor, which may include the family of the student or minor, to lower the student's or minor's inhibitions with the objective of committing sexual abuse, child trafficking, child prostitution, the production of child pornography, or any other offense for which a license shall be revoked under this subsection.

(d) Any county superintendent, public school principal, or public charter school administrator who knows of any acts on the part of any teacher for which a certificate may be revoked or for which other action may be taken in accordance with this section shall report this, together with all the facts and evidence, to the State Superintendent for such action as in the State Superintendent's judgment may be proper.

(e) If a certificate has been granted through an error, oversight, or misinformation, the State Superintendent may recall the certificate and make such corrections as will conform to the requirements of law and the state board.

(f) The state superintendent shall maintain a public database of individuals who have had adverse action taken against their teaching certificate by the state superintendent. Individuals whose certificate has been revoked by the state superintendent are not eligible to be employed by a county board unless the individual's certificate is subsequently reinstated by the state superintendent.

(g) This section applies to all public school teachers whether employed by a county board or the governing board of a public charter school.

(h) The state superintendent shall periodically ensure that county boards are acting in compliance with this section.

(i) The state board may propose legislative rules pursuant to §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code that are necessary to implement the provisions of this section.

CHAPTER 318

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4546 - By Delegates Atkinson, Bartlett, Cooper, Dean, Ellington, Evans, J. Kelly, Lavender-Bowe, Westfall and Higginbotham)

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18-4-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to tuberculosis testing for school superintendents; removing requirement for biennial screenings; and adding permissive screenings based upon suspicion of exposure.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4. COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS.

§18-4-2. Qualifications; health certificate; disability; acting superintendent.

(a) A county superintendent shall hold a professional administrative certificate endorsed for superintendent, or a

first class permit endorsed for superintendent, subject to the following:

(1) A superintendent who holds a first class permit may be appointed for one year only, and may be reappointed two times for an additional year each upon an annual evaluation by the county board and a determination of satisfactory performance and reasonable progress toward completion of the requirements for a professional administrative certificate endorsed for superintendent;

(2) Any candidate for superintendent, assistant superintendent or associate superintendent, who possesses an earned doctorate from an accredited institution of higher education and either has completed three successful years of teaching in public education or has the equivalent of three years of experience in management or supervision as defined by state board rule, after employment by the county board shall be granted a permanent administrative certificate and shall be a licensed county superintendent;

(3) The state board shall promulgate a legislative rule in accordance with §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code, to address those cases where a county board finds that course work needed by the county superintendent who holds a first class permit is not available or is not scheduled at state institutions of higher education in a manner which will enable the county superintendent to complete normal requirements for a professional administrative certificate within the three-year period allowed under the permit; and

(4) Any person employed as assistant superintendent or educational administrator prior to June 27, 1988, and who was previously employed as superintendent is not required to hold the professional administrative certificate endorsed for superintendent.

(b) In addition to other requirements set forth in this section, a county superintendent shall meet the following health-related conditions of employment:

(1) Before entering upon the discharge of his or her duties, file with the president of the county board a certificate from a licensed physician certifying the following:

(A) A tuberculin skin test, of the type Mantoux test (PPD skin test), approved by the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health has been made within four months prior to the beginning of the term of the county superintendent; and

(B) The county superintendent does not have tuberculosis in a communicable state based upon the test results and any further study;

(2) The commissioner may require selective testing of superintendents for tuberculosis when there is reason to believe that they may have been exposed to the tuberculosis organism or they have signs and symptoms indicative of the disease. The county superintendent should contact the local health department in instances where they have reason to suspect that they have been exposed to tuberculosis or have symptoms indicative of the disease. Positive reactors to the skin test are to be referred immediately to licensed health care practitioner for evaluation and indicated treatment or further studies;

(3) A county superintendent who is certified by a licensed health care practitioner to have tuberculosis in a communicable stage shall have his or her employment discontinued or suspended until the disease has been arrested and is no longer communicable; and

(4) A county superintendent who fails to complete required follow-up examinations as set forth in this subsection shall be suspended from employment until a report of examination is confirmed.

CHAPTER 319

(H. B. 4691 - By Delegates Ellington, Dean, Espinosa, Cooper, Hanna, Atkinson, Evans, Hornbuckle and Campbell)

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18A-2-2b; and to amend and reenact §18A-2-3 of said code all relating to employment in areas of critical need; re-codifying provisions related to employment of prospective employable professional personnel as prospective teachers and other professional personnel in a separate code section; requiring county board approval; clarifying placement in next ensuing school year; deleting prospective employable professional personnel provisions; adding intent; removing reference to job fairs; restating authorization to employ prospective teachers on condition that certification is issued prior to beginning duties; requiring at least one job posting prior to placement; clarifying that placement is into school-specific critical need position; and extending date upon which provisions related to employment of retired teachers as critical need substitutes will expire.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

§18A-2-2b. Employment of prospective teachers and other professional personnel for next ensuing school year; and payment of financial incentive for recruitment.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, the county superintendent, subject to approval of the county board, may employ prospective teachers and other professional personnel each year who will be placed in positions and begin regular employment in the next ensuing school year. The intent of this section is to enable school systems to recruit and employ prospective teachers and other professional personnel during the prime recruiting season for new graduates in positions in which the county board has a critical need. The employment of prospective teachers and other professional personnel is subject to the following:

(1) The county board adopts a policy authorizing the employment of prospective teachers and other professional personnel to address areas of critical need;

(2) The county board posts a notice of the critical need positions in the county in which the county intends to employ the prospective teachers and other professional personnel. The notice is posted in a conspicuous place in each school or on the county board website for at least ten working days prior to making offers of employment to prospective teachers and other professional personnel;

(3) No qualified applicants currently employed by the county are available and willing to fill the critical need position in the next ensuing school year;

(4) The prospective teachers and other professional personnel may only be employed from candidates who will graduate or have graduated from an institution of higher education during the current school year and will commence employment in the next ensuing school year;

(5) When necessary to facilitate the employment of prospective teachers and other professional personnel who have not yet attained certification, the contract may be signed upon the condition that the certificate is issued to the

employee prior to the beginning of the employment term in which the employee enters upon his or her duties;

(6) The number of prospective teachers and other professional personnel employed is limited to the number required to fill the critical need positions posted in accordance with subdivision (2) of this subsection;

(7) For the purpose of recruiting teachers and other professional personnel in critical needs areas and to attract teachers and other professional personnel in a critical need areas, the county board may from local funds pay prospective teachers and other professional personnel a one-time financial incentive such as, but not limited to, a signing bonus or moving expenses, after a contract of employment has been signed;

(8) The prospective teachers and other professional personnel are initially employed on a reserve list at the county level and placed into a school-specific critical need position if the job has been posted at least once resulting in no qualified applicants; and

(9) Regular employment status for prospective teachers and other professional personnel may be obtained only upon recommendation by the superintendent and approval by the county board following consideration of the qualifications of the candidate in accordance with the applicable provisions of §18A-4-7a of this code;

(b) Nothing in this section prevents a county board from filling a posted vacancy in an established, existing or newly created position at any time in accordance with the other provisions of this chapter.

§18A-2-3. Employment of substitute teachers; and employment of retired teachers as substitutes in areas of critical need and shortage.

(a) The county superintendent, subject to approval of the county board, may employ and assign substitute teachers to any of the following duties:

(1) Fill the temporary absence of any teacher or an unexpired school term made vacant by resignation, death, suspension or dismissal;

(2) Fill a teaching position of a regular teacher on leave of absence; and

(3) Perform the instructional services of any teacher who is authorized by law to be absent from class without loss of pay, providing the absence is approved by the board of education in accordance with the law.

The substitute shall be a duly certified teacher.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, a substitute teacher who has been assigned as a classroom teacher in the same classroom continuously for more than one half of a grading period and whose assignment remains in effect two weeks prior to the end of the grading period, shall remain in the assignment until the grading period has ended, unless the principal of the school certifies that the regularly employed teacher has communicated with and assisted the substitute with the preparation of lesson plans and monitoring student progress or has been approved to return to work by his or her physician. For the purposes of this section, teacher and substitute teacher, in the singular or plural, mean professional educator as defined in section one, article one of this chapter.

(c) (1) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that due to a shortage of qualified substitute teachers, a compelling state interest exists in expanding the use of retired teachers to provide service as substitute teachers in areas of critical need and shortage. The Legislature further finds that diverse circumstances exist among the counties for the expanded use of retired teachers as substitutes.

(2) For the purposes of this subsection:

(A) "Area of critical need and shortage for substitute teachers" means an area of certification and training in which the number of available substitute teachers in the county who hold certification and training in that area and who are not retired is insufficient to meet the projected need for substitute teachers; and

(B) "Teacher or substitute teacher" includes speech pathologists, school nurses and school counselors.

(3) A person receiving retirement benefits under article seven-a, chapter eighteen of this code or who is entitled to retirement benefits during the fiscal year in which that person retired may accept employment as a critical needs substitute teacher for an unlimited number of days each fiscal year without affecting the monthly retirement benefit to which the retirant is otherwise entitled if the following conditions are satisfied:

(A) The county board adopts a policy recommended by the superintendent to address areas of critical need and shortage for substitute teachers;

(B) The policy sets forth the areas of critical need and shortage for substitute teachers in the county in accordance with the definition of area of critical need and shortage for substitute teachers set forth in subdivision (2) of this subsection;

(C) The policy provides for the employment of retired teachers as critical needs substitute teachers during the school year on an expanded basis in areas of critical need and shortage for substitute teachers as provided in this subsection;

(D) The policy provides that a retired teacher may be employed as a substitute teacher in an area of critical need and shortage for substitute teachers on an expanded basis as provided in this subsection only when no other teacher who

holds certification and training in the area and who is not retired is available and accepts the substitute assignment;

(E) The policy is effective for one school year only and is subject to annual renewal by the county board;

(F) The state board approves the policy and the use of retired teachers as substitute teachers on an expanded basis in areas of critical need and shortage for substitute teachers as provided in this subsection; and

(G) Prior to employment of a retired teacher as a critical needs substitute teacher beyond the post-retirement employment limitations established by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board, the superintendent of the affected county submits to the state board in a form approved by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board and the state board, an affidavit signed by the superintendent stating the name of the county, the fact that the county has adopted a policy to employ retired teachers as substitutes to address areas of critical need and shortage, the name or names of the person or persons to be employed as a critical needs substitute pursuant to the policy, the critical need and shortage area position filled by each person, the date that the person gave notice to the county board of the person's intent to retire, and the effective date of the person's retirement. Upon verification of compliance with this section and the eligibility of the critical needs substitute teacher for employment beyond the post-retirement limit, the state board shall submit the affidavit to the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

(4) Any person who retires and begins work as a critical needs substitute teacher within the same fiscal year in which that person retired shall lose those retirement benefits attributed to the annuity reserve, effective from the first day of employment as a retiree critical needs substitute teacher in that fiscal year and ending with the month following the date the retiree ceases to perform service as a critical needs substitute teacher.

(5) Retired teachers employed to perform expanded substitute service pursuant to this subsection are considered day-to-day, temporary, part-time employees. The substitutes are not eligible for additional pension or other benefits paid to regularly employed employees and may not accrue seniority.

(6) A retired teacher is eligible to be employed as a critical needs substitute teacher to fill a vacant position without any loss of retirement benefits attributed to the annuity reserve only if the retired teacher's retirement became effective before the first day of July preceding at least the fiscal year during which he or she is employed as a critical needs substitute teacher.

(7) When a retired teacher is employed as a critical needs substitute to fill a vacant position, the county board shall continue to post the vacant position until it is filled with a regularly employed teacher who is fully certified or permitted for the position.

(8) When a retired teacher is employed as a critical needs substitute to fill a vacant position, the position vacancy shall be posted electronically and easily accessible to prospective employees as determined by the state board.

(9) Until this subsection is expired pursuant to subdivision (10) of this subsection, the state board shall report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, prior to February 1 of each year, information indicating the effectiveness of the provisions of this subsection on reducing the critical need and shortage of substitute teachers including, but not limited to, the number of retired teachers, by critical need and shortage area position filled and by county, employed beyond the post-retirement employment limit established by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board, the date that each person gave notice to the county board of the person's intent to retire, and the effective date of the person's retirement. A copy of the report shall also

141 be provided to the Legislative Oversight Commission on
142 Education Accountability.

143 (10) The provisions of this subsection shall expire on
144 June 30, 2025.

CHAPTER 320

(H. B. 4804 - By Delegates Ellington, Espinosa, Cowles, Householder, Atkinson, Hardy, Higginbotham, Bibby and C. Thompson)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18-9A-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §18A-3C-3 of said code, all relating to comprehensive systems of support for teacher and leader induction and professional growth; providing for retention of $100,000 of school aid funds for comprehensive systems of support, each year for five-year period, for use by department of education to assist county boards in design and implementation of teacher leader framework to accomplish teacher induction and growth aspects of comprehensive system; clarifying intent of comprehensive systems of support includes meaningful assistance for beginning teachers and leaders; authorizing state board guidelines for design and implementation of comprehensive systems to include design and implementation of teacher leader framework; clarifying references to appropriations supporting county-level implementation of comprehensive systems of support; removing prohibition on specific level of compensation guarantee to employee service or employment as mentor; authorizing county board adoption of teacher leader framework to accomplish purposes of section for teacher induction and professional growth and

apply appropriations to support county salary supplement if adopted and meeting qualifications specified for teacher duties; requiring department to assist county boards with design and implementation of teacher leader framework; stating goals of framework; authorizing formation of networks of schools or systems or both for design and implementation of frameworks with certain objectives; providing minimum components of teacher leader frameworks adopted by county boards; and requiring Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability to review the progress of the implementation of the comprehensive systems of support for teacher and leader induction and professional growth.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 18. EDUCATION.

ARTICLE 9A. PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT.

§18-9A-10. Foundation allowance to improve instructional programs, instructional technology, and teacher and leader induction and professional growth.

(a) The total allowance to improve instructional programs and instructional technology is the sum of the following:

(1) For instructional improvement, in accordance with county and school electronic strategic improvement plans required by §18-2E-5 of this code, an amount equal to 10 percent of the increase in the local share amount for the next school year shall be added to the amount of the appropriation for this purpose for the immediately preceding school year. The sum of these amounts shall be allocated to the counties as follows:

(A) One hundred fifty thousand dollars shall be allocated to each county; and

(B) Allocation to the counties of the remainder of these funds shall be made proportional to the average of each county's average daily attendance for the preceding year and the county's second month net enrollment.

Moneys allocated by this subdivision shall be used to improve instructional programs according to the county and school strategic improvement plans required by §18-2E-5 of this code and approved by the state board.

Up to 50 percent of this allocation for the improvement of instructional programs may be used to employ professional educators and service personnel in the county. Prior to the use of any funds from this subdivision for personnel costs, the county board must receive authorization from the State Superintendent. The State Superintendent shall require the county board to demonstrate: (1) The need for the allocation; (2) efficiency and fiscal responsibility in staffing; (3) sharing of services with adjoining counties in the use of the total local district board budget; and (4) employment of technology integration specialists to meet the needs for implementation of the West Virginia Strategic Technology Learning Plan. County boards shall make application for the use of funds for personnel for the next fiscal year by May 1 of each year. On or before June 1, the State Superintendent shall review all applications and notify applying county boards of the approval or disapproval of the use of funds for personnel during the fiscal year appropriate. The State Superintendent shall require the county board to demonstrate the need for an allocation for personnel based upon the county's inability to meet the requirements of state law or state board policy.

The funds available for personnel under this subdivision may not be used to increase the total number of professional noninstructional personnel in the central office beyond four.

The plan shall be made available for distribution to the public at the office of each affected county board; plus

(2) For the purposes of improving instructional technology, an amount equal to 20 percent of the increase in the local share amount for the next school year shall be added to the amount of the appropriation for this purpose for the immediately preceding school year. The sum of these amounts shall be allocated to the counties as follows:

(A) Thirty thousand dollars shall be allocated to each county; and

(B) Allocation to the counties of the remainder of these funds shall be made proportional to the average of each county's average daily attendance for the preceding year and the county's second month net enrollment.

Moneys allocated by this subdivision shall be used to improve instructional technology programs according to the county board's strategic technology learning plan.

This allocation for the improvement of instructional technology programs may also be used for the employment of technology system specialists essential for the technology systems of the schools of the county to be fully functional and readily available when needed by classroom teachers. The amount of this allocation used for the employment of technology system specialists shall be included and justified in the county board's strategic technology learning plan; plus

(3) One percent of the state average per pupil state aid multiplied by the number of students enrolled in dual credit, advanced placement, and international baccalaureate courses, as defined by the state board, distributed to the counties proportionate to enrollment in these courses in each county; plus

(4) For the purpose of supporting county-level implementation of the comprehensive systems for teacher and leader induction and professional growth pursuant to §18A-3C-3 of this code, an amount equal to 20 percent of

the increase in the local share amount for the next school year shall be added to the amount of the appropriation for this purpose for the immediately preceding school year. The sum of these amounts shall be allocated to the counties in a manner established by the state board which takes into account the following factors:

(A) The number of full-time-equivalent teachers employed by the county with zero years of experience;

(B) The total number of full-time-equivalent teachers employed by the county with one year of experience, with two years of experience, and with three years of experience;

(C) The number of full-time-equivalent principals, assistant principals, and vocational administrators employed by the county who are in their first or second year of employment as a principal, assistant principal, or vocational administrator;

(D) The number of full-time-equivalent principals, assistant principals, and vocational administrators employed by the county who are in their first year in an assignment at a school with a programmatic level in which they have not previously served as a principal, assistant principal, or vocational administrator; and

(E) Needs identified in the strategic plans for continuous improvement of schools and school systems including those identified through the performance evaluations of professional personnel.

Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection to the contrary, no county may receive an allocation for the purposes of this subdivision which is less than the county's total 2016-2017 allocation from the Teacher Mentor and Principals Mentorship appropriations to the Department of Education. Moneys allocated by this subdivision shall be used for implementation of the comprehensive systems for teacher and leader induction and professional growth

pursuant to §18A-3C-3 of this code. Notwithstanding any provision of this subsection to the contrary, for each of the five school years beginning with the school year 2020 – 2021 and ending after the school year 2024 – 2025, from funds to be allocated under this subdivision, $100,000 shall be retained by the Department of Education to assist county boards with the design and implementation of a teacher leader framework to accomplish the teacher induction and professional growth aspects of their comprehensive systems of support for teacher and leader induction and professional growth pursuant to §18A-3C-3 of this code; plus

(5) An amount not less than the amount required to meet debt service requirements on any revenue bonds issued prior to January 1, 1994, and the debt service requirements on any revenue bonds issued for the purpose of refunding revenue bonds issued prior to January 1, 1994, shall be paid by the Department of Education in accordance with the expenditure schedule approved by the state budget office into the School Building Capital Improvements Fund created by §18-9D-6 of this code and shall be used solely for the purposes of that article. The School Building Capital Improvements Fund shall not be utilized to meet the debt services requirement on any revenue bonds or revenue refunding bonds for which moneys contained within the School Building Debt Service Fund have been pledged for repayment pursuant to that section.

(b) Notwithstanding the restrictions on the use of funds pursuant to subdivisions (1) and (2), subsection (a) of this section, a county board may:

(1) Utilize up to 25 percent of the allocation for the improvement of instructional programs in any school year for school facility and equipment repair, maintenance, and improvement or replacement and other current expense priorities and for emergency purposes. The amount of this allocation used for any of these purposes shall be included and justified in the county and school strategic improvement plans or amendments thereto; and

(2) Utilize up to 50 percent of the allocation for improving instructional technology in any school year for school facility and equipment repair, maintenance, and improvement or replacement and other current expense priorities and for emergency purposes. The amount of this allocation used for any of these purposes shall be included and justified in the county board's strategic technology learning plan or amendments thereto.

(c) When the school improvement bonds secured by funds from the School Building Capital Improvements Fund mature, the State Board of Education shall annually deposit an amount equal to $24 million from the funds allocated in this section into the School Construction Fund created pursuant to the provisions of §18-9D-6 of this code to continue funding school facility construction and improvements.

(d) Any project funded by the School Building Authority shall be in accordance with a comprehensive educational facility plan which must be approved by the state board and the School Building Authority.

CHAPTER 18A. SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

ARTICLE 3C. IMPROVING TEACHING AND LEARNING.

§18A-3C-3. Comprehensive system for teacher and leader induction and professional growth.

(a) The intent of the Legislature is to allow for local-level implementation of comprehensive systems of support for building professional practice consistent with sound educational practices and resources available. In this regard, it is the intent of the Legislature that the comprehensive systems of support shall incorporate support for improved professional performance that begins with meaningful assistance for beginning teachers and leaders and also is targeted on deficiencies identified through the educator personnel evaluation process and other professional

development needs identified in the strategic plans for continuous improvement of schools and school systems. Further, because of significant variability among the counties, not only in the size of their teaching force, distribution of facilities and available resources, but also because of their varying needs, the Legislature intends for the implementation of this section to be accomplished in a manner that provides adequate flexibility to the counties to design and implement a comprehensive system of support for improving professional performance that best achieves the goals of this section within the county. Finally, because of the critical importance of ensuring that all teachers perform at the accomplished level or higher in the delivery of instruction that at least meets the West Virginia Professional Teaching Standards and because achieving this objective at a minimum entails providing assistance to address the needs as indicated by the data informed results of annual performance evaluations, including the self-assessed needs of the teachers themselves, the Legislature expects the highest priority for county and state professional development will be on meeting these needs and that the comprehensive systems of support for improving professional practice will reflect substantial redirection of existing professional development resources toward this highest priority.

(b) On or before July 1, 2018, the state board shall publish guidelines on the design and implementation of a county-level comprehensive system of support for improving professional practice. The purpose of the guidelines is to assist the county board with the design and implementation of a system that best achieves the goals of this section within the county. The guidelines may include examples of best practices and resources available to county boards to assist them with the design and implementation of a comprehensive system of support and may include guidelines for the design and implementation of a teacher leader framework committed to improving the quality of instruction.

(c) Effective for the school year beginning July 1, 2018, and thereafter, a county board is not eligible to receive state funding appropriated for the purposes of this section or any other provision of law related to beginning teacher and principal internships and mentor teachers and principals unless it has adopted a plan for implementation of a comprehensive system of support for improving professional practice, the plan has been verified by the state board as meeting the requirements of this section and the county is implementing the plan. The plan shall address the following:

(1) The manner in which the county will provide the strong school-based support and supervision that will assist beginning teachers in developing instructional and management strategies, procedural and policy expertise, and other professional practices they need to be successful in the classroom and perform at the accomplished level. Nothing in this subdivision prohibits a school or school system that was granted an exception or waiver from §18A-3-2c of this code prior to the effective date of this section from continuing implementation of the program in accordance with the exception or waiver;

(2) The manner in which the county will provide the strong support and supervision that will assist beginning principals in developing instructional leadership, supervisory, and management strategies, procedural and policy expertise, and other professional practices they need to be successful in leading continuous school improvement and performing at the accomplished level or above;

(3) The manner in which the county in cooperation with the teacher preparation programs in this state will provide strong school-based support and assistance necessary to make student teaching a productive learning experience;

(4) The manner in which the county will use the data from the educator performance evaluation system to serve as the basis for providing professional development

specifically targeted on the area or areas identified through the evaluation process as needing improvement. If possible, this targeted professional development should be delivered at the school site using collaborative processes, mentoring or coaching or other approaches that maximize use of the instructional setting;

(5) The manner in which the county will use the data from the educator performance evaluation system to serve as the basis for establishing priorities for the provision of county-level professional development when aggregate evaluation data from the county's schools indicates an area or areas of needed improvement;

(6) If a county uses master teachers, mentors, academic coaches, or any other approaches using individual employees to provide support, supervision, or other professional development or training to other employees for the purpose of improving their professional practice, the manner in which the county will select each of these individual employees based upon demonstrated superior performance and competence as well as the manner in which the county will coordinate support for these employees. If the duties of the position are to provide mentoring to an individual teacher at only one school, then priority shall be given to applicants employed at the school at which those duties will be performed;

(7) The manner in which the county will use local resources available, including, but not limited to, funds for professional development and academic coaches, to focus on the priority professional development goals of this section;

(8) The manner in which the county will adjust its scheduling, use of substitutes, collaborative planning time, calendar, or other measures as may be necessary to provide sufficient time for professional personnel to accomplish the goals of this section as set forth in the county's plan; and

(9) The manner in which the county will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of implementation and outcomes of the county system of support for improving professional practice.

(d) Effective the school year beginning July 1, 2020, and thereafter, appropriations for supporting county level implementation of the comprehensive systems of support for teacher and leader induction and professional growth pursuant to §18-9A-10 of this code and any new appropriation which may be made for the purposes of this section shall be expended by county boards only to accomplish the activities as set forth in their county plan pursuant to this section. Effective the school year beginning July 1, 2020, and thereafter, any employee service or employment as a mentor is not subject to the provisions of this code governing extra duty contracts. A county board may adopt a teacher leader framework designed to accomplish the purposes of this section related to teacher induction and professional growth and, if the county board adopts a county salary supplement pursuant to §18A-4-5a of this code to provide additional compensation to teachers who, in addition to teaching duties, are assigned other duties for new teacher induction, improving professional practice and furthering professional growth among teachers as set forth in the county's comprehensive system of support, then appropriations made for supporting the purposes of this section may be applied to that salary supplement and other associated costs which may include a reduction in the teaching load of the teacher leader.

(e) The Department of Education shall assist county boards with the design and implementation of a teacher leader framework to accomplish the teacher induction and professional growth aspects of their comprehensive systems of support pursuant to this section. The goals of a teacher leader framework are to achieve:

(1) Increased student achievement and growth through the development of a shared leadership structure at the school level;

(2) Broader dissemination and use of effective teacher strategies through an increase in teacher collaboration; and

(3) Stronger and more positive school and district culture through the development and retention of highly effective teachers.

(f) The Department of Education may form networks among schools or school systems, or both, of comparable size and interests for the design and implementation of teacher leader frameworks that are:

(A) Driven by varying district and school needs;

(B) Related to existing state and district initiatives;

(C) Designed to improve student achievement and growth; and

(D) Designed to fit district size, current culture for collaboration, and funding capacity.

(g) A teacher leader framework adopted by a county board must:

(1) Create specific roles and responsibilities, eligibility requirements, and compensation plans for each teacher leader position, and clearly communicate these to teacher leaders, administrators, and other stakeholders;

(2) Provide regular, targeted professional learning opportunities for teacher leaders, and encourage redelivery within their respective schools;

(3) Provide time and opportunities for teacher leaders to collaborate with administrators, curriculum staff, other teacher leaders, and teachers;

(4) Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the teacher leader program through surveys from school administrators and school faculty; and

(5) Include teacher leaders in the school improvement planning process.

(h) The Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability shall review the progress of the implementation of the comprehensive systems of support for teacher and leader induction and professional growth and may make any recommendations it considers necessary to the Legislature during the next regular legislative session.

CHAPTER 321

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4377 - By Delegates Westfall, Nelson, Queen, Criss, Storch, Rohrbach, Hott, D. Jeffries, Atkinson and Toney)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §32-6-601, §32-6-602, §32-6-603, §32-6-604, §32-6-605, §32-6-606, §32-6-607, §32-6-608, §32-6-609, and §32-6-610, all relating to the creation of The Protection of Eligible Adults From Financial Exploitation Act; defining terms; establishing the obligations and duties of broker-dealers and investment advisors to notify certain agencies of potential financial exploitation; establishing the rights of broker-dealers and investment advisors to notify certain associated individuals regarding potential financial exploitation; permitting broker-dealers and investment advisors to delay a transaction or disbursement when financial exploitation is suspected; requiring the

retention of records; and providing limited immunity from administrative and civil liability.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. THE PROTECTION OF ELIGIBLE ADULTS FROM FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION.

§32-6-601. Short title.

1 This article may be cited as "The Protection of Eligible
2 Adults from Financial Exploitation Act".

§32-6-602. Definitions.

1 In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

2 (1) "Agencies" means adult protective services and the
3 Securities Commission, a Division of the State Auditor's
4 office.

5 (2) "Eligible adult" means a person 65 years of age or
6 older or a person subject to §9-6-1 *et seq.* of this code.

7 (3) "Financial exploitation" means:

8 (A) The wrongful or unauthorized taking, withholding,
9 appropriation, or use of securities, money, assets, or
10 property of an eligible adult; or

11 (B) Any act or omission taken by a person, including
12 using a power of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship
13 of an eligible adult to:

14 (i) Obtain control, through deception, intimidation, or
15 undue influence over the eligible adult's money, assets, or
16 property to deprive the eligible adult of the ownership, use,
17 benefit, or possession of his or her money, assets, or
18 property; or

19 (ii) Convert money, assets, or property of the eligible
20 adult to deprive the eligible adult of the ownership, use,

benefit, or possession of his or her money, assets, or property.

§32-6-603. Governmental Disclosures.

If a broker-dealer or investment adviser reasonably believes that financial exploitation of an eligible adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted, the broker-dealer or investment adviser shall promptly notify the agencies.

§32-6-604. Immunity for Governmental Disclosures.

A broker-dealer or investment adviser that, in good faith and exercising reasonable care, makes a disclosure of information pursuant to section 603 of this article is immune from administrative or civil liability that might otherwise arise from the disclosure or for any failure to notify the customer of the disclosure.

§32-6-605. Third-Party Disclosures.

If a broker-dealer or investment adviser reasonably believes that financial exploitation of an eligible adult may have occurred, may have been attempted, or is being attempted, the broker-dealer or investment adviser may notify any reasonably associated individuals. Disclosure may not be made to any third party that is suspected of financial exploitation or other abuse of the eligible adult.

§32-6-606. Immunity for Third-Party Disclosures.

A broker-dealer or investment adviser that, in good faith and exercising reasonable care, complies with §32-6-605 of this code is immune from any administrative or civil liability that might arise from the disclosure.

§32-6-607. Delaying Transactions or Disbursements.

(a) A broker-dealer or investment adviser may delay a transaction or disbursement from an account of an eligible

adult or an account on which an eligible adult is a beneficiary if:

(1) The broker-dealer or investment adviser reasonably believes, after initiating an internal review of the requested transaction or disbursement and the suspected financial exploitation, that the requested transaction or disbursement may result in financial exploitation of an eligible adult; and

(2) The broker-dealer or investment adviser:

(i) Immediately, but in no event more than two business days after the broker-dealer or investment adviser first delayed the transaction or disbursement, provides written notification of the delay and the reason for the delay to all parties authorized to transact business on the account, unless any party is reasonably believed to have engaged in suspected or attempted financial exploitation of the eligible adult;

(ii) Immediately, but in no event more than two business days after the date on which the transaction or disbursement was first delayed, notifies the agencies; and

(iii) Continues its internal review of the suspected or attempted financial exploitation of the eligible adult as necessary and reports the investigation's results to the agencies on a reasonable and periodic basis, up to and including the resolution of the investigation.

(b) Any delay of a transaction or disbursement as authorized by this section expires upon the sooner of:

(1) A determination by the broker-dealer or investment adviser that the disbursement will not result in financial exploitation of the eligible adult; or

(2) Fifteen business days after the date on which the broker-dealer or investment adviser first delayed the transaction or disbursement of the funds, unless either of the agencies requests that the broker-dealer or investment

adviser extend the delay, in which case the delay expires when requested by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

§32-6-608. Immunity for Delaying Transactions or Disbursements.

A broker-dealer or investment adviser that, in good faith and exercising reasonable care, complies with §32-6-607 of this code is immune from any administrative or civil liability that might otherwise arise from the delay in a transaction or disbursement.

§32-6-609. Records.

A broker-dealer or investment adviser shall provide access to or copies of records that are relevant to the suspected or attempted financial exploitation of an eligible adult to agencies charged with administering state adult protective services laws and to law enforcement, either as part of a referral to the agency or to law enforcement, or upon request of the agency or law enforcement pursuant to an investigation. The records may include historical records as well as records relating to the most recent transaction or transactions that may comprise financial exploitation of an eligible adult. All records made available to agencies under this section shall not be considered a public record as defined in §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code. Nothing in this provision may limit or otherwise impede the authority of the Securities Commission to access or examine the books and records of broker-dealers and investment advisers as otherwise provided by law.

§32-6-610. Immunity for Complying with Records Requests.

A broker-dealer or investment adviser that, in good faith and exercising reasonable care, complies with §32-6-609 of this code is immune from any administrative or civil liability that might otherwise arise from such disclosure.

CHAPTER 322

(S. B. 300 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed February 14, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 2, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-24-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to updating the meaning of federal taxable income and certain other terms used in the West Virginia Corporation Net Income Tax Act; and specifying effective dates.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 24. CORPORATION NET INCOME TAX.

§11-24-3. Meaning of terms; general rule.

(a) Any term used in this article has the same meaning as when used in a comparable context in the laws of the United States relating to federal income taxes, unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context or by definition in this article. Any reference in this article to the laws of the United States means the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any other provisions of the laws of the United States that relate to the determination of income for federal income tax purposes. All amendments made to the laws of the United States after December 31, 2018, but prior to January 1, 2020, shall be given effect in determining the taxes imposed by this article to the same extent those changes are allowed for federal income tax purposes, whether the changes are retroactive or prospective, but no amendment to the laws of the United States made on or after January 1, 2020, shall be given any effect.

(b) The term "Internal Revenue Code of 1986" means the Internal Revenue Code of the United States enacted by the federal Tax Reform Act of 1986 and includes the provisions of law formerly known as the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended, and in effect when the federal Tax Reform Act of 1986 was enacted that were not amended or repealed by the federal Tax Reform Act of 1986. Except when inappropriate, any reference in any law, executive order, or other document:

(1) To the Internal Revenue Code of 1954 includes a reference to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

(2) To the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 includes a reference to the provisions of law formerly known as the Internal Revenue Code of 1954.

(c) Effective date. — The amendments to this section enacted in the year 2020 are retroactive to the extent allowable under federal income tax law. With respect to taxable years that began prior to January 1, 2020, the law in effect for each of those years shall be fully preserved as to that year, except as provided in this section.

CHAPTER 323

(S. B. 307 - By Senator Maynard)

[Passed February 29, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11A-3-23 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to correcting a citation to code.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. SALE OF TAX LIENS AND NONENTERED, ESCHEATED, AND WASTE AND UNAPPROPRIATED LANDS.

§11A-3-23. Redemption from purchase; receipt; list of redemptions; lien; lien of person redeeming interest of another; record.

(a) After the sale of any tax lien on any real estate pursuant to §11A-3-5 of this code, the owner of, or any other person who was entitled to pay the taxes on, any real estate for which a tax lien on the real estate was purchased by an individual may redeem at any time before a tax deed is issued for the real estate. In order to redeem, he or she shall pay to the State Auditor the following amounts:

(1) An amount equal to the taxes, interest and charges due on the date of the sale, with interest at the rate of one percent per month from the date of sale;

(2) All other taxes which have since been paid by the purchaser, his or her heirs or assigns, with interest at the rate of one percent per month from the date of payment;

(3) Any additional expenses incurred from January 1 of the year following the sheriff's sale to the date of redemption for the preparation of the list of those to be served with notice to redeem and any written documentation used for the preparation of the list, with interest at the rate of one percent per month from the date of payment for reasonable legal expenses incurred for the services of an attorney who has performed an examination of the title to the real estate and rendered written documentation used for the preparation of the list: The maximum amount the owner or other authorized person shall pay, excluding the interest, for the expenses incurred for the preparation of the list of those to be served required by §11A-3-19 of this code is $500. An attorney may only charge a fee for legal services actually performed and must certify that he or she conducted

an examination to determine the list of those to be served required by §11A-3-19 of this code; and

(4) All additional statutory costs paid by the purchaser.

(b) Where the State Auditor has not received from the purchaser satisfactory proof of the expenses incurred in preparing the notice to redeem, and any written documentation used for the preparation of the list of those to be served with notice to redeem, including the certification required in subdivision (3), subsection (a) of this section, incident thereto, in the form of receipts or other evidence of legal expenses, incurred as provided in §11A-3-19 of this code, the person redeeming shall pay the State Auditor the sum of $500 plus interest at the rate of one percent per month from January 1 of the year following the sheriff's sale for disposition by the sheriff pursuant to the provisions of §11A-3-10, §11A-3-24, §11A-3-25, and §11A-3-32 of this code.

(c) The person redeeming shall be given a receipt for the payment and the written opinion or report used for the preparation of the list of those to be served with notice to redeem required by §11A-3-19 of this code.

(d) Any person who, by reason of the fact that no provision is made for partial redemption of the tax lien on real estate purchased by an individual, is compelled in order to protect himself or herself to redeem the tax lien on all of the real estate when it belongs, in whole or in part, to some other person, shall have a lien on the interest of that other person for the amount paid to redeem the interest. He or she shall lose his or her right to the lien, however, unless within 30 days after payment he or she files with the clerk of the county commission his or her claim in writing against the owner of the interest, together with the receipt provided in this section. The clerk shall docket the claim on the judgment lien docket in his or her office and properly index the claim. The lien may be enforced as other judgment liens are enforced.

(e) Before a tax deed is issued, the county clerk may accept, on behalf of the State Auditor, the payment necessary to redeem any real estate encumbered with a tax lien and write a receipt. The amount of the payment necessary to redeem any real estate encumbered with a tax lien shall be provided by the State Auditor and the State Auditor shall update the required payments plus interest at least monthly.

(f) On or before the 10th day of each month, the county clerk shall deliver to the State Auditor the redemption money paid and the name and address of the person who redeemed the property on a form prescribed by the State Auditor.

CHAPTER 324

(S. B. 310 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed February 17, 2020; in effect from passage]
[Approved by the Governor on March 2, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-21-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to updating meaning of federal adjusted gross income and certain other terms used in West Virginia Personal Income Tax Act; and specifying effective dates.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 21. WEST VIRGINIA PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

§11-21-9. Meaning of terms.

(a) Any term used in this article has the same meaning as when used in a comparable context in the laws of the United States relating to income taxes, unless a different meaning is clearly required. Any reference in this article to the laws of the United States means the provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and any other provisions of the laws of the United States that relate to the determination of income for federal income tax purposes. All amendments made to the laws of the United States after December 31, 2018, but prior to January 1, 2020, shall be given effect in determining the taxes imposed by this article to the same extent those changes are allowed for federal income tax purposes, whether the changes are retroactive or prospective, but no amendment to the laws of the United States made on or after January 1, 2020, may be given any effect.

(b) *Medical savings accounts.* — The term "taxable trust" does not include a medical savings account established pursuant to §33-15-20 or §33-16-15 of this code. Employer contributions to a medical savings account established pursuant to those sections are not wages for purposes of withholding under §11-21-71 of this code.

(c) *Surtax.* — The term "surtax" means the 20 percent additional tax imposed on taxable withdrawals from a medical savings account under §33-15-20 of this code and the 20 percent additional tax imposed on taxable withdrawals from a medical savings account under §33-16-15 of this code which are collected by the Tax Commissioner as tax collected under this article.

(d) *Effective date.* — The amendments to this section enacted in the year 2020 are retroactive to the extent allowable under federal income tax law. With respect to taxable years that began prior to January 1, 2020, the law in effect for each of those years shall be fully preserved as to that year, except as provided in this section.

(e) For purposes of the refundable credit allowed to a low income senior citizen for property tax paid on his or her homestead in this state, the term "laws of the United States" as used in subsection (a) of this section means and includes the term "low income" as defined in §11-21-21(b) of this code and as reflected in the poverty guidelines updated periodically in the federal register by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under the authority of 42 U.S.C. § 9902(2).

(f) For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, whenever this article refers to "each exemption for which he or she is entitled to a deduction for the taxable year for federal income tax purposes", this phrase means the exemption the person would have been allowed to claim for the taxable year had the federal income tax law not been amended to eliminate the personal exemption for federal tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018.

CHAPTER 325

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 530 - By Senators Blair and Rucker)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect July 1, 2020.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-15-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to taxation of the sale of certain aircraft; exempting from consumers sales and service tax the sale of aircraft sold in this state and registered in another state and removed from this state within 60 days; and providing conditions of exemption.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 15. CONSUMERS SALES AND SERVICE TAX.

§11-15-9. Exemptions.

(a) *Exemptions for which exemption certificate may be issued.* — A person having a right or claim to any exemption set forth in this subsection may, in lieu of paying the tax imposed by this article and filing a claim for refund, execute a certificate of exemption, in the form required by the Tax Commissioner, and deliver it to the vendor of the property or service in the manner required by the Tax Commissioner. However, the Tax Commissioner may, by rule, specify those exemptions authorized in this subsection for which exemption certificates are not required. The following sales of tangible personal property and services are exempt as provided in this subsection:

(1) Sales of gas, steam, and water delivered to consumers through mains or pipes and sales of electricity;

(2) Sales of textbooks required to be used in any of the schools of this state or in any institution in this state which qualifies as a nonprofit or educational institution subject to the West Virginia Department of Education and the Arts, the Higher Education Policy Commission, or the Council for Community and Technical College Education for universities and colleges located in this state;

(3) Sales of property or services to this state, its institutions or subdivisions, governmental units, institutions, or subdivisions of other states: *Provided*, That the law of the other state provides the same exemption to governmental units or subdivisions of this state and to the United States, including agencies of federal, state, or local governments for distribution in public welfare or relief work;

(4) Sales of vehicles which are titled by the Division of Motor Vehicles and which are subject to the tax imposed by §11-15-3c of this code or like tax;

(5) Sales of property or services to churches which make no charge whatsoever for the services they render: *Provided*, That the exemption granted in this subdivision applies only to services, equipment, supplies, food for meals, and materials directly used or consumed by these organizations and does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel;

(6) Sales of tangible personal property or services to a corporation or organization which has a current registration certificate issued under §11-12-1 *et seq.* of this code, which is exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and which is:

(A) A church or a convention or association of churches as defined in Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

(B) An elementary or secondary school which maintains a regular faculty and curriculum and has a regularly enrolled body of pupils or students in attendance at the place in this state where its educational activities are regularly carried on;

(C) A corporation or organization which annually receives more than one half of its support from any combination of gifts, grants, direct or indirect charitable contributions, or membership fees;

(D) An organization which has no paid employees and its gross income from fundraisers, less reasonable and necessary expenses incurred to raise the gross income (or the tangible personal property or services purchased with the net income), is donated to an organization which is exempt from income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

(E) A youth organization, such as the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Boy Scouts of America, or the

YMCA Indian Guide/Princess Program and the local affiliates thereof, which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and has as its primary purpose the nonsectarian character development and citizenship training of its members;

(F) For purposes of this subsection:

(i) The term "support" includes, but is not limited to:

(I) Gifts, grants, contributions, or membership fees;

(II) Gross receipts from fundraisers which include receipts from admissions, sales of merchandise, performance of services, or furnishing of facilities in any activity which is not an unrelated trade or business within the meaning of Section 513 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

(III) Net income from unrelated business activities, whether or not the activities are carried on regularly as a trade or business;

(IV) Gross investment income as defined in Section 509(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

(V) Tax revenues levied for the benefit of a corporation or organization either paid to or expended on behalf of the organization; and

(VI) The value of services or facilities (exclusive of services or facilities generally furnished to the public without charge) furnished by a governmental unit referred to in Section 170(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, to an organization without charge. This term does not include any gain from the sale or other disposition of property which would be considered as gain from the sale or exchange of a capital asset or the value of an exemption from any federal, state, or local tax or any similar benefit;

(ii) The term "charitable contribution" means a contribution or gift to or for the use of a corporation or organization, described in Section 170(c)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and

(iii) The term "membership fee" does not include any amounts paid for tangible personal property or specific services rendered to members by the corporation or organization;

(G) The exemption allowed by this subdivision does not apply to sales of gasoline or special fuel or to sales of tangible personal property or services to be used or consumed in the generation of unrelated business income as defined in Section 513 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The exemption granted in this subdivision applies only to services, equipment, supplies, and materials used or consumed in the activities for which the organizations qualify as tax-exempt organizations under the Internal Revenue Code and does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel which are taxable as provided in §11-14C-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(7) An isolated transaction in which any taxable service or any tangible personal property is sold, transferred, offered for sale, or delivered by the owner of the property or by his or her representative for the owner's account, the sale, transfer, offer for sale, or delivery not being made in the ordinary course of repeated and successive transactions of like character by the owner or on his or her account by the representative: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this subdivision may be construed to prevent an owner who sells, transfers, or offers for sale tangible personal property in an isolated transaction through an auctioneer from availing himself or herself of the exemption provided in this subdivision, regardless of where the isolated sale takes place. The Tax Commissioner may propose a legislative rule for promulgation pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code which he or she considers necessary for the efficient administration of this exemption;

(8) Sales of tangible personal property or of any taxable services rendered for use or consumption in connection with the commercial production of an agricultural product the ultimate sale of which is subject to the tax imposed by this article or which would have been subject to tax under this article: *Provided*, That sales of tangible personal property and services to be used or consumed in the construction of or permanent improvement to real property and sales of gasoline and special fuel are not exempt: *Provided, however*, That nails and fencing may not be considered as improvements to real property;

(9) Sales of tangible personal property to a person for the purpose of resale in the form of tangible personal property: *Provided*, That sales of gasoline and special fuel by distributors and importers is taxable except when the sale is to another distributor for resale: *Provided, however*, That sales of building materials or building supplies or other property to any person engaging in the activity of contracting, as defined in this article, which is to be installed in, affixed to or incorporated by that person or his or her agent into any real property, building, or structure is not exempt under this subdivision;

(10) Sales of newspapers when delivered to consumers by route carriers;

(11) Sales of drugs, durable medical goods, mobility-enhancing equipment and prosthetic devices dispensed upon prescription and sales of insulin to consumers for medical purposes;

(12) Sales of radio and television broadcasting time, preprinted advertising circulars and newspaper, and outdoor advertising space for the advertisement of goods or services;

(13) Sales and services performed by day care centers;

(14) Casual and occasional sales of property or services not conducted in a repeated manner or in the ordinary course

of repetitive and successive transactions of like character by a corporation or organization which is exempt from tax under subdivision (6) of this subsection on its purchases of tangible personal property or services. For purposes of this subdivision, the term "casual and occasional sales not conducted in a repeated manner or in the ordinary course of repetitive and successive transactions of like character" means sales of tangible personal property or services at fundraisers sponsored by a corporation or organization which is exempt, under subdivision (6) of this subsection, from payment of the tax imposed by this article on its purchases when the fundraisers are of limited duration and are held no more than six times during any 12-month period and "limited duration" means no more than 84 consecutive hours: *Provided*, That sales for volunteer fire departments and volunteer school support groups, with duration of events being no more than 84 consecutive hours at a time, which are held no more than 18 times in a 12-month period for the purposes of this subdivision are considered "casual and occasional sales not conducted in a repeated manner or in the ordinary course of repetitive and successive transactions of a like character";

(15) Sales of property or services to a school which has approval from the Higher Education Policy Commission or the Council for Community and Technical College Education to award degrees, which has its principal campus in this state and which is exempt from federal and state income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended: *Provided*, That sales of gasoline and special fuel are taxable as provided in §11-15-18, §11-15-18b, and §11-14C-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(16) Sales of lottery tickets and materials by licensed lottery sales agents and lottery retailers authorized by the State Lottery Commission, under the provisions of §29-22-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(17) Leases of motor vehicles titled pursuant to the provisions of §17A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to lessees for a period of 30 or more consecutive days;

(18) Notwithstanding the provisions of §11-15-18 or §11-15-18b of this code or any other provision of this article to the contrary, sales of propane to consumers for poultry house heating purposes, with any seller to the consumer who may have prior paid the tax in his or her price, to not pass on the same to the consumer, but to make application and receive refund of the tax from the Tax Commissioner pursuant to rules which are promulgated after being proposed for legislative approval in accordance with chapter 29A of this code by the Tax Commissioner;

(19) Any sales of tangible personal property or services purchased and lawfully paid for with food stamps pursuant to the federal food stamp program codified in 7 U. S. C. §2011, *et seq.*, as amended, or with drafts issued through the West Virginia special supplement food program for women, infants, and children codified in 42 U. S. C. §1786;

(20) Sales of tickets for activities sponsored by elementary and secondary schools located within this state;

(21) Sales of electronic data processing services and related software: *Provided*, That, for the purposes of this subdivision, "electronic data processing services" means:

(A) The processing of another's data, including all processes incident to processing of data such as keypunching, keystroke verification, rearranging, or sorting of previously documented data for the purpose of data entry or automatic processing and changing the medium on which data is sorted, whether these processes are done by the same person or several persons; and

(B) Providing access to computer equipment for the purpose of processing data or examining or acquiring data stored in or accessible to the computer equipment;

(22) Tuition charged for attending educational summer camps;

(23) Dispensing of services performed by one corporation, partnership, or limited liability company for another corporation, partnership, or limited liability company when the entities are members of the same controlled group or are related taxpayers as defined in Section 267 of the Internal Revenue Code. "Control" means ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock, equity interests, or membership interests possessing 50 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of a corporation, equity interests of a partnership or membership interests of a limited liability company entitled to vote or ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock, equity interests or membership interests possessing 50 percent or more of the value of the corporation, partnership, or limited liability company;

(24) Food for the following are exempt:

(A) Food purchased or sold by a public or private school, school-sponsored student organizations, or school-sponsored parent-teacher associations to students enrolled in the school or to employees of the school during normal school hours; but not those sales of food made to the general public;

(B) Food purchased or sold by a public or private college or university or by a student organization officially recognized by the college or university to students enrolled at the college or university when the sales are made on a contract basis so that a fixed price is paid for consumption of food products for a specific period of time without respect to the amount of food product actually consumed by the particular individual contracting for the sale and no money is paid at the time the food product is served or consumed;

(C) Food purchased or sold by a charitable or private nonprofit organization, a nonprofit organization, or a

governmental agency under a program to provide food to low-income persons at or below cost;

(D) Food sold by a charitable or private nonprofit organization, a nonprofit organization, or a governmental agency under a program operating in West Virginia for a minimum of five years to provide food at or below cost to individuals who perform a minimum of two hours of community service for each unit of food purchased from the organization;

(E) Food sold in an occasional sale by a charitable or nonprofit organization, including volunteer fire departments and rescue squads, if the purpose of the sale is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue obtained is actually expended for that purpose;

(F) Food sold by any religious organization at a social or other gathering conducted by it or under its auspices, if the purpose in selling the food is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue obtained from selling the food is actually used in carrying out those functions and activities: *Provided*, That purchases made by the organizations are not exempt as a purchase for resale; or

(G) Food sold by volunteer fire departments and rescue squads that are exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, when the purpose of the sale is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue obtained is exempt from federal income tax and actually expended for that purpose;

(25) Sales of food by little leagues, midget football leagues, youth football or soccer leagues, band boosters, or other school, or athletic booster organizations supporting activities for grades kindergarten through 12 and similar types of organizations, including scouting groups and

church youth groups, if the purpose in selling the food is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenues obtained from selling the food is actually used in supporting or carrying on functions and activities of the groups: *Provided*, That the purchases made by the organizations are not exempt as a purchase for resale;

(26) Charges for room and meals by fraternities and sororities to their members: *Provided*, That the purchases made by a fraternity or sorority are not exempt as a purchase for resale;

(27) Sales of or charges for the transportation of passengers in interstate commerce;

(28) Sales of tangible personal property or services to any person which this state is prohibited from taxing under the laws of the United States or under the Constitution of this state;

(29) Sales of tangible personal property or services to any person who claims exemption from the tax imposed by this article or §11-15A-1 *et seq.* of this code, or pursuant to the provision of any other chapter of this code;

(30) Charges for the services of opening and closing a burial lot;

(31) Sales of livestock, poultry, or other farm products in their original state by the producer of the livestock, poultry, or other farm products or a member of the producer's immediate family who is not otherwise engaged in making retail sales of tangible personal property; and sales of livestock sold at public sales sponsored by breeders or registry associations or livestock auction markets: *Provided*, That the exemptions allowed by this subdivision may be claimed without presenting or obtaining exemption certificates provided the farmer maintains adequate records;

(32) Sales of motion picture films to motion picture exhibitors for exhibition if the sale of tickets or the charge for admission to the exhibition of the film is subject to the tax imposed by this article and sales of coin-operated video arcade machines or video arcade games to a person engaged in the business of providing the machines to the public for a charge upon which the tax imposed by this article is remitted to the Tax Commissioner: *Provided*, That the exemption provided in this subdivision may be claimed by presenting to the seller a properly executed exemption certificate;

(33) Sales of aircraft repair, remodeling, and maintenance services when the services are to an aircraft operated by a certified or licensed carrier of persons or property, or by a governmental entity, or to an engine or other component part of an aircraft operated by a certificated or licensed carrier of persons or property, or by a governmental entity and sales of tangible personal property that is permanently affixed or permanently attached as a component part of an aircraft owned or operated by a certificated or licensed carrier of persons or property, or by a governmental entity, as part of the repair, remodeling, or maintenance service and sales of machinery, tools, or equipment directly used or consumed exclusively in the repair, remodeling, or maintenance of aircraft, aircraft engines, or aircraft component parts for a certificated or licensed carrier of persons or property or for a governmental entity;

(34) Charges for memberships or services provided by health and fitness organizations relating to personalized fitness programs;

(35) Sales of services by individuals who babysit for a profit: *Provided*, That the gross receipts of the individual from the performance of baby-sitting services do not exceed $5,000 in a taxable year;

(36) Sales of services by public libraries or by libraries at academic institutions or by libraries at institutions of higher learning;

(37) Commissions received by a manufacturer's representative;

(38) Sales of primary opinion research services when:

(A) The services are provided to an out-of-state client;

(B) The results of the service activities, including, but not limited to, reports, lists of focus group recruits and compilation of data are transferred to the client across state lines by mail, wire, or other means of interstate commerce, for use by the client outside the state of West Virginia; and

(C) The transfer of the results of the service activities is an indispensable part of the overall service.

For the purpose of this subdivision, the term "primary opinion research" means original research in the form of telephone surveys, mall intercept surveys, focus group research, direct mail surveys, personal interviews, and other data collection methods commonly used for quantitative and qualitative opinion research studies;

(39) Sales of property or services to persons within the state when those sales are for the purposes of the production of value-added products: *Provided*, That the exemption granted in this subdivision applies only to services, equipment, supplies, and materials directly used or consumed by those persons engaged solely in the production of value-added products: *Provided, however*, That this exemption may not be claimed by any one purchaser for more than five consecutive years, except as otherwise permitted in this section.

For the purpose of this subdivision, the term "value-added product" means the following products derived from processing a raw agricultural product, whether for human

consumption or for other use. For purposes of this subdivision, the following enterprises qualify as processing raw agricultural products into value-added products: Those engaged in the conversion of:

(A) Lumber into furniture, toys, collectibles, and home furnishings;

(B) Fruits into wine;

(C) Honey into wine;

(D) Wool into fabric;

(E) Raw hides into semi-finished or finished leather products;

(F) Milk into cheese;

(G) Fruits or vegetables into a dried, canned, or frozen product;

(H) Feeder cattle into commonly accepted slaughter weights;

(I) Aquatic animals into a dried, canned, cooked, or frozen product; and

(J) Poultry into a dried, canned, cooked, or frozen product;

(40) Sales of music instructional services by a music teacher and artistic services or artistic performances of an entertainer or performing artist pursuant to a contract with the owner or operator of a retail establishment, restaurant, inn, bar, tavern, sports or other entertainment facility, or any other business location in this state in which the public or a limited portion of the public may assemble to hear or see musical works or other artistic works be performed for the enjoyment of the members of the public there assembled when the amount paid by the owner or operator for the artistic service or artistic performance does not exceed

$3,000: *Provided*, That nothing contained herein may be construed to deprive private social gatherings, weddings, or other private parties from asserting the exemption set forth in this subdivision. For the purposes of this exemption, artistic performance or artistic service means and is limited to the conscious use of creative power, imagination, and skill in the creation of aesthetic experience for an audience present and in attendance and includes, and is limited to, stage plays, musical performances, poetry recitations and other readings, dance presentation, circuses and similar presentations, and does not include the showing of any film or moving picture, gallery presentations of sculptural or pictorial art, nude or strip show presentations, video games, video arcades, carnival rides, radio or television shows, or any video or audio taped presentations, or the sale or leasing of video or audio tapes, air shows, or any other public meeting, display or show other than those specified herein: *Provided, however*, That nothing contained herein may be construed to exempt the sales of tickets from the tax imposed in this article. The State Tax Commissioner shall propose a legislative rule pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code establishing definitions and eligibility criteria for asserting this exemption which is not inconsistent with the provisions set forth herein: *Provided further*, That nude dancers or strippers may not be considered as entertainers for the purposes of this exemption;

(41) Charges to a member by a membership association or organization which is exempt from paying federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, for membership in the association or organization, including charges to members for newsletters prepared by the association or organization for distribution primarily to its members, charges to members for continuing education seminars, workshops, conventions, lectures, or courses put on or sponsored by the association or organization, including charges for related course materials prepared by the association or organization or by the speaker or speakers

for use during the continuing education seminar, workshop, convention, lecture, or course, but not including any separate charge or separately stated charge for meals, lodging, entertainment, or transportation taxable under this article: *Provided*, That the association or organization pays the tax imposed by this article on its purchases of meals, lodging, entertainment, or transportation taxable under this article for which a separate or separately stated charge is not made. A membership association or organization which is exempt from paying federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, may elect to pay the tax imposed under this article on the purchases for which a separate charge or separately stated charge could apply and not charge its members the tax imposed by this article or the association or organization may avail itself of the exemption set forth in subdivision (9) of this subsection relating to purchases of tangible personal property for resale and then collect the tax imposed by this article on those items from its member;

(42) Sales of governmental services or governmental materials by county assessors, county sheriffs, county clerks, or circuit clerks in the normal course of local government operations;

(43) Direct or subscription sales by the Division of Natural Resources of the magazine currently entitled Wonderful West Virginia and by the Division of Culture and History of the magazine currently entitled Goldenseal and the journal currently entitled West Virginia History;

(44) Sales of soap to be used at car wash facilities;

(45) Commissions received by a travel agency from an out-of-state vendor;

(46) The service of providing technical evaluations for compliance with federal and state environmental standards provided by environmental and industrial consultants who have formal certification through the West Virginia

Department of Environmental Protection or the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health, or both. For purposes of this exemption, the service of providing technical evaluations for compliance with federal and state environmental standards includes those costs of tangible personal property directly used in providing such services that are separately billed to the purchaser of such services and on which the tax imposed by this article has previously been paid by the service provider;

(47) Sales of tangible personal property and services by volunteer fire departments and rescue squads that are exempt from federal income taxes under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, if the sole purpose of the sale is to obtain revenue for the functions and activities of the organization and the revenue obtained is exempt from federal income tax and actually expended for that purpose;

(48) Lodging franchise fees, including royalties, marketing fees, reservation system fees, or other fees assessed that have been or may be imposed by a lodging franchiser as a condition of the franchise agreement;

(49) Sales of the regulation size United States flag and the regulation size West Virginia flag for display; and

(50) Sales of an aircraft sold in this state on or after July 1, 2020, as evidenced by a Federal Aviation Administration Bill of Sale AC Form 8050-2 and registered outside of this state as evidenced by Federal Aviation Administration Aircraft Registration AC Form 8050-1 shall be exempt, so long as the aircraft is removed from this state within 60 days of the date of purchase on the bill of sale. The time between the date of purchase and the removal of the aircraft shall not be counted for purposes of determining whether the aircraft is subject to use tax.

(b) Refundable exemptions. — Any person having a right or claim to any exemption set forth in this subsection

shall first pay to the vendor the tax imposed by this article and then apply to the Tax Commissioner for a refund or credit, or as provided in §11-15-9d of this code give to the vendor his or her West Virginia direct pay permit number. The following sales of tangible personal property and services are exempt from tax as provided in this subsection:

(1) Sales of property or services to bona fide charitable organizations who make no charge whatsoever for the services they render: *Provided*, That the exemption granted in this subdivision applies only to services, equipment, supplies, food, meals, and materials directly used or consumed by these organizations and does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel;

(2) Sales of services, machinery, supplies, and materials directly used or consumed in the activities of manufacturing, transportation, transmission, communication, production of natural resources, gas storage, generation, or production or selling electric power, provision of a public utility service or the operation of a utility service or the operation of a utility business, in the businesses or organizations named in this subdivision and does not apply to purchases of gasoline or special fuel;

(3) Sales of property or services to nationally chartered fraternal or social organizations for the sole purpose of free distribution in public welfare or relief work: *Provided*, That sales of gasoline and special fuel are taxable;

(4) Sales and services, firefighting or station house equipment, including construction and automotive, made to any volunteer fire department organized and incorporated under the laws of the State of West Virginia: *Provided*, That sales of gasoline and special fuel are taxable; and

(5) Sales of building materials or building supplies or other property to an organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, which are to be installed in, affixed to, or

incorporated by, the organization or its agent into real property or into a building or structure which is or will be used as permanent low-income housing, transitional housing, an emergency homeless shelter, a domestic violence shelter, or an emergency children and youth shelter if the shelter is owned, managed, developed, or operated by an organization qualified under Section 501(c)(3) or (c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

(c) *Effective date.* – The amendments to this section in 2018 shall take effect beginning July 1, 2018, and apply to former sales made on and after that date: *Provided*, That the amendments to subdivision (6), subsection (b) of this section take effect upon passage of this act of the Legislature and shall be construed to prohibit on and after January 1, 2018, all transfers to the State Road Fund established in the State Treasury pursuant to section 52, article VI of the Constitution of West Virginia, of the taxes imposed by §11-15-1 *et seq.* and §11-15A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

CHAPTER 326

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 578 - By Senators Roberts and Cline)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect July 1, 2020.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-13-2o of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adjusting the calculation of business and occupation tax on the business of generating, producing, or selling electricity from solar energy facilities; defining terms; and establishing the taxable generating capacity for certain generating units utilizing solar photovoltaic methods.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13. BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX.

§11-13-2o. Business of generating or producing or selling electricity on and after June 1, 1995; definitions; rate of tax; exemptions; effective date.

(a) *Definitions.* — As used in this section:

(1) "Average four-year generation" is computed by dividing by four the sum of a generating unit's net generation, expressed in kilowatt hours, for calendar years 1991, 1992, 1993, and 1994. For any generating unit which was newly installed and placed into commercial operation after January 1, 1991, and prior to the effective date of this section, "average four-year generation" is computed by dividing the unit's net generation for the period beginning with the month in which the unit was placed into commercial operation and ending with the month preceding the effective date of this section by the number of months in the period and multiplying the resulting amount by twelve with the result being a representative 12-month average of the unit's net generation while in an operational status.

(2) "Capacity factor" means a fraction, the numerator of which is average four-year generation and the denominator of which is the maximum possible annual generation.

(3) "Generating unit" means a mechanical apparatus or structure which through the operation of its component parts is capable of generating or producing electricity and is regularly used for this purpose.

(4) "Inactive reserve" means the removal of a generating unit from commercial service for a period of not less than 12 consecutive months as a result of lack of need for generation from the generating unit or as a result of the requirements of state or federal law or the removal of a generating unit from commercial service for any period as a

result of any physical exigency which is beyond the reasonable control of the taxpayer.

(5) "Maximum possible annual generation" means the product, expressed in kilowatt hours, of official capability times 8,760 hours.

(6) "Official capability" means the nameplate capacity rating of a generating unit expressed in kilowatts.

(7) "Peaking unit" means a generating unit designed for the limited purpose of meeting peak demands for electricity or filling emergency electricity requirements.

(8) "Retired from service" means the removal of a generating unit from commercial service for a period of at least 12 consecutive months with the intent that the unit may not thereafter be returned to active service.

(9) "Taxable generating capacity" means the product, expressed in kilowatts, of the capacity factor times the official capability of a generating unit, subject to the modifications set forth in subdivisions (2) and (3), subsection (c) of this section.

(10) "Net generation" for a period means the kilowatt hours of net generation available for sale generated or produced by the generating unit in this state during the period less the following:

(A) Twenty-one twenty-sixths of the kilowatt hours of electricity generated at the generating unit and sold during the period to a plant location of a customer engaged in manufacturing activity if the contract demand at the plant location exceeds 200,000 kilowatts per hour in a year or where the usage at the plant location exceeds 200,000 kilowatts per hour in a year;

(B) Twenty-one twenty-sixths of the kilowatt hours of electricity produced or generated at the generating unit during the period by any person producing electric power

and an alternative form of energy at a facility located in this state substantially from gob or other mine refuse;

(C) The total kilowatt hours of electricity generated at the generating unit exempted from tax during the period by §11-13-2n(b)* of this code.

(b) *Rate of tax.* — Upon every person engaging or continuing within this state in the business of generating or producing electricity for sale, profit or commercial use, either directly or indirectly through the activity of others, in whole or in part, or in the business of selling electricity to consumers, or in both businesses, the tax imposed by §11-13-2 of this code shall be equal to:

(1) For taxpayers who generate or produce electricity for sale, profit or commercial use, the product of $22.78 multiplied by the taxable generating capacity of each generating unit in this state owned or leased by the taxpayer, subject to the modifications set forth in subsection (c) of this section: *Provided*, That with respect to each generating unit in this state which has installed a flue gas desulfurization system, the tax imposed by section two of this article shall, on and after January 31, 1996, be equal to the product of $20.70 multiplied by the taxable generating capacity of the units, subject to the modifications set forth in subsection (c) of this section: *Provided, however*, That with respect to kilowatt hours sold to or used by a plant location engaged in manufacturing activity in which the contract demand at the plant location exceeds 200,000 kilowatts per hour per year or if the usage at the plant location exceeds 200,000 kilowatts per hour in a year, in no event may the tax imposed by this article with respect to the sale or use of the electricity exceed five hundredths of one cent times the kilowatt hours sold to or used by a plant engaged in a manufacturing activity; and

(2) For taxpayers who sell electricity to consumers in this state that is not generated or produced in this state by the taxpayer, nineteen hundredths of one cent times the

***NOTE:** Correction of apparent word to number translation error.

kilowatt hours of electricity sold to consumers in this state that were not generated or produced in this state by the taxpayer, except that the rate shall be five hundredths of one cent times the kilowatt hours of electricity not generated or produced in this state by the taxpayer which is sold to a plant location in this state of a customer engaged in manufacturing activity if the contract demand at such plant location exceeds 200,000 kilowatts per hour per year or if the usage at such plant location exceeds 200,000 kilowatts per hour in a year. The measure of tax under this subdivision shall be equal to the total kilowatt hours of electricity sold to consumers in the state during the taxable year, that were not generated or produced in this state by the taxpayer, to be determined by subtracting from the total kilowatt hours of electricity sold to consumers in the state the net kilowatt hours of electricity generated or produced in the state by the taxpayer during the taxable year. For the purposes of this subdivision, net kilowatt hours of electricity generated or produced in this state by the taxpayer includes the taxpayer's pro rata share of electricity generated or produced in this state by a partnership or limited liability company of which the taxpayer is a partner or member. The provisions of this subdivision may not apply to those kilowatt hours exempt under §11-13-2n(b)* of this code. Any person taxable under this subdivision shall be allowed a credit against the amount of tax due under this subdivision for any electric power generation taxes or a tax similar to the tax imposed by subdivision (1) of this subsection paid by the taxpayer with respect to the electric power to the state in which the power was generated or produced. The amount of credit allowed may not exceed the tax liability arising under this subdivision with respect to the sale of the power.

(c) The following provisions are applicable to taxpayers subject to tax under subdivision (1), subsection (b) of this section:

(1) *Retired units; inactive reserve.* — If a generating unit is retired from service or placed in inactive reserve, a

***NOTE:** Correction of apparent word to number translation error.

taxpayer may not be liable for tax computed with respect to the taxable generating capacity of the unit for the period that the unit is inactive or retired. The taxpayer shall provide written notice to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, as well as to any other entity as may be otherwise provided by law, 18 months prior to retiring any generating unit from service in this state.

(2) *New generating units.* — If a new generating unit, other than a peaking unit, is placed in initial service on or after the effective date of this section, the generating unit's taxable generating capacity shall equal 40 percent of the official capability of the unit: *Provided*, That the taxable generating capacity of a county-owned or municipally owned generating unit shall equal zero percent of the official capability of the unit and for taxable periods ending on or before December 31, 2007, the taxable generating capacity of a generating unit utilizing a turbine powered primarily by wind shall equal five percent of the official capability of the unit: *Provided, however*, That for taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2008, the taxable generating capacity of a generating unit utilizing a turbine powered primarily by wind shall equal 12 percent of the official capability of the unit: *Provided further,* That for taxable periods beginning on or after January 1, 2020, the taxable generating capacity of a generating unit utilizing solar photovoltaic methods shall equal eight percent of the official capacity of the unit. For purposes of this subsection, "solar photovoltaic methods" means a module or array of solar cells electronically connected in a series or in parallel to provide suitable voltages and currents for electricity generation. Methods include, but are not limited to, a grid-connected photovoltaic system designed to operate in parallel with an electric utility grid.

(3) *Peaking units.* — If a peaking unit is placed in initial service on or after the effective date of this section, the generating unit's taxable generating capacity shall equal five percent of the official capability of the unit: *Provided*,

That the taxable generating capacity of a county-owned or municipally owned generating plant shall equal zero percent of the official capability of the unit.

(4) *Transfers of interests in generating units.* — If a taxpayer acquires an interest in a generating unit, the taxpayer shall include the computation of taxable generating capacity of the unit in the determination of the taxpayer's tax liability as of the date of the acquisition. Conversely, if a taxpayer transfers an interest in a generating unit, the taxpayer may not for periods thereafter be liable for tax computed with respect to the taxable generating capacity of the transferred unit.

(5) *Proration, allocation.* — The Tax Commissioner shall promulgate rules in conformity with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to provide for the administration of this section and to equitably prorate taxes for a taxable year in which a generating unit is first placed in service, retired, or placed in inactive reserve, or in which a taxpayer acquires or transfers an interest in a generating unit, to equitably allocate and reallocate adjustments to net generation, and to equitably allocate taxes among multiple taxpayers with interests in a single generating unit, it being the intent of the Legislature to prohibit multiple taxation of the same taxable generating capacity.

So as to provide for an orderly transition with respect to the rate-making effect of this section, those electric light and power companies which, as of the effective date of this section, are permitted by the West Virginia Public Service Commission to utilize deferred accounting for purposes of recovery from ratepayers of any portion of business and occupation tax expense under this article shall be permitted, until the time that action pursuant to a rate application or order of the commission provides for appropriate alternative rate-making treatment for that expense, to recover the tax expense imposed by this section by means of deferred accounting to the extent that the tax expense imposed by this

section exceeds the level of business and occupation tax under this article currently allowed in rates.

(6) *Electricity generated by manufacturer or affiliate for use in manufacturing activity.* — When electricity used in a manufacturing activity is generated in this state by the person who owns the manufacturing facility in which the electricity is used and the electricity-generating unit or units producing the electricity so used are owned by the manufacturer, or by a member of the manufacturer's controlled group, as defined in Section 267 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, the generation of the electricity may not be taxable under this article: *Provided*, That any electricity generated or produced at the generating unit or units which is sold or used for purposes other than in the manufacturing activity shall be taxed under this section and the amount of tax payable shall be adjusted to be equal to an amount which is proportional to the electricity sold for purposes other than the manufacturing activity. The Department of Revenue shall promulgate rules in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided, however*, That the rules shall be promulgated as emergency rules.

(d) Beginning June 1, 1995, electric light and power companies that actually paid tax based on §11-13-2d(a)(3) of this code or §11-13-2m of this code for every taxable month in 1994 shall determine their liability for payment of tax under this article in accordance with subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection. All other electric light and power companies shall determine their liability for payment of tax under this article exclusively under this section beginning June 1, 1995, and thereafter.

(1) If for taxable months beginning on or after June 1, 1995, liability for tax under this section is equal to or greater than the sum of the power company's liability for payment of tax under §11-13-2d(a)(3) of this code and this section, then the company shall pay the tax due under this section and not the tax due under §11-13-2d(a)(3) of this code and

§11-13-2m of this code. If tax liability under this section is less, then the tax shall be paid under §11-13-2d(a)(3) of this code and §11-13-2m of this code and the tax due under this section may not be paid.

(2) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1998, all electric and light power companies shall determine their liability for payment of tax under this article exclusively under this section.

CHAPTER 327

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 719 - By Senators Maroney, Cline, Prezioso, Rucker, Sypolt, Takubo, Trump, Clements and Stollings)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect July 1, 2020.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-27-10a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to imposing a health care-related provider tax on certain health care organizations; and extending termination date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 27. HEALTH CARE PROVIDER TAXES.

§11-27-10a. Imposition of tax on managed care organizations.

(a) *Imposition of tax.* — For the privilege of holding a certificate of authority within this state to establish or operate a "health maintenance organization" pursuant to §33-25A-4 of this code (hereinafter "certified HMO"), there is hereby levied and shall be collected from every such

6 certified HMO an annual broad-based health care-related
7 tax.

8 (b) *Rate and measure of tax.* — The tax imposed by this
9 section shall be based on the following rates applied to each
10 taxable health plan's total Medicaid member months within
11 tiers I, II, and III, and to non-Medicaid member months
12 within tiers IV and V:

13 (1) Tier I — $35 for each Medicaid member month
14 under 250,000;

15 (2) Tier II — $20 for each Medicaid member month
16 between 250,000 and 500,000;

17 (3) Tier III — $1 for each Medicaid member month
18 greater than 500,000;

19 (4) Tier IV — 25 cents for each non-Medicaid member
20 month under 150,000; and

21 (5) Tier V — 10 cents for each non-Medicaid member
22 month of 150,000 or more.

23 (c) *Definitions.* —

24 (1) "Managed care organization" or "MCO" means a
25 certified HMO that provides health care services to
26 Medicaid members pursuant to an agreement or contract
27 with the department.

28 (2) "Managed care plan" means an agreement or
29 contract between the secretary and an MCO under which the
30 MCO agrees to provide health care services to Medicaid
31 members.

32 (3) "Medicaid member" means an individual enrolled in
33 a taxable health plan who is a Medicaid beneficiary on
34 whose behalf the department directly pays the health plan a
35 capitated payment.

(4) "Medicaid member months" means the number of Medicaid members in a taxable health plan in each month or part of a month over the course of the tax year.

(5) "Non-Medicaid enrollee" means an individual who is an "enrollee", "subscriber", or "member", as those terms are defined in §33-25A-2(8) of this code, in a taxable health plan who is not a Medicaid member: *Provided,* That this definition does not include Public Employees Retirement Agency members or Medicare Advantage members.

(6) "Non-Medicaid member months" means the number of non-Medicaid enrollees in a taxable health plan in each month or part of a month over the course of the tax year, but does not include persons enrolled in either a health plan issued by the West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency or a plan issued pursuant to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Act of 1959 (Public Law 86-382) to the extent the imposition of the tax under this section is preempted pursuant to 5 U.S.C. §8909(f).

(7) "Taxable health plan" means: (i) An agreement or contract under which a certified HMO agrees to provide health care services to a non-Medicaid member in accordance with §33-25A-1 *et seq.* of this code; and (ii) a managed care plan.

(d) *Effective date.* —

(i) Subject to an earlier termination pursuant to the terms of subdivision (ii) of this subsection, the tax imposed by this section shall be effective for three years beginning on the first day of the state fiscal year following a 30-day period after the secretary has posted notice on the department Internet website that approval had been received from the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services that the tax imposed by this section is a permissible health care-related tax in accordance with 42 C.F.R. §433.68 and is therefore eligible for federal financial participation.

(ii) The tax imposed by this section shall be administered in accordance with the provisions of this article and the Tax Administration and Procedures act in §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That the tax imposed by this section shall be automatically void if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services determines that it is no longer a permissible health care-related tax that is eligible for federal financial participation. Subject to the terms of this subdivision, the tax imposed by this section shall remain in effect until June 30, 2023, and as of June 30, 2023, is repealed.

(e) *Time for paying tax.* — Notwithstanding the provisions of §11-27-25 of this code, no taxes may be collected under this article until the department receives written notice that the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has approved proposed Medicaid rates as actuarially sound for the taxable year in which the tax will be imposed.

CHAPTER 328

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 793 - By Senators Smith, Sypolt and Cline)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-13-2q of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-13-2r, all relating to business and occupation taxes imposed on operators of certain coal-fired electric generating units located in this state; clarifying application of certain sections of code; providing for recomputation of taxable generating capacity of certain coal-fired electric generating units for business and

occupation tax purposes under certain circumstances; defining certain terms, imposing recapture tax under certain circumstances; and specifying effective dates.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13. BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX.

§11-13-2q. Exemption from tax for certain merchant power plants.

(a) *Exemption.* — Notwithstanding the provisions of §11-13-2o of this code, for taxable years, or portions thereof, beginning on or after January 1, 2020, a coal-fired merchant power plant is exempt from the business and occupation tax imposed by §11-13-2o of this code on the generating capacity of its generating units located in this state that are owned or leased by the taxpayer and used to generate electricity. When the January 1, 2020, date falls during a taxpayer's taxable year, the tax liability for that year shall be prorated based upon the number of months before and the number of months beginning on and after January 1, 2020, in that taxable year.

(b) *Definition.* — As used in this section, the term "coal-fired merchant power plant" means a coal-fired electricity generating unit or plant in this state with relation to which the owners, operators, interest holders, or any combination thereof do not receive regulated cost recovery pursuant to any tariff, regulated rate, or cost recovery fee mandated or authorized by the West Virginia Public Service Commission, or by any rate-making authority of any other state of the United States, and that: (1) Is not subject to regulation of its rates by the West Virginia Public Service Commission or any rate-making authority of any other state of the United States; (2) sells electricity it generates only on the wholesale market; (3) does not sell electricity pursuant to one or more long-term sales contracts; and (4) does not sell electricity to retail consumers.

(c) *Effective date.* — The amendments to this section enacted in the year 2020 shall be retroactive to January 1, 2020.

§11-13-2r. Recomputation of taxable generating capacity of certain coal-fired electric generating facilities; imposition of recapture tax.

(a) *General.* — Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, for the taxable year beginning January 1, 2021, the tax on the privilege of generating electricity from coal-fired generating units in operation before January 1, 1995, shall be computed as provided in §11-13-2o of this code and the tax attributable to the months of January through June of 2021 shall be remitted before July 31, 2021, as provided in §11-13-4 of this code. Beginning July 1, 2021, the owner or operator of a coal-fired generating unit in operation before January 1, 1995, may elect to recompute the taxable generating capacity of those coal-fired generating units determined under §11-13-2o of this code so that the tax attributable to the second half of 2021 is computed and paid on 45 percent of the official capability of those generating units, as defined in §11-13-2o of this code: *Provided*, That this election is an irrevocable election and the owner or operator of the coal-fired generating units for which this election is made shall agree to keep them in operation until at least July 1, 2025. The tax attributable to the months of July through December of 2021, as recomputed under this section, shall be remitted before January 31, 2022, as provided in §11-13-4 of this code. When this election is made, then for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2022, the taxable generating capacity of coal-fired generating units in operation before January 1, 1995, shall be 45 percent of the official capability of the generating unit as defined in §11-13-2o of this code.

(b) *Recapture tax.* — Beginning on and after July 1, 2021, but before July 1, 2025, should the coal-fired generating units impacted by this tax cease to operate, the

owner or operator of said plants shall remit back to the West Virginia State Tax Department all of the business and occupation tax savings incurred during the time period between July 1, 2021, and the date the coal-fired generating units ceased operation. A recapture tax is imposed by this subsection, which tax is an amount equal to the business and occupation tax savings the owner or operator of the plant realized, or would have realized, due to enactment of this section, on or after July 1, 2021, but before July 1, 2025. The recapture tax shall be due and payable on the date the annual business and occupation tax return is due under this article for the taxable period for which the recapture tax applies. In the event federal law or regulation requires the closing of coal-fired generating units before July 1, 2025, the recapture tax shall not apply to taxable periods beginning subsequent to the closure date.

(c) *Transfer of generating unit.* — If at any time after the effective date of this section but before July 1, 2025, a coal-fired generating unit whose taxable generating capacity was recomputed under this section is transferred to another entity, the amount of the business and occupation tax benefit the transferor received, or would have received, under this section had the owner continued to own and operated the generating unit shall be recaptured under subsection (b) of this section.

(d) *Definitions.* — Terms "taxable generating capacity" and "official capability" used in this section are defined as provided in §11-13-2o of this code except to the extent those definitions are modified by language in this section for taxable periods beginning on and after July 1, 2021.

CHAPTER 329

(S. B. 816 - By Senator Blair)

[Passed February 29, 2020; in effect July 1, 2020.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-6F-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §11-13S-3 of said code, all relating generally to updating the North American Industry Classification System code references; and making other technical changes to conform to new bill-drafting requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6F. SPECIAL METHOD FOR APPRAISING QUALIFIED CAPITAL ADDITIONS TO MANUFACTURING FACILITIES.

§11-6F-2. Definitions.

As used in this article, the term:

(a) "Certified capital addition property" means all real property and personal property included within or to be included within a qualified capital addition to a manufacturing facility that has been certified by the State Tax Commissioner in accordance with §11-6F-4 of this code: *Provided*, That airplanes and motor vehicles licensed by the Division of Motor Vehicles are not certified capital addition property.

(b) "Manufacturing" means any business activity classified as having a sector identifier, consisting of the first two digits of the six-digit North American Industry Classification System code number of 31, 32, or 33. For

purposes of this article, manufacturing also includes the processing of raw natural gas or oil to recover or extract liquid hydrocarbons, which activity is classified under North American Industry Classification System code number 211130. This definition does not mean or include any other processes or activities classified, categorized, grouped, or identified under North American Industry Classification System code number 211130.

(c) "Manufacturing facility" means any factory, mill, chemical plant, refinery, warehouse, building or complex of buildings, including land on which it is located, and all machinery, equipment, improvements, and other real property and personal property located at or within the facility used in connection with the operation of the facility in a manufacturing business.

(d) "Personal property" means all property specified in §2-2-10(q) of this code and includes, but is not limited to, furniture, fixtures, machinery, and equipment, pollution control equipment, computers, and related data processing equipment, spare parts, and supplies.

(e) "Qualified capital addition to a manufacturing facility" means either:

(1) All real property and personal property, the combined original cost of which exceeds $50 million to be constructed, located, or installed at or within two miles of a manufacturing facility owned or operated by the person making the capital addition that has a total original cost before the capital addition of at least $100 million. If the capital addition is made in a steel, chemical, or polymer alliance zone as designated from time-to-time by executive order of the Governor, then the person making the capital addition may, for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this subsection, join in a multiparty project with a person owning or operating a manufacturing facility that has a total original cost before the capital addition of at least $100 million if the capital addition creates additional production

capacity of existing or related products or feedstock or derivative products respecting the manufacturing facility, consists of a facility used to store, handle, process, or produce raw materials for the manufacturing facility, consists of a facility used to store, handle, or process natural gas to produce fuel for the generation of steam or electricity for the manufacturing facility or consists of a facility that generates steam or electricity for the manufacturing facility, including, but not limited to, a facility that converts coal to a gas or liquid for the manufacturing facility's use in heating, manufacturing or generation of electricity. When the new capital addition is a facility that is or will be processing raw natural gas or oil to recover or extract liquid hydrocarbons, or is a manufacturing facility that uses product produced at a facility engaged in processing of raw natural gas or oil to recover or extract liquid hydrocarbons, then wherever the term "100 million" is used in this subsection, the term "20 million" shall be substituted and where the term "50 million" is used, the term "10 million" shall be substituted; or

(2) (A) All real property and personal property, the combined original cost of which exceeds $2 billion to be constructed, located or installed at a facility, or a combination of facilities by a single entity or combination of entities engaged in a unitary business, that:

(i) Is or will be engaged in processing of raw natural gas or oil to recover or extract liquid hydrocarbons; or

(ii) Is a manufacturing facility that uses one or more products produced at a facility described in subparagraph (i) above; or

(iii) Is a manufacturing facility that uses one or more products produced at a facility described in subparagraph (ii) of this subdivision.

(B) No preexisting investment made, or in place before the capital addition is required for property specified in this

subdivision. The requirements set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection do not apply to property specified in this subdivision relating to:

(i) Location or installation of investment at or within two miles of a manufacturing facility owned or operated by the person making the capital addition;

(ii) Total original cost of preexisting investment before the capital addition of at least $100 million or $20 million; or

(iii) Multiparty projects.

(f) "Real property" means all property specified in §2-2-10(p) of this code and includes, but is not limited to, lands, buildings, and improvements on the land such as sewers, fences, roads, paving, and leasehold improvements: *Provided*, That for capital additions certified on or after July 1, 2011, the value of the land before any improvements shall be subtracted from the value of the capital addition and the unimproved land value shall not be given salvage value treatment.

ARTICLE 13S. MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT.

§11-13S-3. Definitions.

(a) Any term used in this article has the meaning ascribed by this section unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context of its use or by definition in this article.

(b) For purpose of this article, the term:

(1) "Eligible taxpayer" means an industrial taxpayer who purchases new property for the purpose of industrial expansion or for the purpose of industrial revitalization of an existing industrial facility in this state.

(2) "Industrial expansion" means capital investment in a new or expanded industrial facility in this state.

(3) "Industrial facility" means any factory, mill, plant, refinery, warehouse, building, or complex of buildings located within this state, including the land on which it is located, and all machinery, equipment, and other real and tangible personal property located at or within the facility primarily used in connection with the operation of the manufacturing business.

(4) "Industrial revitalization" or "revitalization" means capital investment in an industrial facility located in this state to replace or modernize buildings, equipment, machinery, and other tangible personal property used in connection with the operation of the facility in an industrial business of the taxpayer including the acquisition of any real property necessary to the industrial revitalization.

(5) "Industrial taxpayer" means any taxpayer who is primarily engaged in a manufacturing business.

(6) "Manufacturing" means any business activity classified as having a sector identifier, consisting of the first two digits of the six-digit North American Industry Classification System code number of 31, 32, or 33. For purposes of this article, manufacturing also includes the processing of raw natural gas or oil to recover or extract liquid hydrocarbons, which is classified under North American Industry Classification System code number 211130. This definition does not mean or include any other processes or activities classified, categorized, grouped, or identified under North American Industry Classification System code number 211130.

(7) "Property purchased for manufacturing investment" means real property, and improvements thereto, and tangible personal property but only if the property was constructed or purchased on or after January 1, 2003, for use as a component part of a new, expanded, or revitalized

industrial facility. This term includes only that tangible personal property with respect to which depreciation, or amortization in lieu of depreciation, is allowable in determining the federal income tax liability of the industrial taxpayer, that has a useful life, at the time the property is placed in service or use in this state, of four years or more. Property acquired by written lease for a primary term of 10 years or longer, if used as a component part of a new or expanded industrial facility, is included within this definition.

(A) "Property purchased for manufacturing investment" does not include:

(i) Repair costs, including materials used in the repair, unless for federal income tax purposes, the cost of the repair must be capitalized and not expensed;

(ii) Motor vehicles licensed by the Division of Motor Vehicles;

(iii) Airplanes;

(iv) Off-premises transportation equipment;

(v) Property which is primarily used outside this state; and

(vi) Property which is acquired incident to the purchase of the stock or assets of an industrial taxpayer which property was or had been used by the seller in his or her industrial business in this state or in which investment was previously the basis of a credit against tax taken under any other article of this chapter.

(B) Purchases or acquisitions of land or depreciable property qualify as purchases of property purchased for manufacturing investment for purposes of this article only if:

(i) The property is not acquired from a person whose relationship to the person acquiring it would result in the disallowance of deductions under section 267 or 707(b) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as defined in §11-21-1 *et seq.* and §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(ii) The property is not acquired from a related person or by one component member of a controlled group from another component member of the same controlled group. The Tax Commissioner may waive this requirement if the property was acquired from a related party for its then fair market value; and

(iii) The basis of the property for federal income tax purposes, in the hands of the person acquiring it, is not determined, in whole or in part, by reference to the federal adjusted basis of the property in the hands of the person from whom it was acquired or under section 1014(e) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(8) "Qualified manufacturing investment" means that amount determined under §11-13S-5 of this code as qualified manufacturing investment.

(9) "Taxpayer" means any person subject to any of the taxes imposed by §11-13A-1 *et seq.*, §11-21-1 *et seq.*, or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, or any combination of those articles of this chapter.

CHAPTER 330

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 2149 - By Delegates Lovejoy, Linville, Hansen and Boggs)

[Passed February 29, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-13DD-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Farm-To-Food Bank Tax Credit; and allowing the credit to equal 30 percent of the value of the donated edible agricultural products when the value is $2,500 or less.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13DD. WEST VIRGINIA FARM-TO-FOOD BANK TAX CREDIT.

§11-13DD-3. Amount of credit; limitation of credit.

(a) There is allowed to farming taxpayers who make donations of edible agricultural products to one or more nonprofit food programs in this state, a credit against taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* and §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code in the amount set forth in this section.

(b) The amount of the credit is equal to 30 percent of the value of the donated edible agricultural products, but not to exceed $2,500 during a taxable year or the total amount of tax imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, whichever is less, in the year of donations.

(c) If the amount of the credit exceeds the taxpayer's tax liability for the taxable year, the amount which exceeds the tax liability may be carried over and applied as a credit against the tax liability of the taxpayer pursuant to §11-21-

1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code to each of the next four taxable years unless sooner used.

(d) No more than $200,000 of tax credits may be allocated by the department in any fiscal year. The department shall allocate the tax credits in the order the donation forms are received.

CHAPTER 331

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 2967 - By Delegates Hardy, Bibby, Barrett, Espinosa, Cowles, Householder, Mandt, Linville, Wilson, D. Jeffries and Rowan)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-22-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to phasing in elimination of state excise tax on privilege of transferring property and replacing it with county excise tax on certain date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 22. EXCISE TAX ON PRIVILEGE OF TRANSFERRING REAL PROPERTY.

§11-22-2. Rate of tax; when and by whom payable; additional county tax.

(a) Every person who delivers, accepts, or presents for recording any document, or in whose behalf any document is delivered, accepted, or presented for recording, is subject to pay for, and in respect to the transaction or any part thereof, a state excise tax upon the privilege of transferring title to real estate at the rate of $1.10 for each $500 value or fraction thereof as represented by the document as defined

in §11-22-1 of this code: *Provided*, That beginning July 1, 2021, ten percent of each state excise tax collected pursuant to the provisions of this subsection shall be retained by the county wherein the tax was collected to be used for county purposes: *Provided, however*, That beginning July 1, in every year thereafter, an additional ten percent of each state excise tax collected pursuant to this subsection shall be retained by the county wherein the tax was collected to be used for county purposes: *Provided, further,* That beginning July 1, 2030, the excise tax collected pursuant to this subsection shall be a county excise tax to be used by the county wherein it is collected for county purposes. The state tax is payable at the time of delivery, acceptance, or presenting for recording of the document. In addition to the state excise tax described in this subsection, there is assessed a fee of $20 upon the privilege of transferring real estate for consideration. The clerk of the county commission shall collect the additional $20 fee before recording a transfer of title to real estate and shall deposit the moneys from the additional fees into the Affordable Housing Fund as provided in §31-18-20d of this code. The moneys collected from this additional fee shall be segregated from other funds of the West Virginia Housing Development Fund and shall be accounted for separately. None of these moneys may be expended by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund to defray administrative and operating costs and expenses actually incurred by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund. The West Virginia Housing Development Fund shall publish monthly on the Internet site an accounting of all revenue deposited into the fund during the month and a full disclosure of all expenditures from the fund including the group receiving funds, their location and any contractor awarded the construction contract.

(b) Effective January 1, 1968, and thereafter, there is imposed an additional county excise tax for the privilege of transferring title to real estate at the rate of 55 cents for each $500 value or fraction thereof as represented by such

document as defined in §11-22-1 of this code, which county tax shall be payable at the time of delivery, acceptance, or presenting for recording of such document: *Provided*, That after July 1, 1989, the county may increase said excise tax to an amount equal to the state excise tax. The additional tax hereby imposed is declared to be a county tax and to be used for county purposes: *Provided, however*, That after July 1, 2017, the county may increase the excise tax to an amount not to exceed $1.65 for each $500 value, or fraction thereof, as represented by a document as defined in §11-22-1 of this code: *Provided further*, That only one such state tax and one such county tax shall be paid on any one document and shall be collected in the county where the document is first admitted to record and the tax shall be paid by the grantor therein unless the grantee accepts the document without such tax having been paid, in which event such tax shall be paid by the grantee: *And provided further*, That on any transfer of real property from a trustee or a county clerk transferring real estate sold for taxes, such tax shall be paid by the grantee. The county excise tax imposed under this section may not be increased in any county unless the increase is approved by a majority vote of the members of the county commission of such county. Any county commission intending to increase the excise tax imposed in its county shall publish a notice of its intention to increase such tax not less than 30 days nor more than 60 days prior to the meeting at which such increase will be considered, such notice to be published as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area shall be the county in which such county commission is located.

CHAPTER 332

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4019 - By Delegates J. Kelly, Toney, Westfall, Barnhart, Maynard, Porterfield, Mandt, Little, Queen, Householder and Butler)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated †§11-13GG-1, †§11-13GG-2, †§11-13GG-3, †§11-13GG-4, †§11-13GG-5, †§11-13GG-6, †§11-13GG-7, †§11-13GG-8, †§11-13GG-9, †§11-13GG-10, †§11-13GG-11, †§11-13GG-12, †§11-13GG-13, †§11-13GG-14, †§11-13GG-15, †§11-13GG-16, †§11-13GG-17, †§11-13GG-18, †§11-13GG-19, and †§11-13GG-20, all relating generally to creating the Downstream Natural Gas Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit Act of 2020; providing for administration and enforcement of act; providing a short title; making legislative findings; stating legislative purpose; defining terms; specifying an amount of credit allowable based on amount of qualified investment and the number of new jobs created; providing limitations and conditions for qualification and use; defining in service or use; providing for the application of the credit to the corporate net income tax and the personal income tax, as appropriate; providing for methods of calculation of the qualified investment; providing for determination and certification of the number of new jobs; providing for carry over and forfeiture of unused tax credits and redetermination of tax credits under certain circumstances; providing limitations for credits being carried over; providing for full recapture and partial recapture of credit under certain circumstances and imposing a recapture tax; allowing transfer of qualified investment property without forfeiture or recapture under

† Redesignated

certain circumstances; requiring identification of qualified investment property and record keeping; providing penalties for failure to keep required records; providing for interpretation and construction of credit; requiring timely filing of application for credit; specifying burden of proof; requiring periodic tax credit review and accountability reports; authorizing rulemaking; making credit subject to West Virginia Tax Procedure and Administration Act and West Virginia Tax Crimes and Penalties Act; providing for severability; and specifying effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

†ARTICLE 13GG. DOWNSTREAM NATURAL GAS MANUFACTURING INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT OF 2020.

†§11-13GG-1. Short title.

1 This article may be cited as the Downstream Natural
2 Gas Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit Act of 2020.

†§11-13GG-2. Legislative finding and purpose.

1 The Legislature finds that the encouragement of
2 downstream manufacturing in this state is in the public
3 interest and promotes the general welfare of the people of
4 this state. In order to encourage greater capital investment
5 in downstream natural gas manufacturing businesses in this
6 state and thereby increase economic opportunity in this
7 state, there is hereby enacted the downstream
8 manufacturing tax credit.

†§11-13GG-3. Definitions.

1 (a) *General.* — When used in this article, or in the
2 administration of §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code, terms
3 defined in subsection (b) have the meanings ascribed to
4 them by this section, unless a different meaning is clearly
5 required by either the context in which the term is used, or
6 by specific definition, in §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code.

† Redesignated

(b) Terms defined.

(1) "Affiliated group" means any affiliated group within the meaning section 1504(a) of the Internal Revenue Code, or any similar group defined under a similar provision of state, local, or foreign law, except that section 1504 of Internal Revenue Code shall be applied by substituting "more than 50 percent" for "at least 80 percent" each place it appears in that section.

(2) "Business" means a downstream natural gas manufacturing business activity which is engaged in by any person in this state which is taxable under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(3) "Business expansion" means capital investment in a new or expanded downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state.

(4) "Commissioner" or "Tax Commissioner" are used interchangeably in this article and mean the Tax Commissioner of the State of West Virginia, or his or her designee.

(5) "Compensation" means wages, salaries, commissions, and any other form of remuneration paid to employees for personal services.

(6) "Controlled group of corporations" means a controlled group of corporations as defined in section 1563(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(7) "Corporation" means any corporation, joint-stock company, association, or other entity treated as a corporation for federal income tax purposes, and any business conducted by a trustee or trustees wherein interest or ownership is evidenced by a certificate of interest or ownership or similar written instrument.

(8) "Designee" in the phrase "or his or her designee," when used in reference to the Tax Commissioner, means

any officer or employee of the State Tax Department duly authorized by the commissioner directly, or indirectly by one or more redelegations of authority, to perform the functions mentioned or described in this article.

(9) "Downstream natural gas manufacturing" refers to oil and gas manufacturing operations after the production and processing phases and includes, but is not limited to, facilities that use oil, natural gas, natural gas liquids, or the products produced by ethane crackers as raw materials to manufacture industrial and commercial products.

(10) "Downstream natural gas manufacturing business" means a business primarily engaged in this state in downstream natural gas manufacturing.

(11) "Downstream natural gas manufacturing facility" or "downstream manufacturing facility" means any factory, mill, plant, warehouse, building, or complex of buildings located within this state, including the land on which it is located, and all machinery, equipment, and other real and personal property located at or within the facility, used in connection with the operation of the facility, in a business that is taxable in this state, and all site preparation and start-up costs of the taxpayer for the downstream natural gas manufacturing facility which it capitalizes for federal income tax purposes.

(12) "Eligible taxpayer" means any person who makes qualified investment in a new or expanded downstream natural gas manufacturing facility located in this state and creates at least the required number of new jobs and who is subject to any of the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(13) "Expanded facility" means any downstream natural gas manufacturing facility, other than a new or replacement business facility, resulting from the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, installation, or erection of improvements or additions to existing property if the

improvements or additions are purchased on or after July 1, 2020, but only to the extent of the taxpayer's qualified investment in the improvements or additions.

(14) "Includes" and "including" when used in a definition contained in this article, shall not be considered to exclude other things otherwise within the meaning of the term defined.

(15) "Leased property" does not include property which the taxpayer is required to show on its books and records as an asset under generally accepted principles of financial accounting. If the taxpayer is prohibited from expensing the lease payments for federal income tax purposes, the property shall be treated as purchased property under this section.

(16) "Natural gas" means a gaseous fossil energy source that formed deep beneath the earth's surface that is a combustible mixture of methane and other hydrocarbons.

(17) "Natural gas liquids" includes the following separated from raw natural gas: butane, ethane, isobutane, pentane, propane, and similar liquid hydrocarbons and byproducts separated from natural gas.

(18) "Natural resources" means all forms of minerals, including, but not limited to, rock, stone limestone, coal shale, gravel, sand, clay, natural gas, oil, and natural gas liquids which are contained in or on the soils or waters of this state and includes standing timber.

(19) "New downstream natural gas manufacturing facility" means a business facility which satisfies all the requirements of paragraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of this subdivision.

(A) The facility is employed by the taxpayer in the conduct of a downstream natural gas manufacturing activity the net income of which is or would be taxable under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code. The facility is

not considered a new downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in the hands of the taxpayer if the taxpayer's only activity with respect to the facility is to lease it to another person or persons.

(B) The facility is purchased by, or leased to, the taxpayer on or after July 1, 2020.

(C) The facility was not purchased or leased by the taxpayer from a related person. The commissioner may waive this requirement if the facility was acquired from a related party for its fair market value and the acquisition was not tax motivated.

(D) The facility was not in service or use during the 90 days immediately prior to transfer of the title to the facility, or prior to the commencement of the term of the lease of the facility: *Provided*, That this 90-day period may be waived by the commissioner if the commissioner determines that persons employed at the facility may be treated as "new employees" as that term is defined in this subsection.

(20) "New employee" –

(A) The term new employee means an individual hired by the taxpayer to fill a position or a job in this state which previously did not exist in the taxpayer's downstream natural gas manufacturing activity in this state prior to the date on which the taxpayer's qualified investment in a new or expanded downstream natural gas manufacturing facility is placed in service or use in this state. In no case may the number of new employees directly attributable to the investment for purposes of this credit exceed the total net increase in the taxpayer's employment in this state: *Provided*, That the Tax Commissioner may require that the net increase in the taxpayer's employment in this state be determined and certified for the taxpayer's controlled group: *Provided, however*, That persons filling jobs saved as a direct result of taxpayer's qualified investment in property purchased or leased for business expansion may be

treated as new employees filling new jobs if the taxpayer certifies the material facts to the commissioner and the Tax Commissioner expressly finds that:

(i) But for the new employer purchasing the assets of a downstream natural gas manufacturing business in bankruptcy under chapter seven or 11 of the United States bankruptcy code and the new employer making qualified investment in property purchased or leased for business expansion, the assets would have been sold by the United States bankruptcy court in a liquidation sale and the jobs saved would have been lost; or

(ii) But for the taxpayer's qualified investment in property purchased or leased for downstream manufacturing business expansion in this state, the taxpayer would have closed its downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state and the employees of the taxpayer located at the facility would have lost their jobs: *Provided*, That the Tax Commissioner may not make this certification unless the commissioner finds that the taxpayer is insolvent as defined in 11 U.S.C. §101(32) or that the taxpayer's natural gas manufacturing facility was destroyed, in whole or in significant part, by fire, flood, or other act of God.

(B) A person is considered to be a new employee only if the person's duties in connection with the operation of the downstream natural gas manufacturing facility are on:

(i) A regular, full-time and permanent basis:

(I) Full-time employment means employment for at least 140 hours per month at a wage not less than the applicable state or federal minimum wage, depending on which minimum wage provision is applicable to the business.

(II) Permanent employment does not include employment that is temporary or seasonal and therefore the

wages, salaries, and other compensation paid to the temporary or seasonal employees will not be considered for purposes of §11-13FF-5 of this code.

(ii) A regular, part-time, and permanent basis: *Provided*, That the person is customarily performing the duties at least 20 hours per week for at least six months during the taxable year.

(21) "New job" means a job which did not exist in the downstream natural gas manufacturing business of the taxpayer in this state prior to the taxpayer's qualified investment being made, and which is filled by a new employee.

(22) "New property" means:

(A) Property, the construction, reconstruction, or erection of which is completed on or after July 1, 2020, and placed in service or use after that date; and

(B) Property leased or acquired by the taxpayer that is placed in service or use in this state on or after July 1, 2020, if the original use of the property commences with the taxpayer and commences after that date.

(23) "Original use" means the first use to which the property is put, whether or not the use corresponds to the use of the property by the taxpayer.

(24) "Partnership" includes a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture, or other unincorporated organization through or by means of which any business, financial operation, or venture is carried on, which is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, and which is not a trust or estate, a corporation, or a sole proprietorship.

(25) "Partner" includes a member in such a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture, or other organization.

(26) "Person" includes any natural person, corporation, or partnership.

(27) "Property purchased or leased for business expansion" —

(A) *Included property.* — Except as provided in paragraph (B), the term "property purchased or leased for business expansion" means real property and improvements thereto, and tangible personal property, but only if the real or personal property was constructed, purchased, or leased and placed in service or use by the taxpayer, for use as a component part of a new or expanded downstream natural gas manufacturing facility as defined in this section, which is located within the State of West Virginia. This term includes only:

(i) Real property and improvements thereto having a useful life of four or more years, placed in service or use on or after July 1, 2020, by the taxpayer.

(ii) Real property and improvements thereto, acquired by written lease having a primary term of 10 or more years and placed in service or use by the taxpayer on or after July 1, 2020.

(iii) Tangible personal property placed in service or use by the taxpayer on or after July 1, 2020, with respect to which depreciation, or amortization in lieu of depreciation, is allowable in determining the personal or corporation net income tax liability of the business taxpayer under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, and which has a useful life, at the time the property is placed in service or use in this state, of four or more years.

(iv) Tangible personal property acquired by written lease having a primary term of four years or longer, that commenced and was executed by the parties thereto on or after July 1, 2020, if used as a component part of a new or

expanded downstream manufacturing business facility, shall be included within this definition.

(v) Tangible personal property owned or leased, and used by the taxpayer at a business location outside this state which is moved into the State of West Virginia on or after July 1, 2020, for use as a component part of a new or expanded downstream natural gas manufacturing facility located in this state: *Provided*, That if the property is owned, it must be depreciable or amortizable personal property for income tax purposes, and have a useful life of four or more years remaining at the time it is placed in service or use in this state, and if the property is leased, the primary term of the lease remaining at the time the leased property is placed in service or use in this state, must be four or more years.

(B) *Excluded property.* — The term property purchased or leased for business expansion does not include:

(i) Property owned or leased by the taxpayer and for which the taxpayer was previously or is currently being allowed tax credit under §11-13D-1 *et seq.*, §11-13Q-1 *et seq.*, §11-13S-1 *et seq.*, or §11-13U-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(ii) Property owned or leased by the taxpayer and for which the seller, lessor, or other transferor, was previously or is currently being allowed tax credit under §11-13D-1 *et seq.*, §11-13Q-1 *et seq.*, §11-13S-1 *et seq.*, or §11-13U-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(iii) Repair costs, including materials used in the repair, unless for federal income tax purposes the cost of the repair must be capitalized and not expensed.

(iv) Airplanes and helicopters.

(v) Property which is primarily used outside this state, with use being determined based upon the amount of time the property is actually used both within and outside this state.

(vi) Property which is acquired incident to the purchase of the stock or assets of the seller, unless for good cause shown, the Tax Commissioner consents to waiving this requirement.

(vii) Natural resources in place.

(viii) Purchased or leased property, the cost or consideration for which cannot be quantified with any reasonable degree of accuracy at the time the property is placed in service or use: *Provided*, That when the contract of purchase or lease specifies a minimum purchase price or minimum annual rent the amount thereof shall be used to determine the qualified investment in the property under §11-13FF-6 of this code if the property otherwise qualifies as property purchased or leased for expansion of a downstream natural gas manufacturing facility.

(28) "Purchase" means any acquisition of property, but only if:

(A) The property is not acquired from a person whose relationship to the person acquiring it would result in the disallowance of deductions under section 267 or 707 (b) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

(B) The property is not acquired by one component member of an affiliated or controlled group from another component member of the same affiliated or controlled group, as applicable. The Tax Commissioner may waive this requirement if the property was acquired from a related party for its then fair market value; and

(C) The basis of the property for federal income tax purposes, in the hands of the person acquiring it, is not determined:

(i) In whole or in part, by reference to the federal adjusted basis of the property in the hands of the person from whom it was acquired; or

(ii) Under Section 1014(e) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

(29) "Qualified activity" means any downstream natural gas manufacturing business activity subject to any of the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code but does not include the activity of severance or production of natural resources.

(30) "Related person" means:

(A) A corporation, partnership, association, or trust controlled by the taxpayer;

(B) An individual, corporation, partnership, association, or trust that is in control of the taxpayer;

(C) A corporation, partnership, association, or trust controlled by an individual, corporation, partnership, association, or trust that is in control of the taxpayer; or

(D) A member of the same affiliated or controlled group as the taxpayer.

For purposes of this subdivision, control, with respect to a corporation, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock possessing 50 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of the corporation entitled to vote.

Control, with respect to a trust, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of 50 percent or more of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of the trust. The ownership of stock in a corporation, of a capital or profits interest in a partnership or association, or of a beneficial interest in a trust is determined in accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock provided in section 267(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, other than paragraph (3) of that section.

(31) "Replacement downstream natural gas manufacturing facility" means any property (other than an expanded downstream natural gas manufacturing facility) that replaces or supersedes any other property located within this state that:

(A) The taxpayer or a related person used in or in connection with any downstream natural gas manufacturing facility for more than two years during the period of five consecutive years ending on the date the replacement or superseding property is placed in service by the taxpayer; or

(B) Is not used by the taxpayer or a related person in or in connection with any downstream natural gas manufacturing facility for a continuous period of one year or more commencing with the date the replacement or superseding property is placed in service by the taxpayer.

(32) "Taxpayer" means any person subject to any of the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(33) "This code" means the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.

(34) "This state" means the State of West Virginia.

(35) "United States Internal Revenue Code" or "I.R.C." means the Internal Revenue Code as defined in §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(36) "Used property" means property acquired after June 30, 2020, that is not "new property".

†§11-13GG-4. Amount of credit allowed.

(a) *Credit allowed.* — Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, eligible taxpayers are allowed a credit against the portion of taxes imposed by this state that are attributable to and the consequence of the taxpayer's qualified investment in a new or expanded downstream

† Redesignated

natural gas manufacturing facility in this state, which results in the creation of new jobs. The amount of this credit is determined and applied as provided in this article.

(b) *Amount of credit.* — The amount of credit allowable is determined by multiplying the amount of the taxpayer's qualified investment, determined under §11-13FF-6 of this code, in property purchased or leased for a new, or expansion of an existing "downstream natural gas manufacturing facility", as defined in §11-13FF-3 of this code, by the taxpayer's new jobs percentage, determined under §11-13FF-7 of this code. The product of this calculation establishes the maximum amount of credit allowable under this article due to the qualified investment.

(c) *Application of credit over 10 years.* — The amount of credit allowable must be taken over a 10-year period, at the rate of one tenth of the amount thereof per taxable year, beginning with the taxable year in which the taxpayer places the qualified investment in service or use in this state, unless the taxpayer elected to delay the beginning of the 10-year period until the next succeeding taxable year. This election shall be made in the annual income tax return filed under this chapter for the taxable year in which qualified investment is first placed into service or use by the taxpayer. Once made, the election cannot be revoked. The annual credit allowance is taken in the manner prescribed in §11-13FF-5 of this code.

(d) *Placed in service or use.* — For purposes of the credit allowed by this section, property is considered placed in service or use in the earlier of the following taxable years:

(1) The taxable year in which, under the taxpayer's depreciation practice, the period for depreciation with respect to the property begins; or

(2) The taxable year in which the property is placed in a condition or state of readiness and availability for a specifically assigned function.

†§11-13GG-5. Application of annual credit allowance.

(a) *In general.* — The aggregate annual credit allowance for the current taxable year is an amount equal to the sum of the following:

(1) The one-tenth part allowed under §11-13FF-4 of this code for qualified investment property placed into service or use during a prior taxable year; plus

(2) The one-tenth part allowed under §11-13FF-4 of this code for qualified investment property placed into service or use during the current taxable year.

(b) *Application of current year annual credit allowance.* — The amount determined under subsection (a) of this section is allowed as a credit against 80 percent of that portion of the taxpayer's state tax liability which is attributable to and the direct result of the taxpayer's qualified investment, and applied as provided in subsections (c) and (d), both inclusive, of this section, and in that order: *Provided*, That if the median salary of the new jobs is higher than the statewide average nonfarm payroll wage, as determined annually by Workforce West Virginia, the amount determined under subsection (a) of this section is allowed as a credit against 100 percent of that portion of the taxpayer's state tax liability which is attributable to and the direct result of the taxpayer's qualified investment, and shall be applied, as provided in subsections (c) through (d), both inclusive, of this section, and in that order.

(c) *Corporation net income taxes.* —

(1) That portion of the allowable credit attributable to qualified investment in a downstream natural gas manufacturing facility may be applied to reduce the taxes imposed by §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code for the taxable year as determined before application of allowable credits against tax.

† Redesignated

(2) If the taxes due under §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, as determined before application of allowable credits against tax, are not solely attributable to and the direct result of the taxpayer's qualified investment in a downstream natural gas manufacturing business, the amount of the taxes that is attributable are determined by multiplying the amount of taxes due under §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code for the taxable year, as determined before application of allowable credits against tax, by a fraction, the numerator of which is all wages, salaries, and other compensation paid during the taxable year to all employees of the taxpayer employed in this state whose positions are directly attributable to the qualified investment. The denominator of the fraction is the wages, salaries, and other compensation paid during the taxable year to all employees of the taxpayer employed in this state.

(d) *Personal income taxes.* —

(1) If the person making the qualified investment in a downstream natural gas manufacturing facility is an electing small business corporation, as defined in section 1361 of the United States Internal Revenue Code, a partnership, a limited liability company that is treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, or a sole proprietorship, then any unused credit is allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code on the income from downstream natural gas manufacturing facility, or on income of a sole proprietor attributable to the downstream natural gas manufacturing facility.

(2) Electing small business corporations, limited liability companies treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes, partnerships, and other unincorporated organizations shall allocate the credit allowed by this article among its members in the same manner as profits and losses are allocated for the taxable year.

(3) If the amount of taxes due under §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code, as determined before application of allowable credits against tax, that is attributable to business, is not solely attributable to and the direct result of the qualified investment of the electing small business corporation, limited liability company treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, other unincorporated organization, or sole proprietorship, the amount of the taxes that are so attributable are determined by multiplying the amount of taxes due under §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code, as determined before application of allowable credits against tax that is attributable to business by a fraction, the numerator of which is all wages, salaries, and other compensation paid during the taxable year to all employees of the electing small business corporation, limited liability company, partnership, other unincorporated organization, or sole proprietorship employed in this state, whose positions are directly attributable to the qualified investment. The denominator of the fraction is the wages, salaries, and other compensation paid during the taxable year to all employees of the taxpayer.

(4) No credit is allowed under this section against any employer withholding taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(e) If the wages, salaries, and other compensation fraction formula provisions of subsections (c) and (d) of this section, inclusive, do not fairly represent the taxes solely attributable to and the direct result of qualified investment of the taxpayer the Tax Commissioner may require, in respect to all or any part of the taxpayer's businesses or activities, if reasonable:

(1) Separate accounting or identification;

(2) Adjustment to the wages, salaries, and other compensation fraction formula to reflect all components of the tax liability;

(3) The inclusion of one or more additional factors that will fairly represent the taxes solely attributable to and the direct result of the qualified investment of the taxpayer and all other project participants in the businesses or other activities subject to tax; or

(4) The employment of any other method to effectuate an equitable attribution of the taxes.

In order to effectuate the purposes of this subsection, the Tax Commissioner may propose for promulgation rules, including emergency rules, in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(f) *Unused credit.* — If any credit remains after application of subsection (b) of this section, the amount thereof is carried forward to each ensuing tax year until used or until the expiration of the tenth taxable year subsequent to the end of the initial 10-year credit application period. If any unused credit remains after the 20th year, the amount thereof is forfeited. No carryback to a prior taxable year is allowed for the amount of any unused portion of any annual credit allowance.

†§11-13GG-6. Qualified investment.

(a) *General.* — The qualified investment in property purchased or leased for a new, or expansion of an existing, downstream natural gas manufacturing facility is the applicable percentage of the cost of each property purchased or leased for the purpose of the new, or expansion of an existing, downstream natural gas manufacturing facility which is placed in service or use in this state by the taxpayer during the taxable year.

(b) *Applicable percentage.* — For the purpose of subsection (a), the applicable percentage of any property is determined under the following table:

† Redesignated

If useful life is:	The applicable percentage is:
Less than four years	0%
Four years or more but less than six years	33 1/3%
Six years or more but less than eight years	66 2/3%
Eight years or more	100%

The useful life of any property, for purposes of this section, is determined as of the date the property is first placed in service or use in this state by the taxpayer, determined in accordance with such rules and requirements the Tax Commissioner may prescribe.

(c) *Cost.* — For purposes of subsection (a) of this section, the cost of each property purchased for a new, or expansion of an existing, downstream natural gas manufacturing facility is determined under the following rules:

(1) *Trade-ins.* — Cost does not include the value of property given in trade or exchange for the property purchased for a new, or for expansion of an existing, downstream natural gas manufacturing facility.

(2) *Damaged, destroyed, or stolen property.* — If property is damaged or destroyed by fire, flood, storm, or other casualty, or is stolen, then the cost of replacement property does not include any insurance proceeds received in compensation for the loss.

(3) *Rental property.* —

(A) The cost of real property acquired by written lease for a primary term of 10 years or longer is 100 percent of the rent reserved for the primary term of the lease, not to exceed 20 years.

(B) The cost of tangible personal property acquired by written lease for a primary term of:

(i) Four years, or longer, is one third of the rent reserved for the primary term of the lease;

(ii) Six years, or longer, is two thirds of the rent reserved for the primary term of the lease; or

(iii) Eight years, or longer, is 100 percent of the rent reserved for the primary term of the lease, not to exceed 20 years: *Provided*, That in no event may rent reserved include rent for any year subsequent to expiration of the book life of the equipment, determined using the straight-line method of depreciation.

(4) *Self-constructed property.* — In the case of self-constructed property, the cost thereof is the amount properly charged to the capital account for depreciation in accordance with federal income tax law.

(5) *Transferred property.* — The cost of property used by the taxpayer out-of-state and then brought into this state, is determined based on the remaining useful life of the property at the time it is placed in service or use in this state, and the cost is the original cost of the property to the taxpayer less straight line depreciation allowable for the tax years or portions thereof the taxpayer used the property outside this state. In the case of leased tangible personal property, cost is based on the period remaining in the primary term of the lease after the property is brought into this state for use in a new or expanded business facility of the taxpayer, and is the rent reserved for the remaining period of the primary term of the lease, not to exceed 20 years, or the remaining useful life of the property, as determined as aforesaid, whichever is less.

†§11-13GG-7. New jobs percentage.

(a) *In general.* — The new jobs percentage is based on the number of new jobs created in this state directly attributable to the qualified investment of the taxpayer.

† Redesignated

(b) *When a job is attributable.* — An employee's position is directly attributable to the qualified investment if:

(1) The employee's service is performed or his or her base of operations is at the new or expanded downstream natural gas manufacturing facility;

(2) The position did not exist prior to the construction, renovation, expansion, or acquisition of the downstream natural gas manufacturing facility and the making of the qualified investment; and

(3) But for the qualified investment, the position would not have existed.

(c) *Applicable percentage.* — For the purpose of subsection (a) of this section, the applicable new jobs percentage is determined under the following table:

If number of new jobs is at least:	The applicable percentage is:
5	10%
50	15%
150	20%

(d) *Certification of new jobs.* — With the annual return for the applicable taxes filed for the taxable year in which the qualified investment is first placed in service or use in this state, the taxpayer shall estimate and certify the number of new jobs reasonably projected to be created by it in this state within the period prescribed in subsection (f) of this section that are, or will be, directly attributable to the qualified investment of the taxpayer. For purposes of this section, applicable taxes means the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code against which this credit is applied.

(e) *Equivalency of permanent employees.* — The hours of part-time employees shall be aggregated to determine the number of equivalent full-time employees for the purpose of this section.

(f) *Redetermination of new jobs percentage.* — With the annual return for the applicable taxes imposed, filed for the third taxable year in which the qualified investment is in service or use, the taxpayer shall certify the actual number of new jobs created by it in this state that are directly attributable to the qualified investment of the taxpayer.

(1) If the actual number of jobs created would result in a higher new jobs percentage, the credit allowed under this article shall be redetermined and amended returns shall be filed for the first and second taxable years that the qualified investment was in service or use in this state.

(2) If the actual number of jobs created would result in a lower new jobs percentage, the credit previously allowed under this article shall be redetermined and amended returns shall be filed for the first and second taxable years. In applying the amount of redetermined credit allowable for the two preceding taxable years, the redetermined credit shall first be applied to the extent it was originally applied in the prior two years to personal income taxes, and then to corporation net income taxes. Any additional taxes due under this chapter shall be remitted with the amended returns filed with the Tax Commissioner, along with interest, as provided in §11-10-17 of this code, and a 10-percent penalty determined on the amount of taxes due with the amended return, which may be waived by the commissioner if the taxpayer shows that the overclaimed amount of the new jobs percentage was due to reasonable cause and not due to willful neglect.

(g) *Additional new jobs percentage.* — When the qualified investment is $20 million or more and if the number of full-time construction laborers and mechanics working at the job site of the new or expanded business

facility is 50 or more, or if the number of hours of all construction laborers and mechanics working at the job site is equal to or greater than the number of hours 50 full-time construction laborers and mechanics would have worked at the job site during a 12 consecutive month period, a taxpayer that is allowed a new jobs percentage determined under subsection (a) of this section shall be allowed a new jobs percentage that is five percentage points higher than the new jobs percentage allowed under subsection (a) of this section. In no event may construction laborers and mechanics be used to attain or retain a subsection (a) new jobs percentage. The number of full-time construction laborers and mechanics working at the job site shall be determined by dividing the total number of hours worked by all construction laborers and mechanics on a new or expanded business facility during a 12 consecutive month period by 2,080 hours per year. A taxpayer may not claim the additional new jobs percentage allowed by this section unless the taxpayer includes with the certification filed under subsection (d) of this section a certification signed by the general contractor or the construction manager certifying that construction laborers employed at the job site during a consecutive 12 month period aggregated the equivalent of at least 50 full-time employees and the taxpayer has received from the general contractor or construction manager records substantiating the certification, which records shall be retained by the taxpayer for 13 years after the day the expansion to an existing business facility, or the new business facility, is first placed in service or use by the taxpayer. For purposes of subsection (g) of this section:

(1) The term construction laborers and mechanics means those workers, utilized by a contractor or subcontractor at any tier, whose duties are manual or physical in nature, including those workers who use tools or are performing the work of a trade, as distinguished from mental or managerial and working foremen who devote

more than 20 percent of their time during a workweek performing the duties of a laborer or mechanic; and

(2) The term job site is limited to the physical place or places where the construction called for in the contract will remain when the work on it is completed and nearby property, as described in subdivision (3) of this subsection, used by the contractor or subcontractor during construction that, because of proximity, can reasonably be included in the site.

(3) Except as provided in subdivision (4) of this subsection, fabrication plants, mobile factories, batch plants, borrow pits, job headquarters, and tool yards are part of the job site provided they are dedicated exclusively, or nearly so, to performance of the contract or project and are located in proximity to the actual construction location so that it would be reasonable to include them.

(4) The term "job site" does not include permanent home offices, branch offices, branch plant establishments, fabrication yards, or tool yards of a contractor or subcontractor whose locations and continuance in operation are determined without regard to the contract or subcontract for construction of a new or expanded business facility.

†§11-13GG-8. Forfeiture of unused tax credits; redetermination of credit allowed.

(a) *Disposition of property or cessation of use.* — If during any taxable year, property with respect to which a tax credit has been allowed under §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code:

(1) Is disposed of prior to the end of its useful life, as determined under §11-13FF-6 of this code; or

(2) Ceases to be used in a downstream natural gas manufacturing facility of the taxpayer in this state prior to the end of its useful life, as determined under §11-13FF-6 of this code, then the unused portion of the credit allowed

† Redesignated

for the property is forfeited for the taxable year and all ensuing years. Additionally, except when the property is damaged or destroyed by fire, flood, storm, or other casualty, or is stolen, the taxpayer shall redetermine the amount of credit allowed in all earlier years by reducing the applicable percentage of cost of the property allowed under §11-13FF-5 of this code, to correspond with the percentage of cost allowable for the period of time that the property was actually used in this state in the new or expanded business of the taxpayer. The taxpayer shall then file a reconciliation statement for the year in which the forfeiture occurs and pay any additional taxes owed due to reduction of the amount of credit allowable for the earlier years, plus interest and any applicable penalties. The reconciliation statement shall be filed with the annual income return for the primary tax for which the taxpayer is liable under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, whichever is applicable.

(b) *Cessation of operation of downstream manufacturing facility.* — If during any taxable year the taxpayer ceases operation of a downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state for which credit was allowed under this article, before expiration of the useful life of property with respect to which tax credit has been allowed under this article, then the unused portion of the allowed credit is forfeited for the taxable year and for all ensuing years. Additionally, except when the cessation is due to fire, flood, storm, or other casualty, the taxpayer shall redetermine the amount of credit allowed in earlier years by reducing the applicable percentage of cost of the property allowed under §11-13FF-6 of this code, to correspond with the percentage of cost allowable for the period of time that the property was actually used in this state in a downstream manufacturing business of the taxpayer that is taxable under §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, or in the case of a partnership, limited liability company treated as a partnership for federal income tax purposes, electing small business corporation, other unincorporated entity, or sole proprietorship, taxable under §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code. The taxpayer shall then

file a reconciliation statement with the annual return for the primary tax for which the taxpayer is liable under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, whichever is applicable, for the year in which the forfeiture occurs, and pay any additional taxes owed due to the reduction of the amount of credit allowable for the earlier years, plus interest and any applicable penalties.

(c) *Reduction in number of employees.* — If during any taxable year subsequent to the taxable year in which the new jobs percentage is redetermined as provided in §11-13FF-7 of this code, the average number of employees of the taxpayer, for the then current taxable year, employed in positions created because of and directly attributable to the qualified investment falls below the minimum number of new jobs created upon which the taxpayer's annual credit allowance is based, the taxpayer shall calculate what his or her annual credit allowance would have been had his or her new jobs percentage been determined based upon the average number of employees, for the then current taxable year, employed in positions created because of and directly attributable to the qualified investment. The difference between the result of this calculation and the taxpayer's annual credit allowance for the qualified investment as determined under §11-13FF-4 of this code, is forfeited for the then current taxable year, and for each succeeding taxable year unless for a succeeding taxable year the taxpayer's average employment in positions directly attributable to the qualified investment once again meets the level required to enable the taxpayer to utilize its full annual credit allowance for that taxable year.

†§11-13GG-9. Recapture of credit; recapture tax imposed.

(a) *When recapture tax applies.* —

(1) Any person who places qualified investment property in service or use at a downstream natural gas manufacturing facility and who fails to use the qualified investment property for at least the period of its useful life,

† Redesignated

as determined as of the time the property was placed in service or use, or the period of time over which tax credits allowed under this article with respect to the property are applied under this article, whichever period is less, and who reduces the number of its employees filling new jobs at its downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state, which were created and are directly attributable to the qualified investment property, after the third taxable year in which the qualified investment property was placed in service or use, or fails to continue to employ individuals in all the new jobs created as a direct result of the qualified investment property and used to qualify for the credit allowed by this article, prior to the end of the tenth taxable year after the qualified investment property was placed in service or use, the person shall pay the recapture tax imposed by subsection (b) of this section.

(2) This section does not apply when §11-13FF-11 of this code applies. However, the successor, or the successors, and the person, or persons, who previously claimed credit under this article with respect to the qualified investment property and the new jobs attributable thereto, are jointly and severally liable for payment of any recapture tax subsequently imposed under this section with respect to the qualified investment property and new jobs.

(b) *Recapture tax imposed.* — The recapture tax imposed by this subsection is the amount determined as follows:

(1) *Full recapture.* — If the taxpayer prematurely removes qualified investment property placed in service (when considered as a class) from economic service in the taxpayer's downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state, and the number of employees filling the new jobs created by the person falls below the number of new jobs required to be created in order to qualify for the amount of credit being claimed, the taxpayer shall recapture the amount of credit claimed under §11-13FF-5 of this code for the taxable year, and all preceding taxable years, on

qualified investment property which has been prematurely removed from service. The amount of tax due under this subdivision is an amount equal to the amount of credit that is recaptured under this subdivision.

(2) *Partial recapture.* — If the taxpayer prematurely removes qualified investment property from economic service in the taxpayer's downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state, and the number of employees filling the new jobs created by the person remains 20 or more, but falls below the number necessary to sustain continued application of credit determined by use of the new job percentage upon which the taxpayer's one-tenth annual credit allowance was determined under §11-13FF-4 of this code, taxpayer shall recapture an amount of credit equal to the difference between:

(A) The amount of credit claimed under §11-13FF-5 of this code for the taxable year, and all preceding taxable years; and

(B) The amount of credit that would have been claimed in those years if the amount of credit allowable under §11-13FF-4 of this code had been determined based on the qualified investment property which remains in service using the average number of new jobs filled by employees in the taxable year for which recapture occurs. The amount of tax due under this subdivision is an amount equal to the amount of credit that is recaptured under this subdivision.

(3) *Additional recapture.* — If after a partial recapture under subdivision (2) of this subsection, the taxpayer further reduces the number of employees filling new jobs, the taxpayer shall recapture an additional amount determined as provided under subdivision (1) of this subsection. The amount of tax due under this subdivision is an amount equal to the amount of credit that is recaptured under this subdivision.

(c) *Payment of recapture tax.* — The amount of tax recaptured under this section is due and payable on the day the person's annual return is due for the taxable year in which this section applies, under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code. When the employer is a partnership, limited liability company, or S corporation for federal income tax purposes, the recapture tax shall be paid by those persons who are partners in the partnership, members in the company, or shareholders in the S corporation, in the taxable year in which recapture occurs under this section.

(d) *Rules.* — The Tax Commissioner may promulgate such rules as may be useful or necessary to carry out the purpose of this section and to implement the intent of the Legislature. Rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

†§11-13GG-10. Transfer of qualified investment to successors.

(a) *Mere change in form of business.* — Property may not be treated as disposed of under §11-13FF-8 of this code, by reason of a mere change in the form of conducting the business as long as the property is retained in the successor's downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state, and the transferor business retains a controlling interest in the successor business. In this event, the successor business is allowed to claim the amount of credit still available with respect to the business facility or facilities transferred, and the transferor business may not be required to redetermine the amount of credit allowed in earlier years.

(b) *Transfer or sale to successor.* — Property is not treated as disposed of under §11-13FF-10 of this code by reason of any transfer or sale to a successor business which continues to operate the downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state. Upon transfer or sale, the successor shall acquire the amount of credit that remains available under this article for each subsequent taxable year

† Redesignated

and the transferor business is not required to redetermine the amount of credit allowed in earlier years.

†§11-13GG-11. Identification of investment credit property.

Every taxpayer who claims credit under §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code shall maintain sufficient records to establish the following facts for each item of qualified property:

(1) Its identity;

(2) Its actual or reasonably determined cost;

(3) Its straight-line depreciation life;

(4) The month and taxable year in which it was placed in service;

(5) The amount of credit taken; and

(6) The date it was disposed of or otherwise ceased to be use as qualified property in the downstream natural gas manufacturing facility of the taxpayer.

†§11-13GG-12. Failure to keep records of investment credit property.

A taxpayer who does not keep the records required for identification of investment credit property is subject to the following rules:

(1) A taxpayer is treated as having disposed of, during the taxable year, any investment credit property which the taxpayer cannot establish was still on hand, in this state, at the end of that year.

(2) If a taxpayer cannot establish when investment credit property reported for purposes of claiming this credit returned during the taxable year was placed in service, the taxpayer is treated as having placed it in service in the most recent prior year in which similar property was placed in

† Redesignated

service, unless the taxpayer can establish that the property placed in service in the most recent year is still on hand. In that event, the taxpayer will be treated as having placed the returned property in service in the next most recent year.

†§11-13GG-13. Interpretation and construction.

(a) No inference, implication, or presumption of legislative construction or intent may be drawn or made by reason of the location or grouping of any particular section, provision, or portion of §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code; and no legal effect may be given to any descriptive matter or heading relating to any section, subsection, or paragraph of this article.

(b) The provisions of §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code shall be reasonably construed in order to effectuate the legislative intent recited in §11-13FF-2 of this code.

†§11-13GG-14. Burden of proof; application required; failure to make timely application.

(a) *Burden of proof.* — The burden of proof is on the taxpayer to establish by clear and convincing evidence that the taxpayer is entitled to the benefits allowed by §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) *Application for credit required.* —

(1) *Application required.* — Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, no credit is allowed or may be applied under §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code for any qualified investment property placed in service or use until the person asserting a claim for the allowance of credit under this article makes written application to the commissioner for allowance of credit as provided in this subsection. An application for credit shall be filed, in the form prescribed by the Tax Commissioner, no later than the last day for filing the tax returns, determined by including any authorized extension of time for filing the return, required under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this

† Redesignated

code for the taxable year in which the property to which the credit relates is placed in service or use and all information required by the form shall be provided.

(2) *Failure to make timely application.* — The failure to timely apply for the credit results in the forfeiture of 50 percent of the annual credit allowance otherwise allowable under §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code. This penalty applies annually until the application is filed.

†§11-13GG-15. Tax credit review and accountability.

(a) Beginning on February 1, 2025, and every third year thereafter, the Tax Commissioner shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates a tax credit review and accountability report evaluating the cost effectiveness of this credit during the most recent three-year period for which information is available. The criteria to be evaluated shall include, but not be limited to, for each year of the three-year period:

(1) The numbers of taxpayers claiming the credit;

(2) The net number of new jobs created by all taxpayers claiming the credit;

(3) The cost of the credit;

(4) The cost of the credit per new job created; and

(5) Comparison of employment trends for an industry and for taxpayers within the industry that claim the credit.

(b) Taxpayers claiming the credit shall provide any information the Tax Commissioner may require to prepare the report required by this section: *Provided*, That the information provided is subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of §11-10-5d of this code.

(c) On or before February 1, 2025, the Department of Commerce, in consultation with the Tax Commissioner, the

† Redesignated

Department of Transportation, and the Department of Environmental Protection shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates a report of the impact of all the tax credits and other economic incentives provided in §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code upon; (1) Economic development in this state, including, but not limited to, the creation of jobs in this state; (2) the state's infrastructure, including, but not limited to, the need for construction or maintenance of the roads and highways of the state; (3) the natural resources of the state; and (4) upon public and private property interests in the state.

†§11-13GG-16. Rules.

The Tax Commissioner may promulgate such interpretive, legislative, and procedural rules as the commissioner deems to be useful or necessary to carry out the purpose of §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code and to implement the intent of the Legislature. The Tax Commissioner may promulgate emergency rules if they are filed in the West Virginia Register before January 1, 2021. All rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

†§11-13GG-17. General procedure and administration.

Each and every provision of the "West Virginia Tax Procedure and Administration Act" set forth in §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code applies to the tax credit allowed under §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code, except as otherwise expressly provided in this article, with like effect as if that act were applicable only to the tax credit allowed by §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code and were set forth in extenso in this article.

†§11-13GG-18. Crimes and penalties.

Each and every provision of the "West Virginia Tax Crimes and Penalties Act" set forth in §11-9-1 *et seq.* of this code applies to the tax credit allowed by §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code with like effect as if that act were applicable

† Redesignated

only to the tax credit §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code and were set forth in extenso in this article.

†§11-13GG-19. Severability.

(a) If any provision of §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code, or the application thereof, is for any reason adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the judgment may not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code, but shall be confined in its operation to the provision thereof directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall have been rendered, and the applicability of the provision to other persons or circumstances may not be affected thereby.

(b) If any provision of §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code, or the application thereof, is made invalid or inapplicable by reason of the repeal or any other invalidation of any statute therein addressed or referred to, such invalidation or inapplicability may not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code, but shall be confined in its operation to the provision thereof directly involved with, pertaining to, addressing, or referring to the statute, and the application of the provision with regard to other statutes or in other instances not affected by any such repealed or invalid statute may not be abrogated or diminished in any way.

†§11-13GG-20. Effective date.

The credit allowed by this article is allowable for qualified investment property placed in service or use on or after July 1, 2020, subject to the rules contained in §11-13FF-1 *et seq.* of this code and rules promulgated by the Tax Commissioner pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

† Redesignated

CHAPTER 333

(H. B. 4113 - By Delegates Atkinson, Pack, Anderson, Cooper, Criss, Cowles, Maynard, Hardy, Steele, Ellington and Jennings)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect July 1, 2020.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-14C-9 and §11-14C-30 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to refundable exemptions from tax on motor fuels generally; extending certain refundable exemption from tax to tax on motor fuel used in a power take-off unit on a fuel delivery truck; and expanding certain refundable exemptions from tax on motor fuel claimable by certain taxpayers to include the variable rate component of the tax.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 14C. MOTOR FUEL EXCISE TAX.

§11-14C-9. Exemptions from tax; claiming refunds of tax.

(a) *Per se exemptions from flat rate component of tax.* — Sales of motor fuel to the following, or as otherwise stated in this subsection, are exempt per se from the flat rate of the tax levied by section five of this article and the flat rate may not be paid at the rack:

(1) All motor fuel exported from this state to any other state or nation: *Provided*, That the supplier collects and remits to the destination state or nation the appropriate amount of tax due on the motor fuel transported to that state or nation. This exemption does not apply to motor fuel

which is transported and delivered outside this state in the motor fuel supply tank of a highway vehicle;

(2) Sales of aviation fuel;

(3) Sales of dyed special fuel; and

(4) Sales of propane unless sold for use in a motor vehicle.

(b) *Per se exemptions from variable component of tax.* — Sales of motor fuel to the following are exempt per se from the variable component of the tax levied by section five of this article and the variable component may not be paid at the rack:

All motor fuel exported from this state to any other state or nation: *Provided*, That the supplier collects and remits to the destination state or nation the appropriate amount of tax due on the motor fuel transported to that state or nation. This exemption does not apply to motor fuel which is transported and delivered outside this state in the motor fuel supply tank of a highway vehicle.

(c) *Refundable exemptions from flat rate component of tax.* — A person having a right or claim to any of the following exemptions from the flat rate component of the tax levied by section five of this article shall first pay the tax levied by this article and then apply to the Tax Commissioner for a refund:

(1) The United States or agency thereof: *Provided*, That if the United States government, or agency or instrumentality thereof, does not pay the seller the tax imposed by section five of this article on a purchase of motor fuel, the person selling tax previously paid motor fuel to the United States government, or its agencies or instrumentalities, may claim a refund of the flat rate component of tax imposed by section five of this article on those sales;

(2) A county government or unit or agency thereof;

(3) A municipal government or any agency thereof;

(4) A county board of education;

(5) An urban mass transportation authority created pursuant to the provisions of article twenty-seven, chapter eight of this code;

(6) A municipal, county, state or federal civil defense or emergency service program pursuant to a government contract for use in conjunction therewith or to a person who is required to maintain an inventory of motor fuel for the purpose of the program: *Provided*, That motor fueling facilities used for these purposes are not capable of fueling motor vehicles and the person in charge of the program has in his or her possession a letter of authority from the Tax Commissioner certifying his or her right to the exemption. In order for this exemption to apply, motor fuel sold under this subdivision and subdivisions (1) through (5), inclusive, of this subsection shall be used in vehicles or equipment owned and operated by the respective government entity or government agency or authority;

(7) All invoiced gallons of motor fuel purchased by a licensed exporter and subsequently exported from this state to any other state or nation: *Provided*, That the exporter has paid the applicable motor fuel tax to the destination state or nation prior to claiming this refund or the exporter has reported to the destination state or nation that the motor fuel was sold in a transaction not subject to tax in that state or nation. A refund may not be granted on motor fuel which is transported and delivered outside this state in the motor fuel supply tank of a highway vehicle;

(8) All gallons of motor fuel used and consumed in stationary off-highway turbine engines;

(9) All gallons of fuel used for heating any public or private dwelling, building or other premises;

(10) All gallons of fuel used for boilers;

(11) All gallons of motor fuel used as a dry cleaning solvent or commercial or industrial solvent;

(12) All gallons of motor fuel used as lubricants, ingredients or components of a manufactured product or compound;

(13) All gallons of motor fuel sold for use or used as a motor fuel for commercial watercraft;

(14) All gallons of motor fuel sold for use or consumed in railroad diesel locomotives;

(15) All gallons of motor fuel purchased in quantities of 25 gallons or more for use as a motor fuel for internal combustion engines not operated upon highways of this state;

(16) All gallons of motor fuel purchased in quantities of 25 gallons or more and used to power a power take-off unit on a motor vehicle. When a motor vehicle with auxiliary equipment uses motor fuel and there is no auxiliary motor for the equipment or separate tank for a motor, the person claiming the refund may present to the Tax Commissioner a statement of his or her claim and is allowed a refund for motor fuel used in operating a power take-off unit on a cement mixer truck, garbage truck, or fuel delivery truck equal to 25 percent of the tax levied by this article paid on all motor fuel used in such a truck;

(17) Motor fuel used by a person regularly operating a vehicle under a certificate of public convenience and necessity or under a contract carrier permit for transportation of persons when purchased in an amount of 25 gallons or more: *Provided*, That the amount refunded is equal to six cents per gallon: *Provided, however*, That the gallons of motor fuel have been consumed in the operation of urban and suburban bus lines and the majority of passengers use the bus for traveling a distance not exceeding

40 miles, measured one way, on the same day between their places of abode and their places of work, shopping areas or schools; and

(18) All gallons of motor fuel that are not otherwise exempt under subdivisions (1) through (6), inclusive, of this subsection and that are purchased and used by any bona fide volunteer fire department, nonprofit ambulance service or emergency rescue service that has been certified by the municipality or county wherein the bona fide volunteer fire department, nonprofit ambulance service or emergency rescue service is located.

(d) *Refundable exemptions from variable rate component of tax.* — Any of the following persons may claim an exemption from the variable rate component of the tax levied by section five of this article on the purchase and use of motor fuel by first paying the tax levied by this article and then applying to the Tax Commissioner for a refund.

(1) The United States or agency thereof: *Provided*, That if the United States government, or agency or instrumentality thereof, does not pay the seller the tax imposed by section five of this article on any purchase of motor fuel, the person selling tax previously paid motor fuel to the United States government, or its agencies or instrumentalities, may claim a refund of the variable rate of tax imposed by section five of this article on those sales.

(2) This state and its institutions;

(3) A county government or unit or agency thereof;

(4) A municipal government or agency thereof;

(5) A county board of education;

(6) An urban mass transportation authority created pursuant to the provisions of article twenty-seven, chapter eight of this code;

(7) A municipal, county, state or federal civil defense or emergency service program pursuant to a government contract for use in conjunction therewith, or to a person who is required to maintain an inventory of motor fuel for the purpose of the program: *Provided*, That fueling facilities used for these purposes are not capable of fueling motor vehicles and the person in charge of the program has in his or her possession a letter of authority from the Tax Commissioner certifying his or her right to the exemption;

(8) A bona fide volunteer fire department, nonprofit ambulance service or emergency rescue service that has been certified by the municipality or county where the bona fide volunteer fire department, nonprofit ambulance service or emergency rescue service is located;

(9) All invoiced gallons of motor fuel purchased by a licensed exporter and subsequently exported from this state to any other state or nation: *Provided*, That the exporter has paid the applicable motor fuel tax to the destination state or nation prior to claiming this refund. A refund may not be granted on motor fuel which is transported and delivered outside this state in the motor fuel supply tank of a highway vehicle; or

(10) Beginning on January 1, 2018, all gallons of motor fuel sold for use or consumed in railroad diesel locomotives: *Provided*, That the refundable exemption contained in this subdivision may not exceed an aggregate amount of $4,300,000 in any year to all taxpayers claiming the exemption and that if more than an aggregate amount of $4,300,000 is appropriately claimed in any year, then the refundable exemption shall be distributed proportionately to the taxpayers so that the total aggregate refund is $4,300,000 in that year. The Tax Commissioner may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code that the Tax Commissioner considers necessary to administer the exemption contained in this subdivision.

(e) The provision in subdivision (9), subsection (a), section nine, article fifteen of this chapter that exempts as a sale for resale those sales of gasoline and special fuel by a distributor or importer to another distributor does not apply to sales of motor fuel under this article.

§11-14C-30. Refund of taxes erroneously collected, etc.; refund for gallonage exported or lost through casualty or evaporation; change of rate; petition for refund.

(a) The commissioner is hereby authorized to refund from the funds collected under the provisions of this article any tax, interest, additions to tax or penalties which have been erroneously collected from any person.

(b) Any supplier, distributor, producer, retail dealer, exporter or importer, while the owner of motor fuel in this state, that loses any invoiced gallons of motor fuel through fire, lightning, breakage, flood or other casualty, which gallons having been previously included in the tax by or for that person, may claim a refund of a sum equal to the amount of any and all taxes levied by section five of this article paid upon the invoiced gallons lost.

(c) Any dealer as defined in §47-11C-2 of this code, and any bulk plant in this state that purchases or receives motor fuel in this state upon which the tax levied by section five of this article has been paid, is entitled to an annual refund of any and all taxes levied by section five of this article for invoiced gallons lost through evaporation: *Provided*, That only the owner of the bulk plant that is also the owner of the fuel in the bulk plant may claim this refund for invoiced gallons lost through evaporation. The refund is computed at the rate of tax levied per gallon under this article on all invoiced gallons of motor fuel actually lost due to evaporation, not exceeding one percent of the adjusted total accountable gallons, computed as determined by the Commissioner.

(d) Every supplier, distributor or producer, retail dealer, exporter or importer is entitled to a refund of the rate of the tax levied by section five of this article from this state of the amount resulting from a change of rate decreasing the tax under the provisions of this article on motor fuel on hand and in inventory on the effective date of the rate change, which motor fuel has been included in any previous computation by which the tax levied by this article has been paid.

CHAPTER 334

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4421 - By Delegates Householder, J. Kelly, Criss, Westfall, Anderson, Storch, Graves, Rowan, Pack, Linville and Maynard)

[Passed March 5, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §5B-2J-1 and §5B-2J-2; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated †§11-13HH-1, †§11-13HH-2, †§11-13HH-3, †§11-13HH-4, †§11-13HH-5, †§11-13HH-6, †§11-13HH-7, †§11-13HH-8, †§11-13HH-9, and †§11-13HH-10, all relating to the creation of the Natural Gas Liquids Economic Development Act and the West Virginia Natural Gas Liquids Property Tax Adjustment Act; providing for short titles; making legislative findings and declarations; defining terms; creating a tax credit for eligible taxpayers who are in business for the transportation and storage of natural gas liquids; establishing eligibility requirements; defining the amount of the tax credit as being the amount paid yearly in West Virginia ad valorem property tax on inventory and equipment by an eligible taxpayer; providing for the application of the tax credit against

† Redesignated

personal income tax liability or the corporate net income tax liability; providing for the carrying forward of the tax credits; defining the tax credits' relationship to other available tax credits; providing for the expiration of unused tax credits; providing for annual schedules to be filed to claim the tax credit; providing for successors and transfers of the tax credit under certain conditions; providing for recapture of tax credits, interest, civil penalties, and additional taxes under certain conditions when a tax payer improperly claims a tax credit; providing a statute of limitations regarding tax filings with the tax credit; providing for reporting to the Legislature on the tax credits applied; authorizing the Tax Commissioner to promulgate rules; and providing for an effective date and an expiration date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 5B. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1985.

ARTICLE 2J. NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT.

§5B-2J-1. Short Title.

1 This article shall be known and cited as the "Natural Gas
2 Liquids Economic Development Act."

§5B-2J-2. Legislative findings; declaration of public policy.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) The advent and advancement of new and existing
3 technologies and drilling practices have created the
4 opportunity for the efficient development of natural gas,
5 including natural gas liquids such as ethane, propane,
6 butane, isobutane and pentanes, contained in underground
7 shales and other geological formations.

8 (2) With the development of natural gas liquids from
9 shales and other geological formations comes the
10 opportunity for economic development in related areas of
11 the economy including, but not limited to, manufacturing,

transmission and storage of natural gas liquids and related products, the use of such products in manufacturing, the consumption of such products, and the transportation of manufactured products.

(3) Producers of natural gas liquids, transporters and storers of natural gas liquids, and manufacturers of products using natural gas liquids face a significant number of regulatory requirements, some of which may be redundant, inconsistent, or overlapping. Agencies should work together, where practical, to avoid duplication, promote better coordination and reduce these requirements, thus reducing costs, simplifying and harmonizing rules, and streamlining regulatory oversight.

(4) In developing regulatory actions and identifying appropriate approaches, agencies should attempt to promote coordination, simplification, and harmonization.

(5) Agencies should also seek to identify, as appropriate, means to achieve regulatory goals that are designed to promote innovation.

(6) Agencies should review their existing significant legislative, interpretive and procedural rules to determine whether any such rules should be modified, streamlined, expanded or repealed so as to make the agency's regulatory program more effective and less burdensome in achieving the regulatory objectives.

(7) The West Virginia Economic Development Authority established in §31-15-1 *et seq.* of this code and the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council created in §31-15A-1 *et seq.* of this code, should, where appropriate, provide assistance that grows or sustains the natural gas liquids segment of the economy.

(b) The Legislature declares that facilitating the development of business activity directly and indirectly related to development, transportation, storage and use of

the natural gas liquids serves the public interest of the citizens of this state by promoting economic development and improving economic opportunities for the citizens of this state.

CHAPTER 11. TAXATION.

†ARTICLE 13HH. THE WEST VIRGINIA NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS PROPERTY TAX ADJUSTMENT ACT.

†§11-13HH-1. Short title.

This article shall be known and cited as the "West Virginia Natural Gas Liquids Property Tax Adjustment Act."

†§11-13HH-2. Definitions.

(a) General. – When used in this article, or in the administration of this article, terms defined in subsection (b) of this section have the meanings ascribed to them by this section unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context in which the term is used.

(b) Terms defined. –

"Affiliate" means and includes:

(A) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group thereof controlled by the taxpayer;

(B) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group thereof that is in control of the taxpayer;

(C) An individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group thereof controlled by an individual, corporation, partnership, affiliate, association or trust or any combination or group thereof that is in control of the taxpayer; or

† Redesignated

(D) A member of the same controlled group as the taxpayer.

"Commissioner" or "Tax Commissioner" means the Tax Commissioner of the State of West Virginia or the Tax Commissioner's delegate.

"Control", with respect to a corporation, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of stock possessing 50 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of the corporation which entitles its owner to vote. "Control," with respect to a trust, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of 50 percent or more of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of the trust. The ownership of stock in a corporation, of a capital or profits interest in a partnership or association or of a beneficial interest in a trust shall be determined in accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock provided in Section 267(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code: *Provided*, That paragraph (3), Section 267(c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code does not apply.

"Corporation" means any corporation, joint-stock company or association and any business conducted by a trustee or trustees wherein interest or ownership is evidenced by a certificate of interest or ownership or similar written instrument.

"Delegate" means, when used in reference to the Tax Commissioner, any officer or employee of the Tax Division of the Department of Revenue duly authorized by the commissioner directly, or indirectly by one or more redelegations of authority, to perform the functions mentioned or described in this article.

"Eligible taxpayer" means any natural gas liquids storer or natural gas liquids transporter that is subject to the taxes imposed under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code. "Eligible taxpayer" also means and includes those

members of an affiliated group of taxpayers engaged in a unitary business, in which one or more members of the affiliated group is a person subject to the tax imposed under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code. Application of the credit against the taxes is limited to the single entity, from among the affiliated group of taxpayers, that earned the credit. Application of the credit against tax is limited to that single entity's proportionate share of taxable income. No tax credit earned by one member of the affiliated group, may be used, in whole or in part, by any other member of the affiliated group or applied, in whole or in part, against the total income of the combined group.

"Natural gas liquids" or "NGLs" means hydrocarbons removed from a hydrocarbon stream consisting primarily of natural gas (methane) by condensation, cryogenic cooling or other method and maintained in a liquid state for storage, transportation, use in manufacturing or consumption, including, but not limited to, ethane, propane, butane, isobutane and pentanes, and derivatives thereof including, but not limited to, ethylene and propylene, but do not include natural gas which may include some NGLs as part of the gas stream.

"Natural gas liquids inventory and equipment" means, and is limited to, natural gas liquids equipment used in the transport or storage of NGLs by a natural gas liquids transporter or natural gas liquids storer.

"Natural gas liquids transporter" means a person who owns or operates pipeline facilities used for the transportation and delivery of NGLs for storage, use in manufacturing or consumption, but does not include pipelines used for the transportation of natural gas that may include some NGLs as part of the gas stream.

"Natural gas liquids storer" means a person who owns or operates one or more underground facilities designed and developed for the receipt, storage and subsequent delivery of NGLs for use in manufacturing or consumption.

"Natural person" or "individual" means a human being.

"Partnership" and "partner" means and includes a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture or other unincorporated organization through or by means of which any business, financial operation or venture is carried on and which is not a trust or estate, a corporation or a sole proprietorship. The term "partner" includes a member in a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture or organization.

"Person" means and includes any natural person, corporation, limited liability company or partnership.

"Taxpayer" means any person subject to the taxes imposed under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Tax year" or "taxable year" means the tax year of the taxpayer for federal income tax purposes.

"Unitary business" means a unitary business as defined in §11-24-3a of this code.

†§11-13HH-3. Eligibility for tax credits; creation of the credit.

There shall be allowed to every eligible taxpayer a credit against the taxes imposed under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, as determined under this article.

†§11-13HH-4. Amount of credit allowed.

(a) Credit allowed. – Eligible taxpayers are allowed a credit against the tax imposed under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, the application of which and the amount of which shall be determined as provided in this article.

(b) Amount of credit. – The amount of credit allowed to the eligible taxpayer is the amount of West Virginia ad valorem property tax paid on the value of inventory and equipment of the eligible taxpayer during the personal

† Redesignated

income tax year and corporate net income tax year, as applicable.

†§11-13HH-5. Application of annual credit allowance.

(a) Application of credit against personal income tax or corporate net income tax. – The amount of the credit shall be taken against the tax liabilities of the eligible taxpayer for the current taxable year imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) Carry forward credit allowed. – Any credit remaining after application of the credit against the tax liabilities specified in subsection (a) of this section for the current taxable year does not carry back to any prior taxable year, but is carried forward to a subsequent taxable year for up to three taxable years. The credit allowed under this article shall be applied after application of all other applicable tax credits allowed for the taxable year against the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code and after application of all other applicable tax credits allowed for the taxable year against the taxes imposed by §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(c) Annual schedule. – For purposes of asserting the credit against tax, the taxpayer must prepare and file an annual schedule showing the amount of tax paid for the taxable year and the amount of credit allowed under this article. The annual schedule shall set forth the information and be in the form prescribed by the Tax Commissioner.

†§11-13HH-6. Availability of credit to successors.

(a) Transfer or sale of assets. –

(1) Where there has been a transfer or sale of the business assets of an eligible taxpayer to a successor which subsequent to the transfer constitutes an eligible taxpayer as defined in this article and which remains subject to the taxes prescribed under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, the successor eligible taxpayer is entitled to the credit

† Redesignated

allowed under this article: *Provided*, That the successor taxpayer otherwise remains in compliance with the requirements of this article for entitlement to the credit.

(2) For any taxable year during which a transfer, or sale of the business assets of an eligible taxpayer to a successor eligible taxpayer under this section occurs, or a merger occurs pursuant to which credit is allowed under this article, the credit allowed under this article shall be apportioned between the predecessor eligible taxpayer and the successor eligible taxpayer based on the number of days during the taxable year that each taxpayer owned the transferred business assets.

(b) Stock purchases. – Where a corporation which is an eligible taxpayer entitled to the credit allowed under this article is purchased through a stock purchase by a new owner and remains a legal entity so as to retain its corporate identity, the entitlement of that corporation to the credit allowed under this article will not be affected by the ownership change: *Provided*, That the corporation otherwise remains in compliance with the requirements of this article for entitlement to the credit.

(c) Mergers. –

(1) Where a corporation or other entity which is an eligible taxpayer entitled to the credit allowed under this article is merged with another corporation or entity, the surviving corporation or entity is entitled to the credit to which the predecessor eligible taxpayer was originally entitled: *Provided*, That the surviving corporation or entity otherwise complies with the provisions of this article.

(2) The amount of credit available in any taxable year during which a merger occurs shall be apportioned between the predecessor eligible taxpayer and the successor eligible taxpayer based on the number of days during the taxable year that each owned the transferred business assets.

(d) No provision of this section or of this article may be construed to allow sales or other transfers of the tax credit allowed under this article. The credit allowed under this article can be transferred only in circumstances where there is a valid successorship as described under this section.

†§11-13HH-7. Credit recapture; interest; penalties; additions to tax; statute of limitations.

(a) If it appears upon audit or otherwise that any person or entity has taken the credit against tax allowed under this article and was not entitled to take the credit, then the credit improperly taken under this article shall be recaptured. Amended returns shall be filed for any tax year for which the credit was improperly taken. Any additional taxes due under this chapter shall be remitted with the amended return or returns filed with the Tax Commissioner, along with interest, as provided in §11-10-17 of this code and such other penalties and additions to tax as may be applicable pursuant to the provisions of §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code to the contrary, penalties and additions to tax imposed under that article may be waived at the discretion of the Tax Commissioner: *Provided*, That interest is not subject to waiver.

(c) Notwithstanding the provisions of §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code to the contrary, the statute of limitations for the issuance of an assessment of tax by the Tax Commissioner is five years from the date of filing of any tax return on which this credit was taken or five years from the date of payment of any tax liability calculated pursuant to the assertion of the credit allowed under this article, whichever is later.

†§11-13HH-8. Report on credit.

(a) The Tax Commissioner shall provide to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance by July 1, 2022, and on July 1, of each year thereafter, a report detailing the

† Redesignated

amount of credit claimed pursuant to this article. The report is to include the amount of credit claimed against the personal income tax and the amount of credit claimed against the corporate net income tax.

(b) Taxpayers claiming the credit shall provide the information as the Tax Commissioner may require to prepare the report: *Provided*, That the information is subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of §11-10-5d and §11-10-5s of this code.

†§11-13HH-9. Effective date and expiration date.

(a) This article shall be effective for corporate net income tax years and personal income tax years beginning on or after July 1, 2020.

(b) This article shall expire and have no further force or effect for all tax years which begin on or after July 1, 2030, and all accrued but unused credits shall be forfeited upon expiration of this article.

†§11-13HH-10. Rule-making.

In order to effectuate the purposes of this article, the Tax Commissioner may promulgate legislative rules, including emergency rules, in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

† Redesignated

CHAPTER 335

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4439 - By Delegates Householder, Criss, Butler, Anderson, Rowan, Linville, Graves, Maynard, Barrett, Boggs and Hartman)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new* article, designated §11-13EE-1, §11-13EE-2, §11-13EE-3, §11-13EE-4, §11-13EE-5, §11-13EE-6, §11-13EE-7, §11-13EE-8, §11-13EE-9, §11-13EE-10, §11-13EE-11, §11-13EE-12, §11-13EE-13, §11-13EE-14, §11-13EE-15, and §11-13EE-16, all relating generally to Coal Severance Tax Rebate; findings and purpose; defining terms; providing for rebate of severance tax when capital investment made in new machinery and equipment directly used in severance of coal, or in coal preparation and processing plants; providing rules and procedures for claiming rebate and transfer to successors; imposing recapture tax in certain circumstance; providing rules for interpretation and construction; requiring periodic rebate reports; authorizing rulemaking; and providing for severability and effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13EE. COAL SEVERANCE TAX REBATE.

§11-13EE-1. Findings and purpose.

The Legislature finds that the encouragement of economic growth and development in this state is in the public interest and promotes the general welfare of the people of this state. In order to encourage capital investment

***NOTE:** Article 13EE is an existing article.

in the coal industry in this state and thereby increase economic development, there is hereby provided a coal severance tax rebate.

§11-13EE-2. Definitions.

(a) General. — When used in this article, or in the administration of this article, terms defined in subsection (b) shall have the meanings ascribed to them by this section, unless a different meaning is clearly required by either the context in which the term is used, or by specific definition, in this article.

(b) Terms defined.

(1) "Affiliated group" means one or more chains of corporations, limited liability entities, or partnerships, or any combination thereof, connected through the ownership of stock or ownership interests with a common parent which is a corporation, limited liability entity, or partnership, but only if the common parent owns directly, or indirectly, a controlling interest in each of the members of the group.

(2) "Business" means and is limited to the activity of producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use including coal preparation and processing.

(3) "Capital investment in new machinery and equipment" means:

(A) Tangible personal property in the form of machinery and equipment that is purchased on or after the effective date of this article and placed in service for direct use in the production of coal, when the original or first use of the machinery or equipment commences in this State on or after the effective date of this article; and

(B) Tangible personal property in the form of machinery and equipment that is leased by the taxpayer and placed in service for direct use in the production of coal by the taxpayer on or after the effective date of this article, if the

original or first use of the machinery or equipment commences in this State, with the taxpayer, on or after the effective date of this article and the machinery or equipment is depreciable, or amortizable, for federal income tax purposes and has a useful life of 5 or more years for federal income tax purposes.

(4) "Coal mine" or "mine" includes:

(A) A "surface mine," or "surface mining operation" which means:

(i) Activities conducted on the surface of lands for the removal of coal, or, subject to the requirements of §11-13EE-14 of this code, surface operations and surface impacts incident to an underground coal mine, including the drainage and discharge from the mine. The activities include: Excavation for the purpose of obtaining coal, including, but not limited to, common methods as contour, strip, auger, mountaintop removal, box cut, open pit and area mining; the uses of explosives and blasting; reclamation; in situ distillation or retorting, leaching or other chemical or physical processing; the cleaning, concentrating or other processing or preparation and loading of coal for commercial purposes at or near the mine site; and

(ii) The areas upon which the above activities occur or where the activities disturb the natural land surface. The areas also include any adjacent land, the use of which is incidental to the activities; all lands affected by the construction of new roads or the improvement or use of existing roads to gain access to the site of the activities and for haulage; and excavations, workings, impoundments, dams, ventilation shafts, entryways, refuse banks, dumps, stockpiles, overburden piles, spoil banks, culm banks, tailings, holes or depressions, repair areas, storage areas, processing areas, shipping areas and other areas upon which are sited structures, facilities, or other property or materials on the surface, resulting from or incident to the activities: *Provided*, That the activities do not include the extraction of

coal incidental to the extraction of other minerals where coal does not exceed sixteen and two-thirds percent of the tonnage of minerals removed for purposes of commercial use or sale, or coal prospecting. Surface mining does not include any of the following:

(I) Coal extraction authorized pursuant to a government-financed reclamation contract;

(II) Coal extraction authorized as an incidental part of development of land for commercial, residential, industrial or civic use; or

(III) The reclamation of an abandoned or forfeited mine by a no cost reclamation contract; and

(B) An "underground mine" which includes the shafts, slopes, drifts or inclines connected with, or intended in the future to be connected with, excavations penetrating coal seams or strata, which excavations are ventilated by one general air current or divisions thereof, and connected by one general system of mine haulage over which coal may be delivered to one or more points outside the mine, and the surface structures or equipment connected or associated therewith which contribute directly or indirectly to the mining, preparation or handling of coal.

(5) "Coal mining operation" includes the mine and the coal preparation and processing plant.

(6) "Coal preparation and processing plant" means any facility (excluding underground mining operations) which prepares coal by one or more of the following processes: breaking, crushing, screening, wet or dry cleaning, and thermal drying.

(7) "Coal production" means the privilege of severing, extracting, reducing to possession and producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use and includes the processing of coal at a coal preparation and processing plant.

(8) "Commissioner" or "Tax Commissioner" are used interchangeably herein and mean the Tax Commissioner of the State of West Virginia, or his or her delegate.

(9) "Controlled group" means one or more chains of corporations connected through stock ownership with a common parent corporation if stock possessing at least 50 percent of the voting power of all classes of stock of each of the corporations is owned, directly or indirectly, by one or more of the corporations; and the common parent owns directly stock possessing at least 50 percent of the voting power of all classes of stock of at least one of the other corporations.

(10) "Controlling interest" means:

(A) For a corporation, either more than 50 percent ownership, directly or indirectly, of the total combined voting power of all classes of stock of the corporation, or more than 50 percent ownership, directly or indirectly, of the beneficial ownership interest in the voting stock of all classes of stock of the corporation;

(B) For a partnership, association, trust or other entity other than a limited liability company, more than 50 percent, ownership, directly or indirectly, of the capital, profits, or beneficial interest in the partnership, association, trust, or other entity;

(C) For a limited liability company, either more than 50 percent ownership, directly or indirectly, of the total membership interest of the limited liability company, or more than 50 percent ownership, directly or indirectly, of the beneficial ownership interest in the membership interest of the limited liability company.

(11) "Corporation" means any corporation, joint-stock company or association, and any business conducted by a trustee or trustees wherein interest or ownership is

evidenced by a certificate of interest or ownership or similar written instrument.

(12) "Delegate" used in the phrase "or his delegate," when used in reference to the Tax Commissioner, means any officer or employee of the State Tax Department duly authorized by the Tax Commissioner directly, or indirectly by one or more redelegations of authority, to perform the functions mentioned or described in this article.

(13) "Directly used or consumed in the production of coal" means used or consumed in those activities or operations which constitute an integral and essential part of the production of coal, as contrasted with and distinguished from those activities or operations which are simply incidental, convenient or remote to the production of coal.

(A) Uses of tangible personal property which constitute direct use or consumption in the production of coal include only:

(i) New machinery and equipment that is depreciable, or amortizable, for federal income tax purposes, that has a useful life of 5 or more years for federal income tax purposes, and that are directly used in the production of coal in this state;

(ii) Transportation of coal within the coal mine from the coal face or coal deposit to the exterior of the mine or to a point where the extracted coal is transported away from the mine;

(iii) Directly and physically recording the flow of coal during the production of coal including those coal treatment processes specified in §11-13A-4 of this code;

(iv) Safety equipment and apparatus directly used in the production of coal, or to secure the safety of mine personnel is direct use in the production of coal;

(v) Controlling or otherwise regulating atmospheric conditions required for the production of coal;

(vi) Transformers, pumps, rock dusting equipment and other property used to supply electricity or water, or to supply or apply rock dust directly used in the production of coal;

(vii) Storing, removal or transportation of economic waste, including coal gob, resulting from the production of coal;

(viii) Engaging in pollution control or environmental quality or protection activity directly relating to the production of coal; or

(ix) Otherwise using as an integral and essential part of the production of coal.

(B) Uses of tangible personal property which do not constitute direct use or consumption in the production of coal include, but are not limited to:

(i) Heating and illumination of office buildings;

(ii) Janitorial or general cleaning activities;

(iii) Personal comfort of personnel: *Provided*, That safety equipment and apparatus directly used in the production of coal or to secure the safety of mine personnel is direct use in the production of coal when the tangible personal property is depreciable, or amortizable, for federal income tax purposes and has a useful life of 5 or more years for federal income tax purposes when it is placed in service or use;

(iv) Production planning, scheduling of work or inventory control;

(v) Marketing, general management, supervision, finance, training, accounting and administration;

(vi) Measuring or determining weight, and ash content, water content and other physical and chemical characteristics of the coal after production;

(vii) An activity or function incidental or convenient to the production of coal, rather than an integral and essential part of these activities.

(14) "Eligible taxpayer" means:

(A) Any person who pays the tax imposed by §11-13A-3 of this code on the privilege of producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use for at least 2 years before the capital investment in machinery and equipment is placed in service or use in this state; or

(B) A taxpayer that has experienced a change in business composition through merger, acquisition, split-up, spin-off or other ownership changes or changes in the form of the business organization from limited liability company to C corporation, or partnership, or from one form of business organization to a different form of business organization, may constitute an eligible taxpayer if the entity currently operating in this state was operating in a different form of business organization in this state at least 2 years before the capital investment in new machinery and equipment is placed in service or use in this state. In the case of business composition change through merger, acquisition, split-up, spin-off or other ownership changes the current business may constitute an eligible taxpayer if at least 50 percent of the business assets of such component were actively and directly used in coal production activity in this state for such two-year period. If less than 50 percent of the assets of the current entity were not actively and directly used in coal production activity in this state for such two-year period, then the current entity resulting from a business composition change through merger, acquisition, split-up, spin-off or other ownership, shall not constitute an eligible taxpayer.

(15) "Includes" and "including" when used in a definition contained in this article, shall not be deemed to exclude other things otherwise within the generally understood meaning of the term defined.

(16) "Original use" means the first use to which the property is put by anyone.

(17) "Partnership" includes a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture or other unincorporated organization through or by means of which any business, operation or venture is carried on, which is taxed under Subchapter K of the Internal Revenue Code, as defined in §11-24-3 of this code, and which is not a trust or estate, a corporation or a sole proprietorship. The term "partner" includes a member in such a syndicate, group, pool, joint venture or other unincorporated organization taxed under Subchapter K of the Internal Revenue Code.

(18) "Person" includes any natural person, corporation, partnership, limited liability company or other business entity.

(19) "Production of coal" means privilege of severing, extracting, reducing to possession and producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use and includes the processing of coal at the coal preparation and processing plant.

(20) "Property" means tangible personal property and is limited to new machinery and equipment that is depreciable or amortizable for federal income tax purposes and that has a useful life of 5 or more years for federal income tax purposes.

(21) "Property purchased or leased for business expansion" means:

(A) Included property. — Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this section, the term "property purchased or leased for business expansion" means tangible personal property, but only if the tangible personal property

was purchased, or leased and placed in service or use by the taxpayer, for use in West Virginia. This term includes only:

(i) Tangible personal property placed in service or use by the taxpayer on or after the effective date of this article, with respect to which depreciation, or amortization in lieu of depreciation, is allowable in determining the personal or corporation net income tax liability of the business, or its equity owners, under §11-21-1 *et seq.* or §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code, and which has a useful economic life at the time the property is placed in service or use in this state, of 5 or more years.

(ii) Tangible personal property acquired by written lease having a primary term of 5 years or more, that is depreciable or amortizable by the lessor, or lessee, for federal income tax purposes and that has a useful life of 5 or more years for federal income purposes when it is placed in service or use, and when the lease commences and was executed by the parties thereto on or after the effective date of this article, if used as a component part of a new or expanded coal mining operation in this state shall be included within this definition.

(B) Excluded property. — The term "property purchased or leased for business expansion" shall not include:

(i) Machinery and equipment owned or leased by the taxpayer and for which credit was taken or is claimed under any other article of this chapter for capital investment in the new machinery and equipment;

(ii) Repair costs, including materials used in the repair, unless for federal income tax purposes, the cost of the repair must be capitalized and not expensed;

(iii) Motor vehicles licensed by the West Virginia Division of Motor Vehicles;

(iv) Airplanes;

(v) Off-premise transportation equipment;

(vi) Machinery and equipment that is primarily used outside this state;

(vii) Machinery and equipment that is acquired incident to the purchase of the stock or assets of the seller; and

(viii) Used machinery and equipment.

(C) Purchase date. — New machinery and equipment shall be deemed to have been purchased prior to a specified date only if:

(i) The machinery or equipment was owned by the taxpayer prior to the effective date of this article or was acquired by the taxpayer pursuant to a binding purchase contract which was in effect prior to the effective date of this article; or

(ii) In the case of leased machinery and equipment, there was a binding written lease or contract to lease identifiable machinery or equipment in effect prior to the effective date of this article.

(22) "Purchase" means any acquisition of new machinery or equipment, but only if:

(A) The machinery or equipment is not acquired from a person whose relationship to the person acquiring it would result in the disallowance of deductions under Section 267 or 707 (b) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, as defined in §11-24-3 of this code;

(B) The machinery or equipment is not acquired by one component member of a controlled group from another component member of the same controlled group; and

(C) The basis of the machinery or equipment for federal income tax purposes, in the hands of the person acquiring it, is not determined:

(i) In whole or in part by reference to the federal adjusted basis of the machinery or equipment in the hands of the person from whom it was acquired; or

(ii) Under Section 1014 (e) of the United States Internal Revenue Code.

(23) "Qualified coal mining activity" means any business or other activity subject to the tax imposed by §11-13A-3 of this code on the privilege of severing, extracting, reducing to possession and producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use including the treatment process described as mining in §11-13A-4(a)(1) of this code.

(24) "Qualified investment" means capital investment in new machinery and equipment directly used in the production of coal in this state that is depreciable, or amortizable, for federal income tax purposes and has a useful life for federal income tax purposes of 5 or more years when it is placed in service or use in this state.

(25) "Rebate" means the amount of rebate allowable under §11-13EE-4 of this article.

(26) "Related person" means:

(A) A corporation, partnership, association or trust controlled by the taxpayer;

(B) An individual, corporation, partnership, association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer;

(C) A corporation, partnership, association or trust controlled by an individual, corporation, partnership, association or trust that is in control of the taxpayer; or

(D) A member of the same controlled group as the taxpayer.

For purposes of this subdivision, the term "control," with respect to a corporation, means ownership, directly or

indirectly, of stock possessing 50 percent or more of the total combined voting power of all classes of the stock of the corporation entitled to vote. "Control," with respect to a trust, means ownership, directly or indirectly, of 50 percent or more of the beneficial interest in the principal or income of the trust. The ownership of stock in a corporation, of a capital or profits interest in a partnership or association or of a beneficial interest in a trust is determined in accordance with the rules for constructive ownership of stock provided in section 267 (c) of the United States Internal Revenue Code, other than paragraph (3) of that section.

(27) "State portion of severance taxes paid" means the portion of severance taxes due under §11-13A-3 of this code when computed at the 4.65 percent rate of tax.

(28) "Tangible personal property" means and is limited to new machinery and equipment that is depreciable, or amortizable, for federal income tax purposes and that has a useful life of 5 or more years for federal income tax purposes when it is placed in service or use in this state.

(29) "Taxpayer" means any person exercising the privilege of severing, extracting, reducing to possession and producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use coal, which privilege is taxable under §11-13A-3 of this code.

(30) "This code" means the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended.

(31) "This state" means the State of West Virginia.

(32) "United States Internal Revenue Code" or "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code as defined in §11-24-3 of this code.

§11-13EE-3. Rebate allowable.

(a) Rebate allowable. — Eligible taxpayers shall be allowed a rebate for a portion of state severance taxes imposed by §11-13A-3 of this code on the privilege of

severing, extracting, reducing to possession and producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use that is attributable to the increase in the production of coal that is attributable to and the consequence of the taxpayer's capital investment in new machinery and equipment used at the coal mine, or coal preparation and processing facility. The amount of this rebate shall be determined and applied as hereinafter provided in this article.

(b) Amount of rebate. — The amount of rebate allowable is determined by multiplying the amount of the taxpayer's capital investment in new machinery and equipment directly used in the production of coal at a coal mining operation in this state by 35 percent. The product of this computation establishes the maximum amount of rebate allowable under this article for the capital investment in new machinery and equipment.

(c) Application of rebate amount. — The amount of rebate allowable is determined by applying the rebate amount determined in subsection (b) of this section against 80 percent of the state portion of the severance tax paid on the privilege of severing, extracting, reducing to possession and producing coal for sale, profit or commercial use that is directly attributable to the increased production of coal at the mine due to taxpayer's capital investment in new machinery and equipment at the mine or coal processing and preparation plant.

(d) The amount of severance tax attributable to the increase in coal production at a mine due to the capital investment in new machinery and equipment shall be determined by comparing (1) the state portion of the severance tax due under §11-13A-3 of this code on coal produced from the mine during calendar year 2018, before allowance of any tax credits, except as provided in subsection (e) of this section (d), (2) with the state severance tax due on coal produced at the mine during the then current calendar year in which the capital investment in new mining machinery and equipment is placed in service or use, before

allowance for any tax credits. When the amount in subdivision (2) of this section is greater than the amount in subdivision (1) of this section, the difference is the amount of state severance tax due to the increase in coal production at the mine that is attributable to the capital investment in new machinery and equipment: *Provided*, That when the producer of the coal operates more than one mine in this state, or is a member of a controlled or affiliated group that operates one or more coal mines in this state, no credit shall be allowed unless the total coal production from all mines operated by the taxpayer or by members of the affiliated or controlled group in this state has increased by at least the increase in production at the mine at which the capital investment in new machinery and equipment was made: *Provided, however*, That in no case shall the severance tax attributable to any mine other than the specific mine at which capital investment in new machinery and equipment is directly used in a coal mining operation has been placed in service or use be offset by this rebate.

(e) When the eligible taxpayer is a new business that has produced coal in this state for 2 years before making the capital investment in new machinery and equipment, then, for purposes of item (1) in subsection (d), the base shall be the amount of state severance tax due under §11-13A-3 of this code on coal produced in this state during the second year of this two-year period.

(f) When the operator of the coal mine at which capital investment in new machinery and equipment was made operates one or more other coal mines in this state, the operator may not cease production of coal, or reduce the production of coal, at one or more of those mines during the tax years for which rebate is allowed under this article. The Tax Commissioner shall promulgate a legislative rule providing exceptions to this subsection.

(g) When the operator of the coal mine at which capital investment in new machinery and equipment was made is a member of a controlled or affiliated group that operates one

or more other coal mines in this state, then the controlled or affiliated group, as the case may be, may not cease production of coal, or reduce the production of coal, at one or more of those mines during the tax years for which rebate is allowed under this article. The Tax Commissioner shall promulgate a legislative rule providing exceptions to this subsection.

(h) No rebate shall be allowed under this article when credit is claimed under any other article of this chapter for capital investment in the new machinery and equipment. No credit shall be allowed under any other article of this chapter when rebate is allowed under this article for the capital investment in new machinery and equipment.

§11-13EE-4. Information required to determine amount of rebate allowable.

(a) A taxpayer claiming rebate under this article who operates more than one coal mine in this state shall provide a schedule with the annual severance tax return filed under §11-13A-1 *et seq.* of this code that shows, for each coal mine, the number of tons of coal produced and the gross value of the coal produced at each mine during the taxable year.

(b) When a taxpayer claiming rebate under this article is a member of an affiliated or controlled group, as the case may be, that operates more than one coal mine in this state the group shall provide a schedule with its annual severance tax return filed under §11-13A-1 *et seq.* of this code for the taxable year that shows for each coal mine operated in this state by the affiliated or controlled group, as the case may be, the number of tons of coal produced at each mine and the gross value of the coal produced at each mine during the taxable year.

§11-13EE-5. Claim for rebate.

(a) After the severance taxes due for the taxable year are paid, a taxpayer may file a claim under this article for rebate

of up to 80 percent of the state portion of the additional severance taxes paid under §11-13A-3 of this code that are directly attributable to taxpayer's capital investment in new machinery and equipment placed in service or use during that taxable year as set forth in §11-13EE-4.

(b) When the amount of rebate claimed exceeds 80 percent of the additional state severance tax paid as provided in subsection (a) of this section, the unused portion of the rebate amount may be carried forward and refunded by the Tax Commissioner after severance taxes due in subsequent years are paid: *Provided*, That the carryforward period may not exceed 10 years from the date the capital investment in new machinery and equipment is placed in service or use in this state.

§11-13EE-6. Suspension of payment of rebate.

(a) No rebate may be paid under this article when the taxpayer, or any member of the taxpayer's combined or affiliated group, as the case may be, is delinquent in the payment of severance taxes imposed pursuant to §11-13A-3 of this code, and any local, state or federal tax or fee, until such time as the delinquency is cured.

(b) For purposes of this section, a taxpayer is not delinquent if the taxpayer is contesting an assessment in the Office of Tax Appeals or in any court of this state, or of the appropriate federal agency or court, or is complying with the terms of any payment plan agreement with the Tax Commissioner.

(c) In the case of a taxpayer that files a combined tax return as a member of a unitary group, no rebate under this article that is earned by one member of the combined group, but not fully used by or allowed to that member, may be claimed, in whole or in part, by another member of the group.

§11-13EE-7. Burden of proof; application required; failure to make timely application.

(a) Burden of proof. — The burden of proof is on the taxpayer to establish by clear and convincing evidence that the taxpayer is entitled to the benefits allowed by this article.

(b) Application for rebate required.

(1) Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, no rebate shall be paid under this article for any capital investment in new machinery and equipment placed in service or use until the person asserting a claim for the allowance of rebate under this article makes written application to the Tax Commissioner for allowance of rebate as provided in this section.

(2) An application for rebate shall be filed, in the form prescribed by the Tax Commissioner, no later than the last day for filing the severance tax return, determined by including any authorized extension of time for filing the return, for the taxable year in which the machinery and equipment to which the rebate relates is placed in service or use and all information required by the form is provided.

(3) A separate application for rebate is required for each taxable year during which the taxpayer places new machinery and equipment in service or use in a mine or coal preparation and processing facility in this state.

(c) Failure to make timely application. — The failure to timely apply for the rebate results in the forfeiture of 25 percent of the rebate amount otherwise allowable under this article. This penalty applies annually until the application is filed.

§11-13EE-8. Identification of capital investment property.

Every taxpayer who claims credit under this article shall maintain sufficient records to establish the following facts for each item of qualified investment property:

(1) Its identity;

(2) Its actual or reasonably determined cost;

(3) Its useful life for federal income tax purposes;

(4) The month and taxable year in which it was placed in service;

(5) The amount of credit taken; and

(6) The date it was disposed of or otherwise ceased to be qualified investment property.

§11-13EE-9. Failure to keep records of investment credit property.

A taxpayer who does not keep the records required for identification of investment credit property is subject to the following rules:

(1) A taxpayer is treated as having disposed of, during the taxable year, any machinery and equipment that the taxpayer cannot establish was still on hand, in this state, at the end of that year.

(2) If a taxpayer cannot establish when capital investment in new machinery and equipment property was reported for purposes of claiming this credit during the taxable year the machinery or equipment was placed in service or use, the taxpayer is treated as having placed it in service or use in the most recent prior taxable year in which similar machinery and equipment was placed in service or use, unless the taxpayer can establish that the machinery and equipment placed in service or use in the most recent taxable year is still on hand. In that event, the taxpayer will be treated as having placed the returned machinery and equipment in service or use in the next most recent taxable year.

§11-13EE-10. Transfer of qualified investment property to successors.

(a) Mere change in form of business. — Machinery and equipment may not be treated as disposed of under §11-13EE-9 of this article, by reason of a mere change in the

form of conducting the business as long as the machinery and equipment is retained in the successor business in this state, and the transferor business retains a controlling interest in the successor business. In this event, the successor business is allowed to claim the rebate amount of credit still available with respect to the machinery and equipment transferred, and the transferor business may not be required to redetermine the amount of rebate allowed in earlier years.

(b) Transfer or sale to successor. — Machinery and equipment is not treated as disposed of under §11-13EE-11 of this article by reason of any transfer or sale to a successor business which continues to operate machinery and equipment at the mine in this state at which the machinery and equipment was first placed in service or use. Upon transfer or sale, the successor shall acquire the amount of rebate, if any, that remains available under this article, and the transferor business is not required to redetermine the amount of rebate allowed in earlier years.

§11-13EE-11. Recapture of rebate; recapture tax imposed.

(a) When recapture tax applies. —

(1) Any person who places machinery and equipment in service or use for purposes of this credit and who fails to use the machinery and equipment for at least 5 years in the production of coal in this state shall pay the recapture tax imposed by subsection (b) of this section.

(2) This section does not apply when §11-13EE-10 of this article applies. However, the successor, or the successors, and the person, or persons, who previously claimed credit under this article with respect to the machinery and equipment, are jointly and severally liable for payment of any recapture tax subsequently imposed under this section with respect to the machinery and equipment used to qualify for rebate under this article.

(b) Recapture tax imposed. — The recapture tax imposed by this subsection is the amount determined as follows. If the taxpayer prematurely removes machinery and equipment placed in service (when considered as a class) from economic service in the taxpayer's coal production activity in this state, the taxpayer shall recapture the amount of rebate claimed under this article for the taxable year, and all preceding taxable years, attributable to the machinery and equipment which has been prematurely removed from service. The amount of tax due under this subsection is an amount equal to the amount of rebate that is recaptured under this subsection.

(c) Payment of recapture tax. — The amount of tax recaptured under this section is due and payable on the day the person's annual return is due for the taxable year, in which this section applies, under §11-13A-1 *et seq.* of this code. When the employer is a partnership, limited liability company or S corporation for federal income tax purposes, the recapture tax shall be paid by those persons who are partners in the partnership, members in the company, or shareholders in the S corporation, in the taxable year in which recapture tax is imposed under this section.

§11-13EE-12. Interpretation and construction.

(a) No inference, implication or presumption of legislative construction or intent may be drawn or made by reason of the location or grouping of any particular section, provision or portion of this article; and no legal effect may be given to any descriptive matter or heading relating to any section, subsection or paragraph of this article.

(b) The provisions of this article shall be reasonably construed in order to effectuate the legislative intent recited in §11-13EE-1 of this article.

§11-13EE-13. Rebate report.

(a) The Tax Commissioner shall provide to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance by July 1, 2022,

and on the first day of July of each year thereafter, a report detailing the amount of rebate claimed pursuant to this article. The report is to include the amount of rebate claimed against the severance tax imposed pursuant to §11-13A-3 of this code.

(b) Taxpayers claiming the rebate shall provide the information the Tax Commissioner may require to prepare the report: *Provided*, That the information provided is subject to the confidentiality and disclosure provisions of §11-10-5d and §11-10-5s of this code.

(c) The Tax Commissioner shall also identify any issues the Tax Commissioner has in the administration and enforcement of this rebate and make suggestions the Commissioner may have for improving the credit or the administration of the rebate.

§11-13EE-14. Rules.

The Tax Commissioner may promulgate such interpretive, legislative and procedural rules as the Commissioner deems to be useful or necessary to carry out the purpose of this article and to implement the intent of the Legislature. The tax commissioner may promulgate emergency rules if they are filed in the West Virginia Register before January 1, 2020. All rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

§11-13EE-15. Severability.

(a) If any provision of this article or the application thereof is for any reason adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the judgment may not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of the article, but shall be confined in its operation to the provision thereof directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall have been rendered, and the applicability of the provision to other persons or circumstances may not be affected thereby.

(b) If any provision of this article or the application thereof is made invalid or inapplicable by reason of the repeal or any other invalidation of any statute therein addressed or referred to, such invalidation or inapplicability may not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of the article, but shall be confined in its operation to the provision thereof directly involved with, pertaining to, addressing or referring to the statute, and the application of the provision with regard to other statutes or in other instances not affected by any such repealed or invalid statute may not be abrogated or diminished in any way.

§11-13EE-16. Effective date.

The rebate allowed by this article is allowed for capital investment in new machinery and equipment placed in service or use in this state on or after July 1, 2019.

CHAPTER 336

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4452 - By Delegates Maynard, Hill, Barnhart, Worrell, Westfall, Phillips, J. Jeffries, Cooper, Hardy, Kessinger and Bibby)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11A-3-18, §11A-3-22, §11A-3-52, and §11A-3-55 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating generally to notice requirements on tax collections and sale of delinquent property conducted by the State Auditor; allowing purchaser extension of time for compliance with notice requirements upon written request to State Auditor and payment of fees; requiring State Auditor to pay fees for extensions of time to board of education for county where property is located; revising procedure for

serving or providing notice to certain persons having interest in property to be sold.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. SALE OF TAX LIENS AND NONENTERED, ESCHEATED, AND WASTE AND UNAPPROPRIATED LANDS.

§11A-3-18. Limitations on tax certificates.

(a) No lien upon real property evidenced by a tax certificate of sale issued by a sheriff on account of any delinquent property taxes may remain a lien on the real property for a period longer than 18 months after the original issuance of the tax certificate of sale.

(b) All rights of a purchaser to the property, to a lien on the property, or to any other interest in the property, including, but not limited to any right to a tax deed, shall be considered forfeited and expired, and no tax deed is to be issued on any tax sale evidenced by a tax certificate of sale where the certificate has ceased to be a lien pursuant to the provisions of this section and application for the tax deed, pursuant to the provisions of §11A-3-27 of this code, is not pending at the time of the expiration of the limitation period provided in this section.

(c) Whenever a lien evidenced by a tax certificate of sale has expired by reason of the provisions of this section, the State Auditor shall immediately issue and record a certificate of cancellation describing the real estate included in the certificate of purchase or tax certificate and giving the date of cancellation, and the State Auditor shall also make proper entries in his or her records. The State Auditor shall also present a copy of every certificate of cancellation to the sheriff, who shall enter it in the sheriff's records, and the certificate and the record are prima facie evidence of the cancellation of the certificate of sale and of the release of the lien of the certificate on the lands described in the

certificate. Failure to record the certificate of cancellation does not extend the lien evidenced by the certificate of sale. The sheriff and State Auditor are not entitled to any fees for the issuing of the certificate of cancellation, nor for the entries in their books made under the provisions of this subsection.

(d) Whenever a purchaser has complied with the notice requirements provided in §11A-3-19 of this code, but has failed to request a deed within the 18 month deadline provided in this section, thereby forfeiting all rights to a tax deed, the purchaser may recover the amounts paid in excess of the taxes owed and expenses incurred by the State Auditor in the processing of the tax lien if, within 30 days of the expiration of the lien, upon a showing of compliance with the provisions of §11A-3-19 of this code, the purchaser files with the State Auditor a request in writing for the refund. A purchaser who fails to file the request within the 30-day period forfeits all rights to the refund.

(e) Whenever a purchaser has failed to comply with the notice requirements set forth in §11A-3-19 of this code, the purchaser may receive an additional 30 days to comply with the notice requirements set forth in §11A-3-19 of this code if, by December 1st of the year following the sale, the purchaser files with the State Auditor a request in writing for the extension and makes payment by cash, cashier check, certified check, or money order in the amount of $100 or 10 percent of the total amount paid on the day of sale set forth in §11A-3-5 of this code, whichever is greater. The fee for issuing the certificate of extension shall be $25 made payable to the State Auditor.

(f) The State Auditor shall each month draw his or her warrant upon the Treasury payable to the county board of education of each county for payment received by him or her for the extension of the time period set forth in

subsection (e) of this section for property located within each such county.

§11A-3-22. Service of notice.

(a) As soon as the State Auditor has prepared the notice provided in §11A-3-21 of this code, he or she shall cause it to be served upon all persons named on the list generated by the purchaser pursuant to the provisions of §11A-3-19 of this code.

(b) The notice shall be served upon all persons residing or found in the state in the manner provided for serving process commencing a civil action, or by certified mail, return receipt requested, or other types of delivery service courier that provide a receipt. The notice shall be served on or before the 30th day following the request for the notice.

(c) The notice shall be served upon persons not residing or found in the state by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in the manner provided for serving process commencing a civil action, or other types of delivery service courier that provide a receipt. The notice shall be served on or before the 30 days following the request for the notice.

(d) If the address of a person is unknown to the purchaser and cannot be discovered by due diligence on the part of the purchaser, the notice shall be served by publication as a Class III-0 legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, and the publication area for the publication shall be the county in which the real property is located. If service by publication is necessary, publication shall be commenced within 60 days following the request for the notice, and a copy of the notice shall, at the same time, be sent pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of this section, to the last known address of the person to be served. The return of service of the notice and the affidavit of publication, if any, shall be in the manner provided for process generally and shall be filed and preserved by the State Auditor in his or

her office, together with any return receipts for notices sent by certified mail.

(e) In addition to the other notice requirements set forth in this section, if the real property subject to the tax lien was classified as Class II property at the time of the assessment, at the same time the State Auditor issues the required notices by certified mail, the State Auditor shall forward a copy of the notice sent to the delinquent taxpayer by first class mail, or in the manner provided for serving process commencing a civil action, addressed to "Occupant", to the physical mailing address for the subject property. The physical mailing address for the subject property shall be supplied by the purchaser of the tax lien pursuant to the provisions of §11A-3-19 of this code. Where the mail is not deliverable to an address at the physical location of the subject property, the copy of the notice shall be sent to any other mailing address that exists to which the notice would be delivered to an occupant of the subject property.

§11A-3-52. What purchaser must do before he or she can secure a deed.

(a) Within 45 days following the approval of the sale by the auditor pursuant to §11A-3-51 of this code, the purchaser, his or her heirs or assigns, in order to secure a deed for the real estate purchased, shall:

(1) Prepare a list of those to be served with notice to redeem and request the deputy commissioner to prepare and serve the notice as provided in §11A-3-54 and §11A-3-55 of this code;

(2) When the real property subject to the tax lien was classified as Class II property, provide the deputy commissioner with the actual mailing address of the property that is subject to the tax lien or liens purchased; and

(3) Deposit, or offer to deposit, with the deputy commissioner a sum sufficient to cover the costs of preparing and serving the notice.

(b) If the purchaser fails to fulfill the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the purchaser shall lose all the benefits of his or her purchase.

(c) After the requirements of subsection (a) of this section have been satisfied, the deputy commissioner may then sell the property in the same manner as he sells lands which have been offered for sale at public auction but which remain unsold after such auction, as provided in §11A-3-48 of this code.

(d) If the person requesting preparation and service of the notice is an assignee of the purchaser, he or she shall, at the time of the request, file with the deputy commissioner a written assignment to him or her of the purchaser's rights, executed, acknowledged, and certified in the manner required to make a valid deed.

(e) Whenever a purchaser has failed to comply with the notice requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this section, the purchaser may receive an additional 30 days to comply with the notice requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this section if the purchaser files with the State Auditor a request in writing for the extension before the expiration of the time period set forth in subsection (a) of this section and makes payment by cash, cashier check, certified check, or money order in the amount of $100 or 10 percent of the total amount paid on the day of sale set forth in §11A-3-45 of this code, whichever is greater. The fee for issuing the certificate of extension shall be $25 made payable to the State Auditor.

(f) The State Auditor shall each month draw his or her warrant upon the Treasury payable to the county board of education of each county for payment received by him or her for the extension of the time period set forth in subsection (e) of this section for property located within each such county.

§11A-3-55. Service of notice.

(a) As soon as the deputy commissioner has prepared the notice provided for in §11A-3-54 of this code, he or she shall cause it to be served upon all persons named on the list generated by the purchaser pursuant to the provisions of §11A-3- 52 of this code. Such notice shall be mailed and, if necessary, published at least 45 days prior to the first day a deed may be issued following the deputy commissioner's sale.

(b) The notice shall be served upon all such persons residing or found in the state in the manner provided for serving process commencing a civil action or by certified mail, return receipt requested or other types of delivery service courier that provide a receipt. The notice shall be served on or before the 30th day following the request for such notice.

(c) The notice shall be served upon persons not residing or found in the state by certified mail, return receipt requested, or in the manner provided for serving process commencing a civil action or other types of delivery service courier that provide a receipt. The notice shall be served on or before the 30 days following the request for the notice.

(d) If the address of a person is unknown to the purchaser and cannot be discovered by due diligence on the part of the purchaser, the notice shall be served by publication as a Class III-0 legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area for the publication shall be the county in which the real property is located. If service by publication is necessary, publication shall be commenced within 60 days following the request for the notice, and a copy of the notice shall, at the same time, be sent pursuant to subsection (b) or (c) of this section, to the last known address of the person to be served. The return of service of the notice and the affidavit of publication, if any, shall be in the manner provided for process generally and shall be filed

and preserved by the State Auditor in his or her office, together with any return receipts for notices sent by certified mail.

(e) In addition to the other notice requirements set forth in this section, if the real property subject to the tax lien was classified as Class II property at the time of the assessment, at the same time the deputy commissioner issues the required notices by certified mail, the deputy commissioner shall forward a copy of the notice sent to the delinquent taxpayer by first class mail, or in the manner provided for serving process commencing a civil action, addressed to "Occupant", to the physical mailing address for the subject property. The physical mailing address for the subject property shall be supplied by the purchaser of the property, pursuant to the provisions of §11A-3-52 of this code. Where the mail is not deliverable to an address at the physical location of the subject property, the copy of the notice shall be sent to any other mailing address that exists to which the notice would be delivered to an occupant of the subject property.

CHAPTER 337

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4558 - By Delegates Maynard, Householder, Howell, Graves, Rowan, Hardy, Espinosa, Linville, Hill, Pack and Criss)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-10-14a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated †§11-13II-1, †§11-13II-2, †§11-13II-3, †§11-13II-4 and †§11-13II-5; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated †§11-13JJ-1,

† Redesignated

†§11-13JJ-2, †§11-13JJ-3, †§11-13JJ-4, †§11-13JJ-5, †§11-13JJ-6 and †§11-13JJ-7, all relating generally to taxation; creating various deductions, exemptions and credits, relating to allowing certain deductions to be made from individual personal income tax refunds for specified purpose; providing check-off for nursing home and health care for aged and disabled veterans in the West Virginia Veterans Home; providing check-off for purposes of operating and maintaining the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery; creating the High-Wage Growth Business Tax Credit Act; defining terms; allowing no more than $5 million in tax credits from the Development Office; setting out an application process; providing for factors to be considered in granting the application; setting out eligibility requirements; creating a personal income tax credit for volunteer firefighters in West Virginia; providing findings and purpose; providing definitions; providing nonrefundable tax credit for a volunteer firefighter against personal income tax in a taxable year; providing for a tax credit limitation of $1,000 for a single person; providing for a tax credit limitation of $2,000 for persons filing tax returns jointly under certain conditions; providing that the tax credit for volunteer firefighters must be used in the taxable year and cannot be carried forward; providing for documentation of eligibility for the tax credit; providing requirements for the documentation evidencing eligibility for the tax credit; providing that documentation must be sent to the Tax Commissioner; providing for reporting at certain time; providing for rule-making authority; and providing an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. WEST VIRGINIA TAX PROCEDURE AND ADMINISTRATION ACT.

§11-10-14a. Tax refund check-off programs.

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, or in
2 another section of this code enacted after June 30, 1991, all
3 voluntary tax refund check-off programs expire and do not

† Redesignated

apply to any personal income tax returns required to be filed after June 30, 1991: *Provided*, That if any such program has an earlier expiration date specifically provided by law, the earlier expiration date applies.

(b) The Tax Commissioner shall cause each West Virginia personal income tax return form to contain a provision by which a taxpayer, and his or her spouse if a joint return, may donate a portion or all of his or her tax refund to the West Virginia Department of Veterans Assistance for purposes of providing nursing home and health care for aged and disabled veterans in the West Virginia Veterans Home. The total amount of donations received under this subsection shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Veterans Assistance to be used exclusively for purposes of providing nursing home and health care for aged and disabled veterans in the West Virginia Veterans Home.

(c) The Tax Commissioner shall cause each West Virginia personal income tax return form to contain a provision by which a taxpayer, and his or her spouse if a joint return, may donate a portion or all of his or her tax refund to the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery for purposes of operating and maintaining the cemetery. The total amount of donations received under this subsection shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety to be used exclusively for purposes of operating and maintaining the Donel C. Kinnard Memorial State Veterans Cemetery.

†ARTICLE 13II. THE HIGH-WAGE GROWTH BUSINESS TAX CREDIT ACT.

†§11-13II-1. The High-Wage Growth Business Tax Credit Act.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the High-Wage Growth Business Tax Credit Act.

†§11-13II-2. Definitions.

† Redesignated

As used in this article:

"Benefits" means all remuneration for work performed that is provided to an employee in whole or in part by the employer, other than wages, including the employer's contributions to insurance programs, health care, medical, dental and vision plans, life insurance, employer contributions to pensions, such as a 401(k), and employer-provided services, such as child care, offered by an employer to the employee. "Benefits" does not include the employer's share of payroll taxes, Social Security or Medicare contributions, federal or state unemployment insurance contributions or workers' compensation;

"Consecutive qualifying period" means each of the three qualifying periods successively following the qualifying period in which the new high-wage job was created;

"Division" means the West Virginia State Tax Division;

"Domicile" means the sole place where an individual has a true, fixed, permanent home. It is the place where the individual has a voluntary, fixed habitation of self and family with the intention of making a permanent home;

"Eligible employee" means an individual who is employed in West Virginia by an eligible employer, who is a resident of West Virginia, and 100 percent of the employee's income from such employment is West Virginia income. "Eligible employee" does not include an individual who:

(1) Bears any of the relationships described in paragraphs (1) through (8) of 26 U.S.C. Section 152(a) to the employer or, if the employer is a corporation, to an individual who owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent in value of the outstanding stock of the corporation or, if the employer is an entity other than a corporation, to an individual who owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the capital and profits interest in the entity;

(2) If the employer is an estate or trust, is a grantor, beneficiary, or fiduciary of the estate or trust or is an individual who bears any of the relationships described in paragraphs (1) through (8) of 26 U.S.C. Section 152(a) to a grantor, beneficiary, or fiduciary of the estate or trust;

(3) Is a dependent, as that term is described in 26 U.S.C. Section 152(a)(9), of the employer or, if the taxpayer is a corporation, of an individual who owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent in value of the outstanding stock of the corporation or, if the employer is an entity other than a corporation, of an individual who owns, directly or indirectly, more than 50 percent of the capital and profits interest in the entity or, if the employer is an estate or trust, of a grantor, beneficiary, or fiduciary of the estate or trust; or

(4) Is working or has worked as an employee or as an independent contractor for an entity that, directly or indirectly, owns stock in a corporation of the eligible employer or other interest of the eligible employer that represents 50 percent or more of the total voting power of that entity or has a value equal to 50 percent or more of the capital and profits interest in the entity;

"Eligible employer" means a person whether organized for profit or not, or headquarters of such entity registered to do business in West Virginia that is the owner or operator of a project facility, that offers health benefits to all full-time eligible employees and certifies that it pays at least 50 percent of such health benefit premiums.

"Health benefits" means coverage for basic hospital care, physician care, prescriptions, and shall be the same coverage as is provided to employees employed in a bona fide executive, administrative, or professional capacity by the employer who are exempt from the minimum wage and maximum hour requirements of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and the employer pays at least 50 percent of such insurance premiums.

"New high-wage job" means a new job created in West Virginia by an eligible employer on or after July 1, 2020, that is occupied for at least 48 weeks of a qualifying period by an eligible employee who is paid wages calculated for the qualifying period to be at least two and twenty-five hundredths times the state median salary;

"New job" means a job that is occupied by an employee who was not previously on the employer's payroll in West Virginia, nor previously on the payroll of such employer's parent entity, subsidiary, alter ego, or affiliate in West Virginia, or previously on the payroll of any business whose physical plant and employees are substantially the same as those of the employer in West Virginia in the three years prior to the date of hire. "New job" does not mean any job that is a result of job shifts due to the gain or loss of an in-state contract to supply goods and services, nor does it mean an employee who is retained following the acquisition of all or part of an in-state business by an employer;

"Qualifying period" means the period of 12 months beginning on the day an eligible employee begins working in a new high-wage job or the period of 12 months beginning on the anniversary of the day an eligible employee began working in a new high-wage job;

"Resident" means a natural person whose domicile is in West Virginia at the time of hire or within 180 days of the date of hire;

"Threshold job" means a job that is occupied for at least 44 weeks of a calendar year by an eligible employee and that meets the wage requirements for a "new high-wage job"; and

"Wages" means all compensation paid by an eligible employer to an eligible employee through the employer's payroll system, including those wages that the employee elects to defer or redirect or the employee's contribution to a 401(k) or cafeteria plan program, but "wages" does not

include benefits or the employer's share of payroll taxes, Social Security or Medicare contributions, federal or state unemployment insurance contributions, or workers' compensation.

†§11-13II-3. High-wage growth business tax credit.

(a) The Development Office may authorize no more than $5 million of the tax credits allowed under this article during any fiscal year and the total amount of tax credit that may be awarded or used in any taxable year by any qualified taxpayer in combination with the owners of the qualified taxpayer may not exceed more than 10 percent of the salaries for the new direct jobs. Depending on the nature of the anticipated benefits to the state, the Development Office may establish a tax credit at a level less than the maximum. Nothing in this article entitles a qualified employer to receive a tax credit under this article and the Development Office has full discretion, subject to annual or ad hoc review, in determining whether and the amount to which to award a tax credit.

(b) A taxpayer that is an eligible employer seeking to obtain a tax credit shall make an application to the Development Office prior to the taxable year in which the eligible employer is seeking the credit. The application shall be on a form prescribed by the Development Office and shall contain such information as may be required by the Development Office to determine if the applicant is qualified. The application shall contain a sworn statement by a duly authorized officer of the employer listing the names of persons or other entities who have received or who will receive any payment or other consideration from the employer for the purpose of representing the employer in applying for or receiving the benefits provided for in this article and shall include a certificate of good standing from the State Tax Department.

(c) The employer shall certify that during the eligible employer's tax year and that at the end of the eligible

† Redesignated

employer's tax year it will meet or exceed all of the requirements established in §11-13FF-4 of this code;

(d) After the filing of an application by an eligible employer, the Development Office shall undertake an analysis and determine whether, the extent to which, and the conditions upon which an eligible employer may obtain a tax credit if it fulfills the commitments made in the eligible employer's application. In considering whether to approve the eligible employer's application for a tax credit, the Development Office shall consider the following factors:

(1) The significance of the eligible employer's need for the tax credit;

(2) The amount of projected net fiscal benefit to the state of the project and the period in which the state would realize such net fiscal benefit;

(3) The overall size and quality of the proposed project, including the number of new jobs, proposed wages, growth potential of the qualified company, the potential multiplier effect of the project, and similar factors;

(4) The financial stability and creditworthiness of the eligible employer;

(5) The level of economic distress in the area;

(6) An evaluation of the competitiveness of alternative locations for the location of the eligible employer, as applicable;

(7) Whether other state incentives are available and have been awarded to the eligible employer; and

(8) The amount of local incentives committed.

(e) The Development Office may authorize the continued ability to receive the tax credit as long as the employer retains its eligibility by maintaining the number

of new direct jobs in successive years, as provided under this article, not to exceed five years.

(f) A qualified employer that has qualified pursuant to this article is eligible to receive tax credits under this article only in accordance with the provisions under which it initially applied and was approved. If a qualified employer that is receiving tax credits and creates new direct jobs, it may apply for additional tax credits based on the new direct jobs anticipated from the expansion only, pursuant to this article.

†§11-13II-4. Obtaining tax credit following tax year.

(a) At the end of the approved employer's tax year, the qualified employer may file an application to use the tax credits previously approved by the Development Office. The application shall contain a sworn statement by a duly authorized officer of the qualified employer concerning with respect to the employer's fiscal year:

(1) That the eligible employer remained a qualified employer under the provisions of this article;

(2) The total number of and the gross payroll of the new direct jobs, with salary information provided by new direct job and that each new direct job was filled for at least 48 weeks during the tax year;

(3) That the employer had or maintained a net overall increase in employment statewide for each new direct job and the number of such net overall increase of at least 10 new direct jobs, in the case where an employer has contracts covering multiple locations;

(4) That employees holding the new direct jobs:

(A) Were residents in the State of West Virginia;

(B) Were not previously on the employer's payroll;

† Redesignated

(C) Were not previously on the payroll of the employer's parent entity, subsidiary, or affiliate, alter ego, or previously on the payroll of the business whose physical plant and employees were substantially the same as those of the employer;

(D) Did not exist as of the date the employer filed the application for the tax credit;

(E) Were not jobs created as a result of job shifts due to the gain or loss of an in-state contract to supply goods and services;

(F) Were not jobs retained following the acquisition of all, or part of, an in-state business by the employer;

(5) That the employer has offered the health benefits to the eligible employees it employs in new direct jobs; and

(6) That the employer:

(A) Did not default on or otherwise not repay any loan or other obligation involving public funds;

(B) Has not declared bankruptcy under which an obligation of the employer to pay or repay public funds or moneys was discharged as part of such bankruptcy;

(C) Is not in default on any filing or payment with or to the state or any of its agencies or political subdivisions in which such assessment or judgment is final, not appealable, and remains outstanding.

(b) The division may request such additional information from the employer as may be necessary to determine whether the application is correct and whether the qualified employer is eligible for the annual tax credit for that year, or may request that the qualified employer revise its application.

(c) The tax credits authorized in this article shall be authorized after the qualified employer has filed its application for annual tax credit at the end of the qualified employer's tax year with the Development Office pursuant to this section, and the division has determined from the information submitted along with such application that the employer has fulfilled its obligations in original application.

(d) Upon approval of the application for use of the tax credit, the application shall be forwarded to the Department of Revenue. The eligible employer may then use such tax credit in filing its tax return.

(e) A new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section for the initial qualifying period unless the eligible employer's total number of employees with threshold jobs on the last day of the initial qualifying period at the location at which the job is performed or based is at least one more than the number of threshold jobs on the day prior to the date the new high-wage job was created. A new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section for a consecutive qualifying period unless the total number of threshold jobs at a location at which the job is performed or based on the last day of that qualifying period is greater than or equal to the number of threshold jobs at that same location on the last day of the initial qualifying period for the new high-wage job.

(f) If a consecutive qualifying period for a new high-wage job does not meet the wage, occupancy and residency requirements, then the qualifying period is ineligible.

(g) Except as provided in subsection (h) of this section, a new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section if:

(1) The new high-wage job is created due to a business merger or acquisition or other change in business organization;

(2) The eligible employee was terminated from employment in West Virginia by another employer involved in the business merger or acquisition or other change in business organization with the taxpayer; and

(3) The new high-wage job is performed by:

(A) The person who performed the job or its functional equivalent prior to the business merger or acquisition or other change in business organization; or

(B) A person replacing the person who performed the job or its functional equivalent prior to a business merger or acquisition or other change in business organization.

(h) A new high-wage job that was created by another employer and for which an application for the high-wage growth business tax credit was received and is under review by the division prior to the time of the business merger or acquisition or other change in business organization shall remain eligible for the high-wage growth business tax credit for the balance of the consecutive qualifying periods. The new employer that results from a business merger or acquisition or other change in business organization may only claim the high-wage growth business tax credit for the balance of the consecutive qualifying periods for which the new high-wage job is otherwise eligible.

(i) A new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section if the job is created due to an eligible employer entering into a contract or becoming a subcontractor to a contract with a governmental entity that replaces one or more entities performing functionally equivalent services for the governmental entity unless the job is a new high-wage job that was not being performed by an employee of the replaced entity.

(j) A new high-wage job is not eligible for a credit pursuant to this section if the eligible employer has more than one business location in the state from which it

conducts business and the requirements of subsection (e) of this section are satisfied solely by moving the job from one business location of the eligible employer in this state to another business location of the eligible employer in the state.

(k) With respect to each annual application for a high-wage growth business tax credit, the employer shall certify and include:

(1) The responsibilities and amount of wages paid to each eligible employee in a new high-wage job during the qualifying period;

(2) The number of weeks each position was occupied during the qualifying period;

(3) Which qualifying period the application pertains to for each eligible employee;

(4) The total number of employees employed by the employer at the job location on the day prior to the qualifying period and on the last day of the qualifying period;

(5) The total number of threshold jobs performed or based at the eligible employer's location on the day prior to the qualifying period and on the last day of the qualifying period;

(6) For an eligible employer that has more than one business location in the state from which it conducts business, the total number of threshold jobs performed or based at each business location of the eligible employer in the state on the day prior to the qualifying period and on the last day of the qualifying period;

(7) Whether the eligible employer has ceased business operations at any of its business locations in this state; and

(8) Whether the application is precluded by subsection (o) of this section.

(l) Any person who willfully submits a false, incorrect, or fraudulent certification required pursuant this section shall be subject to all applicable penalties under §11-9-1 *et seq.* and §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code, except that the amount on which the penalty is based shall be the total amount of credit requested on the application for approval.

(m) Except as provided in subsection (o) of this section, an approved high-wage growth business tax credit shall be claimed against the taxpayer's taxes imposed by §11-23-1 *et seq.*, §11-24-1 *et seq.*, and §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code, in that order, as specified in this subsection:

(1) Business franchise tax. — The credit is first applied to reduce the taxes imposed by §11-23-1 *et seq.* of this code for the taxable year, determined after application of the credits against tax provided in §11-23-17 of this code, but before application of any other allowable credits against tax.

(2) Corporation net income taxes. — After application of subdivision (1) of this subsection, any unused credit is next applied to reduce the taxes imposed by §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code for the taxable year, determined before application of allowable credits against tax.

(A) If the eligible taxpayer is a limited liability company, small business corporation, or a partnership, then any unused credit after application of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection is allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code on owners of the eligible taxpayer on the conduit income directly derived from the eligible taxpayer by its owners. Only those portions of the tax imposed by §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code that are imposed on income directly derived by the owner from the eligible taxpayer are subject to offset by this credit.

(B) Small business corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, and other unincorporated organizations shall allocate the credit allowed by this section among their members in the same manner as profits and losses are allocated for the taxable year.

(3) Personal income tax taxes. — After application of subdivisions (1) and (2) of this subsection, any unused credit is next applied to reduce the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code for the taxable year determined before application of allowable credits against tax of the eligible taxpayer.

(4) If the eligible taxpayer is a limited liability company, small business corporation, or a partnership, then any unused credit after application of subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection is allowed as a credit against the taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code on owners of the eligible taxpayer on the conduit income directly derived from the eligible taxpayer by its owners. Only those portions of the tax imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code that are imposed on income directly derived by the owner from the eligible taxpayer are subject to offset by this credit.

(5) Small business corporations, limited liability companies, partnerships, and other unincorporated organizations shall allocate the credit allowed by this section among their members in the same manner as profits and losses are allocated for the taxable year.

(6) No credit is allowed under this section against any withholding tax imposed by, or payable under, §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(7) Unused credit carry forward. — Except to the extent excess credit is refunded as provided in subdivision (8) of this subsection, if the credit allowed under this article in any taxable year exceeds the sum of the taxes enumerated in subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) of this subsection for that taxable year, the eligible taxpayer and owners of eligible

taxpayers described in subdivisions (4) and (5) of this subsection may apply the excess as a credit against those taxes, in the order and manner stated in this section, for succeeding taxable years until the earlier of the following:

(A) The full amount of the excess credit is used; or

(B) The expiration of the 10th taxable year after the taxable year in which the annual salaries for the new direct job was paid or incurred. Any credit remaining thereafter is forfeited.

(8) If the credit allowed under this section in any taxable year exceeds the sum of taxes enumerated in subdivisions (1), (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection for that taxable year, the eligible taxpayer and owners of the eligible taxpayers described in subdivisions (4) and (5) of this subsection may claim for that year the excess amount as a refundable credit, not to exceed $100,000 per taxpayer, including owners and the controlled group, if applicable.

(9) Tax credits provided under this section may not be transferred, sold, or assigned by filing a notarized endorsement thereof with the division that names the transferee, the amount of tax credit transferred, and the value received for the credit, as well as any other information reasonably requested by the division.

(n) If the taxpayer ceases business operations in this state while an application for credit approval is pending or after an application for credit has been approved for any qualifying period for a new high-wage job, the division may not grant an additional high-wage growth business tax credit to that taxpayer except as provided in subsection (m) of this section and shall extinguish any amount of credit approved for that taxpayer that has not already been claimed against the taxpayer's modified combined tax liability.

(o) A taxpayer that has received a high-wage growth business tax credit may not submit a new application for the

252 credit for a minimum of two calendar years from the closing
253 date of the last qualifying period for which the taxpayer
254 received the credit if the taxpayer lost eligibility to claim the
255 credit from a previous application pursuant to subsection
256 (m) of this section.

†§11-13II-5. Rules.

1 The division shall propose legislative rules
2 implementing this article in accordance with the provisions
3 of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

†ARTICLE 13JJ. WEST VIRGINIA VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER TAX CREDIT ACT.

†§11-13JJ-1. Findings and Purpose.

1 The Legislature finds that it is an important public
2 policy to encourage participation in volunteer fire fighting
3 and emergency response by providing tax credits for those
4 who volunteer their time as a vital service to their
5 community.

†§11-13JJ-2. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 "Active member" means an individual that performs the
3 function of fire prevention and suppression, or vehicle and
4 machinery extrications, hazardous materials response and
5 mitigation, technical rescue, emergency medical services,
6 and any other duties that a specialized support member may
7 provide when responding to emergency situations;

8 "Activities" means responses to emergencies, monthly
9 or quarterly meetings, fund raising activities, and fire
10 department management;

11 "Chief" means the highest-ranking fire line officer in
12 charge of a volunteer fire department;

† Redesignated

"Commission" means the West Virginia State Fire Commission;

"Volunteer fire department" means a volunteer fire department in this state, certified and regulated by the commission, and lawfully formed under §8-15-1 *et seq.* of this code;

"Volunteer firefighter" means a West Virginia taxpayer who is an active member of a volunteer fire department.

†§11-13JJ-3. Amount of credit; limitation of credit.

(a) There is allowed to eligible volunteer firefighters in this state a nonrefundable credit against taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code in the amount set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The amount of the credit is $1,000 during a taxable year or the total amount of tax imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code in the year of active membership, whichever is less. If both taxpayers filing a joint tax return are eligible for the credit authorized by this article, the amount of the credit is $2,000, or $1,000 for each eligible taxpayer, during a taxable year or the total amount of tax imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* of this code in the year of active membership, whichever is less.

(c) If the amount of the credit authorized by this article is unused in any tax year, it may not be applied to any other tax year.

†§11-13JJ-4. Qualification for credit.

(a) To be an eligible volunteer firefighter under §11-13JJ-3 of this code, he or she shall obtain certification from the chief of the volunteer fire department to demonstrate the following:

† Redesignated

(1) The volunteer firefighter has been an active member in good standing of the volunteer fire department for the entire year; or

(2) Has been an active member in good standing of the volunteer fire department and another volunteer fire department of this state for the entire year; and

(3) Has participated as an active member as defined in §11-13JJ-3 of this code on-site at least 30 percent of the volunteer fire department activities during the year; and

(4) Has met or exceeded all certification and training for active member firefighters required under the laws of this state.

(b) The certification from the chief of the volunteer firefighter department shall demonstrate, at a minimum:

(1) The rank or position of the volunteer firefighter;

(2) The years of service for the volunteer firefighter;

(3) The number of emergency situations the volunteer firefighter responded in the year of active membership; and

(4) The number of meetings or training attended by the volunteer firefighter in the year of active membership.

(c) To claim the tax credit, a volunteer firefighter shall submit the certification from the chief of the volunteer fire department to the Tax Commissioner.

†§11-13JJ-5. Legislative rules.

(a) The Tax Commissioner may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provision of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

(b) The commission may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et*

† Redesignated

seq. of this code as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

†§11-13JJ-6. Tax credit review report.

Beginning on the first day of the second taxable year after the passage of this article and every two years thereafter, the commission shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Delegates a tax credit review and accountability report evaluating the cost effectiveness of the tax credit and donations during the most recent two-year period for which information is available.

†§11-13JJ-7. Effective date.

The credit allowed by this article shall be allowed for qualifying volunteer firefighters after December 31, 2022.

CHAPTER 338

(H. B. 4969 - By Delegates Maynard, Hill, Pack, Williams, Sponaugle, Boggs, Rowan, Pethtel, Skaff and Sypolt)

[Passed March 2, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article designated §11-13FF-1, §11-13FF-2, §11-13FF-3, §11-13FF-4, §11-13FF-5, §11-13FF-6 and §11-13FF-7; all relating to providing a tax credit for the donation or sale of a vehicle to certain charitable organizations; defining terms; providing limitations; providing requirements; providing for applicability of as is

† Redesignated

provisions; providing rulemaking authority; requiring reporting; and providing effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13FF. TAX CREDIT FOR DONATION OR SALE OF VEHICLE.

§11-13FF-1. Definitions.

1 As used in this article:

2 (1) "Commissioner" means the Tax Commissioner of
3 the State of West Virginia, or his or her delegate.

4 (2) "Division" means the Tax Division of the
5 Department of Revenue.

6 (3) "Low-Income Worker" means a person living in a
7 household with total income at or below 200 percent of the
8 Federal Poverty Level.

9 (4) "Program Value" means the fair market value of the
10 vehicle less an amount to be determined by the qualifying
11 charitable organization based upon the suitability of the
12 vehicle to its program.

13 (5) "Qualified Charitable Organization" means a
14 nonprofit association which:

15 (A) Is recognized as exempt from federal taxation under
16 §501(c)(3) of the United States Code;

17 (B) Is registered as a charitable organization pursuant to
18 §29-19-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

19 (C) Operates a program that provides the following
20 services:

21 (i) Providing low-income workers in the state with
22 below-market, affordable financing to purchase vehicles
23 through cooperating financial institutions; and

(ii) Providing financial counseling and other training and assistance to low-income workers to meet the terms of the loans used to purchase the vehicles through the program.

(6) "Vehicle" means a passenger motor vehicle that is suitable for daily commutes for employment purposes and is acceptable to the qualifying charitable organization as to its suitability for its program.

§11-13FF-2. Amount of credit; limitation of credit.

(a) There is allowed to taxpayers who make donations of vehicles to qualified charitable organizations in the state a credit against taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* and §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code in an amount equal to 50 percent of the program value of the vehicle or $2,000, whichever is less.

(b) There is allowed to new or used motor vehicle dealers licensed pursuant to §17A-6-3 of this code that sell a vehicle at a reduced sales price to low-income workers through a program administered by a qualified charitable organization, a credit against taxes imposed by §11-21-1 *et seq.* and §11-24-1 *et seq.* of this code in an amount equal to no more than 50 percent of the difference between the program value of the vehicle and the reduced sales price, or $2,000, whichever is less.

(c) There shall be no credit allowed pursuant to this article for a new or used motor vehicle dealer unless the dealer certifies that the dealer has no knowledge or reason to believe the vehicle is subject to any unperformed safety recall or was junked or salvaged or should have been branded or reported as junked or salvaged.

(d) If any credit remains after application of the credit against tax for any taxable year under this article, the amount thereof is forfeited. No carryback to a prior taxable year is allowed for the amount of any unused portion of this credit.

(e) No more than $300,000 of tax credits may be allocated to the department in any fiscal year. The division shall allocate the tax credits in the order the donation forms are received.

§11-13FF-3. Determination of value of credit.

(a) At the time of the donation or sale of the vehicle, the taxpayer shall provide to the qualified charitable organization an estimate of the fair market value of the vehicle.

(b) Upon accepting the vehicle to be used in their program, the qualified charitable organization shall provide the taxpayer a signed and dated form prescribed by the division containing at a minimum:

(1) The vehicle identification number of the vehicle, its make and model;

(2) The name, address and taxpayer identification number of the taxpayer;

(3) The name and address of the qualifying charitable organization;

(4) The qualifying charitable organization's determination of the program value of the vehicle, based upon the taxpayer's estimate of the fair market value of the vehicle and the suitability of the vehicle for the qualifying charitable organization's programs; and

(5) The maximum amount of tax credit authorized for the donation or sale of the vehicle; as calculated by the qualifying charitable organization: *Provided*, That the actual amount of tax credit authorized shall be determined by the tax division as provided in section two of this article.

(c) To claim the tax credit, the taxpayer shall send the form provided by the qualified charitable organization to the division for certification.

§11-13FF-4. Applicability to "as is" vehicles.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, the fair market value of the vehicle and not the sales price shall be used to determine the applicability of §46A-6-107a(a)(3)(A) of this code to any vehicle the sale of which qualifies for a tax credit as provided by this article.

§11-13FF-5. Legislative rules.

The Tax Commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

§11-13FF-6. Tax credit review report.

Beginning on the first day of the second taxable year after the passage of this article and every two years thereafter, the division shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates a tax credit review and accountability report evaluating the cost effectiveness of the tax credit and donations during the most recent two-year period for which information is available.

§11-13FF-7. Effective date.

The credit allowed by this article shall be allowed upon donations occurring after December 31, 2020.

CHAPTER 339

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 16 - By Senators Azinger, Maynard and Rucker)

[Passed February 13, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 2, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §1-7-1, §1-7-2, §1-7-3, and §1-7-4, all relating generally to protecting an individual's constitutional right to privacy in association; creating the Protect Our Right to Unite Act; declaring legislative purpose; defining terms; providing that a public agency may not require a nonprofit entity to disclose the entity's donor or membership information, subject to certain exceptions; providing that donor or membership information obtained by a public agency may not be released, subject to certain exceptions; providing that membership and donor information is exempt from the disclosure requirements of the state's Freedom of Information Act; permitting disclosure of records when donor or membership information is redacted; permitting compliance with a lawful court order; providing that an individual has a private cause of action to enjoin unlawful disclosure of donor or membership information and to recover actual damages; providing for the payment of attorney's fees and costs in certain circumstances; and providing for treble damages in certain circumstances.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 7. THE PROTECT OUR RIGHT TO UNITE ACT.

§1-7-1. Legislative purpose.

1 The purpose of this article is to protect an individual's
2 constitutional right to privately associate with advocacy

3 groups that represent his or her beliefs. As the Supreme
4 Court of the United States held in NAACP v. Alabama ex
5 rel. Patterson, 357 U.S. 449 (1958), compelled disclosure of
6 an advocacy group's donor or membership lists, where such
7 disclosure would discourage association, is a trespass upon
8 the fundamental freedoms protected by the Due Process
9 Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Therefore, this article
10 should be liberally construed in favor of an individual's
11 right to association, to ensure that private association is not
12 discouraged or suppressed by any actions of the public
13 agencies of this state.

§1-7-2. Definitions.

1 For the purposes of this article:

2 (1) "Donor or membership information" means any
3 record which identifies an individual's membership in, or
4 support of, any tax-exempt entity under 26 U.S.C. §501(c),
5 including information that does not directly identify the
6 individual but which, in combination with other
7 information, would allow a reasonable person to identify the
8 individual. Donor or membership information includes, but
9 is not limited to, a member, donor, or supporter's name,
10 address, occupation, employer, or any electronic or
11 technical data, including social media accounts, email
12 accounts, location data, or other identifying information.

13 (2) "Individual" means a person who is a United States
14 citizen, or who is domiciled in the United States, but does
15 not include a foreign agent, foreign government, or foreign
16 principal.

17 (3) "Public agency" means:

18 (A) Any department, body, office, commission, board,
19 unit, political subdivision, court, or division of state or local
20 government, however designated; and

21 (B) Any official, employee, or agent of an entity
22 described in paragraph (A) of this subdivision.

§1-7-3. Protecting privacy of association.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in chapter 3 of this code, chapter 6B of this code, or subsection (e) of this section, a public agency may not require any tax-exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. §501(c) to provide the agency with donor or membership information: *Provided*, That where the public agency nevertheless obtains donor or membership information, such information may not be released unless pursuant to chapter 3 of this code, chapter 6B of this code, or subsection (e) of this section.

(b) A public agency may not release, permit to be released, nor be compelled to release any record which identifies an individual's association with any tax-exempt organization under 26 U.S.C. §501(c), or which reveals an individual's financial or nonfinancial support for such an entity, without the express written permission of the entity and the citizen, or at the request of the citizen.

(c) All donor or membership information is exempt from production or disclosure under the state's Freedom of Information Act, §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) A public agency does not violate subsection (a) of this section if donor or membership information is redacted from a disclosed record.

(e) Nothing in this section precludes compliance with a lawful order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

§1-7-4. Civil remedies.

(a) An individual may bring a civil action to enjoin any violation of this article and to recover actual damages incurred by him or her as a result of the violation.

(b) If the plaintiff prevails in a civil action pursuant to this section, he or she is entitled to be reimbursed by the state or public agency for actual costs and such reasonable attorney's fees he or she has incurred in the litigation.

(c) If the judge or jury in a civil action brought pursuant to this section finds that a public agency intentionally disclosed donor or membership information in violation of this article, the amount of the judgment, which for this purpose includes actual damages, costs, and attorney's fees, may be trebled as exemplary damages.

CHAPTER 340

(H. B. 4714 - By Delegates Howell, C. Martin and Ellington)
[By Request of the West Virginia Secretary of State]

[Passed March 4, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §29-19-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the monetary threshold for requiring nonprofit organizations to register as a charitable organization to be consistent with the United States Internal Revenue Service and other states.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 19. SOLICITATION OF CHARITABLE FUNDS ACT.

*§29-19-6. Certain persons and organizations exempt from registration.

The following charitable organizations are not required to file an annual registration statement with the Secretary of State:

(1) Educational institutions, the curriculums of which, in whole or in part, are registered or approved by the State

*NOTE: This section was also amended by H. B. 4747 (Chapter 171), which passed subsequent to this act.

Board of Education, either directly or by acceptance of accreditation by an accrediting body recognized by the State Board of Education; and any auxiliary associations, foundations and support groups which are directly responsible to the educational institutions;

(2) Persons requesting contributions for the relief of any individual specified by name at the time of the solicitation when all of the contributions collected without any deductions whatsoever are turned over to the named beneficiary for his or her use;

(3) Hospitals and licensed nursing homes which are nonprofit and charitable;

(4) Organizations which solicit only within the membership of the organization by the members thereof: *Provided*, That the term "membership" does not include those persons who are granted a membership upon making a contribution as the result of solicitation. For the purpose of this section, "member" means a person having membership in a nonprofit corporation, or other organization, in accordance with the provisions of its articles of incorporation, bylaws or other instruments creating its form and organization; and having bona fide rights and privileges in the organization, including the right to vote, to elect officers, directors and issues, to hold office or otherwise as ordinarily conferred on members of the organizations;

(5) Churches, synagogues, associations or conventions of churches, religious orders or religious organizations that are an integral part of a church which qualifies as tax exempt under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. §501(c)(3) and which qualifies as being exempt from filing an annual return under the provisions of 26 U.S.C. §6033;

(6) Any person, firm, corporation or organization that sponsors a single fund-raising event for the benefit of a named charitable organization where all or part of the funds

collected are donated to the named charitable organization: *Provided*, That the named charitable organization receiving the funds is registered pursuant to this article, reports each of these donations individually and certifies that no funds were withheld by the organization that solicited the funds; and

(7) (A) Any charitable organization that does not employ a professional solicitor or fundraiser and does not intend to solicit and receive and does not actually raise or receive contributions, donations or grants from the public in excess of $50,000 during a calendar year.

(B) Charitable organizations which do not intend to solicit and receive contributions, donations or grants in excess of $50,000, but do receive in excess of that amount from the public, shall file the annual registration statement within 30 days after contributions are in excess of $50,000.

CHAPTER 341

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 6 - By Senators Cline and Roberts)

[Passed March 2, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17C-17-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to issue permits for certain tractors with certain trailers that do not exceed specified maximum axle weights.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 17. SIZE, WEIGHT, AND LOAD.

§17C-17-11. Permits for excess size and weight.

(a) The Commissioner of the Division of Highways may, in his or her discretion, upon application in writing and good cause shown, issue a special permit in writing authorizing:

(1) The applicant, in crossing any highway of this state, to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight or load exceeding the maximum specified in this chapter or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, whether the operation is continuous or not, provided the applicant agrees to compensate the Commissioner of the Division of Highways for all damages or expenses incurred in connection with the crossing;

(2) The applicant to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicles or nondivisible load exceeding the maximum specified in this chapter or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this chapter; and

(3) The applicant to move or operate, for limited or continuous operation, a vehicle hauling containerized cargo in a sealed, seagoing container to or from a seaport or inland waterway port that has or will be transported by marine shipment where the vehicle is not, as a result of hauling the container, in conformity with the provisions of this article relating to weight limitations, upon the conditions that:

(A) The container be hauled only on the roadways and highways designated by the Commissioner of the Division of Highways;

(B) The contents of the container are not changed from the time it is loaded by the consignor or the consignor's agent to the time it is delivered to the consignee or the consignee's agent; and

(C) Any additional conditions as the Commissioner of the Division of Highways or the Public Service Commission may impose to otherwise ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

(b)(1) The Commissioner of the Division of Highways may issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicles or nondivisible load exceeding the maximum specified in this chapter or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this chapter over routes designated by the Commissioner of the Division of Highways upon terms and restrictions prescribed by the Public Service Commission, together with the Commissioner of the Division of Highways.

(2) For purposes of this section, "nondivisible load" means any load exceeding applicable length or weight limits which, if separated into smaller loads or vehicles, would:

(A) Compromise the intended use of the vehicle, to the extent that the separation would make it unable to perform the function for which it was intended;

(B) Destroy the value of the load or vehicle, to the extent that the separation would make it unusable for its intended purpose; or

(C) Require more than eight work hours to dismantle using appropriate equipment: *Provided*, That the applicant for a nondivisible load permit has the burden of proof as to the number of work hours required to dismantle the load.

(3) The Commissioner of the Division of Highways may, in his or her discretion, upon application in writing and based upon an engineering analysis, issue a special permit in writing authorizing the applicant, when operating upon any highway of this state designated by the commissioner, to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles, hauling commodities manufactured for interstate commerce, of a size or weight or divisible load exceeding

the maximum specified in this chapter or otherwise not in conformity with the provisions of this chapter, whether the operation is continuous or not.

(A) The engineering analysis must demonstrate that the vehicle permitted under this subdivision does not adversely affect the designated routes when compared to the size, weight, and load provisions of this chapter.

(B) The maximum gross vehicle weight permitted under this subsection is 120,000 pounds.

(C) The permit may contain any additional conditions the Commissioner of the Division of Highways or the Public Service Commission may impose to otherwise ensure compliance with the provisions of this chapter.

(4) The Commissioner of the Division of Highways may, in his or her discretion, upon application in writing, issue a special permit in writing authorizing the applicant to transport logs, wood chips, timber, other natural raw wood, lumber, paper, wood veneer, wood pellets, or any other wood product of the forest, craft, or manufacturing. The vehicle authorized by the permit shall be a tractor-semitrailer combination with six axles, each axle equipped with brakes, and limited to a maximum gross vehicular weight of 94,000 pounds, without any tolerance. The maximum weight of each axle, beginning with the steering axle commencing rearwards, respectively shall be 15,000 pounds, 17,000 pounds, 17,000 pounds, 15,000 pounds, 15,000 pounds, and 15,000 pounds. The tractor shall have one steer axle and two drive axles in tandem, and the trailer shall have three trailer axles in tridem. The distance between the last drive axle of the tractor and the first trailer axle shall be a minimum of 29 feet and six inches. The Commissioner of the Division of Highways may issue permits for four-axle tractors with one steering axle and three axles in tridem in combination with dual axle pup trailers: *Provided*, That the maximum weight of each axle for pup-combination vehicles beginning with the steering axle commencing rearward

respectively does not exceed 14,500 pounds, 16,613 pounds, 16,614 pounds, 16,613 pounds, 14,830 pounds, and 14,830 pounds. Permits under this subdivision will not be issued for any vehicle traveling on interstate routes.

(c) The application for any permit other than a special annual permit shall specifically describe the vehicle or vehicles and load to be operated or moved along or across the highway and the particular highway or crossing of the highway for which the permit to operate is requested, and whether the permit is requested for a single trip or for a continuous operation.

(d) The Public Service Commission is authorized to issue or withhold a permit at its discretion; or, if the permit is issued, to limit the number of trips, or to establish seasonal or other time limitations within which the vehicles described may be operated on or across the highways indicated, or otherwise to limit or prescribe conditions of operation of the vehicle or vehicles, when necessary to assure against undue damage to the road foundations, surface, or structures, and may require the undertaking, bond, or other security considered necessary to compensate for any injury to any roadway structure and to specify the type, number, and the location for escort vehicles for any vehicle: *Provided*, That in establishing limitations on permits issued under this section, the Public Service Commission shall consult with the Commissioner of the Division of Highways, and may not issue, limit, or condition a permit in a manner inconsistent with the authority of the Commissioner of the Division of Highways.

The Public Service Commission may charge a fee for the issuance of a permit for a mobile home and a reasonable fee for the issuance of a permit for any other vehicle under the provisions of this section to pay the administrative costs thereof.

(e) Every permit shall be carried in the vehicle or combination of vehicles to which it refers and shall be open

139 to inspection by any police officer or authorized agent of the
140 Commissioner of the Division of Highways or the Public
141 Service Commission, and no person shall violate any of the
142 terms or conditions of the special permit.

CHAPTER 342

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 130 - By Senators Trump, Ihlenfeld and Facemire)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17C-5-2, §17C-5-2a, §17C-5-2b, §17C-5-4, §17C-5-7, and §17C-5-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §17C-5-7a; to amend and reenact §17C-5A-1, §17C-5A-1a, and §17C-5A-3 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §17C-5A-2b; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §17C-5C-1a, all relating generally to offenses involving operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or drugs and the administrative process for revocation or suspension of a person's license to operate a motor vehicle based on such offenses; defining terms; transferring authority for hearing certain matters related to revocations or suspensions of licenses from the Office of Administrative Hearings to the courts; establishing mandatory license revocation or suspension periods for individuals convicted of certain offenses; authorizing alternate revocation or suspension periods conditioned upon participation in Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program for certain offenses; establishing mandatory license revocation or suspension periods for individuals upon second and subsequent

convictions for certain offenses; clarifying what constitutes a second or subsequent offense for purposes of criminal penalties and license revocations and suspensions; clarifying that certain offenses involving driving under the influence take place only when the operator is upon a public highway or private road; clarifying the term "in this state" for purposes of enforcement of certain serious traffic crimes; requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to revoke a person's license upon conviction of certain offenses or for refusal to submit to a secondary chemical test in certain circumstances; requiring individuals whose licenses have been revoked or suspended upon conviction of certain offenses to complete the comprehensive safety and treatment program before the license can be reinstated; requiring driver consent to participation in Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program; requiring deferral program for certain first offenses to be completed within one year; prohibiting a secondary test of blood without consent absent issuance of a search warrant; requiring that a person arrested for driving under the influence be provided with certain verbal and written warnings prior to submitting to a secondary chemical test; requiring an officer to 15 minutes before a refusal to submit to a secondary chemical test is considered final; requiring that, following an individual's refusal to submit to a secondary chemical test, an arresting officer submit a sworn statement containing certain information to Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles and the court; providing for a hearing before the court to contest a documented refusal to submit to a secondary chemical test; providing minimum license revocation periods for refusal to submit to a secondary chemical test; directing the Bureau for Public Health to make reports and recommendations on the levels of drugs and controlled substances to be used as evidence in certain criminal proceedings; limiting the administrative jurisdiction of Division of Motor Vehicles and Office of Administrative Hearings to offenses occurring on or before June 30, 2020; eliminating all statutory provisions authorizing or requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to take administrative action upon an individual's license on the basis

of driving under the influence or refusal to submit to a secondary test absent direction from court; requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to provide certain records to the court following a person's arrest; providing a procedure to correct a license revocation or suspension based on mistaken driver identity; providing that a plea of no contest constitutes a conviction; requiring the clerk of the court to transmit a copy of an order related to revoking or suspending a person's license to the Division of Motor Vehicles; directing that a copy of a license revocation or suspension order to be sent to the person whose license is being revoked or suspended by certified mail; providing that revocation for refusal to submit to secondary chemical test run concurrently with other revocation or suspension imposed as a result of an offense that led to the arrest; making persons convicted of driving under the influence eligible for participation in comprehensive safety and treatment program and related reductions in length of revocation for successful completion thereof; requiring the Office of Administrative Hearings to dispose of all matters pending before it by a certain date; establishing a timeline for jurisdiction of matters currently filed in the Office of Administrative Hearings to transfer to the courts; requiring that matters related to license suspension or revocation for driving under the influence, pending before the Office of Administrative Hearings on its termination, be dismissed; requiring that matters not related to license suspension or revocation for driving under the influence, pending before the Office of Administrative Hearings on its termination, be transferred to a circuit court according to certain procedures; terminating the Office of Administrative Hearings by a certain date; eliminating obsolete language; providing internal effective dates; and making technical corrections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. SERIOUS TRAFFIC OFFENSES.

§17C-5-2. Driving under influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or drugs; penalties.

(a) *Definitions.* —

(1) "Impaired state" means a person:

(A) Is under the influence of alcohol;

(B) Is under the influence of any controlled substance;

(C) Is under the influence of any other drug or inhalant substance;

(D) Is under the combined influence of alcohol and any controlled substance or any other drug; or

(E) Has an alcohol concentration in his or her blood of eight hundredths of one percent or more, by weight.

(2) "Bodily injury" means injury that causes substantial physical pain, illness, or any impairment of physical condition.

(3) "Controlled substance" has the meaning provided in §60A-1-101 of this code.

(4) "Serious bodily injury" means bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death, that causes serious or prolonged disfigurement, prolonged impairment of health, or prolonged loss or impairment of the function of any bodily organ.

(5) "Test and lock program" means the Motor Vehicle Test and Lock Program, established in §17C-5A-3a and administered by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

(b) Any person who drives a vehicle in this state while he or she is in an impaired state, and such impaired state proximately causes the death of any person, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than three nor more than 15 years and shall be fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $3,000, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the

Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of 10 years or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code: *Provided*, That any death charged under this subsection must occur within one year of the offense: *Provided, however*, That if the person has previously been convicted under this section, the person shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for life or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code.

(c) Any person who drives a vehicle in this state while he or she is in an impaired state, and such impaired state proximately causes serious bodily injury to any person other than himself or herself, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than two nor more than 10 years and shall be fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $3,000, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of five years or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code: *Provided*, That if the person has previously been convicted under this section, the person shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for life or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code.

(d) Any person who drives a vehicle in this state while he or she is in an impaired state, and such impaired state proximately causes a bodily injury to any person other than himself or herself, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not less than one day nor more than one year and shall be fined not less than $200 nor more than $1,000, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the

Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of two years or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code: *Provided*, That if the person has previously been convicted under this section, the person shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for life or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code. Any jail term imposed pursuant to this subsection shall include actual confinement of not less than 24 hours: *Provided, however*, That a person sentenced pursuant to this subsection shall receive credit for any period of actual confinement he or she served upon arrest for the subject offense.

(e) Any person who drives a vehicle on any public highway or private road in this state: (1) while he or she is in an impaired state; or (2) while he or she is in an impaired state but has an alcohol concentration in his or her blood of less than fifteen hundredths of one percent, by weight, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, may be confined in jail for up to six months and shall be fined not less than $100 nor more than $500, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of six months or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code: *Provided*, That a person sentenced pursuant to this subsection shall receive credit for any period of actual confinement he or she served upon arrest for the subject offense.

(f) Any person who drives a vehicle on any public highway or private road in this state while he or she has an alcohol concentration in his or her blood of fifteen hundredths of one percent or more, by weight, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not less than two days nor more than six

months, which jail term is to include actual confinement of not less than 24 hours, and shall be fined not less than $200 nor more than $1,000, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of one year or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code. A person sentenced pursuant to this subsection shall receive credit for any period of actual confinement he or she served upon arrest for the subject offense.

(g) Any person who, being a habitual user of narcotic drugs or amphetamines, or any derivative thereof, drives a vehicle on any public highway or private road in this state is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not less than one day nor more than six months, which jail term is to include actual confinement of not less than 24 hours, and shall be fined not less than $100 nor more than $500, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of six months. A person sentenced pursuant to this subsection shall receive credit for any period of actual confinement he or she served upon arrest for the subject offense.

(h) Any person who knowingly permits his or her vehicle to be driven on any public highway or private road in this state by any other person who is in an impaired state is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not more than six months and shall be fined not less than $100 nor more than $500, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of six months or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code.

(i) Any person who knowingly permits his or her vehicle to be driven on any public highway or private road in this

state by any other person who is a habitual user of narcotic drugs or amphetamines, or any derivative thereof, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not more than six months and shall be fined not less than $100 nor more than $500, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of six months.

(j) (1) Any person under the age of 21 years who drives a vehicle on any public highway or private road in this state while he or she has an alcohol concentration in his or her blood of two hundredths of one percent or more, by weight, but less than eight hundredths of one percent, by weight, for a first offense under this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than $25 nor more than $100, and have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle suspended by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of 60 days or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code. For a second or subsequent offense under this subsection, the person is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for 24 hours and shall be fined not less than $100 nor more than $500, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of one year or until the person's 21st birthday, whichever period is longer, or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code. A person who is charged with a first offense under the provisions of this subsection may move for a continuance of the proceedings, from time to time, to allow the person to participate in the test and lock program as provided in §17C-5A-3a of this code. Upon successful completion of the program, the court shall dismiss the charge against the person and expunge the person's record as it relates to the alleged offense. In the event the person

fails to successfully complete the program, the court shall proceed to an adjudication of the alleged offense. A motion for a continuance under this subsection may not be construed as an admission or be used as evidence.

(2) (A) Notwithstanding subdivision (1) of this subsection, a person shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle suspended or revoked for a minimum period of one year or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code, if the person:

(i) Has previously been convicted under this subsection and is subsequently convicted of an offense under another subsection of this section; or

(ii) Is convicted under this subsection and has previously been convicted of an offense under another subsection of this section.

(B) Nothing in this subdivision permits a shorter period of license revocation, license suspension, or participation in the test and lock program than is mandatory for the specific offense for which the person is convicted.

(3) A person arrested and charged with an offense under the provisions of this subsection or subsection (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), or (i) of this section may not also be charged with an offense under this subsection arising out of the same transaction or occurrence.

(k) Any person who drives a vehicle on any public highway or private road in this state while he or she is in an impaired state and has within the vehicle one or more other persons who are unemancipated minors who have not yet reached their 16th birthday is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not less than two days nor more than 12 months, and shall be fined not less than $200 nor more than $1,000, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the

Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for a period of one year or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code: *Provided*, That such jail term shall include actual confinement of not less than 48 hours: *Provided, however*, That a person sentenced pursuant to this subsection shall receive credit for any period of actual confinement he or she served upon arrest for the subject offense.

(l) A person convicted of an offense under this section, who has previously been convicted of any offense under this section on one occasion, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not less than six months nor more than one year, may be fined not less than $1,000 nor more than $3,000, and shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for 10 years or for a period of time conditioned on participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code: *Provided*, That if the second conviction is for an offense as described in subsections (b), (c), or (d) of this section and the subsection creating the offense requires a period of incarceration, period of license revocation, or fine that is greater than what is required for a conviction under this subsection, the greater period of incarceration, period of revocation, or fine shall be imposed: *Provided, however*, That this section does not apply to a second conviction that is subject to a period of license revocation under subsection (j) of this section.

(m) A person convicted of an offense under this section, who has previously been convicted of any offense under this section on two or more occasions, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than two nor more than five years, shall have his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles for life or for a period of time conditioned on

participation in the test and lock program in accordance with §17C-5A-3a of this code, and the court may, in its discretion, impose a fine of not less than $3,000 nor more than $5,000: *Provided*, That if the third or subsequent conviction is for an offense as described in subsections (b), (c), or (d) of this section and the subsection creating the offense requires a period of incarceration, period of license revocation, or fine that is greater than what is required for a conviction under this subsection, the greater period of incarceration, period of revocation, and fine shall be imposed: *Provided, however*, That this section does not apply to a third or subsequent conviction that is subject to a period of license revocation under subsection (j) of this section.

(n) For purposes of subsections (l) and (m) of this section relating to second, third, and subsequent offenses, the following events shall be regarded as offenses and convictions under this section:

(1) Any conviction under the provisions of subsection (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), or (i) of this section, or under a prior enactment of this section, for an offense which occurred within the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of arrest in the current proceeding;

(2) Any conviction under a municipal ordinance of this state or any other state or a statute of the United States or of any other state of an offense which has the same elements as an offense described in subsection (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), or (i) of this section, which offense occurred within the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of arrest in the current proceeding; and

(3) Any period of conditional probation imposed pursuant to §17C-5-2b of this code for violation of subsection (e) of this section, which violation occurred within the 10-year period immediately preceding the date of arrest in the current proceeding.

(o) A person may be charged in a warrant, indictment, or information for a second or subsequent offense, as described in subsection (j), (l), or (m) of this section, if the person has been previously arrested for, or charged with, a violation of this section which is alleged to have occurred within the applicable time period for prior offenses, notwithstanding the fact that there has not been a final adjudication of the charges for the alleged previous offense. In that case, the warrant or indictment or information must set forth the date, location, and particulars of the previous offense or offenses. No person may be convicted of a second or subsequent offense under this section unless the conviction for the previous offense has become final, or the person has previously had a period of conditional probation imposed pursuant to §17C-5-2b of this code.

(p) The fact that any person charged with a violation of subsection (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), or (g) of this section, or any person permitted to drive as described under subsection (h) or (i) of this section, is or has been legally entitled to use alcohol, a controlled substance, or a drug does not constitute a defense against any charge of violating subsection (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), or (i) of this section.

(q)The sentences provided in this section upon conviction for a violation of this article are mandatory and are not subject to suspension or probation: *Provided*, That the court may apply the provisions of §62-11A-1 *et seq.* of this code to a person sentenced or committed to a term of one year or less for a first offense under this section: *Provided, however*, That the court may impose a term of conditional probation pursuant to §17C-5-2b of this code to persons adjudicated thereunder. An order for home detention by the court pursuant to the provisions of §62-11B-1 *et seq.* of this code may be used as an alternative sentence to any period of incarceration required by this section for a first or subsequent offense: *Provided further*, That for any period of home incarceration ordered for a person convicted of a second offense under this section,

electronic monitoring shall be required for no fewer than five days of the total period of home confinement ordered and the offender may not leave home for those five days notwithstanding the provisions of §62-11B-5 of this code: *And provided further*, That for any period of home incarceration ordered for a person convicted of a third or subsequent violation of this section, electronic monitoring shall be included for no fewer than 10 days of the total period of home confinement ordered and the offender may not leave home for those 10 days notwithstanding §62-11B-5 of this code.

(r) A person whose license to operate a motor vehicle has been revoked or suspended by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles pursuant to this section must complete a comprehensive safety and treatment program as set forth in §17C-5A-3 of this code before his or her license to operate a motor vehicle can be reinstated and his or her driving privileges restored.

(s) For any offense for which an alternative revocation period is permitted conditioned upon participation in the test and lock program, an alternative sentence may not be imposed without the consent of the driver.

(t) Upon entering the order of conviction for an offense under this section, or the imposition of conditional probation as provided in §17C-5-2b of this code, the clerk of the court shall immediately transmit the order to the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

(u) The amendments made to this section during the 2020 regular session of the Legislature shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

§17C-5-2a. Definition of phrase "in this state"; phrases synonymous with driving under the influence of alcohol; validation of warrants and indictments.

(a) For purposes of this article and §17C-5A-1 *et seq.* of this code, the phrase "in this state" shall mean anywhere within the physical boundaries of this state, including, but not limited to, publicly maintained streets and highways, and subdivision streets or other areas not publicly maintained but nonetheless open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel, but as used in §17C-5-2(e), §17C-5-2(f), §17C-5-2(g), §17C-5-2(h), §17C-5-2(i), §17C-5-2(j), and §17C-5-2(k) of this code, the term does not mean or include driving or operating a vehicle solely and exclusively on one's own property in an area not open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

(b) When used in this code, the terms or phrases "driving under the influence of intoxicating liquor", "driving or operating a motor vehicle while intoxicated", "for any person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor to drive any vehicle", or any similar term or phrase shall be construed to mean and be synonymous with the term or phrase "while under the influence of alcohol ... drives a vehicle" as the latter term or phrase is used in §17C-5-2 of this code.

(c) From and after the effective date of this section, a warrant or indictment which charges or alleges an offense, prohibited by §17C-5-2 of this code, and which warrant or indictment uses any of the terms or phrases set forth in subsection (b) of this section, shall not thereby be fatally defective if such warrant or indictment otherwise informs the person so accused of the charges against said person.

§17C-5-2b. Deferral of further proceedings for certain first offenses upon condition of participation in Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program; procedure on charge of violation of conditions.

(a) (1) Except as provided in subsection (f) of this section, the court, without entering a judgment of guilt and with the consent of the accused, shall defer further proceedings and impose probation, when:

(A) The person pleads to or is found guilty of the offense defined in §17C-5-2(e) of this code;

(B) The person has not previously been convicted of any offense under this article or under any statute of the United States or of any state relating to driving under the influence of alcohol, any controlled substance, or any other drug; and

(C) The person notifies the court within 30 days of his or her arrest of his or her intention to participate in a deferral pursuant to this section.

(2) If all the requirements in subdivision (1) of this subsection are met, the court, without entering a judgment of guilt, shall defer further proceedings and place the person on probation, the conditions of which shall include that he or she successfully completes the Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program as provided in §17C-5A-3a of this code. Participation therein shall be for a period of at least 165 days after a 15-day suspension of his or her license to operate a motor vehicle and shall be completed within one year thereafter.

(b) (1) If the prosecuting attorney files a motion alleging that the defendant during the period of the Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program has been removed therefrom by the Division of Motor Vehicles, or has failed to successfully complete the program before making a motion for dismissal pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the court may issue such process as is necessary to bring the defendant before the court.

(2) A motion alleging a violation filed pursuant in subdivision (1) of this subsection must be filed during the period of the Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program or, if filed thereafter, must be filed within a reasonable time after the alleged violation was committed.

(3) When the defendant is brought before the court, the court shall afford the defendant an opportunity to be heard.

If the court finds that the defendant has been rightfully removed from the Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program by the Division of Motor Vehicles, the court may order, when appropriate, that the deferral be terminated, and thereupon enter an adjudication of guilt and proceed as otherwise provided.

(4) Should the defendant fail to complete or be removed from the Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program, the defendant waives the appropriate statute of limitations and the defendant's right to a speedy trial under any applicable federal or state constitutional provisions, statutes, or rules of court during the period of enrollment in the program.

(c) When the defendant shall have completed satisfactorily the Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program and complied with its conditions, the defendant may move the court for an order dismissing the charges. This motion shall be supported by affidavit of the defendant and by certification of the Division of Motor Vehicles that the defendant has successfully completed the Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program. A copy of the motion shall be served on the prosecuting attorney who shall within 30 days after service advise the judge of any objections to the motion, serving a copy of such objections on the defendant or the defendant's attorney. If there are no objections filed within the 30-day period, the court shall thereafter dismiss the charges against the defendant. If there are objections filed with regard to the dismissal of charges, the court shall proceed as set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Except as provided herein, unless a defendant adjudicated pursuant to this subsection is convicted of a subsequent violation of this article, discharge and dismissal under this section shall be without adjudication of guilt and is not a conviction for purposes of disqualifications or disabilities imposed by law upon conviction of a crime, except for those provided in §17C-5A-1 *et seq.* of this code. Except as provided in §17C-5-2 of this code regarding

subsequent offenses, the effect of the dismissal and discharge shall be to restore the person in contemplation of law to the status he or she occupied prior to arrest and trial. No person as to whom a dismissal and discharge have been effected shall be thereafter held to be guilty of perjury, false swearing, or otherwise giving a false statement by reason of his or her failure to disclose or acknowledge his or her arrest or trial in response to any inquiry made of him or her for any purpose other than any inquiry made in connection with any subsequent offense as provided in §17C-5-2 of this code.

(e) There may be only one discharge and dismissal under this section with respect to any person.

(f) No person shall be eligible for dismissal and discharge under this section: (1) In any prosecution in which any violation of any other provision of this article has been charged; (2) if the person holds a commercial driver's license or operates commercial motor vehicles; (3) if the person has previously had his or her license to operate a motor vehicle revoked for any offense under a municipal ordinance of this state or any other state or a statute of the United States or of any other state which has the same elements as an offense described in this article; or (4) if a court entered an order finding that the person refused the secondary chemical test pursuant to §17C-5-7a of this code.

(g) (1) After a period of not less than one year, which shall begin to run immediately upon the expiration of a term of probation imposed upon any person under this section, the person may apply to the court for an order to expunge all official records of his or her arrest, trial, and conviction, pursuant to this section except for those maintained by the Division of Motor Vehicles: *Provided*, That any person who has previously been convicted of a felony may not make a motion for expungement pursuant to this section.

(2) If the prosecuting attorney objects to the expungement, the objections shall be filed with the court within 30 days after service of a motion for expungement,

and copies of the objections shall be served on the defendant or the defendant's attorney.

(3) If the objections are filed, the court shall hold a hearing on the objections, affording all parties an opportunity to be heard. If the court determines after a hearing that the person during the period of his or her probation and during the period of time prior to his or her application to the court under this subsection has not been guilty of any serious or repeated violation of the conditions of his or her probation, it shall order the expungement.

(h) A person prosecuted for an offense under §17C-5-2(e) of this code, whose case is disposed of pursuant to the provisions of this section, shall be required to pay the amount of court costs that could be assessed against a person convicted of the offense. Payment of such costs may be made a condition of probation. The costs assessed pursuant to this subsection, whether as a term of probation or not, shall be distributed as other court costs in accordance with §50-3-2 of this code; §14-2A-4 of this code; §30-29-4 of this code; and §62-5-2, §62-5-7, and §62-5-10 of this code.

(i) The amendments made to this section during the 2020 regular session of the Legislature shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

§17C-5-4. Implied consent to test; administration at direction of law-enforcement officer; designation of type of test; definition of "law-enforcement officer".

(a) Any person who drives a motor vehicle in this state is considered to have given his or her consent by the operation of the motor vehicle to a preliminary breath analysis and a secondary chemical test of either his or her blood or breath to determine the alcohol concentration in his or her blood, or the concentration in the person's body of a controlled substance, drug, or any combination thereof.

(b) A preliminary breath analysis may be administered in accordance with the provisions of §17C-5-5 of this code whenever a law-enforcement officer has reasonable cause to believe a person has committed an offense prohibited by §17C-5-2 of this code or by an ordinance of a municipality of this state which has the same elements as an offense described in §17C-5-2 of this code.

(c) A secondary test of blood or breath is incidental to a lawful arrest and is to be administered at the direction of the arresting law-enforcement officer having probable cause to believe the person has committed an offense prohibited by §17C-5-2 of this code or by an ordinance of a municipality of this state which has the same elements as an offense described in said section: *Provided*, That absent written consent of the person, a secondary test of blood may not be performed without issuance of a warrant signed by a magistrate or a circuit judge.

(d) The law-enforcement agency that employs the arresting law-enforcement officer shall designate the secondary tests to be administered. Notwithstanding §17C-5-7a of this code, the refusal to submit to a blood test only may not result in the revocation of the arrested person's license to operate a motor vehicle in this state.

(e) Any person to whom a preliminary breath test is administered who is arrested shall be advised verbally and given a written statement advising him or her of the following:

(1) That the person's refusal to submit to the secondary chemical test, designated pursuant to subsection (d) of this section, will result in the revocation of his or her license to operate a motor vehicle for a period of at least 45 days and up to life;

(2) That, if a designated secondary chemical test is taken, the results of the test may be used against him or her in court as evidence of violating §17C-5-2 of this code or an

ordinance of a municipality of this state which has the same elements as an offense described in said section; and

(3) That, if the person first submits to the requested secondary chemical test, the person has the right to have a test or tests of his or her blood performed as provided in §17C-5-9 of this code.

(f) Any law-enforcement officer who has been properly trained in the administration of any secondary chemical test authorized by this article, including, but not limited to, certification by the Bureau for Public Health in the operation of any equipment required for the collection and analysis of a breath sample, may conduct the test at any location in the county wherein the arrest is made: *Provided*, That the law-enforcement officer may conduct the test at the nearest available properly functioning secondary chemical testing device located outside the county in which the arrest was made, if: (1) There is no properly functioning secondary chemical testing device located within the county the arrest was made; or (2) there is no magistrate available within the county the arrest was made for the arraignment of the person arrested. A law-enforcement officer who is directing that a secondary chemical test be conducted has the authority to transport the person arrested to where the secondary chemical testing device is located.

(g) If the arresting officer lacks proper training in the administration of a secondary chemical test, then any other law-enforcement officer who has received training in the administration of the secondary chemical test to be administered may, upon the request of the arresting law-enforcement officer and in his or her presence, conduct the secondary test. The results of a test conducted pursuant to this subsection may be used in evidence to the same extent and in the same manner as if the test had been conducted by the arresting law-enforcement officer.

(h) Only the person actually administering or conducting a test conducted pursuant to this article is

competent to testify as to the results and the veracity of the test.

(i) (1) For the purpose of this article, the term "law-enforcement officer" or "police officer" means: (A) Any member of the West Virginia State Police; (B) any sheriff and any deputy sheriff of any county; (C) any member of a police department in any municipality as defined in §8-1-2 of this code; (D) any Natural Resources police officer of the Division of Natural Resources; and (E) any special police officer appointed by the Governor pursuant to the provisions of §61-3-41 of this code who has completed the course of instruction at a law-enforcement training academy as provided for under the provisions of §30-29-9 of this code.

(2) In addition to standards promulgated by the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction, pursuant to §30-29-3 of this code, governing the qualification of law-enforcement officers and the entry-level law-enforcement training curricula, the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction shall require the satisfactory completion of a minimum of not less than six hours of training in the recognition of impairment in drivers who are under the influence of controlled substances or drugs other than alcohol.

(3) In addition to standards promulgated by the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction, pursuant to §30-29-3 of this code, establishing standards governing in-service law-enforcement officer training curricula and in-service supervisory level training curricula, the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction shall require the satisfactory completion of a minimum of not less than six hours of training in the recognition of impairment in drivers who are under the influence of controlled substances or drugs other than alcohol.

(4) A law-enforcement officer who has not satisfactorily completed the minimum number of hours of training in the recognition of impairment in drivers who are under the influence of controlled substances or drugs other than alcohol, required by subdivisions (2) and (3) of this subsection, may not require any person to submit to secondary chemical test of his or her blood for the purposes of determining the concentration in the person's body of a controlled substance, drug, or any combination thereof.

(j) A law-enforcement officer who has reasonable cause to believe that a person has committed an offense prohibited by §20-7-18 of this code, relating to the operation of a motorboat, jet ski, or other motorized vessel, shall follow the provisions of this section when administering, or causing to be administered, a preliminary breath analysis and, incidental to a lawful arrest, a secondary chemical test of the accused person's blood or breath to determine the alcohol concentration in his or her blood, or the concentration in the person's body of a controlled substance, drug, or any combination thereof.

§17C-5-7. Refusal to submit to tests; revocation of license or privilege; consent not withdrawn if person arrested is incapable of refusal; hearing.

(a) If any person under arrest, as specified in §17C-5-4 of this code, refuses to submit to a secondary chemical test, the test shall not be given.

(b) Upon requesting that a person submit to the secondary test, designated pursuant to §17C-5-4 of this code, the person shall be given the written and verbal warnings set forth in §17C-5-4(e) of this code. After the person under arrest is given the required written and verbal warnings, the person shall have the opportunity to submit to, or refuse to submit to, the secondary test. A refusal to submit to the secondary test is considered final after 15 minutes have passed since the refusal: *Provided*, That during the 15 minutes following the refusal, the arresting

officers shall permit the person under arrest to revoke his or her refusal and shall provide the person with the opportunity to submit to the test upon request. After the 15 minutes have passed following a refusal to submit to the secondary test, the arresting officer has no further duty to provide the person with an opportunity to take the secondary test.

(c) The officer shall, within 48 hours of the refusal, sign and submit to the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles and the court having jurisdiction over the charge filed against the person pursuant to §17C-5-2 of this code, a written statement that: (1) He or she had probable cause to believe the person had been driving a motor vehicle in this state while under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or drugs; (2) the person was lawfully placed under arrest for an offense relating to driving a motor vehicle in this state while under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or drugs; (3) the person refused to submit to the secondary chemical test designated in the manner provided in §17C-5-4 of this code; and (4) the person was given the verbal warnings and the written statement required by subsection (b) of this section and §17C-5-4 of this code. An officer, by signing the statement required by this subsection, makes an oath or affirmation that the information contained in the statement is true and that any copy of the statement that he or she files is a true copy. The form for the written statement required by this section shall contain, upon its face, a warning to the officer signing that to willfully sign a statement containing false information is false swearing and is a misdemeanor.

(d) Any person who is unconscious or who is otherwise in a condition rendering him or her incapable of refusal shall be considered not to have withdrawn his or her consent for a test of his or her blood or breath as provided in §17C-5-4 of this code and the test may be administered although the person is not informed that his or her failure to submit to the test will result in the revocation of his or her license to

operate a motor vehicle in this state for the period provided for in this section.

(e) The amendments made to this section during the 2020 regular session of the Legislature shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

§17C-5-7a. Suspension of license to operate a motor vehicle for refusal of secondary test; refusal review hearing.

(a) For the purposes of this section, the term "refusal review hearing" refers to a hearing to review a person's alleged refusal to submit to a secondary chemical test, as documented in a statement submitted to the court by a law-enforcement officer pursuant to §17C-5-7 of this code.

(b) Effective July 1, 2020, the court shall enter an order finding that a person charged with a violation of §17C-5-2 of this code did refuse to submit to a secondary chemical test, as required by §17C-5-4 of this code, subject to the following:

(1) At the person's first appearance before the court, the court shall advise the person that his or her license to operate a motor vehicle shall be revoked for the applicable period provided in subsection (e) of this section, unless the person requests a refusal review hearing within the 30 days following the first appearance;

(2) If the person does not request a refusal review hearing within 30 days following the first appearance, the court shall enter an order finding that a person charged with a violation of §17C-5-2 of this code did refuse to submit to a secondary chemical test; and

(3) If the person requests a refusal review hearing within 30 days following the first appearance, the court shall conduct the review and enter the appropriate order, as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) *Refusal review hearing.* —

(1) The court shall schedule and conduct a refusal review hearing if the person, named in a statement submitted to the court by a law-enforcement officer pursuant to §17C-5-7, requests the hearing within 30 days following his or her first appearance before the court. During the refusal review hearing, the court shall review the statement documenting the person's refusal to submit to the secondary chemical test, along with any testimony or evidence presented by the person or law-enforcement officer during the hearing.

(2) Based on the hearing, the court shall enter an order finding that the person did refuse to submit to a secondary chemical test, if the court determines, by a preponderance of the evidence, that:

(A) The arresting law-enforcement officer had reasonable grounds to believe the arrested person had committed a violation of §17C-5-2 of this code;

(B) The law-enforcement officer requested the arrested person to submit to the chemical test or tests designated pursuant to §17C-5-4 of this code;

(C) At the time the test was requested, the law-enforcement officer administered the required written and verbal warnings required by §17C-5-4 and §17C-5-7 of this code; and

(D) The arrested person refused to submit to the chemical test or tests requested by the law-enforcement officer.

(3) If the court determines, by a preponderance of the evidence, that one or more of the required conditions listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection did not occur, the court shall enter an order finding that the person did not refuse to submit to the secondary chemical test. If the court enters such an order, the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles may not revoke the person's license to operate a

motor vehicle based on the alleged refusal to submit to a secondary chemical test.

(d) The clerk of the court in which the charges are pending shall immediately transmit any order entered pursuant to this section to the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles.

(e) Upon receipt of an order provided pursuant to this section finding that a person did refuse to submit to a secondary chemical test, the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall revoke the person's license to operate a motor vehicle as follows:

(1) For the first refusal to submit to the designated secondary chemical test, the commissioner shall enter an order revoking the person's license to operate a motor vehicle in this state for a period of one year or for a period of 45 days, with an additional one year of participation in the Motor Vehicle Alcohol Test and Lock Program in accordance with the provisions of §17C-5A-3a of this code.

(2) If the person's license to operate a motor vehicle has previously been revoked under the provisions of this section, the commissioner shall, for the refusal to submit to the designated secondary chemical test, enter an order revoking the person's license to operate a motor vehicle in this state for a period of 10 years: *Provided*, That the license may be reissued in five years in accordance with the provisions of §17C-5A-3 of this code.

(3) If the person's license to operate a motor vehicle has previously been revoked more than once under the provisions of this section, the commissioner shall, for the refusal to submit to the designated secondary chemical test, enter an order revoking the person's license to operate a motor vehicle in this state for a period of life.

(f) A copy of each order entered pursuant to this section shall be forwarded to the person by registered or certified

mail, return receipt requested, and shall contain the reasons for any revocation and shall specify the revocation period imposed pursuant to this section.

(g) A revocation ordered pursuant to this section shall run concurrently with the period of any suspension or revocation imposed in accordance with §17C-5A-2 of this code.

§17C-5-12. Report to the Legislature.

On or before December 31, 2020, the Bureau for Public Health shall submit to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance a report that includes the following:

(1) Recommendations for the minimum levels of those drugs or controlled substances contained in §17C-5-8(d) of this code, that must be present in a person's blood in order for the test to be admitted as prima facie evidence that the person was under the influence of a controlled substance or drug in a prosecution for the offense of driving a motor vehicle in this state; and

(2) Recommendations for the minimum levels of those drugs or controlled substances contained in §17C-5-8(d) of this code, that laboratories approved to test blood for drug or controlled substance content can reliably identify and measure for the concentrations of drugs, controlled substances and their metabolites, in blood.

ARTICLE 5A. ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR SUSPENSION AND REVOCATION OF LICENSES FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES, OR DRUGS.

§17C-5A-1. Report to be submitted to commissioner following arrest for driving under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or drugs or refusal to submit to secondary chemical test; report to the court.

(a) Any law-enforcement officer investigating a person for an offense described in §17C-5-2 of this code, or for an offense described in a municipal ordinance which has the same elements as an offense described in said section, shall report to the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles by written statement within 48 hours of the conclusion of the investigation the name and address of the person believed to have committed the offense. The report shall include the specific offense with which the person is charged and, if applicable, a copy of the results of any secondary tests of blood, breath, or urine. The signing of the statement required to be signed by this subsection constitutes an oath or affirmation by the person signing the statement that the statements contained in the statement are true and that any copy filed is a true copy. The statement shall contain upon its face a warning to the officer signing that to willfully sign a statement containing false information concerning any matter or thing, material or not material, is false swearing and is a misdemeanor.

(b) After receiving the report required by subsection (a) of this section, the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall immediately submit, to the court with jurisdiction over the criminal offense, a full and complete record of the following:

(1) Any prior suspensions or revocations of the person's license to operate a motor vehicle under §17C-5-2, §17C-5-2b, or §17C-5-7a of this code; or

(2) Any conviction or term of conditional probation imposed under a municipal ordinance of this state or any other state or a statute of the United States or of any other state of an offense which has the same elements as an offense described in §17C-5-2 of this code.

(c) The amendments made to this section during the 2020 regular session of the Legislature shall become effective on July 1, 2020.

§17C-5A-1a. Revocation upon conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or drugs.

(a) The Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall revoke or suspend a person's license to operate a motor vehicle in any of the following circumstances:

(1) The person is convicted of an offense defined in §17C-5-2 of this code, which requires a minimum period of revocation or suspension of the person's license to operate a motor vehicle, and the person does not appeal the conviction;

(2) The person is convicted of an offense described in a municipal ordinance which has the same elements as an offense defined in §17C-5-2 of this code, which requires a minimum period of revocation or suspension of the person's license to operate a motor vehicle for the offense with the same elements as the municipal ordinance, and the person does not appeal the conviction;

(3) The person has a term of conditional probation imposed pursuant to §17C-5-2b of this code;

(4) A court enters an order, pursuant to §17C-5-7a of this code, finding that the person did refuse to submit to a secondary chemical test; or

(5) The person is convicted of an offense, as provided in subdivision (1) or (2) of this subsection, the person appeals the conviction, and the conviction is affirmed by the highest appellate court in which an appeal in the matter is filed.

(b) The clerk of the court that has jurisdiction over a term of conditional probation or a conviction described in subsection (a) of this section shall forward to the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles the order imposing conditional probation or the judgment of conviction and any related transcripts. If the conviction is

the judgment of a magistrate court, the magistrate court clerk shall forward the order and any related transcript when the person convicted has not filed a notice of appeal within 20 days of the sentencing for such conviction. If the term of conditional probation is the act of a magistrate court, the magistrate court clerk shall forward the order and any related transcript when the order imposing the term of conditional probation is entered. If the conviction is the judgment of a mayor or police court judge or municipal court judge, the clerk or recorder shall forward the order and any related transcript when the person convicted has not filed a notice of appeal within 10 days from and after the date upon which the sentence is imposed. If the conviction is the judgment of a circuit court, the circuit clerk shall forward the transcript when the person convicted has not filed a notice of intent to file a petition for appeal or writ of error within 30 days after the judgment was entered.

(c) Upon receipt of an order of the court, as described in subsection (b) of this section, the commissioner shall make and enter an order revoking or suspending the person's license to operate a motor vehicle in this state as required by §17C-5-2, §17C-5-2b, or §17C-5-7a of this code. The order of the commissioner, revoking or suspending the license, shall contain the reasons for the revocation or suspension and the statutorily mandated revocation or suspension period for the offense or the suspension period required as a condition of probation.

(d) If a person receives an order of the commissioner suspending or revoking his or her license, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, and the person believes that he or she is not the person named in the commissioner's order, the person may notify the commissioner of the alleged error in writing. Upon receipt of this notification, the commissioner shall immediately review the contents of the judgment of conviction and the information provided by the person in question to determine whether or not the alleged error has been made. If the commissioner

determines that the alleged error has been made, the commissioner shall: (1) Immediately reverse the suspension or revocation made in error; and (2) take all necessary steps to correctly identify the person who should have been named in the order and suspend or revoke the license of the correctly identified person, as required by this section.

§17C-5A-2b. Administrative hearing, revocation, and review process terminated on July 1, 2020.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this code:

(1) The provisions of §17C-5A-2 of this code apply only to proceedings arising from offenses occurring on or before June 30, 2020; and

(2) The provisions of §17C-5A-2 of this code have no force or effect beginning on the date when the Office of Administrative Hearings terminates, pursuant to §17C-5C-1a of this code.

§17C-5A-3. Safety and treatment program; reissuance of license.

(a) The Division of Motor Vehicles shall administer a comprehensive safety and treatment program for persons whose licenses have been suspended or revoked under the provisions of §17B-3-5(6), §17C-5-2, §17C-5-2a, or §17C-5-7a of this code and shall also establish the minimum qualifications for mental health facilities, day report centers, community corrections centers, or other public agencies or private entities conducting the safety and treatment program: *Provided*, That the Division of Motor Vehicles may establish standards whereby the division will accept or approve participation by violators in another treatment program which provides the same or substantially similar benefits as the safety and treatment program established pursuant to this section.

(b) The program shall include, but not be limited to, treatment of alcoholism, treatment of alcohol and drug

abuse, psychological counseling, educational courses on the dangers of alcohol and drugs as they relate to driving, defensive driving, or other safety driving instruction, and other programs designed to properly educate, train, and rehabilitate the offender: *Provided*, That successful compliance with the substance abuse and counseling program prescribed in §61-11-26a of this code is sufficient to meet the requirements of this section.

(c) The Division of Motor Vehicles shall provide for the preparation of an educational and treatment program for each person whose license has been revoked under the provisions of §17B-3-5(6), §17C-5-2, §17C-5-2a, or §17C-5-7a of this code, which shall contain the following: (1) A listing and evaluation of the offender's prior traffic record; (2) the characteristics and history of alcohol or drug use, if any; (3) his or her amenability to rehabilitation through the alcohol safety program; and (4) a recommendation as to treatment or rehabilitation and the terms and conditions of the treatment or rehabilitation. The program shall be prepared by persons knowledgeable in the diagnosis of alcohol or drug abuse and treatment.

(d) A special revenue account is created within the State Treasury, known as the Division of Motor Vehicles Safety and Treatment Fund. The Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall manage and expend moneys from the account for the purpose of administering the comprehensive safety and treatment program established by subsection (a) of this section. The moneys in the account may be invested and all earnings and interest accruing shall be retained in the account. The Auditor shall conduct an audit of the account at least every three fiscal years.

(e) (1) The program provider shall collect the established fee from each participant upon enrollment unless the division has determined that the participant is an indigent based upon criteria established pursuant to legislative rule authorized in this section.

(2) If the division determined that a participant is an indigent based upon criteria established pursuant to the legislative rule authorized by this section, the department shall provide the participant with proof of its determination regarding indigency, which proof the participant shall present to the interlock provider as part of the application process provided in §17C-5A-3a of this code and the rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

(3) Program providers shall remit to the Division of Motor Vehicles a portion of the fee collected, which shall be deposited by the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles into the Division of Motor Vehicles Safety and Treatment Fund. The Division of Motor Vehicles shall reimburse enrollment fees to program providers for each eligible indigent offender.

(f) On or before January 15 of each year, the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall report to the Legislature on:

(1) The total number of offenders participating in the safety and treatment program during the prior year;

(2) The total number of indigent offenders participating in the safety and treatment program during the prior year;

(3) The total number of program providers during the prior year; and

(4) The total amount of reimbursements paid to program providers during the prior year.

(g) The Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles, after giving due consideration to the program developed for the offender, shall prescribe the necessary terms and conditions for the reissuance of the license to operate a motor vehicle in this state revoked under §17B-3-5(6), §17C-5-2, §17C-5-2a, or §17C-5-7a of this code which shall include successful completion of the

educational, treatment, or rehabilitation program, subject to the following:

(1) When the period of revocation is six months, the license to operate a motor vehicle in this state may not be reissued until: (A) At least 90 days have elapsed from the date of the initial revocation, during which time the revocation was actually in effect; (B) the offender has successfully completed the program; (C) all costs of the program and administration have been paid; and (D) all court costs assessed as a result of criminal proceedings have been paid.

(2) When the period of revocation is for a period of one year or for more than a year, the license to operate a motor vehicle in this state may not be reissued until: (A) At least one half of the time period has elapsed from the date of the initial revocation, during which time the revocation was actually in effect; (B) the offender has successfully completed the program; (C) all costs of the program and administration have been paid; and (D) all court costs assessed as a result of a criminal proceedings have been paid. Notwithstanding any provision in this code, a person whose license is revoked for refusing to take a chemical test as required by §17C-5-4 of this code for a first offense is not eligible to reduce the revocation period by completing the safety and treatment program.

(3) When the period of revocation is for life, the license to operate a motor vehicle in this state may not be reissued until: (A) At least 10 years have elapsed from the date of the initial revocation, during which time the revocation was actually in effect; (B) the offender has successfully completed the program; (C) all costs of the program and administration have been paid; and (D) all court costs assessed as a result of a criminal proceeding have been paid.

(4) Notwithstanding any provision of this code or any rule, any mental health facilities or other public agencies or private entities conducting the safety and treatment

program, when certifying that a person has successfully completed a safety and treatment program, shall only have to certify that the person has successfully completed the program.

(h) (1) The Division of Motor Vehicles shall provide for the preparation of an educational program for each person whose license has been suspended for 60 days pursuant to §17C-5-2(j) of this code. The educational program shall consist of not less than 12 nor more than 18 hours of actual classroom time.

(2) When a 60-day period of suspension has been ordered, the license to operate a motor vehicle may not be reinstated until: (A) At least 60 days have elapsed from the date of the initial suspension, during which time the suspension was in effect; (B) the offender has successfully completed the educational program; (C) all costs of the program and administration have been paid; and (D) all costs assessed as a result of a suspension hearing have been paid.

(i) As a component of the programs required by subsections (b) and (c) of this section, the offender shall attend a victim impact panel program. The victim impact panel program must provide a forum for victims of alcohol and drug-related offenses and offenders to share first-hand experiences on the impact of alcohol and drug-related offenses in their lives. The Division of Motor Vehicles shall propose and implement a plan for victim impact panels where appropriate numbers of victims are available and willing to participate and shall establish guidelines for other innovative programs which may be substituted where the victims are not available to participate in an impact panel. The plan shall require, at a minimum, discussion and consideration of the following:

(1) Economic losses suffered by victims and offenders;

(2) Death or physical injuries suffered by victims and offenders;

(3) Psychological injuries suffered by victims and offenders;

(4) Changes in the personal welfare or familial relationships of victims and offenders; and

(5) Other information relating to the impact of alcohol and drug-related offenses upon victims and offenders.

The Division of Motor Vehicles shall ensure that any meetings between victims and offenders shall be nonconfrontational and ensure the physical safety of the persons involved.

(j) The Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles shall propose a rule for legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to administer the provisions of this section and establish a fee to be collected from each offender enrolled in the safety and treatment program. The rule shall include: (A) A reimbursement mechanism to program providers of required fees for the safety and treatment program for indigent offenders, criteria for determining eligibility of indigent offenders, and any necessary application forms; and (B) program standards that encompass provider criteria including minimum professional training requirements for providers, curriculum approval, minimum course length requirements, and other items that may be necessary to properly implement the provisions of this section.

(k) A day report or community corrections program, authorized pursuant to §62-11C-1 *et seq.* of this code, may provide the comprehensive safety and treatment program pursuant to this section.

ARTICLE 5C. OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS.

§17C-5C-1a. Termination of Office of Administrative Hearings; transfer of jurisdiction.

(a) The Office of Administrative Hearings shall retain jurisdiction over appeals described in §17C-5C-3(3) of this code arising from offenses occurring on or before June 30, 2020. The Office of Administrative Hearings has no jurisdiction over appeals described in said subdivision arising from offenses occurring on or after July 1, 2020.

(b) Beginning on July 1, 2020, jurisdiction over appeals described in §17C-5C-3 of this code, except for those described in §17C-5C-3(3) of this code, shall be transferred to the circuit court for the circuit in which the event giving rise to the contested decision of the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles occurred.

(c) The Office of Administrative Hearings shall, in an orderly and efficient manner, dispose of all matters pending before it, subject to the following:

(1) If any appeal of a revocation or suspension order, described in §17C-5C-3(3) of this code, is pending before the office on or after July 1, 2021, the underlying revocation or suspension order shall be dismissed.

(2) If any appeal described in §17C-5C-3 of this code, except for an appeal described in §17C-5C-3(3) of this code, is pending before the Office of Administrative Hearings on or after July 1, 2021, the appeal shall be transferred to the circuit court described in subsection (b) of this section. For any appeal transferred pursuant to this subdivision, the circuit court shall adopt any existing records of evidence and proceedings in the Office of Administrative Hearings, conduct further proceedings as it considers necessary, and issue a final decision or otherwise dispose of the case pursuant to the provisions governing the judicial review of contested administrative cases in §29A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) Upon resolution of all matters pending before the Office of Administrative Hearings or on July 1, 2021, whichever occurs earlier, the Office of Administrative Hearings shall be terminated.

(e) The Secretary of the Department of Transportation may establish interim policies and procedures to aid in the orderly and efficient process during the disposition of remaining cases before the Office of Administrative Hearings during the phase-out period until termination.

CHAPTER 343

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 660 - By Senators Maynard, Roberts and Cline)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §17A-1-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §17B-1-1 of said code; to amend and reenact §17C-1-5a of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §17C-1-70; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §17C-11-8, all relating to electric bicycles; defining terms; excluding electric bicycles from registration, title, financial liability, and driver's license requirements; providing electric bicycle general use regulations; providing the operator of an electric bicycle has the same rights and duties as the operator of a bicycle; providing the use of an electric bicycle may be restricted by an entity having jurisdiction over a bicycle path or trail; and providing for helmet use requirements and class use restrictions for a person under 15 years of age.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 17A. MOTOR VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION, REGISTRATION, CERTIFICATE OF TITLE, AND ANTITHEFT PROVISIONS.

ARTICLE 1. WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED.

§17A-1-1. Definitions.

Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the following words and phrases, when used in this chapter, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this article:

(a) "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

(b) "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails.

(c) "Motorcycle" means every motor vehicle, including motor-driven cycles and mopeds as defined in §17C-1-5 and §17C-1-5a of this code, having a saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a tractor, and an electric bicycle as defined in §17C-1-70 of this code.

(d) "School bus" means every motor vehicle owned by a public governmental agency and operated for the transportation of children to or from school or privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school.

(e) "Bus" means every motor vehicle designed to carry more than seven passengers and used to transport persons; and every motor vehicle, other than a taxicab, designed and used to transport persons for compensation.

(f) "Truck tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily for drawing other vehicles and not constructed to carry a load other than a part of the weight of the vehicle and drawn load.

(g) "Farm tractor" means every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry.

(h) "Road tractor" means every motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained for drawing other vehicles and not constructed to carry any load thereon either independently or any part of the weight of a vehicle or drawn load.

(i) "Truck" means every motor vehicle designed, used, or maintained primarily for the transportation of property.

(j) "Trailer" means every vehicle with or without motive power designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that no part of its weight rests upon the towing vehicle but excluding recreational vehicles.

(k) "Semitrailer" means every vehicle with or without motive power designed for carrying persons or property and for being drawn by a motor vehicle and constructed so that some part of its weight and that of its load rests upon or is carried by another vehicle.

(l) "Pole trailer" means every vehicle without motive power designed to be drawn by another vehicle and attached to the towing vehicle by means of a reach, or pole, or by being boomed or otherwise secured to the towing vehicle and ordinarily used for transporting long or irregularly shaped loads such as poles, pipes, or structural members capable, generally, of sustaining themselves as beams between the supporting connections.

(m) "Specially constructed vehicles" means every vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder not originally constructed under a distinctive name, make,

model, or type by a generally recognized manufacturer of vehicles and not materially altered from its original construction.

(n) "Reconstructed vehicle" means every vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder materially altered from its original construction by the removal, addition, or substitution of essential parts, new or used.

(o) "Essential parts" means all integral and body parts of a vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder, the removal, alteration, or substitution of which would tend to conceal the identity of the vehicle or substantially alter its appearance, model, type, or mode of operation.

(p) "Foreign vehicle" means every vehicle of a type required to be registered hereunder brought into this state from another state, territory, or country other than in the ordinary course of business by or through a manufacturer or dealer and not registered in this state.

(q) "Implement of husbandry" means every vehicle which is designed for or adapted to agricultural purposes and used by the owner thereof primarily in the conduct of his or her agricultural operations, including, but not limited to, trucks used for spraying trees and plants: *Provided*, That the vehicle may not be let for hire at any time.

(r) "Special mobile equipment" means every self-propelled vehicle not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property and incidentally operated or moved over the highways, including, without limitation, road construction or maintenance machinery, ditch-digging apparatus, stone crushers, air compressors, power shovels, graders, rollers, well drillers, wood-sawing equipment, asphalt spreaders, bituminous mixers, bucket loaders, ditchers, leveling graders, finishing machines, motor graders, road rollers, scarifiers, earth-moving carryalls, scrapers, drag lines, rock-drilling equipment, and earth-moving equipment. The foregoing enumeration in this

subdivision is partial and may not operate to exclude other vehicles which are within the general terms of this subdivision.

(s) "Pneumatic tire" means every tire in which compressed air is designed to support the load.

(t) "Solid tire" means every tire of rubber or other resilient material which does not depend upon compressed air for the support of the load.

(u) "Metal tire" means every tire the surface of which in contact with the highway is wholly or partly of metal or other hard, nonresilient material.

(v) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles of this state.

(w) "Division" means the Division of Motor Vehicles of this state acting directly or through its duly authorized officers and agents.

(x) "Person" means every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation.

(y) "Owner" means a person who holds the legal title to a vehicle, or in the event a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or in the event a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then the conditional vendee or lessee or mortgagor shall be considered the owner for the purpose of this chapter.

(z) "Nonresident" means every person who is not a resident of this state.

(aa) "Dealer" or "dealers" is a general term meaning, depending upon the context in which used, either a new motor vehicle dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, factory-

built home dealer, recreational vehicle dealer, trailer dealer or motorcycle dealer, as defined in §17A-6-1* of this code, or all of the dealers or a combination thereof and, in some instances, a new motor vehicle dealer or dealers in another state.

(bb) "Registered dealer" or "registered dealers" is a general term meaning, depending upon the context in which used, either a new motor vehicle dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, house trailer dealer, trailer dealer, recreational vehicle dealer, or motorcycle dealer, or all of the dealers or a combination thereof, licensed under the provisions of §17A-6-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(cc) "Licensed dealer" or "licensed dealers" is a general term meaning, depending upon the context in which used, either a new motor vehicle dealer, used motor vehicle dealer, house trailer dealer, trailer dealer, recreational vehicle dealer, or motorcycle dealer, or all of the dealers or a combination thereof, licensed under the provisions of §17A-6-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(dd) "Transporter" means every person engaged in the business of delivering vehicles of a type required to be registered hereunder from a manufacturing, assembling, or distributing plant to dealers or sales agents of a manufacturer.

(ee) "Manufacturer" means every person engaged in the business of constructing or assembling vehicles of a type required to be registered hereunder at a place of business in this state which is actually occupied either continuously or at regular periods by the manufacturer where his or her books and records are kept and a large share of his or her business is transacted.

(ff) "Street" or "highway" means the entire width between boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

***NOTE:** Correction of apparent word to number translation error.

(gg) "Motorboat" means any vessel propelled by an electrical, steam, gas, diesel, or other fuel-propelled or -driven motor, whether or not the motor is the principal source of propulsion, but may not include a vessel which has a valid marine document issued by the bureau of customs of the United States government or any federal agency successor thereto.

(hh) "Motorboat trailer" means every vehicle designed for or ordinarily used for the transportation of a motorboat.

(ii) "All-terrain vehicle" (ATV) means any motor vehicle designed for off-highway use and designed to travel on not less than three low-pressure or nonhighway tires, is 50 inches or less in width and intended by the manufacturer to be used by a single operator or is specifically designed by the manufacturer with seating for each passenger. "All-terrain vehicle" and "ATV" does not include mini trucks, golf carts, riding lawnmowers, electric bicycles as defined in §17C-1-70 of this code, or tractors.

(jj) "Travel trailer" means every vehicle, mounted on wheels, designed to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use of such size or weight as not to require special highway movement permits when towed by a motor vehicle and of gross trailer area less than 400 square feet.

(kk) "Fold-down camping trailer" means every vehicle consisting of a portable unit mounted on wheels and constructed with collapsible partial sidewalls which fold for towing by another vehicle and unfold at the camp site to provide temporary living quarters for recreational, camping, or travel use.

(ll) "Motor home" means every vehicle, designed to provide temporary living quarters, built into an integral part of or permanently attached to a self-propelled motor vehicle, chassis or van including: (1) Type A motor home built on an incomplete truck chassis with the truck cab

constructed by the second stage manufacturer; (2) Type B motor home consisting of a van-type vehicle which has been altered to provide temporary living quarters; and (3) Type C motor home built on an incomplete van or truck chassis with a cab constructed by the chassis manufacturer.

(mm) "Snowmobile" means a self-propelled vehicle intended for travel primarily on snow and driven by a track or tracks in contact with the snow and steered by a ski or skis in contact with the snow.

(nn) "Recreational vehicle" means a motorboat, motorboat trailer, all-terrain vehicle, travel trailer, fold-down camping trailer, motor home, or snowmobile.

(oo) "Mobile equipment" means every self-propelled vehicle not designed or used primarily for the transportation of persons or property over the highway but which may infrequently or incidentally travel over the highways among job sites, equipment storage sites, or repair sites, including farm equipment, implements of husbandry, well drillers, cranes, and wood-sawing equipment.

(pp) "Factory-built home" includes mobile homes, house trailers, and manufactured homes.

(qq) "Manufactured home" has the same meaning as the term is defined in §21-9-2* of this code which meets the federal Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U. S. C.§5401, *et seq.*), effective on June 15, 1976, and the federal manufactured home construction and safety standards and regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.

(rr) "Mobile home" means a transportable structure that is wholly, or in substantial part, made, fabricated, formed, or assembled in manufacturing facilities for installation or assembly and installation on a building site and designed for long-term residential use and built prior to enactment of the

***NOTE:** Correction of apparent word to number translation error.

federal Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act of 1974 (42 U. S. C.§5401, *et seq.*), effective on June 15, 1976, and usually built to the voluntary industry standard of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) — A119.1 standards for mobile homes.

(ss) "House trailers" means all trailers designed and used for human occupancy on a continual nonrecreational basis but may not include fold-down camping and travel trailers, mobile homes, or manufactured homes.

(tt) "Parking enforcement vehicle" means a motor vehicle which does not fit into any other classification of vehicle in this chapter, has three or four wheels, and is designed for use in an incorporated municipality by a city, county, state, or other governmental entity primarily for parking enforcement or other governmental purposes with an operator area with sides permanently enclosed with rigid construction and a top which may be convertible, sealed beam headlights, turn signals, brake lights, horn, at least one rearview mirror on each side, and such other equipment that will enable it to pass a standard motorcycle vehicle inspection.

(uu) "Low-speed vehicle" means a four-wheeled motor vehicle whose attainable speed in one mile on a paved level surface is more than 20 miles per hour but not more than 25 miles per hour.

(vv) "Utility terrain vehicle" means any motor vehicle with four or more low-pressure or nonhighway tires designed for off-highway use and is greater than 50 inches in width. "Utility terrain vehicle" does not include mini trucks, golf carts, riding lawnmowers, or tractors.

CHAPTER 17B. MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSES.

ARTICLE 1. WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED.

§17B-1-1. Definitions.

The following words and phrases when used in this chapter, for the purpose of this chapter, have the meanings respectively ascribed to them in this article:

Autocycle. — Every fully or partially enclosed motorcycle that is equipped with safety belts, rollover protection, a rearview mirror, automotive seating, a steering wheel, and equipment otherwise required on a motorcycle and which has no more than three wheels in contact with the roadway at any one time.

Cancellation. — Means that a driver's license is annulled and terminated because of some error or defect or because the licensee is no longer entitled to that license, but the cancelation of a license is without prejudice and application for a new license may be made at any time after the cancellation.

Chauffeur. — Every person who is employed by another for the principal purpose of driving a motor vehicle and every person who drives a school bus transporting school children or any motor vehicle when in use for the transportation of persons or property for compensation.

Commissioner. — The Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles of this state.

Division. — The Division of Motor Vehicles of this state acting directly or through its duly authorized officers or agents.

Driver. — Means any person who drives, operates, or is in physical control of a motor vehicle, in any place open to the general public for purposes of vehicular traffic, or who is required to hold a driver's license.

Driver's license. — Means any permit or license issued by this state to a person which authorizes the person to drive a motor vehicle of a specific class or classes subject to any restriction or endorsement contained thereon.

Farm tractor. — Every motor vehicle designed and used primarily as a farm implement for drawing plows, mowing machines, and other implements of husbandry.

Motorcycle. — Every motor vehicle having a seat or saddle for the use of the rider and designed to travel on not more than three wheels in contact with the ground, but excluding a farm tractor as defined in this section, a moped as defined in §17C-1-5a of this code, a snowmobile as defined in §17A-1-1(mm) of this code, an all-terrain vehicle as defined in §17A-1-1(ii) of this code, and an electric bicycle as defined in §17C-1-70 of this code.

Motor vehicle. — Every vehicle which is self-propelled and every vehicle which is propelled by electric power obtained from overhead trolley wires, but not operated upon rails.

9-1-1 system. — Means an emergency telephone system or enhanced emergency telephone system as defined in §24-6-2 of this code.

Nonresident. — Every person who is not a resident of this state.

Operator. — Every person, other than a chauffeur, who drives or is in actual physical control of a motor vehicle upon a highway or who is exercising control over or steering a vehicle being towed by a motor vehicle.

Owner. — A person who holds the legal title of a vehicle or in the event a vehicle is the subject of an agreement for the conditional sale or lease thereof with the right of purchase upon performance of the conditions stated in the agreement and with an immediate right of possession vested in the conditional vendee or lessee, or if a mortgagor of a vehicle is entitled to possession, then the conditional vendee or lessee or mortgagor is the owner for the purpose of this chapter.

Person. — Every natural person, firm, copartnership, association, or corporation.

Revocation. — Means that the driver's license and privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways are terminated and shall not be renewed or restored, except that an application for a new license may be presented and acted upon by the division after the expiration of at least one year after the date of revocation, except as otherwise provided in §17C-5A-2 of this code.

School bus. — Every motor vehicle owned by a public governmental agency and operated for the transportation of children to or from school or privately owned and operated for compensation for the transportation of children to or from school.

Street or highway. — The entire width between the boundary lines of every way publicly maintained when any part thereof is open to the use of the public for purposes of vehicular travel.

Suspension. — Suspension means that the driver's license and privilege to drive a motor vehicle on the public highways are temporarily withdrawn but only during the period of the suspension.

Vehicle. — Every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a public highway, excepting devices moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks.

Wireless communication device. — Means a handheld device used to access a wireless telephone service or a text messaging device.

CHAPTER 17C. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS AND LAWS OF THE ROAD.

ARTICLE 1. WORDS AND PHRASES DEFINED.

§17C-1-5a. Moped.

"Moped" means every motorcycle or motor-driven cycle unless otherwise specified in this chapter, which is equipped with two or three wheels, foot pedals to permit muscular propulsion, and an independent power source providing a maximum of two-brake horsepower, but excludes electric bicycles as defined in §17C-1-70 of this code. If a combustion engine is used, the maximum piston or rotor displacement shall be 50 cubic centimeters regardless of the number of chambers in the power source. The power source shall be capable of propelling the vehicle, unassisted, at a speed not to exceed 30 miles per hour on a level road surface and shall be equipped with a power drive system that functions directly or automatically only, not requiring clutching or shifting by the operator after the drive system is engaged.

§17C-1-70. Electric bicycles; definitions.

"Class 1 electric bicycle" means every electric bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 20 miles per hour.

"Class 3 electric bicycle" means every bicycle equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling, and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches the speed of 28 miles per hour.

"Electric bicycle" means every two-wheel or three-wheel bicycle equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts that is a Class 1 electric bicycle or a Class 3 electric bicycle.

ARTICLE 11. OPERATION OF BICYCLES, ELECTRIC BICYCLES, AND PLAY VEHICLES.

§17C-11-8. Electric bicycles; requirements; exclusions; age restrictions.

(a) The operator of an electric bicycle has all of the rights and privileges and is subject to all of the duties applicable to the driver of a vehicle subject to this chapter, except as otherwise provided by this section and except as to those provisions of this chapter which by their nature can have no application.

(b) A person owning or operating an electric bicycle is not subject to the provisions of §17A-1-1 *et seq.*, §17B-1-1 *et seq.*, or §17D-1-1 *et seq.* of this code, relating to registration, title, driver's license, and financial responsibility requirements.

(c) A person may not tamper with or modify an electric bicycle so as to change the motor-powered speed capability or motor engagement between pedal-assist and throttle-assist types of engagement. If a motor on an electric bicycle is modified so that a limit established in §17C-1-70 of this code is exceeded, that vehicle is no longer an electric bicycle. The provisions of this subsection are not applicable to a modified electric bicycle operated solely and exclusively on a person's own property.

(d) An electric bicycle must comply with the equipment and manufacturing requirements for bicycles adopted by the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (16 C.F.R. Part 1512).

(e) The motor on an electric bicycle must disengage or cease to propel the electric bicycle when the operator stops pedaling, or when the operator applies the brakes and stops pedaling.

(f) A Class 3 electric bicycle must be equipped with a speedometer that displays the speed the electric bicycle is traveling in miles per hour.

(g) Electric bicycles operated on public roadways, public bicycle paths, public multiuse paths, and other public rights-of-way where bicycles are permitted to travel are subject to the following restrictions:

(1) A Class 1 electric bicycle may be used in places where bicycles are permitted to travel, including, but not limited to, public roadways, public bicycle paths, public multiuse trails, and public single-use trails.

(2) A Class 3 electric bicycle may not be operated on a bicycle path, multiuse trail, or single-use trail unless it is within a highway or roadway: *Provided*, That the provisions of this subdivision are not applicable to a bicycle path, multiuse trail, or single-use trail if the municipality, local authority, or governing body of a state agency that has jurisdiction over the bicycle path, multiuse trail, or single-use trail expressly permits that operation.

(3) This subsection may not be construed to limit the authority of the owner of a private way or the owner of private property to restrict or allow the operation of electric bicycles on the way or property.

(h) Age restrictions related to the operation of electric bicycles are as follows:

(1) A person under 16 years of age may not operate a Class 3 electric bicycle;

(2) A person under 15 years of age may only be a passenger on a Class 3 electric bicycle, including as a passenger within any attachment to the vehicle designed to transport an additional person, including a child, provided the operator of the electric bicycle is 18 years of age or older; and

(3) A person under 15 years of age who is an operator or passenger on an electric bicycle shall wear a properly fitted and fastened bicycle helmet, pursuant to the Child Bicycle Safety Act, §17C-11A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(i) A person under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances shall not operate a Class 1 or Class 3 electric bicycle.

CHAPTER 344

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 4666 - By Delegates Byrd, Nelson, Capito, Pushkin, Queen, Skaff, Rowe and Rohrbach)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §8-27-23 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to competitive bids for intergovernmental relations and urban mass transportation systems; increasing the contract sum that requires competitive bidding; and providing that competitive bidding is not required by certain urban transit authorities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 27. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS — URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS.

§8-27-23. Competitive bids; publication of solicitation for sealed bids.

(a) Any contract for the construction of facilities by any authority, when the expenditure required exceeds the sum of $25,000, shall be based solely on competitive sealed bids.

(b) Except as provided in subsections (c) or (d) of this section, the procurement of all supplies, equipment and materials, where the expenditure required exceeds the sum of $25,000, shall be based on the competitive procedure that is best suited under the circumstances of the procurement.

(c) In determining the competitive bid procedure that is best suited under the circumstances, an authority shall conduct:

(1) Competitive sealed bidding if:

(A) Time permits a competitive bid process to be used;

(B) The award of the bid will be made primarily on price and price-related factors;

(C) It is likely to be unnecessary to conduct discussions with suppliers regarding bids, including discussions regarding price; and

(D) There is a reasonable expectation of receiving more than one sealed bid; or

(2) Competitive negotiation where competitive sealed bidding is not best suited under the circumstances.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section, an authority may provide for the procurement of property or services covered by this section using other than competitive procedures only when:

(1) The property or services needed are available only from one responsible source and no other type of property or service will satisfy the authority's needs;

(2) The authority's need for the property or service is urgent, unusual and compelling because the authority would be seriously injured unless the authority is permitted to limit the number of sources from which it solicits;

(3) It is necessary to award a contract to a particular source or sources in order to maintain a facility, producer, manufacturer or other supplier in case of emergency;

(4) It is necessary to establish or maintain an alternative source or sources of supply for the property or service to increase or maintain competition; or

(5) The authority is using the Federal Transit Administration Third Party Procurement Guidance circular, as may be amended by the Federal Transit Administration,

when spending federal appropriations as a designated recipient of 49 U.S.C. §5307 and 49 U.S.C. §5340 - Urbanized Area Formula Appropriations - to finance its procurements or contracts.

(e) All sealed bids or competitive negotiated proposals received in response to a solicitation or request for bid may be rejected if an authority determines that the action is in the public interest.

(f) Sealed bids shall be opened publicly at the time and place stated in the solicitation and the authority shall evaluate the bids without discussions with bidders and award a contract with reasonable promptness to the responsible source whose bid conforms to the solicitation and is most advantageous to the authority, considering only price and other price-related factors included in the solicitation.

(g) The evaluation of competitive proposals may include written or oral discussions conducted with all responsible bidders or suppliers at any time after receipt of the proposals and before the award or may be made without discussions. In either event, the award shall be made to the lowest responsible bidder or supplier.

(h) Adequate public notice of the solicitation of bids and proposals shall be given. Public notice shall be given not less than seven days before the date set for bid opening or, in the case of competitive negotiation, not less than seven days before the due date for receipt of proposals: *Provided*, That bids for the construction of facilities shall be obtained by public notice published as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, with the publication being made at least 14 days before the final date for submitting bids.

CHAPTER 345

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 551 - By Senators Smith, Clements, Jeffries, Sypolt, Hamilton, Romano, Lindsay and Woelfel)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §8-12-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §24-2-4g, all relating generally to the Water and Wastewater Investment and Infrastructure Improvement Act to encourage investment in water and wastewater utilities; describing and expanding permissible uses for proceeds of a sale or lease of a municipal utility; making legislative findings; providing for use of negotiated sales price in certain filings; providing for rate based addition using negotiated sales price under certain circumstances; providing for additional approvals under certain circumstances; specifying preliminary agreements and commitments not requiring prior approval; authorizing the Public Service Commission to combine water and wastewater revenue requirements or allocate a portion of wastewater revenue requirement to water customers under certain circumstances; and setting forth defined terms.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 12. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC POWERS, DUTIES AND ALLIED RELATIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES, GOVERNING BODIES AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, SUITS AGAINST MUNICIPALITIES.

***§8-12-17. Sale or lease of municipal public utility.**

In any case where a municipality owns a gas system, an electric system, a waterworks system, a sewer system, or other public utility and a majority of not less than 60 percent of the members of the governing body thereof shall deem it for the best interest of such municipality that such utility be sold or leased, the governing body may so sell or lease such gas system, electric system, waterworks system, sewer system, or other public utility upon such terms and conditions as said governing body in its discretion considers in the best interest of the municipality: *Provided*, That such sale or lease may be made only upon: (1) The publication of notice of a hearing before the governing body of the municipality, as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, in a newspaper published and of general circulation in the municipality, such publication to be made not earlier than 20 days and not later than seven days prior to the hearing; and (2) the approval by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. The governing body, upon the approval of the sale or lease by a majority of its members of not less than 60 percent of the members of the governing body, shall have full power and authority to proceed to execute or effect such sale or lease in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed in the ordinance approved as aforesaid, and shall have power to do any and all things necessary or incident thereto: *Provided, however*, That if at any time after such approval and before the execution of the authority under the ordinance, any person should present to the governing body an offer to buy such public utility at a price which exceeds by at least five percent the sale price which shall have been so approved and authorized or to lease the same upon terms which the governing body, in its discretion, shall consider more advantageous to the municipality than the terms of the lease which shall have been previously approved as aforesaid, the governing body shall have the power to accept such subsequent offer, and to

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***NOTE:** This section was also amended by S. B. 739 (Chapter 347), which passed prior to this act.

make such sale or such lease to the person making the offer, upon approval of the offer by a majority of not less than 60 percent of the members of the governing body; but, if a sale shall have been approved by the governing body as aforesaid, and the subsequent proposition be for a lease, or, if a lease shall have been approved by the governing body, and the subsequent proposition shall be for a sale, the governing body shall have the authority to accept the same upon approval of the offer by a majority of not less than 60 percent of the members of the governing body. The person making such proposition shall furnish bond, with security to be approved by the governing body, in a penalty of not less than 25 percent of such proposed bid, conditioned to carry such proposition into execution, if the same shall be approved by the governing body. In any case where any such public utility shall be sold or leased by the governing body as hereinabove provided, no part of the moneys derived from such sale or lease shall be applied to the payment of current expenses of the municipality, but the proceeds of such sale or lease shall be applied in payment and discharge of any indebtedness created in respect to such public utility, and in case there be no indebtedness, the governing body, in its discretion, shall have the power and authority to expend all such moneys when received for the purchase or construction of firefighting equipment and buildings for housing such equipment, a municipal building or city hall, and the necessary land upon which to locate the same, for capital investments in public works projects, vehicles and equipment, including without limitation law-enforcement vehicles and equipment, for the demolition of dilapidated and abandoned buildings, for the construction of paved streets, avenues, roads, alleys, ways, sidewalks, sewers, stormwater systems, floodwalls, and other like permanent improvements, for fulfilling municipal pension and other post-employment benefit obligations, for reducing taxes, and for no other purposes. In case there be a surplus after the payment of such indebtedness, the surplus shall be used as aforesaid.

The requirements of this section shall not apply to the sale or lease of any part of the properties of any such public utility determined by the governing body to be unnecessary for the efficient rendering of the service of such utility.

CHAPTER 24. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

§24-2-4g. Establishing the value of utility assets in the context of the acquisition of a utility or utility assets and providing for the combination or allocation of water and wastewater revenue requirements.

(a) The Legislature finds that:

(1) Many West Virginia publicly owned municipal, public service district-owned, and investor-owned water and wastewater utilities face substantial capital investment needs to replace aging utility infrastructure and to maintain compliance with regulatory requirements, and many municipalities that own and operate utility systems are confronted with additional financial challenges arising from diminishing tax bases, the need to repair streets and other municipally owned facilities, and unfunded or underfunded liabilities for pension and other post-employment benefit programs;

(2) Given these challenges, some of these utilities may be unable to continue to provide acceptable levels of utility service at reasonable rates, and may wish to consider the sale of their utility assets, and this decision will require those utilities to consider the expected valuation of their utility assets, the manner in which the post-acquisition rates of their customers will be established and moderated, and the purposes to which the proceeds of any sale of utility assets by a municipality may be devoted under state law;

(3) For utilities considering the sale of their utility assets, a valuation of the utility assets that is primarily based

on the original cost of those assets less depreciation and less the value of contributed property will: (A) Understate the actual fair value of those assets to an acquiring party; (B) fail to account for potential income that could be generated from those assets; (C) reduce the financial benefit to utilities considering selling those assets; and (D) thereby disincentivize those utilities from selling those assets;

(4) To assist utilities considering the sale of their utility assets in making informed decisions on whether to sell their utility assets, the commission will permit acquiring and selling parties to negotiate a value for those assets, permit the acquiring party to include the negotiated sale price of the assets in post-acquisition rate base for rate-making purposes, and make its post-acquisition rate-base determination based on the valuation approach specified in this section;

(5) To assist utilities that provide both water and wastewater utility service in moderating the rate impact of wastewater service investment on wastewater system customers, it is appropriate to authorize the combination of water and wastewater revenue requirements or the allocation of a portion of a wastewater revenue requirement to water customers if such a combination or allocation is just and reasonable and results in water and wastewater rates that are based primarily on the cost of providing service;

(6) Expanding the permissible uses by a municipality of the proceeds of a sale of utility assets as provided for in §8-12-17 of this code will also facilitate and encourage a municipality's ability to sell its utility assets, should it choose to do so; and

(7) The enactment of these regulatory improvements will facilitate the repair and replacement of utility infrastructure by improving access to investment capital and moderating the rate impact to customers of investments in utility infrastructure, and thereby enhancing the state of water and wastewater utility infrastructure assets and the

service provided by those assets, all of which are in the best interest of West Virginia and its citizens.

(b) *Value of utility assets; rate-base addition; ancillary approvals.* —

(1) In any case filed pursuant to §24-2-12 of this code seeking the commission's prior consent and approval of the acquisition by an acquiring utility of the utility assets of a selling utility, the applicants may propose a negotiated sale price for the utility assets that is in accordance with utility asset valuation methodologies, such as depreciated original cost, or reproduction cost new less depreciation, or other industry standard utility asset valuation methods, excluding the use of fair market appraisal valuation methods: *Provided*, That the applicants will present evidence of those asset values in the application: *Provided, however*, That the utility asset valuation methodologies and definitions referenced in §24-2-4g(d) of this code apply solely to cases filed pursuant to chapter 24 of this code.

(2) If the commission finds that the proposed acquisition, including the negotiated sale price, satisfies the requirements for approval in §24-2-12 of this code, including a finding that the terms and conditions of the acquisition are reasonable and that neither party thereto is given an undue advantage over the other, and does not adversely affect the public in this state, then the commission will establish the rate based addition at the negotiated sale price, as determined and in accordance with subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) In its order granting, denying, or modifying the relief requested in an application described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commission may also approve any rate stabilization plan, tariff change or provision, or surcharge mechanism proposed by the applicants and that the commission finds reasonable in view of the proposed transaction and the acquiring utility's proposed post-acquisition improvements to the utility assets.

(4) In any application described in subdivision (1) of this subsection, the commission will issue a final order granting, denying, or granting in part and denying in part the relief requested in the application.

(5) Nothing in this section or §24-2-12 of this code requires an acquiring utility or a selling utility to obtain the prior consent and approval of the commission to enter into agreements or undertake commitments incident to the negotiation, due diligence, or finalization of an agreement to purchase and sell utility assets, including, without limitation, agreements and commitments relating to:

(A) The exclusivity of negotiations for a defined period;

(B) The confidentiality of negotiations and nondisclosure of facts relevant to the negotiations;

(C) The payment of transaction costs as between the parties, the reimbursement of those costs upon closing of an acquisition of utility assets, or the allocation of costs in the event the acquisition is not consummated;

(D) The acquiring utility's completion of post-acquisition additions or improvements to the utility assets or its commitments as to post-acquisition rates and charges for utility service; or

(E) Any other commercial term reasonably necessary to facilitate the negotiation, due diligence, or finalization of the purchase and sale agreement.

(c) *Request for revenue requirement combination or allocation.* —

(1) A single utility that provides both water and wastewater utility services may request a combination of the revenue requirements of the water and wastewater utility services or an allocation of a portion of the wastewater revenue requirement to water customers. Such a request may be made as a separate filing with the commission or as

part of a base rate case, a tariff filing, a statutory consent case under §24-2-12 of this code, or another proceeding before the commission.

(2) If the commission finds that a combination or allocation requested under subdivision (1) of this subsection: (A) Will enable the acquisition and construction of wastewater infrastructure improvements or compliance with regulatory requirements at a more moderate rate impact for wastewater customers; and (B) will result in a combined water and wastewater rate, or separate water and wastewater rates that are just, reasonable, and based primarily on the cost of providing service, then the commission may authorize the utility to implement the combination or allocation, subject to such modifications as the commission may determine to be appropriate.

(d) *Definitions.* — The following words and phrases when used in this section will have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

(1) "Acquiring utility" means: (A) A water, sewer, or stormwater utility subject to the provisions of this chapter that has entered into an agreement with a selling utility to acquire utility assets of the selling utility; or (B) any person or business entity that has entered into such an agreement and that, upon commission approval of the acquisition of those utility assets, will become a water, sewer, or stormwater utility subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(2) "Depreciated original cost" means the original cost of utility assets net of accumulated depreciation.

(3) "Negotiated sale price" means the purchase price of utility assets that the acquiring utility and the selling utility agree upon through voluntary, arm's-length negotiations.

(4) "Original sources of funding" means all methods used to fund the utility assets, including, but not limited to,

loan funding, grant funding, and property otherwise contributed to the utility.

(5) "Rate-base addition" means the dollar amount of utility rate base associated with the utility assets that the acquiring utility may include in the calculation of its post-acquisition rate base for rate-making purposes.

(6) "Reproduction cost new less depreciation" means an estimate of the cost to construct, at current prices, an exact duplicate or replica of the utility assets, without regard to the original sources of funding for those assets, using the same materials, construction standards, design, layout, and quality without adjustment for deficiencies, super-adequacies, and obsolescence of those assets, net of depreciation.

(7) "Selling utility" means a water, sewer, or stormwater utility subject to the provisions of this chapter that has entered into an agreement to sell utility assets to an acquiring utility.

(8) "Utility assets" or "assets" mean all or substantially all of the tangible and intangible assets of a selling utility that: (A) The selling utility has used in the provision of utility service or held for the future provision of such service; and (B) the acquiring utility will reasonably require to provide utility service after the acquisition to facilitate its plans for the provision of utility service after the acquisition.

(9) "Utility asset valuation" means industry standard valuation methods of determining the value of utility assets, regardless of original sources of funding.

(e) This section, together with the amendments to §8-12-17 of this code, made during the 2020 regular session of the West Virginia Legislature, shall be known and referred to as the Water and Wastewater Investment Facilitation Act.

CHAPTER 346

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 589 - By Senators Prezioso, Baldwin, Beach, Facemire, Hardesty, Ihlenfeld, Jeffries, Lindsay, Palumbo, Plymale, Romano, Stollings, Unger and Woelfel)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §31-15A-17c, relating to critical needs in state water and sewer systems; creating a Critical Needs/Failing Systems Sub Account; funding the sub account with excess uncommitted loan balances; authorizing loans or grants to address a critical immediate need of water or sewer services; and exempting the sub account from certain grant limitations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 15A. WEST VIRGINIA INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

§31-15A-17c. Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account.

Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary:

(a) The Water Development Authority shall establish a separate and segregated sub account in the Infrastructure Fund designated the Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account into which the council may instruct the Water Development Authority to transfer from the uncommitted

loan balances for each congressional district on June 30 each year up to $4 million per congressional district.

(b) The council shall direct the Water Development Authority to make loans or grants from the Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account when the council determines that a project will address a critical immediate need by:

(1) The continuation of water or wastewater services;

(2) Addressing water facility or wastewater facility failure due to the age of the facility or facilities; or

(3) Providing extensions to a water facility or wastewater facility that will add customers with a total project cost of less than $1 million.

(c) Grant limitations and allocations contained in §31-15A-10(b) and §31-15A-10(c) of this code do not apply to grants made from the Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account.

CHAPTER 347

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 739 - By Senators Swope, Clements, Maynard and Cline)

[Passed March 7, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 25, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §8-12-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §8-16-18 of said code; to amend and reenact §8-19-4 of said code; to amend and reenact §8-20-10 of said code; to amend and reenact §16-13-16 of said code; to amend and reenact §16-13A-9 of said code; to amend and reenact §24-2-1, §24-2-4a,

and §24-2-11 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §24-2H-1, §24-2H-2, §24-2H-3, §24-2H-4, §24-2H-5, §24-2H-6, §24-2H-7, §24-2H-8, and §24-2H-9; and to amend and reenact §31-15A-9 of said code, all relating to authorizing the Public Service Commission to protect the consumers of distressed and failing water and wastewater utilities by ordering various corrective measures up to and including acquisition of a failing utility by a capable water or wastewater utility; clarifying Public Service Commission jurisdiction over water and sewer utilities owned by political subdivisions; establishing uniformity in the class of publications required by municipalities and public service districts for the revision in rates; providing a time period for the filing of and resolution of complaints filed at the Public Service Commission regarding actions of public service districts and municipalities; cleaning up language regarding reference to other sections of the code regarding notice requirements for municipal utilities; regarding time period pertaining to the filing of appeals and the resolution of appeals for rate and construction projects decided by county commissions; adding language to allow the commission to order the acquisition of failing water and wastewater utilities; and allowing water and/or wastewater utilities access to public funds at below market-rates and grants to repair, replace, and improve acquired failing utilities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 12. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC POWERS, DUTIES AND ALLIED RELATIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES, GOVERNING BODIES AND MUNICIPAL OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; SUITS AGAINST MUNICIPALITIES.

*§8-12-17. Sale or lease of municipal public utility.

1 In any case where a municipality owns a gas system, an
2 electric system, a waterworks system, a sewer system, or

***NOTE:** This section was also amended by S. B. 551 (Chapter 345), which passed subsequent to this act.

other public utility and a majority of not less than 60 percent of the members of the governing body thereof determines it for the best interest of the municipality that the utility be sold or leased, the governing body may so sell or lease the gas system, electric system, waterworks system, sewer system, or other public utility upon such terms and conditions as the governing body in its discretion considers in the best interest of the municipality: *Provided*, That the sale or lease may be made only upon: (1) The publication of notice of a hearing before the governing body of the municipality, as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, in a newspaper published and of general circulation in the municipality, the publication to be made not earlier than 20 days and not later than seven days prior to the hearing; and (2) the approval by the Public Service Commission of West Virginia. The governing body, upon the approval of the sale or lease by a majority of its members of not less than 60 percent of the members of the governing body, shall have full power and authority to proceed to execute or effect the sale or lease in accordance with the terms and conditions prescribed in the ordinance approved as aforesaid, and shall have power to do any and all things necessary or incident thereto: *Provided, however*, That if at any time after the approval and before the execution of the authority under the ordinance, any person should present to the governing body an offer to buy the public utility at a price which exceeds by at least five percent the sale price which shall have been so approved and authorized or to lease the same upon terms which the governing body, in its discretion, shall consider more advantageous to the municipality than the terms of the lease which shall have been previously approved as aforesaid, the governing body shall have the power to accept the subsequent offer, and to make the sale or the lease to the person making the offer, upon approval of the offer by a majority of not less than 60 percent of the members of the governing body; but, if a sale shall have been approved by the governing body as aforesaid, and the subsequent

proposition be for a lease, or, if a lease shall have been approved by the governing body, and the subsequent proposition shall be for a sale, the governing body shall have the authority to accept the same upon approval of the offer by a majority of not less than 60 percent of the members of the governing body. The person making the proposition shall furnish bond, with security to be approved by the governing body, in a penalty of not less than 25 percent of the proposed bid, conditioned to carry the proposition into execution, if the same shall be approved by the governing body. In any case where any such public utility shall be sold or leased by the governing body as hereinabove provided, no part of the moneys derived from the sale or lease shall be applied to the payment of current expenses of the municipality, but the proceeds of the sale or lease may be applied in payment and discharge of any indebtedness created in respect to the public utility, and in case there be no indebtedness, the governing body, in its discretion, shall have the power and authority to expend all such moneys when received for the purchase or construction of firefighting equipment and buildings for housing the equipment, a municipal building, or city hall, and the necessary land upon which to locate the same, for capital investments in public works projects, vehicles and equipment and law-enforcement vehicles and equipment, for the demolition of dilapidated and abandoned buildings, or for the construction of paved streets, avenues, roads, alleys, ways, sidewalks, sewers, storm water systems, floodwalls, and other like permanent improvements, for fulfilling municipal pension and other post-employment benefit obligations, or for reducing taxes, and for no other purposes. In case there be a surplus after the payment of the indebtedness, the surplus shall be used as aforesaid.

The requirements of this section shall not apply to the sale or lease of any part of the properties of any such public utility determined by the governing body to be unnecessary for the efficient rendering of the service of the utility.

ARTICLE 16. MUNICIPAL PUBLIC WORKS; REVENUE BOND FINANCING.

PART VI. IMPOSITION OF RATES, FEES, OR CHARGES.

§8-16-18. Rates, fees, or charges for services rendered by works.

The governing body shall have plenary power and authority and it shall be its duty, by ordinance, to establish and maintain just and equitable rates, fees, or charges for the use and services rendered, or the improvement or protection of property, not to include highways, road and drainage easements, and/or stormwater facilities constructed, owned and/or operated by the West Virginia Division of Highways, provided or afforded, by such works, to be paid by the person using the same, receiving the services thereof, or owning the property improved or protected thereby, and may readjust rates, fees, or charges from time to time.

When two or more municipalities take joint action under the provisions of this article, the rates, fees, or charges shall be established by each participating municipality, with the concurrence of the other participating municipality or municipalities as to the amount of the rates, fees or charges, and such rates, fees, or charges may be the same with respect to each municipality, or they may be different.

Rates, fees, or charges heretofore or hereafter established and maintained for the improvement or protection of property, not to include highways, road and drainage easements, and/or stormwater facilities constructed, owned and/or operated by the West Virginia Division of Highways, provided or afforded by a municipal flood control system or flood walls, to be paid by the person owning the property improved or protected thereby, shall be collectible and enforceable from the time provided in any such ordinance, any provision of this or any other law to the contrary notwithstanding, if, at such time, such works, though not yet fully completed, are nearing completion and

the governing body is reasonably assured that the works will be completed and placed in operation without unreasonable delay.

All rates, fees, or charges shall be sufficient in each year for the payment of the proper and reasonable expenses of repair (including replacements), maintenance and operation of the works, and for the payment of the sums herein required to be paid into the sinking fund. Revenues collected pursuant to the provisions of this section are considered the revenues of the works. No such rates, fees, or charges may be established until after a public hearing at which all the users of the works and owners of the property served, or to be served thereby, and others interested, shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed rates, fees or charges.

After introduction of the proposed ordinance fixing the rates, fees, or charges and before the same is finally adopted, notice of such hearing, setting forth the proposed schedule of such rates, fees or charges, shall be given by publishing the same as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, and the publication area for the publication shall be such municipality or each such municipality, as the case may be. Said notice shall be published at least five days before the date fixed in such notice for the hearing, which hearing may be adjourned from time to time. No other or further notice to parties in interest is required.

After such hearing the ordinance establishing rates, fees or charges, either as originally proposed or introduced, or as modified and amended, shall be adopted and put into effect. A copy of the schedule of such rates, fees and charges so established shall be kept on file in the office of the board having charge of such works, and also in the office of the governing body or bodies, and shall be open to inspection by all parties in interest.

The rates, fees, or charges so established for any class of users or property served shall be extended to cover any additional class of users or property thereafter served which fall within the same class, without the necessity of any hearing or notice. Any change or adjustment of rates, fees, or charges may be made in the same manner as such rates, fees, or charges were originally established as provided in this section. The aggregate of the rates, fees, or charges shall always be sufficient for the expenses of repair (including replacements), maintenance and operation, and for the sinking fund payments.

If any rate, fee or charge so established is not paid within 30 days after the same is due, the amount thereof, together with a penalty of 10 percent and reasonable attorney's fees, may be recovered by the board in a civil action in the name of the municipality or municipalities, and in the case of rates, fees, or charges due for services rendered, such rates, fees or charges, if not paid when due, may, if the governing body so provide in the ordinance provided for under §8-16-7 of this code, constitute a lien upon the premises served by such works, which lien may be foreclosed against such lot, parcel of land or building so served, in accordance with the laws relating to the foreclosure of liens on real property. Upon failure of any person receiving any such service to pay for the same when due, the board may discontinue such service without notice.

ARTICLE 19. MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY WATERWORKS AND ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEMS.

§8-19-4. Estimate of cost; ordinance or order for issuance of revenue bonds; interest on bonds; rates for services; exemption from taxation.

Whenever a municipality or county commission, under the provisions of this article, decides to acquire, by purchase or otherwise, construct, establish, extend or equip a waterworks system or an electric power system, or to construct any additions, betterments, or improvements to

any waterworks or electric power system, it shall cause an estimate to be made of the cost thereof, and may, by ordinance or order, provide for the issuance of revenue bonds under the provisions of this article, which ordinance or order shall set forth a brief description of the contemplated undertaking, the estimated cost thereof, the amount, rate or rates of interest, the time and place of payment and other details in connection with the issuance of the bonds. The bonds shall be in such form and shall be negotiated and sold in such manner and upon such terms as the governing body of such municipality or county commission may, by ordinance or order, specify. All the bonds and the interest thereon shall be exempt from all taxation by this state, or any county, municipality or county commission, political subdivision or agency thereof. Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, the real and personal property which a municipality or county has acquired and constructed according to the provisions of this article, and any leasehold interest therein held by other persons, shall be considered public property and shall be exempt from taxation by the state, or any county, municipality or other levying body, so long as the same is owned by the municipality or county: *Provided*, That with respect to electric power systems, this exemption for real and personal property shall be applicable only for the real and personal property: (1) Physically situate within the municipal or county boundaries of the municipality or county which acquired or constructed the electric power system and there was in place prior to the effective date of the amendments to this section made in the year 1992 an agreement between the municipality and the county commission for payments in lieu of tax; or (2) acquired or constructed with the written agreement of the county school board, county commission, and any municipal authority within whose jurisdiction the electric power system is or is to be physically situate. Notwithstanding anything contained in this statute to the contrary, this exemption shall be applicable to any leasehold or similar interest held by persons other than a municipality

or county only if acquired or constructed with the written agreement of the county school board, county commission and any municipal authority within whose jurisdiction the electric power system is or is to be physically situate: *Provided, however*, That payments made to any county commission, county school board or municipality in lieu of tax pursuant to such an agreement shall be distributed as if the payments resulted from ad valorem property taxation. The bonds shall bear interest at a rate per annum set by the municipality or county commission, payable at such times, and shall be payable as to principal at such times, not exceeding 50 years from their date, and at such place or places, within or without the state, as shall be prescribed in the ordinance or order providing for their issuance. Unless the governing body of the municipality or county commission shall otherwise determine, the ordinance or order shall also declare that a statutory mortgage lien shall exist upon the property so to be acquired, constructed, established, extended or equipped, fix minimum rates or charges for water or electricity to be collected prior to the payment of all of said bonds and shall pledge the revenues derived from the waterworks or electric power system for the purpose of paying the bonds and interest thereon, which pledge shall definitely fix and determine the amount of revenues which shall be necessary to be set apart and applied to the payment of the principal of and interest upon the bonds and the proportion of the balance of the revenues, which are to be set aside as a proper and adequate depreciation account, and the remainder shall be set aside for the reasonable and proper maintenance and operation thereof. The rates or charges to be charged for the services from the waterworks or electric power system shall be sufficient at all times to provide for the payment of interest upon all bonds and to create a sinking fund to pay the principal thereof as and when the same become due, and reasonable reserves therefor, and to provide for the repair, maintenance and operation of the waterworks or electric power system, and to provide an adequate depreciation fund, and to make any other payments which shall be

required or provided for in the ordinance or order authorizing the issuance of said bonds: *Provided further*, That the notice given by the municipality or county commission for a change in rates or charges to be charged for the services from the waterworks or electric power system shall be provided by Class I legal advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in its service territory not less than one week prior to the public hearing of the governing body of the municipality or the county commission required for the approval of the change in rates or charges.

ARTICLE 20. COMBINED SYSTEMS.

§8-20-10. Power and authority of municipality to enact ordinances and make rules and fix rates, fees, or charges; deposit required for new customers; change in rates, fees, or charges; failure to cure delinquency; delinquent rates, discontinuance of service; reconnecting deposit; return of deposit; fees or charges as liens; civil action for recovery thereof; deferral of filing fees and costs in magistrate court action; limitations with respect to foreclosure.

(a)(1) The governing body of a municipality availing itself of the provisions of this article shall have plenary power and authority to make, enact, and enforce all necessary rules for the repair, maintenance, operation, and management of the combined system of the municipality and for the use thereof. The governing body of a municipality also has the plenary power and authority to make, enact, and enforce all necessary rules and ordinances for the care and protection of any such system for the health, comfort, and convenience of the public, to provide a clean water supply, to provide properly treated sewage insofar as it is reasonably possible to do and, if applicable, properly collecting and controlling the stormwater as is reasonably possible to do: *Provided*, That no municipality may make, enact, or enforce any rule, regulation, or ordinance regulating any highways, road or drainage easements, or

storm water facilities constructed, owned or operated by the West Virginia Division of Highways.

(2) A municipality has the plenary power and authority to charge the users for the use and service of a combined system and to establish required deposits, rates, fees, or charges for such purpose. Separate deposits, rates, fees, or charges may be fixed for the water and sewer services respectively and, if applicable, the stormwater services, or combined rates, fees or for the combined water and sewer services, and, if applicable, the storm water services. Such deposits, rates, fees or charges, whether separate or combined, shall be sufficient at all times to pay the cost of repair, maintenance, and operation of the combined system, provide an adequate reserve fund, an adequate depreciation fund and pay the principal and interest upon all revenue bonds issued under this article. Deposits, rates, fees, or charges shall be established, revised, and maintained by ordinance and become payable as the governing body may determine by ordinance. The rates, fees, or charges shall be changed, from time to time, as necessary, consistent with the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That the notice given by the municipality for a change in rates or charges to be charged for the services from the waterworks or electric power system, shall be provided by Class I legal advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in its service territory not less than one week prior to the public hearing of the governing body of the municipality required for the approval of the change in rates or charges.

(3) All new applicants for service shall indicate to the municipality or governing body whether they are an owner or tenant with respect to the service location. An entity providing stormwater service shall provide a tenant a report of the stormwater fee charged for the entire property and, if appropriate, that portion of the fee to be assessed to the tenant.

(4) The municipality or governing body, but only one of them, may collect from all new applicants for service a

deposit of $100 or two twelfths of the average annual usage of the applicant's specific customer class, whichever is greater, to secure the payment of water and sewage service rates, fees and charges in the event they become delinquent as provided in this section. In any case where a deposit is forfeited to pay service rates, fees and charges which were delinquent and the user's service is disconnected or terminated, service may not be reconnected or reinstated by the municipality or governing body until another deposit equal to $100 or a sum equal to two twelfths of the average usage for the applicant's specific customer class, whichever is greater, is remitted to the municipality or governing body. After 12 months of prompt payment history, the municipality or governing body shall return the deposit to the customer or credit the customer's account with interest at a rate to be set by the Public Service Commission: *Provided*, That where the customer is a tenant, the municipality or governing body is not required to return the deposit until the time the tenant discontinues service with the municipality governing body. Whenever any rates, fees, rentals, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the user of the services and facilities provided is delinquent and the user is liable at law until all rates, fees and charges are fully paid. The municipality or governing body may terminate water services to a delinquent user of either water or sewage facilities, or both, 10 days after the water or sewage services become delinquent regardless of whether the governing body utilizes the security deposit to satisfy any delinquent payments: *Provided, however*, That any termination of water service must comply with all rules and orders of the Public Service Commission: *Provided further*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission requires agents or employees of the municipality or governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

(b) Whenever any rates, fees, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the user of the services and facilities provided shall be delinquent and the municipality or governing body may apply any deposit against any delinquent fee. The user is liable until such time as all rates, fees and charges are fully paid.

(c) All rates, fees, or charges for water service, sewer service and, if applicable, stormwater service, whenever delinquent, as provided by ordinance of the municipality, shall be liens of equal dignity, rank, and priority with the lien on such premises of state, county, school, and municipal taxes for the amount thereof upon the real property served. The municipality has the plenary power and authority to enforce such lien in a civil action to recover the money due for services rendered plus court fees and costs and reasonable attorney's fees: *Provided*, That an owner of real property may not be held liable for the delinquent rates, fees, or charges for services or facilities of a tenant, nor shall any lien attach to real property for the reason of delinquent rates, fees, or charges for services or facilities of a tenant of the real property, unless the owner has contracted directly with the municipality to purchase such services or facilities.

(d) Municipalities are hereby granted a deferral of filing fees or other fees and costs incidental to filing an action in magistrate court for collection of the delinquent rates and charges. If the municipality collects the delinquent account, plus fees and costs, from its customer or other responsible party, the municipality shall pay to the magistrate court the filing fees or other fees and costs which were previously deferred.

(e) No municipality may foreclose upon the premises served by it for delinquent rates, fees, or charges for which a lien is authorized by this section except through a civil action in the circuit court of the county wherein the municipality lies. In every such action, the court shall be

required to make a finding based upon the evidence and facts presented that the municipality has exhausted all other remedies for collection of debts with respect to such delinquencies prior to bringing the action. In no event shall foreclosure procedures be instituted by any municipality or on its behalf unless the delinquency has been in existence or continued for a period of two years from the date of the first delinquency for which foreclosure is being sought.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision contained in this article, a municipality which has been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as an entity to serve a West Virginia Separate Storm Sewer System community, as defined in 40 C.F.R. §122.26, has the authority to enact ordinances or regulations which allow for the issuance of orders, the right to enter properties and the right to impose reasonable fines and penalties regarding correction of violations of municipal stormwater ordinances or regulations within the municipal watershed served by the municipal stormwater system, as long as such rules, regulations, fines, or acts are not contrary to any rules or orders of the Public Service Commission.

(g) Notice of a violation of a municipal stormwater ordinance or regulation shall be served in person to the alleged violator or by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice shall state the nature of the violation, the potential penalty, the action required to correct the violation and the time limit for making the correction. Should a person, after receipt of proper notice, fail to correct violation of the municipal stormwater ordinance or regulation, the municipality may correct or have the corrections of the violation made and bring the party into compliance with the applicable stormwater ordinance or regulation. The municipality may collect the costs of correcting the violation from the person by instituting a civil action, as long as such actions are not contrary to any rules or orders of the Public Service Commission.

(h) A municipality which has been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as an entity to serve a West Virginia Separate Storm Sewer System community shall prepare an annual report detailing the collection and expenditure of rates, fees, or charges and make it available for public review at the place of business of the governing body and the stormwater utility main office.

CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTICLE 13. SEWAGE WORKS AND STORMWATER WORKS.

§16-13-16. Rates for service; deposit required for new customers; forfeiture of deposit; reconnecting deposit; tenant's deposit; change or readjustment; hearing; lien and recovery; discontinuance of services.

A governing body has the power and duty, by ordinance, to establish and maintain just and equitable rates, fees, or charges for the use of and the service rendered by:

(a) Sewerage works, to be paid by the owner of each lot, parcel of real estate or building that is connected with and uses the works by or through any part of the sewerage system of the municipality or that in any way uses or is served by the works; and

(b) Stormwater works, to be paid by the owner of each lot, parcel of real estate or building that in any way uses or is served by the stormwater works or whose property is improved or protected by the stormwater works or any user of such stormwater works.

(c) The governing body may change and readjust the rates, fees, or charges from time to time. However, no rates, fees, or charges for stormwater services may be assessed against highways, road and drainage easements or stormwater facilities constructed, owned or operated by the West Virginia Division of Highways.

(d) All new applicants for service shall indicate to the governing body whether they are an owner or tenant with respect to the service location. An entity providing stormwater service shall provide a tenant a report of the stormwater fee charged for the entire property and, if appropriate, that portion of the fee to be assessed to the tenant.

(e) The governing body may collect from all new applicants for service a deposit of $50 or two twelfths of the average annual usage of the applicant's specific customer class, whichever is greater, to secure the payment of service rates, fees, and charges in the event they become delinquent as provided in this section. In any case where a deposit is forfeited to pay service rates, fees, and charges which were delinquent at the time of disconnection or termination of service, service may not be reconnected or reinstated by the governing body until another deposit equal to $50 or a sum equal to two twelfths of the average usage for the applicant's specific customer class, whichever is greater, is remitted to the governing body. After 12 months of prompt payment history, the governing body shall return the deposit to the customer or credit the customer's account with interest at a rate as the Public Service Commission may prescribe: *Provided*, That where the customer is a tenant, the governing body is not required to return the deposit until the time the tenant discontinues service with the governing body. Whenever any rates, fees, rentals, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the user of the services and facilities provided is delinquent. The user is liable until all rates, fees, and charges are fully paid. The governing body may, under reasonable rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission, shut off and discontinue water services to a delinquent user of sewer facilities 10 days after the sewer services become delinquent regardless of whether the governing body utilizes the security deposit to satisfy any delinquent payments: *Provided, however*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service

Commission may require agents or employees of the governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

(f) The rates, fees, or charges shall be sufficient in each year for the payment of the proper and reasonable expense of operation, repair, replacements and maintenance of the works and for the payment of the sums herein required to be paid into the sinking fund. Revenues collected pursuant to this section shall be considered the revenues of the works.

(g) No such rates, fees, or charges may be established until after a public hearing, at which all the users of the works and owners of property served or to be served thereby and others interested shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed rates, fees, or charges.

(h) After introduction of the ordinance fixing the rates, fees, or charges, and before the same is finally enacted, notice of the hearing, setting forth the proposed schedule of rates, fees, or charges, shall be given by publication as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area for the publication shall be the municipality. The first publication shall be made at least five days before the date fixed in the notice for the hearing.

(i) After the hearing, which may be adjourned, from time to time, the ordinance establishing rates, fees, or charges, either as originally introduced or as modified and amended, shall be passed and put into effect. A copy of the schedule of the rates, fees, and charges shall be kept on file in the office of the board having charge of the operation of the works, and also in the office of the clerk of the municipality, and shall be open to inspection by all parties interested. The rates, fees, or charges established for any class of users or property served shall be extended to cover any additional premises thereafter served which fall within

the same class, without the necessity of any hearing or notice.

(j) Any change or readjustment of the rates, fees, or charges may be made in the same manner as the rates, fees, or charges were originally established as hereinbefore provided: *Provided*, That if a change or readjustment be made substantially pro rata, as to all classes of service, no hearing or notice shall be required. The aggregate of the rates, fees, or charges shall always be sufficient for the expense of operation, repair and maintenance and for the sinking fund payments.

(k) All rates, fees, or charges, if not paid when due, shall constitute a lien upon the premises served by the works. If any service rate, fee, or charge is not paid within 20 days after it is due, the amount thereof, together with a penalty of 10 percent and a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered by the board in a civil action in the name of the municipality. The lien may be foreclosed against the lot, parcel of land or building in accordance with the laws relating thereto. Where both water and sewer services are furnished by any municipality to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount or individually itemized and billed for the aggregate thereof.

(l) Whenever any rates, rentals, fees or charges for services or facilities furnished shall remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the property and the owner thereof, as well as the user of the services and facilities shall be delinquent until such time as all rates, fees and charges are fully paid. When any payment for rates, rentals, fees or charges becomes delinquent, the governing body may use the security deposit to satisfy the delinquent payment.

(m) The board collecting the rates, fees, or charges shall be obligated under reasonable rules to shut off and discontinue both water and sewer services to all delinquent users of water, sewer or stormwater facilities and shall not

restore either water facilities or sewer facilities to any delinquent user of any such facilities until all delinquent rates, fees, or charges for water, sewer, and stormwater facilities, including reasonable interest and penalty charges, have been paid in full, as long as the actions are not contrary to any rules or orders of the Public Service Commission: *Provided*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may be considered to require any agents or employees of the municipality or governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

ARTICLE 13A. PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICTS.

§16-13A-9. Rules; service rates and charges; discontinuance of service; required water and sewer connections; lien for delinquent fees.

(a)(1) The board may make, enact, and enforce all needful rules in connection with the acquisition, construction, improvement, extension, management, maintenance, operation, care, protection, and the use of any public service properties owned or controlled by the district. The board shall establish, in accordance with this article, rates, fees, and charges for the services and facilities it furnishes, which shall be sufficient at all times, notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or laws, to pay the cost of maintenance, operation, and depreciation of the public service properties and principal of and interest on all bonds issued, other obligations incurred under the provisions of this article, and all reserve or other payments provided for in the proceedings which authorized the issuance of any bonds under this article. The schedule of the rates, fees, and charges may be based upon:

(A) The consumption of water or gas on premises connected with the facilities, taking into consideration domestic, commercial, industrial, and public use of water and gas;

(B) The number and kind of fixtures connected with the facilities located on the various premises;

(C) The number of persons served by the facilities;

(D) Any combination of paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of this subdivision; or

(E) Any other basis or classification which the board may determine to be fair and reasonable, taking into consideration the location of the premises served and the nature and extent of the services and facilities furnished. However, no rates, fees, or charges for stormwater services may be assessed against highways, road, and drainage easements or stormwater facilities constructed, owned, or operated by the West Virginia Division of Highways.

(2) The board of a public service district with at least 4,500 customers and annual combined gross revenue of $3 million providing water or sewer service separately or in combination may make, enact, and enforce all needful rules in connection with the enactment or amendment of rates, fees, and charges of the district. At a minimum, these rules shall provide for:

(A) Adequate prior public notice of the contemplated rates, fees, and charges by causing a notice of intent to effect such a change to be provided to the customers of the district for the month immediately preceding the month in which the contemplated change is to be considered at a hearing by the board. The notice shall include a statement that a change in rates, fees, and charges is being considered, the time, date, and location of the hearing of the board at which the change will be considered and that the proposed rates, fees, and charges are on file at the office of the district for review during regular business hours. The notice shall be printed on, or mailed with, the monthly billing statement, or provided in a separate mailing.

(B) Adequate prior public notice of the contemplated rates, fees, and charges by causing to be published, after the first reading and approval of a resolution of the board considering the revised rates, fees, and charges but not less than one week prior to the public hearing of the board on the resolution, as a Class I legal advertisement, of the proposed action, in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. The publication area for publication shall be all territory served by the district. If the district provides service in more than one county, publication shall be made in a newspaper of general circulation in each county that the district provides service.

(C) The public notice of the proposed action shall summarize the current rates, fees, and charges and the proposed changes to said rates, fees, and charges; the date, time, and place of the public hearing on the resolution approving the revised rates, fees, and charges and the place or places within the district where the proposed resolution approving the revised rates, fees, and charges may be inspected by the public. A reasonable number of copies of the proposed resolution shall be kept at the place or places and be made available for public inspection. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at the public hearing before the board and be heard with respect to the proposed revised rates, fees, and charges.

(D) The resolution proposing the revised rates, fees, and charges shall be read at two meetings of the board with at least two weeks intervening between each meeting. The public hearing may be conducted by the board prior to, or at, the meeting at which the resolution is considered for adoption on the second reading.

(E) Rates, fees, and charges approved by resolution of the board shall be forwarded in writing to the county commission with the authority to appoint the members of the board. The county commission shall publish notice of the proposed revised rates, fees, and charges by a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of

§59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. Within 45 days of receipt of the proposed rates, fees, and charges, the county commission shall take action to approve, modify, or reject the proposed rates, fees, and charges, in its sole discretion. If, after 45 days, the county commission has not taken final action to approve, modify, or reject the proposed rates, fees, and charges, as presented to the county commission, shall be effective with no further action by the board or county commission. In any event, this 45-day period shall be mandatory unless extended by the official action of both the board proposing the rates, fees, and charges, and the appointing county commission.

(F) Enactment of the proposed or modified rates, fees, and charges shall follow an affirmative vote by the county commission and shall be effective no sooner than 45 days following action. The 45-day waiting period may be waived by public vote of the county commission only if the commission finds and declares the district to be in financial distress such that the 45-day waiting period would be detrimental to the ability of the district to deliver continued and compliant public services.

(G) The public service district, or a customer aggrieved by the changed rates or charges who presents to the circuit court a petition signed by at least 750 customers or 25 percent of the customers served by the public service district, whichever is fewer, when dissatisfied by the approval, modification, or rejection by the county commission of the proposed rates, fees, and charges under the provisions of this subdivision may file a complaint regarding the rates, fees, and charges resulting from the action of, or failure to act by, the county commission in the circuit court of the county in which the county commission sits: *Provided*, That any complaint or petition filed hereunder shall be filed within 30 days of the county commission's final action approving, modifying, or rejecting the rates, fees, and charges, or the expiration of the 45-day period from the receipt by the county commission,

in writing, of the rates, fees, and charges approved by resolution of the board, without final action by the county commission to approve, modify, or reject the rates, fees, and charges, and the circuit court shall resolve the complaint: *Provided, however*, That the rates, fees, and charges so fixed by the county commission, or those adopted by the district upon which the county commission failed to act, shall remain in full force and effect, until set aside, altered, or amended by the circuit court in an order to be followed in the future.

(3) Where water, sewer, stormwater, or gas services, or any combination thereof, are all furnished to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount for the aggregate of the charges. The board shall require all users of services and facilities furnished by the district to designate on every application for service whether the applicant is a tenant or an owner of the premises to be served. If the applicant is a tenant, he or she shall state the name and address of the owner or owners of the premises to be served by the district. Notwithstanding the provisions of §24-3-8 of this code to the contrary, all new applicants for service shall deposit the greater of a sum equal to two twelfths of the average annual usage of the applicant's specific customer class or $50 with the district to secure the payment of service rates, fees, and charges in the event they become delinquent as provided in this section. If a district provides both water and sewer service, all new applicants for service shall deposit the greater of a sum equal to two twelfths of the average annual usage for water service or $50 and the greater of a sum equal to two twelfths of the average annual usage for wastewater service of the applicant's specific customer class or $50. In any case where a deposit is forfeited to pay service rates, fees, and charges which were delinquent at the time of disconnection or termination of service, no reconnection or reinstatement of service may be made by the district until another deposit equal to the greater of a sum equal to two twelfths of the average usage for the applicant's specific customer class or $50 has been

remitted to the district. After 12 months of prompt payment history, the district shall return the deposit to the customer or credit the customer's account at a rate as the Public Service Commission may prescribe: *Provided*, That where the customer is a tenant, the district is not required to return the deposit until the time the tenant discontinues service with the district. Whenever any rates, fees, rentals, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after the same become due and payable, the user of the services and facilities provided is delinquent and the user is liable at law until all rates, fees, and charges are fully paid. The board may, under reasonable rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission, shut off and discontinue water or gas services to all delinquent users of either water or gas facilities, or both, 10 days after the water or gas services become delinquent: *Provided, however*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may be considered to require any agents or employees of the board to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

(b) If any publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town, other municipal corporation or other public service district included within the district owns and operates separate water facilities, sewer facilities, or stormwater facilities, and the district owns and operates another kind of facility, either water or sewer, or both, as the case may be, then the district and the publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation or other public service district shall covenant and contract with each other to shut off and discontinue the supplying of water service for the nonpayment of sewer or stormwater service fees and charges: *Provided*, That any contracts entered into by a public service district pursuant to this section shall be submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval. Any public service district which provides water and sewer service, water and stormwater service or water, sewer, and stormwater service has the right

to terminate water service for delinquency in payment of water, sewer, or stormwater bills. Where one public service district is providing sewer service and another public service district or a municipality included within the boundaries of the sewer or stormwater district is providing water service and the district providing sewer or stormwater service experiences a delinquency in payment, the district or the municipality included within the boundaries of the sewer or stormwater district that is providing water service, upon the request of the district providing sewer or stormwater service to the delinquent account, shall terminate its water service to the customer having the delinquent sewer or stormwater account: *Provided, however*, That any termination of water service must comply with all rules and orders of the Public Service Commission: *Provided further*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission shall be deemed to require any agents or employees of the public service districts to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

(c) Any district furnishing sewer facilities within the district may require or may, by petition to the circuit court of the county in which the property is located, compel or may require the Bureau for Public Health to compel all owners, tenants, or occupants of any houses, dwellings, and buildings located near any sewer facilities where sewage will flow by gravity or be transported by other methods approved by the Bureau for Public Health, including, but not limited to, vacuum and pressure systems, approved under the provisions of §16-1-9 of this code, from the houses, dwellings, or buildings into the sewer facilities, to connect with and use the sewer facilities and to cease the use of all other means for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage and waste matters from the houses, dwellings, and buildings where there is gravity flow or transportation by any other methods approved by the Bureau for Public Health, including, but not limited to, vacuum and pressure

systems, approved under the provisions of §16-1-9 of this code and the houses, dwellings, and buildings can be adequately served by the sewer facilities of the district and it is declared that the mandatory use of the sewer facilities provided for in this subsection is necessary and essential for the health and welfare of the inhabitants and residents of the districts and of the state. If the public service district requires the property owner to connect with the sewer facilities even when sewage from dwellings may not flow to the main line by gravity and the property owner incurs costs for any changes in the existing dwellings' exterior plumbing in order to connect to the main sewer line, the public service district board shall authorize the district to pay all reasonable costs for the changes in the exterior plumbing, including, but not limited to, installation, operation, maintenance, and purchase of a pump or any other method approved by the Bureau for Public Health. Maintenance and operation costs for the extra installation should be reflected in the users charge for approval of the Public Service Commission. The circuit court shall adjudicate the merits of the petition by summary hearing to be held not later than 30 days after service of petition to the appropriate owners, tenants, or occupants.

(d) Whenever any district has made available sewer facilities to any owner, tenant, or occupant of any house, dwelling, or building located near the sewer facility and the engineer for the district has certified that the sewer facilities are available to and are adequate to serve the owner, tenant, or occupant and sewage will flow by gravity or be transported by other methods approved by the Bureau for Public Health from the house, dwelling, or building into the sewer facilities, the district may charge, and the owner, tenant, or occupant shall pay, the rates and charges for services established under this article only after 30 days' notice of the availability of the facilities has been received by the owner, tenant, or occupant. Rates and charges for sewage services shall be based upon actual water consumption or the average monthly water consumption

based upon the owner's, tenant's, or occupant's specific customer class.

(e) The owner, tenant, or occupant of any real property may be determined and declared to be served by a stormwater system only after each of the following conditions is met: (1) The district has been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as an entity to serve a West Virginia Separate Storm Sewer System community, as defined in 40 C. F. R. §122.26; (2) the district's authority has been properly expanded to operate and maintain a stormwater system; (3) the district has made available a stormwater system where stormwater from the real property affects or drains into the stormwater system; and (4) the real property is located in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System's designated service area. It is further hereby found, determined, and declared that the mandatory use of the stormwater system is necessary and essential for the health and welfare of the inhabitants and residents of the district and of the state. The district may charge and the owner, tenant, or occupant shall pay the rates, fees, and charges for stormwater services established under this article only after 30 days' notice of the availability of the stormwater system has been received by the owner. An entity providing stormwater service shall provide a tenant a report of the stormwater fee charged for the entire property and, if appropriate, that portion of the fee to be assessed to the tenant.

(f) All delinquent fees, rates, and charges of the district for either water facilities, sewer facilities, gas facilities, or stormwater systems or stormwater management programs are liens on the premises served of equal dignity, rank, and priority with the lien on the premises of state, county, school, and municipal taxes. Nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may require agents or employees of the public service districts to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill. In addition to the other

remedies provided in this section, public service districts are granted a deferral of filing fees or other fees and costs incidental to the bringing and maintenance of an action in magistrate court for the collection of delinquent water, sewer, stormwater, or gas bills. If the district collects the delinquent account, plus reasonable costs, from its customer or other responsible party, the district shall pay to the magistrate the normal filing fee and reasonable costs which were previously deferred. In addition, each public service district may exchange with other public service districts a list of delinquent accounts: *Provided*, That an owner of real property may not be held liable for the delinquent rates or charges for services or facilities of a tenant, nor may any lien attach to real property for the reason of delinquent rates or charges for services or facilities of a tenant of the real property unless the owner has contracted directly with the public service district to purchase the services or facilities.

(g) Anything in this section to the contrary notwithstanding, any establishment, as defined in §22-11-3 of this code, now or hereafter operating its own sewage disposal system pursuant to a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, as prescribed by §22-11-11 of this code, is exempt from the provisions of this section.

(h) Notwithstanding any code provision to the contrary, a public service district may accept payment for all fees and charges due, in the form of a payment by a credit or check card transaction or a direct withdrawal from a bank account. The public service district may set a fee to be added to each transaction equal to the charge paid by the public service district for use of the credit or check card or direct withdrawal by the payor. The amount of the fee shall be disclosed to the payor prior to the transaction and no other fees for the use of a credit or check card or direct withdrawal may be imposed upon the payor and the whole of the charge or convenience fee shall be borne by the payor: *Provided*, That to the extent a public service district desires to accept

payments in the forms described in this subsection and does not have access to the equipment or receive the services necessary to do so, the public service district shall first obtain three bids for services and equipment necessary to affect the forms of transactions described in this subsection and use the lowest qualified bid received. Acceptance of a credit or check card or direct withdrawal as a form of payment shall comport with the rules and requirements set forth by the credit or check card provider or banking institution.

CHAPTER 24. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

§24-2-1. Jurisdiction of commission; waiver of jurisdiction.

(a) The jurisdiction of the commission shall extend to all public utilities in this state and shall include any utility engaged in any of the following public services:

Common carriage of passengers or goods, whether by air, railroad, street railroad, motor, or otherwise, by express or otherwise, by land, water, or air, whether wholly or partly by land, water, or air; transportation of oil, gas, or water by pipeline; transportation of coal and its derivatives and all mixtures and combinations thereof with other substances by pipeline; sleeping car or parlor car services; transmission of messages by telephone, telegraph, or radio; generation and transmission of electrical energy by hydroelectric or other utilities for service to the public, whether directly or through a distributing utility; supplying water, gas, or electricity by municipalities or others; sewer systems servicing 25 or more persons or firms other than the owner of the sewer systems: *Provided*, That if a public utility other than a political subdivision intends to provide sewer service by an innovative, alternative method, as defined by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, the innovative, alternative method is a public utility function and subject to

the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission regardless of the number of customers served by the innovative, alternative method; any public service district created under the provisions of §16-13A-1 *et seq.* of this code, except that the Public Service Commission will have no jurisdiction over the provision of stormwater services by a public service district; toll bridges, wharves, ferries; solid waste facilities; and any other public service: *Provided, however*, That natural gas producers who provide natural gas service to not more than 25 residential customers are exempt from the jurisdiction of the commission with regard to the provisions of the residential service: *Provided further*, That upon request of any of the customers of the natural gas producers, the commission may, upon good cause being shown, exercise such authority as the commission may deem appropriate over the operation, rates, and charges of the producer and for such length of time as the commission may consider to be proper.

(b) The jurisdiction of the commission over political subdivisions of this state providing separate or combined water and/or sewer services and having at least 4,500 customers and annual combined gross revenues of $3 million or more that are political subdivisions of the state is limited to:

(1) General supervision of public utilities, as granted and described in §24-2-5 of this code;

(2) Regulation of measurements, practices, acts, or services, as granted and described in §24-2-7 of this code;

(3) Regulation of a system of accounts to be kept by a public utility that is a political subdivision of the state, as granted and described in §24-2-8 of this code;

(4) Submission of information to the commission regarding rates, tolls, charges, or practices, as granted and described in §24-2-9 of this code;

(5) Authority to subpoena witnesses, take testimony, and administer oaths to any witness in any proceeding before or conducted by the commission, as granted and described in §24-2-10 of this code; and

(6) Investigation and resolution of disputes between a political subdivision of the state providing wholesale water and/or wastewater treatment or other services, whether by contract or through a tariff, and its customer or customers, including, but not limited to, rates, fees, and charges, service areas and contested utility combinations: *Provided*, That any request for an investigation related to such a dispute that is based on the act or omission of the political subdivision shall be filed within 30 days of the act or omission of the political subdivision and the commission shall resolve said dispute within 120 days of filing. The 120-day period for resolution of the dispute may be tolled by the commission until the necessary information showing the basis of the rates, fees, and charges or other information as the commission considers necessary is filed: *Provided, however*, That the disputed rates, fees, and charges so fixed by the political subdivision providing separate or combined water and/or sewer services shall remain in full force and effect until set aside, altered or, amended by the commission in an order to be followed in the future.

(7) Customers of water and sewer utilities operated by a political subdivision of the state may bring formal or informal complaints regarding the commission's exercise of the powers enumerated in this section and the commission shall resolve these complaints: *Provided*, That any formal complaint filed under this section that is based on the act or omission of the political subdivision shall be filed within 30 days of the act or omission complained of and the commission shall resolve the complaint within 180 days of filing. The 180-day period for resolution of the dispute may be tolled by the commission until the necessary information showing the basis of the matter complained of is filed by the political subdivision: *Provided, however*, That whenever

the commission finds any regulations, measurements, practices, acts or service to be unjust, unreasonable, insufficient or unjustly discriminatory, or otherwise in violation of any provisions of this chapter, or finds that any service is inadequate, or that any service which is demanded cannot be reasonably obtained, the commission shall determine and declare, and by order fix reasonable measurement, regulations, acts, practices or services, to be furnished, imposed, observed and followed in lieu of those found to be unjust, unreasonable, insufficient, or unjustly discriminatory, inadequate or otherwise in violation of this chapter, and shall make such other order respecting the same as shall be just and reasonable: *Provided further*, That if the matter complained of would affect rates, fees, and charges so fixed by the political subdivision providing separate or combined water and/or sewer services, the rates, fees, or charges shall remain in full force and effect until set aside, altered or amended by the commission in an order to be followed in the future.

(8) If a political subdivision has a deficiency in either its bond revenue or bond reserve accounts, or is otherwise in breach of a bond covenant, any bond holder may petition the Public Service Commission for such redress as will bring the accounts to current status or otherwise resolve the breached covenant, and the commission shall have jurisdiction to fully resolve the alleged deficiency or breach.

(c) The commission may, upon application, waive its jurisdiction and allow a utility operating in an adjoining state to provide service in West Virginia when:

(1) An area of West Virginia cannot be practicably and economically served by a utility licensed to operate within the State of West Virginia;

(2) The area can be provided with utility service by a utility which operates in a state adjoining West Virginia;

(3) The utility operating in the adjoining state is regulated by a regulatory agency or commission of the adjoining state; and

(4) The number of customers to be served is not substantial. The rates the out-of-state utility charges West Virginia customers shall be the same as the rate the utility is duly authorized to charge in the adjoining jurisdiction. The commission, in the case of any such utility, may revoke its waiver of jurisdiction for good cause.

(d) Any other provisions of this chapter to the contrary notwithstanding:

(1) An owner or operator of an electric generating facility located or to be located in this state that has been designated as an exempt wholesale generator under applicable federal law, or will be so designated prior to commercial operation of the facility, and for which such facility the owner or operator holds a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the commission on or before July 1, 2003, is subject to §24-2-11c(e) through §24-2-11c(j) of this code as if the certificate of public convenience and necessity for the facility were a siting certificate issued under §24-2-11c of this code and is not otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission or to the provisions of this chapter with respect to the facility except for the making or constructing of a material modification thereof as provided in §24-2-1(d)(5) of this code.

(2) Any person, corporation, or other entity that intends to construct or construct and operate an electric generating facility to be located in this state that has been designated as an exempt wholesale generator under applicable federal law, or will be so designated prior to commercial operation of the facility, and for which facility the owner or operator does not hold a certificate of public convenience and necessity issued by the commission on or before July 1, 2003, shall, prior to commencement of construction of the

facility, obtain a siting certificate from the commission pursuant to the provisions of §24-2-11c of this code in lieu of a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to the provisions of §24-2-11 of this code. An owner or operator of an electric generating facility as is described in this subdivision for which a siting certificate has been issued by the commission is subject to §24-2-11c(e) through §24-2-11c(j) of this code and is not otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission or to the provisions of this chapter with respect to the facility except for the making or constructing of a material modification thereof as provided in §24-2-1(d)(5) of this code.

(3) An owner or operator of an electric generating facility located in this state that had not been designated as an exempt wholesale generator under applicable federal law prior to commercial operation of the facility that generates electric energy solely for sale at retail outside this state or solely for sale at wholesale in accordance with any applicable federal law that preempts state law or solely for both sales at retail and sales at wholesale and that had been constructed and had engaged in commercial operation on or before July 1, 2003, is not subject to the jurisdiction of the commission or to the provisions of this chapter with respect to the facility, regardless of whether the facility subsequent to its construction has been or will be designated as an exempt wholesale generator under applicable federal law: *Provided*, That the owner or operator is subject to §24-2-1(d)(5) of this code if a material modification of the facility is made or constructed.

(4) Any person, corporation, or other entity that intends to construct or construct and operate an electric generating facility to be located in this state that has not been or will not be designated as an exempt wholesale generator under applicable federal law prior to commercial operation of the facility that will generate electric energy solely for sale at retail outside this state or solely for sale at wholesale in accordance with any applicable federal law that preempts

state law or solely for both sales at retail and sales at wholesale and that had not been constructed and had not been engaged in commercial operation on or before July 1, 2003, shall, prior to commencement of construction of the facility, obtain a siting certificate from the commission pursuant to the provisions of §24-2-11c of this code in lieu of a certificate of public convenience and necessity pursuant to the provisions of §24-2-11 of this code. An owner or operator of an electric generating facility as is described in this subdivision for which a siting certificate has been issued by the commission is subject to §24-2-11c(e) through §24-2-11c(j) of this code and is not otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission or to the provisions of this chapter with respect to the facility except for the making or constructing of a material modification thereof as provided in §24-2-1(d)(5) of this code.

(5) An owner or operator of an electric generating facility described in this subsection shall, before making or constructing a material modification of the facility that is not within the terms of any certificate of public convenience and necessity or siting certificate previously issued for the facility or an earlier material modification thereof, obtain a siting certificate for the modification from the commission pursuant to the provisions of §24-2-11c of this code in lieu of a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the modification pursuant to the provisions of §24-2-11 of this code and, except for the provisions of §24-2-11c of this code, is not otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the commission or to the provisions of this chapter with respect to the modification.

(6) The commission shall consider an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity filed pursuant to §24-2-11 of this code to construct an electric generating facility described in this subsection or to make or construct a material modification of the electric generating facility as an application for a siting certificate pursuant to §24-2-11c of this code if the application for the

certificate of public convenience and necessity was filed with the commission prior to July 1, 2003, and if the commission has not issued a final order thereon as of that date.

(7) The limitations on the jurisdiction of the commission over, and on the applicability of the provisions of this chapter to, the owner or operator of an electric generating facility as imposed by and described in this subsection do not affect or limit the commission's jurisdiction over contracts or arrangements between the owner or operator of the facility and any affiliated public utility subject to the provisions of this chapter.

(e) The commission does not have jurisdiction of Internet protocol-enabled service or voice-over Internet protocol-enabled service. As used in this subsection:

(1) "Internet protocol-enabled service" means any service, capability, functionality, or application provided using Internet protocol, or any successor protocol, that enables an end user to send or receive a communication in Internet protocol format, or any successor format, regardless of whether the communication is voice, data, or video.

(2) "Voice-over Internet protocol service" means any service that:

(i) Enables real-time two-way voice communications that originate or terminate from the user's location using Internet protocol or a successor protocol; and

(ii) Uses a broadband connection from the user's location.

(3) The term "voice-over Internet protocol service" includes any service that permits users to receive calls that originate on the public-switched telephone network and to terminate calls on the public-switched telephone network.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the commission has jurisdiction to review or approve any transaction involving a telephone company otherwise subject to §24-2-12 and §24-2-12a of this code if all entities involved in the transaction are under common ownership.

(g) The Legislature finds that the rates, fees, charges, and ratemaking of municipal power systems are most fairly and effectively regulated by the local governing body. Therefore, notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, the commission has jurisdiction over the setting or adjustment of rates, fees, and charges of municipal power systems. Further, the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission over municipal power systems is limited to that granted specifically in this code.

***§24-2-4a. Procedure for changing rates after June 30, 1981.**

(a) After June 30, 1981, no public utility subject to this chapter, except for water and/or sewer utilities that are political subdivisions of the state providing separate or combined services and having at least 4,500 customers and annual gross revenue of $3 million or more from its separate or combined services, shall change, suspend, or annul any rate, joint rate, charge, rental, or classification except after 30 days' notice to the commission and the public, which notice shall plainly state the changes proposed to be made in the schedule then in force and the time when the changed rates or charges shall go into effect; but the commission may enter an order suspending the proposed rate as hereinafter provided. The proposed changes shall be shown by printing new schedules, or shall be plainly indicated upon the schedules in force at the time, and kept open to public inspection: *Provided*, That the commission may, in its discretion, and for good cause shown, allow changes upon less time than the notice herein specified, or may modify the requirements of this section in respect to publishing, posting and filing of tariffs, either by particular instructions or by general order.

***NOTE:** This section was also amended by H. B. 4587 (Chapter 306), which passed subsequent to this act.

(b) Whenever there is filed with the commission any schedule stating a change in the rates or charges, or joint rates or charges, or stating a new individual or joint rate or charge or joint classification or any new individual or joint regulation or practice affecting any rate or charge, the commission may, either upon complaint or upon its own initiative without complaint, enter upon a hearing concerning the propriety of the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice; and, if the commission so orders, it may proceed without answer or other form of pleading by the interested parties, but upon reasonable notice, and, pending the hearing and the decisions thereon, the commission, upon filing with the schedule and delivering to the public utility affected thereby a statement in writing of its reasons for the suspension, may suspend the operation of the schedule and defer the use of the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice, but not for a longer period than 270 days beyond the time when the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice would otherwise go into effect; and after full hearing, whether completed before or after the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice goes into effect, the commission may make the order in reference to the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice as would be proper in a proceeding initiated after the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice had become effective: *Provided*, That in the case of a public utility having 2,500 customers or less and which is not a political subdivision and which is not principally owned by any other public utility corporation or public utility holding corporation, the commission may suspend the operation of the schedule and defer the use of the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice, but not for a longer period than 120 days beyond the time when the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice would otherwise go into effect; and in the case of a public utility having more than 2,500 customers, but not more than 5,000 customers, and which is not a political subdivision and which is not principally owned by any other public utility corporation or public utility holding corporation, the

commission may suspend the operation of the schedule and defer the use of the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice, but not for a longer period than 150 days beyond the time when the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice would otherwise go into effect; and in the case of a public utility having more than 5,000 customers, but not more than 7,500 customers, and which is not a political subdivision and which is not principally owned by any other public utility corporation or public utility holding corporation, the commission may suspend the operation of the schedule and defer the use of the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice, but not for a longer period than 180 days beyond the time when the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice would otherwise go into effect; and after full hearing, whether completed before or after the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice goes into effect, the commission may make the order in reference to the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice as would be proper in a proceeding initiated after the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice had become effective: *Provided, however*, That, in the case of rates established or proposed that increase by less than 25 percent of the gross revenue of the regulated public service district, there shall be no suspension period in the case of rates established by a public service district pursuant to §16-13A-9 of this code and the proposed rates of public service districts shall go into effect upon the date of filing with the commission, subject to refund modification at the conclusion of the commission proceeding. In the case of rates established or proposed that increase by more than 25 percent of the gross revenue of the public service district, the district may apply for, and the commission may grant, a waiver of the suspension period and allow rates to be effective upon the date of filing with the commission. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (e) of this section, the public service district shall provide notice by Class I legal advertisement in a newspaper of general circulation in its service territory of the percentage increase in rates at least 14 days prior to the effective date of the

increased rates. Any refund determined to be due and owing as a result of any difference between any final rates approved by the commission and the rates placed into effect subject to refund shall be refunded by the public service district as a credit against each customer's account for a period of up to six months after entry of the commission's final order. Any remaining balance which is not fully credited by credit within six months after entry of the commission's final order shall be directly refunded to the customer by check: *Provided further*, That if any such hearing and decision thereon is not concluded within the periods of suspension, as above stated, the rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice shall go into effect at the end of the period not subject to refund: *And provided further*, That if any such rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice goes into effect because of the failure of the commission to reach a decision, the same shall not preclude the commission from rendering a decision with respect thereto which would disapprove, reduce, or modify any such proposed rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice, in whole or in part, but any such disapproval, reduction, or modification shall not be deemed to require a refund to the customers of the utility as to any rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice so disapproved, reduced, or modified. The fact of any rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice going into effect by reason of the commission's failure to act thereon does not affect the commission's power and authority to subsequently act with respect to any such application or change in any rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice. Any rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice which shall be approved, disapproved, modified or changed, in whole or in part, by decision of the commission shall remain in effect as so approved, disapproved, modified, or changed during the period or pendency of any subsequent hearing thereon or appeal therefrom. Orders of the commission affecting rates, charges, classifications, regulations, or practices which have gone into effect

automatically at the end of the of the suspension period are prospective in effect.

(c) At any hearing involving a rate sought to be increased or involving the change of any rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice, the burden of proof to show the justness and reasonableness of the increased rate or proposed increased rate, or the proposed change of rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice shall be upon the public utility making application for the change. The commission shall, whenever practicable and within budgetary constraints, conduct one or more public hearings within the area served by the public utility making application for the increase or change, for the purpose of obtaining comments and evidence on the matter from local ratepayers.

(d) Each public utility subject to the provisions of this section shall be required to establish, in a written report which shall be incorporated into each general rate case application, that it has thoroughly investigated and considered the emerging and state-of-the-art concepts in the utility management, rate design, and conservation as reported by the commission under §24-1-1(c) of this code as alternatives to, or in mitigation of, any rate increase. The utility report shall contain as to each concept considered the reasons for adoption or rejection of each. When in any case pending before the commission all evidence shall have been taken and the hearing completed, the commission shall render a decision in the case. The failure of the commission to render a decision with respect to any such proposed change in any such rate, charge, classification, regulation, or practice within the various time periods specified in this section after the application therefor shall constitute neglect of duty on the part of the commission and each member thereof.

(e) Other than as provided in subsection (b) of this section relating to public service districts, where more than 20 members of the public are affected by a proposed change

in rates, it shall be a sufficient notice to the public within the meaning of this section if the notice is published as a Class II legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area for the publication shall be the community where the majority of the resident members of the public affected by the change reside or, in case of nonresidents, have their principal place of business within this state.

(f) The commission may order rates into effect subject to refund, plus interest in the discretion of the commission, in cases in which the commission determines that a temporary or interim rate increase is necessary for the utility to avoid financial distress, or in which the costs upon which these rates are based are subject to modification by the commission or another regulatory commission and to refund to the public utility. In that case the commission may require the public utility to enter into a bond in an amount deemed by the commission to be reasonable and conditioned upon the refund to the persons or parties entitled thereto of the amount of the excess if the rates so put into effect are subsequently determined to be higher than those finally fixed for the utility.

(g) No utility regulated under the provisions of this section may make application for a general rate increase while another general rate application is pending before the commission and not finally acted upon, except pursuant to the provisions of subsection (f) of this section. The provisions of this subsection shall not be construed so as to prohibit any such rate application from being made while a previous application which has been finally acted upon by the commission is pending before or upon appeal to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

§24-2-11. Requirements for certificate of public convenience and necessity.

(a) A public utility, person or corporation other than a political subdivision of the state providing water or sewer

services and having at least 4,500 customers and annual gross combined revenues of $3 million dollars or more may not begin the construction of any plant, equipment, property or facility for furnishing to the public any of the services enumerated in section one, article two of this chapter, nor apply for, nor obtain any franchise, license or permit from any municipality or other governmental agency, except ordinary extensions of existing systems in the usual course of business, unless and until it shall obtain from the Public Service Commission a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction franchise, license or permit.

(b) Upon the filing of any application for the certificate, and after hearing, the commission may, in its discretion, issue or refuse to issue, or issue in part and refuse in part, the certificate of convenience and necessity: *Provided*, That the commission, after it gives proper notice and if no substantial protest is received within 30 days after the notice is given, may waive formal hearing on the application. Notice shall be given by publication which shall state that a formal hearing may be waived in the absence of substantial protest, made within 30 days, to the application. The notice shall be published as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. The publication area shall be the proposed area of operation.

(c) Any public utility, person or corporation subject to the provisions of this section other than a political subdivision of the state providing water and/or sewer services having at least 4,500 customers and combined annual gross revenue of $3 million dollars or more shall give the commission at least 30 days' notice of the filing of any application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity under this section: *Provided*, That the commission may modify or waive the 30-day notice requirement and shall waive the 30-day notice requirement for projects approved by the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council.

(d) The commission shall render its final decision on any application filed under the provisions of this section or §24-2-11a of this code within 270 days of the filing of the application and within 90 days after final submission of any such application for decision following a hearing: *Provided*, That if the application is for authority to construct a water and sewer project and the projected total cost is less than $10 million, the commission shall render its final decision within 225 days of the filing of the application.

(e) The commission shall render its final decision on any application filed under the provisions of this section that has received the approval of the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council pursuant to §31-15A-1 *et seq.* of this code within 180 days after filing of the application: *Provided*, That if a substantial protest is received within 30 days after the notice is provided pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the commission shall render its final decision within 270 days or 225 days of the filing of the application, whichever is applicable as determined in subsection (d) of this section.

(f) If the projected total cost of a project which is the subject of an application filed pursuant to this section or §24-2-11a of this code is greater than $50 million, the commission shall render its final decision on any such application filed under the provisions of this section or §24-2-11a of this code within 400 days of the filing of the application and within 90 days after final submission of any such application for decision after a hearing.

(g) If a decision is not rendered within the time frames established in this section, the commission shall issue a certificate of convenience and necessity as applied for in the application.

(h) The commission shall prescribe rules it considers proper for the enforcement of the provisions of this section; and, in establishing that public convenience and necessity do exist, the burden of proof shall be upon the applicant.

(i) Pursuant to the requirements of this section, the commission may issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity to any intrastate pipeline, interstate pipeline or local distribution company for the transportation in intrastate commerce of natural gas used by any person for one or more uses, as defined by rule, by the commission in the case of:

(1) Natural gas sold by a producer, pipeline, or other seller to the person; or

(2) Natural gas produced by the person.

(j) A public utility, including a public service district, which has received a certificate of public convenience and necessity after July 8, 2005, from the commission and has been approved by the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council is not required to, and cannot be compelled to, reopen the proceeding if the cost of the project changes but the change does not affect the rates established for the project.

(k) Any public utility, person, or corporation proposing any electric power project that requires a certificate under this section is not required to obtain the certificate before applying for or obtaining any franchise, license, or permit from any municipality or other governmental agency.

(l) Water or sewer utilities that are political subdivisions of the state and having at least 4,500 customers and combined gross revenues of $3 million dollars or more desiring to pursue construction projects that are not in the ordinary course of business shall provide adequate prior public notice of the contemplated construction and proposed changes to rates, fees and charges, if any, as a result of the construction to both current customers and those persons who will be affected by the proposed construction as follows:

(1) Adequate prior public notice of the contemplated construction by causing a notice of intent to pursue a project that is not in the ordinary course of business to be specified on the monthly billing statement of the customers of the utility for the month immediately preceding the month in which an ordinance or resolution approving the proposed construction and proposed changes to rates, fees, and charges, if any, is to be before the governing body for the public hearing on the ordinance or resolution approving the proposed construction and proposed changes to rates, fees, and charges, if any.

(2) Adequate prior public notice of the contemplated construction by causing to be published as a Class I legal advertisement of the proposed public hearing on the ordinance or resolution approving the proposed construction and proposed changes to rates, fees, and charges, if any, in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. The publication area for publication shall be all territory served by the political subdivision. If the political subdivision provides service in more than one county, publication shall be made in a newspaper of general circulation in each county that the political subdivision provides service.

(3) The public notice of the proposed construction shall state the scope of the proposed construction; a summary of the current rates, fees, and charges, and proposed changes to said rates, fees, and charges, if any; the date, time and place of the public hearing on the ordinance or resolution approving the proposed construction and proposed changes to rates, fees, and charges, if any; and the place or places within the political subdivision where the ordinance or resolution approving the proposed construction and proposed changes to rates, fees, and charges, if any, may be inspected by the public. A reasonable number of copies of the ordinance or resolution shall be kept at the place or places and be made available for public inspection. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at

the public hearing before the political subdivision and be heard with respect to the proposed construction and the proposed rates, fees, and charges, if any.

(4) The ordinance or resolution on the proposed construction and the proposed rates, fees, and charges shall be read at two meetings of the governing body with at least two weeks intervening between each meeting. The public hearing may be conducted prior to, or at, the meeting of the governing body at which the ordinance or resolution approving the proposed construction is considered on second reading.

(5) Enactment or adoption of the ordinance or resolution approving the proposed construction and the proposed rates, fees, and charges shall follow an affirmative vote of the governing body and the approved rates shall go into effect no sooner than 45 days following the action of the governing body. If the political subdivision proposes rates that will go into effect prior to the completion of construction of the proposed project, the 45-day waiting period may be waived by public vote of the governing body only if the political subdivision finds and declares the political subdivision to be in financial distress such that the 45-day waiting period would be detrimental to the ability of the political subdivision to deliver continued and compliant public services: *Provided*, That, if the political subdivision is a public service district, in no event may the rate become effective prior to the date that the county commission has entered an order approving or modifying the action of the public service district board.

(6) Rates, fees, and charges approved by an affirmative vote of the public service district board shall be forwarded in writing to the county commission with the authority to appoint the members of the public service board of the public service district. The county commission shall, within 45 days of receipt of the proposed rates, fees, and charges, take action to approve, modify, or reject the proposed rates, fees, and charges, in its sole discretion. If, after 45 days, the

county commission has not taken final action to approve, modify, or reject the proposed rates, fees, and charges, the proposed rates, fees, and charges, as presented to the county commission, shall be effective with no further action by the board or county commission. In any event this 45-day period may be extended by official action of both the board proposing the rates, fees, and charges and the appointing county commission.

(7) The county commission shall provide notice to the public by a Class I legal advertisement of the proposed action, in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, of the meeting where it shall consider the proposed increases in rates, fees, and charges no later than one week prior to the meeting date.

(8) A public service district, or a customer aggrieved by the changed rates or charges who presents to the circuit court a petition signed by 25 percent of the customers served by the public service district when dissatisfied by the approval, modification, or rejection by the county commission of the proposed rates, fees, and charges under the provisions of this subsection may file a complaint regarding the rates, fees, and charges resulting from the action of, or failure to act by, the county commission in the circuit court of the county in which the county commission sits: *Provided*, That any complaint or petition filed hereunder shall be filed within 30 days of the county commission's final action approving, modifying or rejecting the rates, fees, and charges, or the expiration of the 45-day period from the receipt by the county commission, in writing, of the rates, fees, and charges approved by resolution of the board, without final action by the county commission to approve, modify or reject the rates, fees, and charges, and the circuit court shall resolve said complaint: *Provided, however*, That the rates, fees, and charges so fixed by the county commission, or those adopted by the district upon which the county commission failed to act, shall remain in full force and effect, until set aside, altered, or

amended by the circuit court in an order to be followed in the future.

ARTICLE 2H. POWER OF COMMISSION TO ORDER MEASURES UP TO AND INCLUDING THE ACQUISITION OF DISTRESSED AND FAILING WATER AND WASTEWATER UTILITIES.

§24-2H-1. Short title.

This article shall be known and cited as the Distressed and Failing Utilities Improvement Act.

§24-2H-2. Legislative findings.

(a) The provision of safe drinking water and the collection and treatment of wastewater has resulted in a drastic reduction in the incidence of disease, increase in life expectancy, and other major public health advancements.

(b) Development of water and wastewater infrastructure has advanced economic development through increased production and productivity within West Virginia's economic sectors and commercial expansion geographically throughout the state.

(c) A number of water and wastewater utilities face substantial capital investment needs to maintain and replace aging infrastructure with limited financial resources.

(d) For some water and wastewater utilities, adequately addressing infrastructure needs may adversely affect their ability to maintain reasonable rates and ability to borrow funds to address such needs.

(e) Many water and wastewater utilities have experienced a loss of customers resulting from decline in populations served which has created an additional rate burden on the remaining population.

(f) Failure to timely address infrastructure needs has resulted in the inability of water and wastewater utilities to

adequately serve customers and maintain regulatory compliance, thereby threatening human health and hindering economic growth.

(g) West Virginia needs a comprehensive plan to confront the financial, organizational, and regulatory challenges faced by water and wastewater utilities in the state to ensure that all citizens of West Virginia have access to safe drinking water and adequate and safe wastewater treatment.

§24-2H-3. Definitions.

A "distressed utility" is a water or wastewater utility, that for financial, operational or managerial reasons:

(1) (A) Is in continual violation of statutory or regulatory standards of the Bureau for Public Health, the Department of Environmental Protection or the commission, which affect the water quality, safety, adequacy, efficiency or reasonableness of the service provided by the water or wastewater utility;

(B) Fails to comply within a reasonable period of time with any final, nonappealable order of the Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau for Public Health or the commission concerning the safety, adequacy, efficiency or reasonableness of service, including, but not limited to, the availability of water, the potability of water, the palatability of water or the provision of water at adequate volume and pressure and the collection and treatment of wastewater;

(2) Is no longer able to provide adequate, efficient, safe and reasonable utility services; or

(3) Fails to timely pay some or all of its financial obligations, including, but not limited to, its federal and state tax obligations and its bond payments to the West Virginia Water Development Authority, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) or other bondholders; fails to maintain its debt service reserve; or fails to submit

an audit as required by its bond or loan documents or state law.

"Failing water or wastewater utility" means a public utility that:

(1) Meets the definition of a distressed water or wastewater utility; and either:

(2) Has not, after a reasonable time period, been stabilized and improved by corrective measures put in place under §24-2H-4 of this code; or

(3) Has had the requirements of §24-2H-4 of this code suspended for good cause shown by an order of the commission.

"Capable proximate water or wastewater utility" means a public utility which regularly provides adequate, safe and reasonable service of the same type as the distressed utility and is situated close enough to the facilities of a distressed utility that operational management is reasonable, financially viable, and nonadverse to the interests of the current customers of the nondistressed utility.

§24-2H-4. Preparation of list of potentially unstable water and wastewater utilities.

Annually, the commission shall prepare a list of water and wastewater utilities that appear to be financially unstable by reviewing annual reports, rate case filings and other financial data available to it. Commission staff shall contact each utility placed on the list and provide advice and assistance in resolving any financial instability or managerial or operational issues that are contributing to the utility's financial instability.

§24-2H-5. Determination of whether a utility qualifies as a "distressed utility", "failing utility", or a "capable proximate utility".

(a) In determining whether a utility is distressed or failing, the commission shall consider the following factors:

(1) The financial, managerial and technical ability of the utility;

(2) The level of expenditures necessary to make improvements to the water or wastewater utility to assure compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory standards concerning the adequacy, efficiency, safety or reasonableness of utility service and the impact of those expenditures on customer rates;

(3) The opinion and advice, if any, of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Bureau for Public Health as to steps that may be necessary to assure compliance with applicable statutory or regulatory standards concerning the adequacy, efficiency, safety or reasonableness of utility service;

(4) The status of the utility's bond payments and other financial obligations;

(5) The status and result of any corrective measures previously put into place under §24-2H-4 of this code; and

(6) Any other relevant matter.

(b) In determining whether a utility is a capable proximate utility, the commission shall consider the following factors:

(1) The financial, managerial and technical ability of all proximate public utilities providing the same type of service;

(2) Expansion of the franchise or operating area of the acquiring utility to include the service area of the distressed utility;

(3) The financial, managerial, operational and rate demands that may result from the current proceeding and the cumulative impact of other demands where the utility has been identified as a capable proximate utility; and

(4) Any other relevant matter.

§24-2H-6. Notice to distressed or failing utility and formal proceeding.

(a) A proceeding under this article may be initiated by the commission on its own motion, or by the staff of the commission, or any other person or entity having a legal interest in the financial, managerial or operational condition of the utility, by filing a petition with the commission. In any such petition, the utility shall be named as the respondent. The commission shall include as additional parties any capable proximate public and private utilities that may be able to acquire the utility.

(b) The commission shall hold an evidentiary and public hearing(s) in the utility's service area. The commission shall give notice of the time, place and subject matter of the hearing as follows:

(1) A Class I legal publication in a qualified newspaper pursuant to §59-3-2(a) of this code in the county or counties where the utility is located to take place no more than 10 days before the date of the hearing;

(2) Issuance of a press release;

(3) Written notice by certified mail or registered mail to:

(A) The utility;

(B) The Consumer Advocate Division;

(C) Capable proximate public or private utility(s) that were made parties to the proceeding; and

(D) The county commission if the utility is a public service district; or

(E) The municipality if the utility is owned and operated by the municipality.

(4) The utility shall give notice to its customers of the time, place and subject matter of the hearing either as a bill

insert or printed on its monthly bill statement as ordered by the commission.

(c) The public hearing shall be conducted to receive public comments, including, but not limited to, comments regarding possible options available to bring the distressed or failing utility into compliance with appropriate statutory and regulatory standards concerning actual or imminent public health problems or unreasonable quality and reliability service standards. At the evidentiary hearing, the commission shall receive evidence to determine if the utility is a distressed or failing utility and whether a capable proximate utility should acquire the utility. If there is more than one capable proximate utility, then sufficient evidence should be presented to allow the commission to determine the appropriate capable proximate utility to acquire the distressed or failing utility.

§24-2H-7. Commission order for acquisition of failing utility; list of distressed and failing utilities to Legislature.

(a) Following the evidentiary hearing, the commission shall enter a final order stating whether the utility is a distressed or failing utility and identifying the capable proximate utilities, if any, as defined in §24-2H-3 of this code. If the commission determines that a utility is a distressed utility, then the commission may make an order consistent with subsection (b) of this section. If the commission determines that the utility is a failing utility, then the commission may order the acquisition of the failing utility by the most suitable capable proximate water or wastewater utility, if there is more than one.

(b) Before the commission may designate a water or wastewater utility as failing and order acquisition by a capable proximate utility it shall determine whether there are any alternatives to an ordered acquisition. If the commission determines that an alternative to designating a utility as failing and ordering an acquisition is reasonable and cost effective, it may order the distressed utility and, if

applicable to the alternative a capable proximate utility, to implement the alternative. Commission staff shall work with the utility to implement the alternative, as necessary. Alternatives that the commission may consider include, but are not limited to, the following:

(1) Reorganization of the utility under new management or a new board, subject to the approval of the applicable county commission(s) or municipal government;

(2) Operation of the distressed utility by another public utility or management or service company under a mutually agreed arms-length contract;

(3) Appointment of a receiver to assure the provision of adequate, efficient, safe and reasonable service and facilities to the public pursuant to §24-2-7(b) of this code;

(4) Merger of the water or wastewater utility with one or more other public utilities, subject to the approval of the applicable county commission(s) or municipal government;

(5) The acquisition of the distressed utility through a mutual agreement made at arms-length; and

(6) Any viable alternative other than an ordered acquisition by a capable proximate utility.

(c) The commission shall provide a list of utilities designated by a final order of the commission as a distressed or failing utility to the Legislature as part of its annual Management Summary Report beginning in the 2021 reporting period and annually thereafter. The commission shall provide the same list to the Water Development Authority and the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council on or before January 31 of each year beginning in 2021.

§24-2H-8. Commission approval of operating agreement, acquisition price; rates for distressed and failing utilities; improvement plan; debt obligations; cost recovery.

(a) After an order has been entered pursuant to §24-2H-4 of this code, the distressed utility and acquiring utility shall file a petition with the commission under §24-2-12 of this code to approve the necessary operating agreement if such alternative is directed by the commission. After an order has been entered pursuant to §24-2H-7 of this code, the failing utility and acquiring utility shall file a petition with the commission under §24-2-12 of this code, to approve the purchase price of the acquisition. Where the parties are unable to agree on an acquisition price, the filing may request that an evidentiary hearing be held so that the commission may determine the acquisition price and any other issues related to the acquisition. The acquisition price must, at a minimum, satisfy all outstanding loans, tax obligations, required grant repayment, liens and indebtedness owed by the failing utility or the acquiring utility must agree to assume the indebtednesses if legally permitted. The acquiring utility shall consult with the lenders or lienholders regarding payment in full or the assumption, to the extent legally permissible, of any outstanding obligations of the failing utility.

(b) The parties to an acquisition may propose to the commission other methods of determining the acquisition price.

(c) As part of the proceeding, the acquiring utility may propose to the commission that it be permitted for a reasonable period of time after the date of acquisition, to charge and collect rates from the customers of the failing utility pursuant to a separate tariff which may be higher or lower than the existing tariff of the distressed or failing utility or may allow a surcharge on both the acquired and existing customers. A separate tariff or rate filing must be made by the acquiring utility before the commission will consider any increase in rates or allow a surcharge to be placed on the acquiring utility's acquired or existing ratepayers.

(d) As part of this proceeding, the acquiring utility shall submit to the commission for approval a plan, including a timetable for bringing the failing utility into compliance with applicable statutory and regulatory standards, including, but not limited to, plans for regionalization. The acquiring utility shall have previously obtained the approval of the plan from the Department of Environmental Protection and the Bureau for Public Health, as applicable, and those agencies are directed to use their full discretion in working towards long-term solutions that will support compliance. The failing utility shall cooperate with the acquiring utility in negotiating agreements with state and federal agencies, including, but not limited to, negotiation of hold harmless agreements, consent orders or enforcement moratoria during any period of remediation. In addition, the failing utility shall cooperate with the acquiring utility in obtaining the consent of the failing utility's and the acquiring utility's bondholder(s) to the acquisition. The acquiring utility must present to the commission as part of its financing plan, documentation on how the failing utility's indebtedness will be paid or assumed.

(e) A nonprofit acquiring public utility may seek grant funding from the Distressed Utilities Account established pursuant to §31-15A-9(i) of this code to repair, maintain and replace the distressed water and wastewater utilities facilities as needed. The reasonably and prudently incurred costs of the acquiring utility shall be recoverable in rates as provided in §24-2H-9 of this code.

(f) If the distressed or failing utility is a public service district, then the commission shall make a recommendation to the respective county commission(s) with regard to the acquisition of distressed or failing utilities as provided in §16-13A-2(a)(2) of this code. If the distressed or failing utility is a municipal corporation, then the commission shall make a recommendation to the respective municipal council with regard to the acquisition of distressed or failing utilities as provided in §8-12-17 of this code.

(g) The capable proximate utility may propose one or more of the cost recovery methods or incentives set forth in §24-2H-9 of this code as part of its petition for approval from the commission.

§24-2H-9. Recovery of costs for acquisition, operation, repairs and improvements to distressed or failing utility facilities.

The commission may approve an appropriate and reasonable cost recovery mechanism to allow the capable proximate utility to recover its acquisition costs and projected cost of service of operating, maintaining and improving the facilities of the failing water or wastewater utility or its net costs incurred for operating, maintaining and improving the distressed utility under an operating agreement. The cost recovery mechanism may include a surcharge or surcharges on both acquired and existing customers if approved by the commission in a separate rate or tariff proceeding which shall be considered by the commission on an expedited basis without the need for a full base rate proceeding. Rate increments and surcharges established pursuant to this section shall be subject to adjustment on an annual basis to reflect changes in costs, additional projected capital and operating costs and true-up of any over or under recoveries of costs. Cost recovery mechanisms may also include:

(1) A surcharge above existing rates that allows recovery of additional incremental cost increases, net of contributions necessary to operate, maintain and improve the failing utility's service level to an acceptable level and into compliance with all applicable regulatory standards;

(2) An acquisition adjustment to private for-profit utilities as an incentive to acquire a failing utility;

(3) An increased return on investment as an incentive to acquire a failing utility; or

(4) Any other incentive method proposed by the acquiring utility if the method is determined by the

commission to be appropriate, reasonable and in the public interest.

CHAPTER 31. CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 15A. WEST VIRGINIA INFRASTRUCTURE AND JOBS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL.

§31-15A-9. Infrastructure fund; deposits in fund; disbursements to provide loans, loan guarantees, grants and other assistance; loans, loan guarantees, grants and other assistance shall be subject to assistance agreements; West Virginia Infrastructure Lottery Revenue Debt Service Fund; use of funds for projects.

(a) The Water Development Authority shall create and establish a special revolving fund of moneys made available by appropriation, grant, contribution or loan to be known as the West Virginia Infrastructure Fund. This fund shall be governed, administered and accounted for by the directors, officers and managerial staff of the Water Development Authority as a special purpose account separate and distinct from any other moneys, funds or funds owned and managed by the Water Development Authority. The infrastructure fund shall consist of sub-accounts, as deemed necessary by the council or the Water Development Authority, for the deposit of: (1) Infrastructure revenues; (2) any appropriations, grants, gifts, contributions, loan proceeds, or other revenues received by the infrastructure fund from any source, public or private; (3) amounts received as payments on any loans made by the Water Development Authority to pay for the cost of a project or infrastructure project; (4) insurance proceeds payable to the Water Development Authority or the infrastructure fund in connection with any infrastructure project or project; (5) all income earned on moneys held in the infrastructure fund; (6) all funds deposited in accordance with §31-15B-4 of this code; and (7) all proceeds derived from the sale of bonds issued pursuant to §31-15B-1 *et seq.* of this code.

Any money collected pursuant to this section shall be paid into the West Virginia Infrastructure Fund by the state agent or entity charged with the collection of the same, credited to the infrastructure fund, and used only for purposes set forth in this article or §31-15B-1 *et seq.* of this code.

Amounts in the infrastructure fund shall be segregated and administered by the Water Development Authority separate and apart from its other assets and programs. Amounts in the infrastructure fund may not be transferred to any other fund or account or used, other than indirectly, for the purposes of any other program of the Water Development Authority, except that the Water Development Authority may use funds in the infrastructure fund to reimburse itself for any administrative costs incurred by it and approved by the council in connection with any loan, loan guarantee, grant or other funding assistance made by the Water Development Authority pursuant to this article.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, amounts in the infrastructure fund shall be deposited by the Water Development Authority in one or more banking institutions: *Provided*, That any moneys so deposited shall be deposited in a banking institution located in this state. The banking institution shall be selected by the Water Development Authority by competitive bid. Pending the disbursement of any money from the infrastructure fund as authorized under this section, the Water Development Authority shall invest and reinvest the moneys subject to the limitations set forth in §31-18-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(c) To further accomplish the purposes and intent of this article and §31-15B-1 *et seq.* of this code, the Water Development Authority may pledge infrastructure revenues and from time to time establish one or more restricted accounts within the infrastructure fund for the purpose of providing funds to guarantee loans for infrastructure projects or projects: *Provided*, That for any fiscal year the

Water Development Authority may not deposit into the restricted accounts more than 20 percent of the aggregate amount of infrastructure revenues deposited into the infrastructure fund during the fiscal year. No loan guarantee shall be made pursuant to this article unless recourse under the loan guarantee is limited solely to amounts in the restricted account or accounts. No person shall have any recourse to any restricted accounts established pursuant to this subsection other than those persons to whom the loan guarantee or guarantees have been made.

(d) Each loan, loan guarantee, grant or other assistance made or provided by the Water Development Authority shall be evidenced by a loan, loan guarantee, grant or assistance agreement between the Water Development Authority and the project sponsor to which the loan, loan guarantee, grant or assistance shall be made or provided, which agreement shall include, without limitation and to the extent applicable, the following provisions:

(1) The estimated cost of the infrastructure project or project, the amount of the loan, loan guarantee or grant or the nature of the assistance, and in the case of a loan or loan guarantee, the terms of repayment and the security therefor, if any;

(2) The specific purposes for which the loan or grant proceed shall be expended or the benefits to accrue from the loan guarantee or other assistance, and the conditions and procedure for disbursing loan or grant proceeds;

(3) The duties and obligations imposed regarding the acquisition, construction, improvement, or operation of the project or infrastructure project; and

(4) The agreement of the governmental agency to comply with all applicable federal and state laws, and all rules and regulations issued or imposed by the Water Development Authority or other state, federal, or local bodies regarding the acquisition, construction,

improvement, or operation of the infrastructure project or project and granting the Water Development Authority the right to appoint a receiver for the project or infrastructure if the project sponsor should default on any terms of the agreement.

(e) Any resolution of the Water Development Authority approving loan, loan guarantee, grant, or other assistance shall include a finding and determination that the requirements of this section have been met.

(f) The interest rate on any loan to governmental, quasi-governmental, or not-for-profit project sponsors for projects made pursuant to this article shall not exceed three percent per annum. Due to the limited availability of funds available for loans for projects, it is the public policy of this state to prioritize funding needs to first meet the needs of governmental, quasi- governmental and not-for-profit project sponsors and to require that loans made to for-profit entities shall bear interest at the current market rates. Therefore, no loan may be made by the council to a for-profit entity at an interest rate which is less than the current market rate at the time of the loan agreement.

(g) The Water Development Authority shall cause an annual audit to be made by an independent certified public accountant of its books, accounts, and records, with respect to the receipts, disbursements, contracts, leases, assignments, loans, grants, and all other matters relating to the financial operation of the infrastructure fund, including the operating of any sub-account within the infrastructure fund. The person performing such audit shall furnish copies of the audit report to the Commissioner of Finance and Administration, where they shall be placed on file and made available for inspection by the general public. The person performing such audit shall also furnish copies of the audit report to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

(h) There is hereby created in the Water Development Authority a separate, special account which shall be designated and known as the West Virginia Infrastructure Lottery Revenue Debt Service Fund, into which shall be deposited annually for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2011, and each fiscal year thereafter, the first $6 million transferred pursuant to §29-22-18d of this code and any other funds provided therefor: *Provided*, That such deposits and transfers are not subject to the reservations of funds or requirements for distributions of funds established by §31-15A-10 and §31-15A-11 of this code. Moneys in the West Virginia Infrastructure Lottery Revenue Debt Service Fund shall be used to pay debt service on bonds or notes issued by the Water Development Authority for watershed compliance projects as provided in §31-15A-17b of this code, and to the extent not needed to pay debt service, for the design or construction of improvements for watershed compliance projects. Moneys in the West Virginia Infrastructure Lottery Revenue Debt Service Fund not expended at the close of the fiscal year do not lapse or revert to the General Fund but are carried forward to the next fiscal year.

(i) The Water Development Authority shall establish a separate restricted account within the infrastructure fund to be expended for the repair and improvement of failing water and wastewater systems by nonprofit public utilities from grants approved by the council and supported by recommendations from the Public Service Commission in accordance with the plan developed under §24-2H-1 *et seq.* of this code. The restricted account shall be known as the Distressed Utilities Account. Annually, the council may request the Water Development Authority to transfer from the uncommitted loan balances for each year a total amount not to exceed $5 million to the restricted account to fund the grants approved by the council during that fiscal year. Notwithstanding the provisions of §31-15A-10(b) of this code, the council may approve grants from this account for up to 100 percent of the cost of failing utility repairs,

replacements and improvements and such grant along with other grants awarded by the council may exceed 50 percent of the total project cost: *Provided*, That at no time may the balance of the restricted account exceed $5 million.

CHAPTER 348

(S. B. 289 - By Senators Weld, Baldwin and Hamilton)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §15-3E-1, §15-3E-2, §15-3E-3, §15-3E-4, §15-3E-5, §15-3E-6, and §15-3E-7, all relating to the establishment of an alert system for missing at-risk veterans by Superintendent of West Virginia State Police; providing legislative findings and declarations relative to the Green Alert Plan; establishment of the Green Alert Plan; defining a term; activation of a Green Alert; notice to participating media; broadcasting of a Green Alert; notification to the Department of Transportation, the Division of Highways, and the West Virginia Turnpike Commission of the Green Alert; termination of the Green Alert; immunity from criminal or civil liability; and authorizing superintendent to promulgate guidelines and procedural rules.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3E. CREATION OF A STATEWIDE GREEN ALERT PLAN.

§15-3E-1. Short title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the Green Alert Plan.

§15-3E-2. Findings and declarations relative to Green Alert Plan.

(a) The Legislature finds that:

(1) According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, 20 veterans commit suicide each day across the country;

(2) While veterans make up less than nine percent of the total U.S. population, tragically, they account for 19 percent of all suicides in America;

(3) By establishing the Green Alert Plan, law enforcement will be provided with additional tools that will help them in responding to an at-risk veteran's disappearance and place an emphasis on the risk of suicide for veterans with a service-related condition;

(4) The Green Alert Plan would also allow for a more rapid dissemination of information on the missing at-risk veteran to the public, who, having been alerted to the situation, now become an extensive network of eyes and ears serving to assist law enforcement in quickly locating and safely recovering a missing at-risk veteran, and potentially saving them serious injury or suicide; and

(5) Given the success of both the Amber and Silver Alert systems, expanding the program to include at-risk veterans is imperative to help those who have served.

(b) The Legislature declares that creating a Green Alert is a way to prevent more tragedies and help ensure our veterans get back home safely.

§15-3E-3. Establishment of Green Alert Plan.

(a) The Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police shall establish the Green Alert Plan authorizing the

broadcast media, upon notice from the West Virginia State Police, to broadcast an alert to inform the public of a missing at-risk veteran, subject to the criteria established in §15-3E-4 of this code. The program shall be a voluntary, cooperative effort between state law enforcement and the broadcast media.

(b) As used in this article, "at-risk veteran" means a person who is currently serving in the armed forces on active duty, reserve status, or in the National Guard, or a person who served in the active military, or who was discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable who is known, based on the information provided by the person making the report, to have a physical or mental health condition that is related to his or her service.

(c) The superintendent shall notify the broadcast media serving the State of West Virginia of the establishment the Green Alert Plan and invite their voluntary participation.

(d) The superintendent shall submit a plan to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance no later than December 1, 2020. The plan shall include Green Alert activation protocols, evaluation of first responder training requirements and needs as related to at-risk veterans, coordination and use of established programs, and analysis of any costs. The superintendent shall also make recommendations for any additional legislation or actions necessary to further facilitate the implementation of the Green Alert Plan.

§15-3E-4. Activation of Green Alert.

The following criteria shall be met before the West Virginia State Police activate the Green Alert:

(1) An individual who has knowledge that the at-risk veteran is missing has submitted a missing person's report to the West Virginia State Police or other appropriate law-enforcement agency;

(2) The at-risk veteran is believed to be missing, regardless of circumstance;

(3) Based upon information provided by the individual who has submitted the missing person's report, law enforcement has reason to believe that the at-risk veteran has a physical or mental health condition that is related to his or her service;

(4) The missing at-risk veteran may be in danger of death or serious bodily injury;

(5) The missing at-risk veteran is domiciled or believed to be located in the state of West Virginia;

(6) The missing at-risk veteran is, or is believed to be, at a location that cannot be determined by an individual familiar with the missing at-risk veteran, and the missing at-risk veteran is incapable of returning to his or her residence without assistance; and

(7) There is sufficient information available to indicate that a Green Alert would assist in locating the missing at-risk veteran.

§15-3E-5. Notice to participating media; broadcast of alert.

(a) To participate, the media may agree, upon notice from the West Virginia State Police via email or facsimile, to transmit information to the public about a missing at-risk veteran that has occurred within their broadcast service region.

(b) The alerts shall include a description of the missing at-risk veteran, such details of the circumstance surrounding him or her becoming missing, as may be known, and such other information as the West Virginia State Police may deem pertinent and appropriate. The West Virginia State Police shall, in a timely manner, update the broadcast media with new information when appropriate concerning the missing at-risk veteran.

(c) The alerts also shall provide information concerning how those members of the public who have information relating to the missing at-risk veteran may contact the West Virginia State Police or other appropriate law-enforcement agency.

(d) Concurrent with the notice provided to the broadcast media, the West Virginia State Police shall also notify the Department of Transportation, the Division of Highways, and the West Virginia Turnpike Commission of the Green Alert so that the department and the affected authorities may, if possible, through the use of their variable message signs, inform the motoring public that a Green Alert is in progress and may provide information relating to the missing at-risk veteran and how motorists may report any information they have to the West Virginia State Police or other appropriate law-enforcement agency.

(e) The alerts shall terminate upon notice from the West Virginia State Police.

(f) The superintendent shall develop and undertake a campaign to inform law-enforcement agencies about the Green Alert Plan established under this article.

§15-3E-6. Aid to missing at-risk veteran; immunity from civil or criminal liability.

No person or entity who, in good faith, follows and abides by the provisions of this article is liable for any civil or criminal penalty as the result of any act or omission in the furtherance thereof unless it is alleged and proven that the information disclosed was false and disclosed with the knowledge that the information was false.

§15-3E-7. Guidelines; procedural rules.

The superintendent may adopt guidelines and procedural rules to effectuate the purposes of this article.

CHAPTER 349

(Com. Sub. for S. B. 705 - By Senators Maynard, Blair, Clements, Cline and Rucker)

[Passed March 3, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §21-14-3a; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §29-3B-4a; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §29-3D-4a, all relating to allowing military veterans with certain experience to qualify for examination for licensure as a plumber, electrician, sprinkler fitter, and sprinkler fitter in training; providing the qualifications to sit for a plumber's examination; providing qualifications to sit for an electrician's examination; and providing qualifications to sit for an examination of a sprinkler fitter in training or a journeyman sprinkler fitter.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 21. LABOR.

ARTICLE 14. SUPERVISION OF PLUMBING WORK.

§21-14-3a. Veteran qualification for examination for license as a plumber.

Any person who has served as a member of the United States armed forces, National Guard, or reserve, and who has successfully completed the course of instruction required to qualify him or her for rating as a plumber, utilities worker, or other equivalent rating in his or her particular branch of the armed forces, and whose service in the armed forces was under honorable conditions, may

submit to the West Virginia Commissioner of Labor a photostatic copy of the certificate issued to him or her certifying successful completion of such course of instruction, a photostatic copy of his or her discharge from the armed forces, an application for a certification as a plumber, and the prescribed license fee.

If the certificate and discharge, as evidenced by the photostatic copies thereof, and the application and prescribed license fee are in order, and if the veteran meets all of the requirements of this article, the veteran shall be permitted to take the same examination or examinations as are required under this article for applicants who do not apply for a license under the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That the veteran may be required to attend additional training courses prior to taking the examination if more than 30 years have passed from his or her successful completion of the course of instruction and date of application. If the veteran passes the examination or examinations, he or she shall be licensed as a plumber and shall thereafter be subject to all of the provisions of this article. If the veteran does not pass the examination or examinations, any provisions of this article relating to reexaminations shall apply to the veteran the same as they apply to a person who does not apply for a license under the provisions of this article.

CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 3B. SUPERVISION OF ELECTRICIANS.

§29-3B-4a. Veteran qualification for examination for license as an electrician.

Any person who has served as a member of the United States armed forces, National Guard, or reserve, and who has successfully completed the course of instruction required to qualify him or her for rating as an electrician, electrician's mate, or other equivalent rating in his or her

particular branch of the armed forces, and whose service in the armed forces was under honorable conditions, may submit to the State Fire Marshal a photostatic copy of the certificate issued to him or her certifying successful completion of such course of instruction, a photostatic copy of his or her discharge from the armed forces, an application for a certification as an electrician, and the prescribed license fee.

If the certificate and discharge, as evidenced by the photostatic copies thereof, and the application and prescribed license fee are in order, and if the veteran meets all of the requirements of this article, the veteran shall be permitted to take the same examination or examinations as are required under this article for applicants who do not apply for a license under the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That the veteran may be required to attend additional training courses prior to taking the examination if more than 30 years have passed from his or her successful completion of the course of instruction and date of application. If the veteran passes the examination or examinations, he or she shall be licensed as an electrician and shall thereafter be subject to all of the provisions of this article. If the veteran does not pass the examination or examinations, any provisions of this article relating to reexaminations shall apply to the veteran the same as they apply to a person who does not apply for a license under the provisions of this article.

ARTICLE 3D. SUPERVISION OF FIRE PROTECTION WORK.

§29-3D-4a. Veteran qualification for license as a journeyman sprinkler fitter or a sprinkler fitter in training.

Any person who has served as a member of the United States armed forces, National Guard, or reserve, and who has successfully completed the course of instruction required to qualify him or her for rating as a fire protection officer or other equivalent rating in his or her particular

branch of the armed forces, which provided the veteran direct experience installing, adjusting, repairing, and dismantling fire protection systems, and whose service in the armed forces was under honorable conditions, may submit to the State Fire Marshal a photostatic copy of a certificate issued to him or her certifying successful completion of such course of instruction and documentation evidencing the number of hours of experience the veteran possesses, a photostatic copy of his or her discharge from the armed forces, an application for a certification as a journeyman sprinkler fitter or sprinkler fitter in training, and the prescribed license fee.

If the certificate and discharge, as evidenced by the photostatic copies thereof, documentation of hours of training and experience, and prescribed license fee are in order, and if the veteran meets all of the requirements of this article, the veteran shall be permitted to take the same examination or examinations as are required under this article for applicants who do not apply for a license under the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That the veteran may be required to attend additional training courses prior to taking the examination if more than 30 years have passed from his or her successful completion of the course of instruction and date of application. If the veteran passes the examination or examinations, he or she shall be licensed as a sprinkler fitter in training or a journeyman sprinkler fitter and shall thereafter be subject to all of the provisions of this article. If the veteran does not pass the examination or examinations, any provisions of this article relating to reexaminations shall apply to the veteran the same as they apply to a person who does not apply for a license under the provisions of this article.

CHAPTER 350

(H. B. 4030 - By Delegates J. Jeffries, Wilson, Maynard, Waxman, Summers, Kessinger, Graves, D. Jeffries and Porterfield)

[Passed February 17, 2020; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on February 27, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §8-15-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the age limit of an honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces, armed service reserves, or National Guard to 40 years of age for an application for original appointment.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 15. FIRE FIGHTING; FIRE COMPANIES AND DEPARTMENTS; CIVIL SERVICE FOR PAID FIRE DEPARTMENTS.

§8-15-17. Form of application; age and residency requirements; exceptions.

(a) The Firemen's Civil Service Commission in each municipality shall require individuals applying for admission to any competitive examination provided for under the civil service provisions of this article or under the rules of the commission to file in its office, within a reasonable time prior to the proposed examination, a formal application in which the applicant shall state under oath or affirmation:

(1) His or her full name, residence, and post office address;

(2) His or her United States citizenship, age, and the place and date of his or her birth;

(3) His or her state of health, and his or her physical capacity for the public service;

(4) His or her business and employments and residences for at least three previous years; and

(5) Any other information reasonably required, touching upon the applicant's qualifications and fitness for the public service.

(b) Blank forms for the applications shall be furnished by the commission, without charge, to all individuals requesting the same.

(c) The commission may require, in connection with the application, certificates of citizens, physicians, and others, having pertinent knowledge concerning the applicant, as the good of the service requires.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g) of this section, the commission may not accept an application for original appointment if the individual applying is less than 18 years of age or more than 35 years of age at the date of his or her application.

(e) If any applicant is an honorably discharged veteran of any branch of the United States armed forces, armed services reserve, or National Guard, then the individual may apply for an original appointment if the applicant is not more than 40 years of age.

(f) If any applicant formerly served upon the paid fire department of the municipality to which he or she makes application for a period of more than one year, and resigned from the department at a time when there were no charges of misconduct or other misfeasance pending against the applicant within a period of two years next preceding the date of his or her application, and at the time of his or her

application resides within the corporate limits of the municipality in which the paid fire department to which he or she seeks appointment by reinstatement is located, then the individual is eligible for appointment by reinstatement in the discretion of the Firemen's Civil Service Commission, even though the applicant is over the age of 35 years, and the applicant, providing his or her former term of service so justifies, may be appointed by reinstatement to the paid fire department without a competitive examination. The applicant shall undergo a medical examination; and if the individual is so appointed by reinstatement to the paid fire department, he or she shall be the lowest in rank in the department next above the probationers of the department and may not be entitled to seniority considerations.

(g) If an individual is presently employed by one paid fire department and is over the age of 35, he or she may make an application to another paid fire department if:

(1) The paid fire department to which he or she is applying is serving a municipality that has elected to participate in the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System created in §8-22A-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That any individual applying pursuant to this subdivision is to be classified as a new employee for retirement purposes and prior employment service may not be transferred to the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System; or

(2) The paid fire department to which he or she is applying is serving a municipality that has elected to participate in the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System created in §5-10-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That any individual applying pursuant to this subdivision is to be classified as a new employee for retirement purposes and prior employment service may not be transferred to the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System, except for individuals and their prior employment service already credited to them in the West

Virginia Public Employees Retirement System pursuant to §5-10-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(h) Individuals who are authorized to apply to a paid fire department pursuant to subsection (f) of this section shall be in the lowest rank of the department and are not entitled to seniority considerations.

(i) Notwithstanding charter provisions to the contrary, any applicant for original appointment need not be a resident of the municipality or the county in which he or she seeks to become a member of the paid fire department.

CHAPTER 351

(H. B. 4589 - By Delegates Pushkin, D. Jeffries, Jennings, Robinson, Butler, Estep-Burton, Pyles, Bartlett and D. Kelly)

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on March 24, 2020.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §29-1-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to eliminating the requirement that the Commission on the Arts prioritize a women's veterans memorial statue, and causing and requiring a study and recommendations by the Commission on the Arts on the construction and design of a memorial to honor West Virginians killed in the United States War on Terror.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. DIVISION OF CULTURE AND HISTORY.

§29-1-3. Commission on the Arts.

(a) The Commission on the Arts is continued and shall be composed of 15 appointed voting members and the ex officio nonvoting members set forth or authorized for appointment in this section.

(b)(1) The Governor shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the voting members of the commission for staggered terms of three years. A person appointed to fill a vacancy shall be appointed only for the remainder of that term.

(2) No more than eight voting members may be of the same political party. Effective July 1, 2004, no more than three voting members may be from the same regional educational service agency district created in §18-2-26 of this code. Voting members of the commission shall be appointed so as to fairly represent both sexes, the ethnic and cultural diversity of the state, and the geographic regions of the state.

(3) The commission shall elect one of its members as chair. It shall meet at the times specified by the chair. Notice of each meeting shall be given to each member by the chair in compliance with the open meetings laws of the state. A majority of the voting members constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The director of the arts section shall be an ex officio nonvoting member of the commission and shall serve as secretary. The director or a majority of the members also may call a meeting upon notice as provided in this section.

(4) Each voting member or ex officio nonvoting member of the commission shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of the duties of the office; except that in the event the expenses are paid, or are to be paid, by a third party, the member or ex officio member, as the case may be, shall not be reimbursed by the state.

(5) Upon recommendation of the commissioner, the Governor also may appoint those officers of the state that are appropriate to serve on the commission as ex officio nonvoting members.

(c) The commission may:

(1) Advise the commissioner and the director of the arts section concerning the accomplishment of the purposes of that section and establish a state plan with respect to the arts section;

(2) Approve and distribute grants-in-aid and awards from federal and state funds relating to the purposes of the arts section;

(3) Request, accept, or expend federal funds to accomplish the purposes of the arts section when federal law or regulations would prohibit those actions by the commissioner or section director, but would permit them to be done by the commission on the arts;

(4) Otherwise encourage and promote the purposes of the arts section;

(5) Approve rules concerning the professional policies and functions of the section as promulgated by the director of the arts section; and

(6) Advise and consent to the appointment of the director by the commissioner.

(d) A special revenue account in the State Treasury, known as the "Cultural Facilities and Capital Resources Matching Grant Program Fund", is continued. The fund shall consist of moneys received under §29-22A-10 of this code and funds from any other source. The moneys in the fund shall be expended in accordance with the following:

(1) Fifty percent of the moneys deposited in the fund shall be expended by the Commission on the Arts for capital

improvements, preservation, and operations of cultural facilities: *Provided*, That the Commission on the Arts may use no more than 25 percent of the funding for operations of cultural facilities pursuant to the rule required by this subdivision. The Commission on the Arts shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to create a matching grant program for cultural facilities and capital resources; and

(2) Fifty percent of the moneys deposited in the fund shall be expended by the Division of Culture and History for:

(A) Capital improvements, preservation, and operation of cultural facilities that are managed by the division; and

(B) Capital improvements, preservation, and operation of cultural facilities that are not managed by the division.

(e) The commission shall undertake a study, solicit designs, and make recommendations for the establishment of an appropriate memorial on state capitol grounds for soldiers killed in the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations who died fighting the United States War on Terror, and to recognize and honor the West Virginians who lost their lives in these conflicts. The commission shall consult with the Capitol Building Commission and state veterans, including veterans groups and Gold Star mothers of those lost in these conflicts, prior to adoption of a proposal for the memorial. The commission shall provide a report to the Legislature's Joint Committee on Government and Finance by January 1, 2022, including recommendations for design and location of the memorial and estimated construction costs.

LEGISLATURE OF WEST VIRGINIA

ACTS

FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, 2019

CHAPTER 1

(H. B. 119 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing, amending, decreasing, and increasing items of the existing appropriations from the State Road Fund to the Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, fund 9017, fiscal year 2019, organization 0803, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Road Fund setting forth therein the cash balances and investments as of July 1, 2018, and further included the estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Road Fund there now remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 9017, fiscal year 2019, organization 0803, be

supplemented and amended by decreasing existing items of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 2. Appropriations from state road fund.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 – Division of Highways –

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 9017 FY 2019 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	State Road Fund
1	1	Debt Service.....	04000	$ 9,500,000
2	8	Other Federal Aid Programs.....	27900	10,000,000
3	9	Appalachian Programs.....	28000	15,000,000

4 And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year
5 ending June 30, 2019, to fund 9017, fiscal year 2019,
6 organization 0803, be supplemented and amended by
7 increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 2. Appropriations from state road fund.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 – Division of Highways –

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 9017 FY 2019 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	State Road Fund
1	2	Maintenance.....	23700	$ 34,500,000

CHAPTER 2

(H. B. 132 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed July 22, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on July 29, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending by increasing and decreasing existing items of appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury in the State Fund, General Revenue, from the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Health, fund 0407, fiscal year 2020, organization 0506 to the Department of Agriculture, fund 0131, fiscal year 2020, organization 1400, by supplementing, amending, increasing and decreasing items of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Legislature passed Senate Bill 496, Regular Session, 2019, transferring the regulation of milk and milk products previously established within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources to the Department of Agriculture; and

Whereas, Based upon the passage of Senate Bill 496, Regular Session, 2019, the Governor has established there are now funds available for expenditure in the Department of Health and Human Resources, fund 0407, fiscal year 2020, organization 0506 during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 0407, fiscal year 2020, organization 0506, be supplemented and amended by decreasing existing items of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

57 – Division of Health –

Central Office

(WV Code Chapter 16)

Fund 0407 FY 2020 Org 0506

			Appro-priation		General Revenue Fund
1	1	Personal Services and			
2		Employee Benefits	00100	$	251,555
3	3	Current Expenses.....	13000		406,155

4 And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year
5 ending June 30, 2020, to fund 0131, fiscal year 2020,
6 organization 1400, be supplemented and amended by
7 increasing existing items of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

EXECUTIVE

10 –Department of Agriculture

(WV Code Chapter 19)

Fund 0131 FY 2020 Org 1400

			Appro-priation		General Revenue Fund
1	1	Personnel Services and			
2		Employee Benefits	00100	$	251,555
3	3	Current Expenses.....	13000		406,155

CHAPTER 3

(H. B. 148 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Executive, Governor's Office, fund 0101, fiscal year 2019, organization 0100, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive messages, there remains an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0101, fiscal year 2019, organization 0100, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

EXECUTIVE

5 - Governor's Office –

(WV Code Chapter 5)

Fund 0101 FY 2019 Org 0100

			Appro-priation		**General Revenue Fund**
1	5a	Federal Reimbursement/Repayment			
2		- Surplus	13499	$	244,200

CHAPTER 4

(H. B. 149 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Miley, Linville, Mandt and Hornbuckle) [By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Executive, Governor's Office, Civil Contingent Fund, fund 0105, fiscal year 2019, organization 0100, by supplementing and amending by adding a new item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive messages, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0105, fiscal year 2019, organization 0100, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

EXECUTIVE

7 – Governor's Office –

Civil Contingent Fund

(WV Code Chapter 5)

Fund 0105 FY 2019 Org 0100

			Appro-priation	**General Revenue Fund**
1	1a	Milton Flood Wall (R).....	XXXXX	$ 8,000,000

2 Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation
3 for Milton Flood Wall, (fund 0105, appropriation XXXXX) at
4 the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for
5 expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

CHAPTER 5

(H. B. 150 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to the Department of Revenue, Office of the Secretary, Home Rule Board Operations Fund, fund 7010, fiscal year 2020, organization 0701 by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor has established that there now remains an unappropriated balance in the Department of Revenue, Office of the Secretary, Home Rule Board Operations Fund, fund 7010, fiscal year 2020, organization 0701, that is available for expenditure during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That chapter 31, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, known as the budget bill, be supplemented and amended by adding to Title II, section three thereof, the following:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 3. Appropriations from other funds.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

239a – Home Rule Board Operations Fund

(WV Code Chapter 8)

Fund 7010 FY 2020 Org 0701

			Appro-priation		Other Funds
1	1	Personal Services and			
2		Employee Benefits	00100	$	25,000
3	2	Current Expenses.....	13000		42,000
4	3	Repairs and Alterations	06400		120
5	4	Equipment.....	07000		200
6	5	Unclassified	09900		680
7	6	Total.....		$	68,000

CHAPTER 6

(H. B. 151 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of Lottery Net Profits by increasing existing items of appropriation from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in Lottery Net Profits to the Department of Arts, Culture and History, Division of Culture and History, Lottery Education Fund, fund 3534, fiscal year 2020, organization 0432, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document to the Legislature on January 9, 2019, which included a Statement of the Lottery Fund setting forth therein the unappropriated cash balance as of July 1, 2019, and further included the estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2020, less regular appropriations for fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, It appears from the Governor's Statement of the Lottery Fund, there now remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 3534, fiscal year 2020, organization 0432 be supplemented and amended by increasing existing items of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 4. Appropriations from lottery net profits.

294 – Division of Culture and History –

Lottery Education Fund

(WV Code Chapter 29)

Fund 3534 FY 2020 Org 0432

			Appro-priation		Excess Lottery Funds
1	6	Historic Preservation			
2		Grants (R).....	31100	$	10,000
3	11	Grants for Competitive			
4		Arts Program (R).....	62400	$	46,000
5	13	Save the Music.....	68000	$	14,000

CHAPTER 7

(H. B. 152 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation by adding a new item and increasing the expenditure of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Revenue, State Budget Office, fund 0595, fiscal year 2019, organization 0703, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a

statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive messages, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0595, fiscal year 2019, organization 0703, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

76 – State Budget Office

(WV Code Chapter 11B)

Fund 0595 FY 2019 Org 0703

			Appro-priation	**General Revenue Fund**
1	2b	Revenue Shortfall		
2		Reserve Fund – Transfer	59000	$ 39,000,000

The above appropriation for Revenue Shortfall Reserve Fund - Transfer (fund, 0595, appropriation 59000) shall be transferred to the Department of Revenue, Office of the Secretary, Revenue Shortfall Reserve Fund (fund 7005).

CHAPTER 8

(H. B. 153 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Health, Central Office, fund 0407, fiscal year 2019, organization 0506, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive messages, there remains an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0407, fiscal year 2019, organization 0506, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

57 – Division of Health –

Central Office

(WV Code Chapter 16)

Fund 0407 FY 2019 Org 0506

		Appro-priation	General Revenue Fund
17a	Directed Transfer - Surplus	70099	$ 2,000,000

The above appropriation for Directed Transfer - Surplus (fund, 0407, appropriation 70099) shall be transferred to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Health, Ryan Brown Addiction Prevention and Recovery Fund (fund 5111).

CHAPTER 9

(H. B. 154 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, fund 0620, fiscal year 2019, organization 0803, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a

revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Executive Budget document, Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive messages, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0620, fiscal year 2019, organization 0803, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

78a – Division of Highways

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 0620 FY 2019 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	General Revenue Fund
1	1	Directed Transfer.....	70000	$ 50,200,917

The above appropriation shall be transferred to the cash balance of the State Road Fund, to be utilized by the Division of Highways.

CHAPTER 10

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 155 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley) [By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing, amending and increasing an item of existing appropriation from the State Road Fund to the Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, fund 9017, fiscal year 2020, organization 0803, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Road Fund setting forth therein the cash balances and investments as of July 1, 2018, and further included the estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019 and that also sets forth therein, the estimated cash balance and investments as of July 1, 2019, and further included the estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2020, less regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Road Fund and a

statement of the State Fund, State Road Fund for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Road Fund and a statement of the State Fund, State Road Fund for the fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Road Fund there now remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That effective December 1, 2019, the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 9017, fiscal year 2020, organization 0803, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 2. Appropriations from state road fund.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 – Division of Highways –

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 9017 FY 2020 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	**State Road Fund**
1	2	Maintenance.....	23700	$ 50,200,917

CHAPTER 11

(H. B. 156 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Environmental Protection, fund 0273, fiscal year 2019, organization 0313, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive messages, there remains an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0273, fiscal year 2019, organization 0313, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

54 – Division of Environmental Protection

(WV Code Chapter 22)

Fund 0273 FY 2019 Org 0313

		Appro-priation	**General Revenue Fund**
8a	Federal Reimbursement/Repayment - Surplus	13499	$ 1,000,000

The above appropriation for Federal Reimbursement/Repayment – Surplus (fund 0273, appropriation 13499) shall be transferred to the Department

of Environmental Protection, Division of Environmental Protection, Air Pollution Control Fund (fund 3336).

CHAPTER 12

(H. B. 157 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, fund 0443, fiscal year 2019, organization 0606, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a

statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive messages, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0443, fiscal year 2019, organization 0606, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AFFAIRS

AND PUBLIC SAFETY

66 – Division of Homeland Security

and Emergency Management

(WV Code Chapter 15)

Fund 0443 FY 2019 Org 0606

			Appro-priation		**General Revenue Fund**
1	10	Early Warning			
2		Flood System (R)	87700	$	800,000

CHAPTER 13

(S. B. 1015 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to the Secretary of State – General Administrative Fees Account, fund 1617, fiscal year 2020, organization 1600, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor has established that there now remains an unappropriated balance in the Secretary of State - General Administrative Fees Account, fund 1617, fiscal year 2020, organization 1600, that is available for expenditure during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, which is hereby appropriated by the terms of this supplementary appropriation bill; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 1617, fiscal year 2020, organization 1600, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 3. Appropriations from other funds.

EXECUTIVE

139 – Secretary of State –

General Administrative Fees Account

(WV Code Chapters 3, 5, and 59)

Fund 1617 FY 2020 Org 1600

			Appro-priation		Other Funds
1	4	Technology Improvements.....	59900	$	1,500,000

CHAPTER 14

(S. B. 1016 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation by adding a new item and increasing the expenditure of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund - General Revenue, to the Department of Transportation - Division of Highways, fund 0620, fiscal year 2019, organization 0803, by supplementing and amending Chapter 12, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2018, known as the Budget Bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019,

less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the Executive Budget Document, statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive Messages, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That Chapter 12, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2018, known as the Budget Bill, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation to Title II, Section 1 thereof, the following:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

78a – Division of Highways

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 0620 FY 2019 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	General Revenue Fund
1	1	Directed Transfer.....	70000	$ 54,000,000

The above appropriation shall be transferred to the cash balance of the State Road Fund, to be utilized by the Division of Highways.

CHAPTER 15

(S. B. 1017 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending by decreasing and increasing existing items of appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury in the State Fund-General Revenue, to the Department of Arts, Culture, and History-Educational Broadcasting Authority, fund 0300, fiscal year 2020, organization 0439, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2019, and further included an estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2020, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, It appears from the Executive Budget Document, statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 0300, fiscal year 2020, organization 0439, be supplemented and amended by decreasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORY

52 – Educational Broadcasting Authority –

(WV Code Chapter 10)

Fund 0300 FY 2020 Org 0439

			Appro-priation	General Revenue Fund
1	3	Current Expenses.....	13000	$ 1,471,659

2 And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year
3 ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0300, fiscal year 2020,
4 organization 0439, be supplemented and amended by
5 increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, CULTURE, AND HISTORY

52 – Educational Broadcasting Authority –

(WV Code Chapter 10)

Fund 0300 FY 2020 Org 0439

			Appro-priation		General Revenue Fund
1	1	Personal Services and			
2		Employee Benefits	0100	$	1,471,659

CHAPTER 16

(S. B. 1019 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing, amending, decreasing, and increasing items of the existing appropriations from the State Road Fund to the Department of Transportation - Division of Highways, fund 9017, fiscal year 2020, organization 0803, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Road Fund setting forth therein the cash balances and investments as of July 1, 2018, and further included the estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019 and that also sets forth therein, the estimated cash balance and investments as of July 1, 2019, and further included the estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2020, less regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Road Fund and a

statement of the State Fund, State Road Fund for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the statement of the State Road Fund there now remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 9017, fiscal year 2020, organization 0803, be supplemented and amended by decreasing existing items of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 2. Appropriations from state road fund.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 – Division of Highways –

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 9017 FY 2020 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	State Road Fund
1	1	Debt Service	04000	$ 9,500,000
2	3	Nonfederal Improvements	23701	224,046,854

3 And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year
4 ending June 30, 2020, to fund 9017, fiscal year 2020,
5 organization 0803, be supplemented and amended by
6 increasing existing items of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 2. Appropriations from state road fund.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 – Division of Highways –

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 9017 FY 2020 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	State Road Fund
1	2	Maintenance.....	23700	$ 274,046,854
2	5	Equipment Revolving.....	27600	13,500,000

CHAPTER 17

(S. B. 1020 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending Chapter 31, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, known as the Budget Bill, by supplementing and amending the appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That Chapter 31, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, known as the Budget Bill, be supplemented and amended by creating Title II, Section 9 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to read as follows:

Sec. 9. Appropriations from general revenue fund surplus accrued. — The following item is hereby appropriated from the State Fund, General Revenue, and is to be available for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020 out of surplus funds only, accrued from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, subject to the terms and conditions set forth in this section.

It is the intent and mandate of the Legislature that the following appropriation be payable only from surplus as of July 31, 2019, from the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, only after first meeting requirements of W.Va. Code §11B-2-20(b).

In the event that surplus revenues available on July 31, 2019, are not sufficient to meet the appropriation made pursuant to this section, then the appropriation shall be made to the extent that surplus funds are available as of the date mandated to meet the appropriation in this section and shall be allocated first to provide the necessary funds to meet the first appropriation of this section and each subsequent appropriation in the order listed in this section.

378 – Division of Human Services –

(WV Code Chapters 9, 48, and 49)

Fund 0403 FY 2020 Org 0511

1	Medical Services – Surplus.....	63300	$ 53,000,000
2	Total TITLE II, Section 9 –		
3	Surplus Accrued.....		$ 53,000,000

CHAPTER 18

(S. B. 1021 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending by decreasing an existing appropriation and adding a new appropriation of federal funds out of the Treasury to the Department of Veterans' Assistance, fund 8858, fiscal year 2020, organization 0613, by supplementing, amending, decreasing, and adding an appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor has established the availability of federal funds for expenditure in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, which are hereby appropriated by the terms of this supplementary appropriation bill; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 8858, fiscal year 2020, organization 0613, be supplemented and amended by decreasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 6. Appropriations of federal funds.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' ASSISTANCE

361 – Department of Veterans' Assistance

(WV Code Chapter 9A)

Fund 8858 FY 2020 Org 0613

			Appro-priation		Federal Funds
1	2	Current Expenses.....	13000	$	175,000

2 And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year
3 ending June 30, 2020, to fund 8858, fiscal year 2020,
4 organization 0613, be supplemented and amended by
5 adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 6. Appropriations of federal funds.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' ASSISTANCE

361 – Department of Veterans' Assistance

(WV Code Chapter 9A)

Fund 8858 FY 2020 Org 0613

			Appro-priation		Federal Funds
1	4a	Veterans' Cemetery.....	80800	$	175,000

CHAPTER 19

(S. B. 1023 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing, amending, increasing, and adding new items of appropriations to the Executive, Attorney General, Consolidated Federal Fund, fund 8882, fiscal year 2020, organization 1500, in the amount of $1,533,581, by supplementing and amending Chapter 31, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, known as the Budget Bill.

Whereas, The Legislature passed Senate Bill 318, Regular Session, 2019, transferring the Medicaid Fraud Control Unit previously established within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources to the Office of the Attorney General; and

Whereas, Based upon the passage of Senate Bill 318, Regular Session, 2019, the Governor has established there will be funds available for expenditure in the Attorney General, Consolidated Federal Fund, fund 8882, fiscal year 2020, organization 1500, during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; and

Whereas, West Virginia Code, Chapter 4, Article 11, Section 3 of the code requires the Governor to itemize in the State Budget and in the Budget Bill, on a line-item basis, separately, for each spending unit, the amount and purpose of all federal funds received or anticipated for expenditure; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That Chapter 31, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, known as the Budget Bill, be supplemented and amended by adding to Title II, Section 6 thereof, the following:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 6. Appropriations of federal funds.

EXECUTIVE

137a – Attorney General –

Consolidated Federal Fund

(WV Code Chapter 9)

Fund 8882 FY 2020 Org 1500

			Appro-priation	Other Funds
1	1	Personal Services and		
2		Employee Benefits	00100	$ 1,038,458
3	2	Current Expenses.....	13000	456,638
4	3	Repairs and Alterations	06400	4,313
5	4	Equipment.....	07000	7,500
6	5	Unclassified	09900	15,336
7	6	Other Assets.....	69000	11,336
8	7	Total		$ 1,533,581

CHAPTER 20

(S. B. 1024 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Capital Improvements Fund, fund 1413, fiscal year 2020, organization 1400, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor has established that there now remains an unappropriated balance in the Department of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture Capital Improvements Fund, fund 1413, fiscal year 2020, organization 1400, that is available for expenditure during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That Chapter 31, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, known as the Budget Bill, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 3. Appropriations from other funds.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

135a – Department of Agriculture –

Capital Improvements Fund

(WV Code Chapter 19)

Fund 1413 FY 2020 Org 1400

			Appro-priation		Other Funds
1	1	Repairs and Alterations	06400	$	250,000
2	2	Equipment.....	07000		350,000
3	3	Building Improvements	25800		390,000
4	4	Unclassified	09900		10,000
5		Total		$	1,000,000

CHAPTER 21

(S. B. 1025 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Human Services, fund 0403, fiscal year 2019, organization 0511, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019,

less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue, and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive Messages, there remains an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0403, fiscal year 2019, organization 0511, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

61 – Division of Human Services

(WV Code Chapters 9, 48, and 49)

Fund 0403 FY 2019 Org 0511

			Appro-priation	General Revenue Fund
1	11	I/DD Waiver – Surplus (R).....	xxxxx	$ 1,500,000

2 Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation
3 for I/DD Waiver – Surplus (fund 0403, appropriation xxxxx)
4 at the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for
5 expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

6 Funding of the above appropriation for I/DD Waiver –
7 Surplus shall be dedicated to provider staff compensation.

CHAPTER 22

(S. B. 1026 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT expiring funds to the unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019 in the amount of $4,705,000 from the Treasurer's Office, Unclaimed Property Fund, fund 1324, fiscal year 2019, organization 1300, and making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Executive, Governor's Office, fund 0101, fiscal year 2019, organization 0100, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor finds that the account balance in the Treasurer's Office, Unclaimed Property Fund, fund 1324, fiscal year 2019, organization 1300, exceeds that which is necessary for the purposes for which the account was established; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the balance of the funds available for expenditure in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, in the Treasurer's Office, Unclaimed Property Fund, fund 1324, fiscal year 2019, organization 1300, be decreased by expiring the amount of $4,705,000 to the unappropriated surplus balance of the State Fund, General Revenue, to be available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0101, fiscal year 2019, organization 0100, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

EXECUTIVE

5 – *Governor's* Office -

(WV Code Chapter 5)

Fund 0101 FY 2019 Org 0100

			Appro-priation		**General Revenue Fund**
1	5a	Federal Reimbursement/Repayment			
2		- Surplus	xxxxx	$	4,705,000

CHAPTER 23

(S. B. 1027 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT making a supplementary appropriation by adding new items and increasing existing items for expenditure of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Executive, Department of Agriculture, fund 0131, fiscal year 2019, organization 1400, to the Department of Commerce, West Virginia Tourism Office, fund 0246, fiscal year 2019, organization 0304, to the Department of Education, State Board of Education, State Department of Education, fund 0313, fiscal year 2019, organization 0402, to the Department of Education, State Board of Education, Vocational Division, fund 0390, fiscal year 2019, organization 0402, to the Department of Health of Human Resources, Division of Health, Central Office, fund 0407, fiscal year 2019, organization 0506, to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Health, Consolidated Medical Services Fund, fund 0525, fiscal year 2019, organization 0506, to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, Blue Ridge Community and Technical College, fund 0601, fiscal year 2019, organization 0447, to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, West Virginia University at Parkersburg, fund 0351, fiscal year 2019, organization 0464, to the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education, Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College, fund 0587, fiscal

year 2019, organization 0492, to the Higher Education Policy Commission, Glenville State College, fund 0363, fiscal year 2019, organization 0485, and to the Higher Education Policy Commission, Shepherd University, fund 0366, fiscal year 2019, organization 0486, by supplementing and amending Chapter 12, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2018, known as the Budget Bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2018, and further included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated March 5, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue, and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message dated May 20, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the State Fund, General Revenue, and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2019; and

Whereas, It appears from the statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and Executive Messages, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0131, fiscal year 2019, organization 1400, be

supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

EXECUTIVE

10 - Department of Agriculture

(WV Code Chapter 19)

Fund 0131 FY 2019 Org 1400

19	WV Food Banks	96900	$	300,000

Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation for WV Food Banks (fund 0131, appropriation 96900) at the end of the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That Chapter 12, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2018, known as the Budget Bill, be supplemented and amended by adding new items of appropriations to Title II, Section 1 thereof, to read as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

31a - West Virginia Tourism Office

(WV Code Chapter 5B)

Fund 0246 FY 2019 Org 0304

Tourism – Brand Promotion (R)....	###	$	5,000,000
Tourism – Public Relations (R)	#####		750,000
Tourism – Events and Sponsorships (R)	#####		250,000

Tourism – Industry		
Development (R)	#####	250,000
State Parks and Recreation		
Advertising (R).....	61900	750,000
Total.....		$ 7,000,000

Any unexpended balances remaining in the appropriations for Tourism – Brand Promotion (fund 0246, appropriation xxxxx), Tourism – Public Relations (fund 0246, appropriation xxxxx), Tourism – Events and Sponsorships (fund 0246, appropriation xxxxx), Tourism – Industry Development (fund 0246, appropriation xxxxx), and State Parks and Recreation Advertising (fund 0246, appropriation 61900) at the close of the fiscal year 2019 are hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0313, fiscal year 2019, organization 0402, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

43 - State Board of Education -

State Department of Education

(WV Code Chapters 18 and 18A)

Fund 0313 FY 2019 Org 0402

7 Safe Schools	14300	$ 3,500,000

Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation for Safe Schools (fund 0313, appropriation 14300) at the end of the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0390, fiscal year 2019, organization 0402, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

46 - State Board of Education -

Vocational Division

(WV Code Chapters 18 and 18A)

Fund 0390 FY 2019 Org 0402

7a	Jim's Dream (R)	14901	$	4,000,000

Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation for Jim's Dream (fund 0390, appropriation 14901) at the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0407, fiscal year 2019, organization 0506, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item and adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

57 – Division of Health –

Central Office

(WV Code Chapter 16)

Fund 0407 FY 2019 Org 0506

18	Sexual Assault Intervention and Prevention.....	72300	$	125,000
24a	New Born Screening Testing	#####	$	200,000

Any unexpended balances remaining in the appropriations for Sexual Assault Intervention and Prevention (fund 0407, appropriation 72300) and New Born Screening and Testing (fund 0407, appropriation #####) at the end of the close of the fiscal year 2019 are hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0525, fiscal year 2019, organization 0506, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

58 - Consolidated Medical Services Fund

(WV Code Chapter 16)

Fund 0525 FY 2019 Org 0506

9a	Jim's Dream (R)	14901	$	1,000,000

Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation for Jim's Dream (fund 0525, appropriation 14901) at the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0601, fiscal year 2019,

organization 0447, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

90 - Blue Ridge Community and Technical College

(WV Code Chapter 18B)

Fund 0601 FY 2019 Org 0447

1	Blue Ridge Community and Technical College.....	88500	$ 500,000

Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation for Blue Ridge Community and Technical College (fund 0601, appropriation 88500) at the end of the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0351, fiscal year 2019, organization 0464, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

91 - West Virginia University at Parkersburg

(WV Code Chapter 18B)

Fund 0351 FY 2019 Org 0464

1 West Virginia University -
Parkersburg..... 47100 $ 500,000

Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation for West Virginia University - Parkersburg (fund 0351, appropriation 47100) at the end of the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0587, fiscal year 2019, organization 0492, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

WEST VIRGINIA COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE EDUCATION

94 - Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College

(WV Code Chapter 18B)

Fund 0587 FY 2019 Org 0492

1 Eastern West Virginia Community
and Technical College..... 41200 $ 500,000

Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation for Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College (fund 0587, appropriation 41200) at the end of the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0363, fiscal year 2019, organization 0485, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

106 - Glenville State College

(WV Code Chapter 18B)

Fund 0363 FY 2019 Org 0485

1 1 Glenville State College..... 42800 $ 500,000

2 Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation
3 for Glenville State College (fund 0363, appropriation
4 42800) at the end of the close of the fiscal year 2019 is
5 hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year
6 2020.

7 And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year
8 ending June 30, 2019, to fund 0366, fiscal year 2019,
9 organization 0486, be supplemented and amended by
10 increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

107 - Shepherd University

(WV Code Chapter 18B)

Fund 0366 FY 2019 Org 0486

1 1 Shepherd University..... 43200 $ 500,000

2 Any unexpended balance remaining in the appropriation
3 for Shepherd University (fund 0366, appropriation 43200)
4 at the end of the close of the fiscal year 2019 is hereby
5 reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

CHAPTER 24

(S. B. 1038 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Health and Human Resources, Division of Health – Central Office, fund 0407, fiscal year 2020, organization 0506, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, Senate Bill 386, passed during the 2017 Regular Legislative Session, created the West Virginia Medical Cannabis Act, placing the Medicaid Cannabis Program within the Department of Health and Human Resources, and under the direction of the Bureau for Public Health; and

Whereas, The Bureau for Public Health requires the ability to transfer General Revenue funded appropriations to its Special Revenue funded appropriation for proper administration of the Medical Cannabis Program; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 0407, fiscal year 2020, organization 0506, be supplemented and amended to read as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

57 – Division of Health –

Central Office

(WV Code Chapter 16)

Fund 0407 FY 2020 Org 0506

			Appro-priation	General Revenue Fund
1	1	Personal Services and Employee Benefits	00100	$ 12,946,328
2	2	Chief Medical Examiner	04500	9,666,347
3	3	Unclassified	09900	671,795
4	4	Current Expenses	13000	4,877,059
5	5	State Aid for Local and Basic Public Health Services	18400	14,160,490
6	6	Safe Drinking Water Program (R)	18700	2,211,323
7	7	Women, Infants and Children	21000	38,621
8	8	Early Intervention	22300	8,134,060
9	9	Cancer Registry	22500	206,306
10	10	Office of Drug Control Policy (R)	35401	567,953
11	11	Statewide EMS Program Support (R)	38300	1,845,271
12	12	Office of Medical Cannabis	42001	2,380,489
13	13	Black Lung Clinics	46700	170,885
14	14	Vaccine for Children	55100	338,235
15	15	Tuberculosis Control	55300	379,256
16	16	Maternal and Child Health Clinics, Clinicians Medical Contracts and Fees (R)	57500	6,342,707
17	17	Epidemiology Support	62600	1,547,192
18	18	Primary Care Support	62800	4,263,706
19	19	Sexual Assault Intervention and Prevention	72300	125,000

20	Health Right Free Clinics	72700	3,750,000
21	Capital Outlay and Maintenance (R)	75500	100,000
22	Healthy Lifestyles.....	77800	1,000,000
23	Maternal Mortality Review	83400	49,933
24	Diabetes Education and Prevention.....	87300	97,125
25	BRIM Premium	91300	169,791
26	State Trauma and Emergency Care System ...	91800	2,021,322
27	WVU Charleston Poison Control Hotline.....	91800	712,942
	Total		$ 78,774,136

Any unexpended balances remaining in the appropriations for Safe Drinking Water Program (fund 0407, appropriation 18700), Office of Drug Control Policy (fund 0407, appropriation 35401), Office of Drug Control Policy – Surplus (fund 0407, appropriation 35402), Statewide EMS Program Support (fund 0407, appropriation 38300), Maternal and Child Health Clinics, Clinicians and Medical Contracts and Fees (fund 0407, appropriation 57500), Capital Outlay and Maintenance (fund 0407, appropriation 75500), Emergency Response Entities – Special Projects (fund 0407, appropriation 82200), and Tobacco Education Program (fund 0407, appropriation 90600) at the close of the fiscal year 2019 are hereby reappropriated for expenditure during the fiscal year 2020.

From the above appropriation for Current Expenses (fund 0407, appropriation 13000), an amount not less than $100,000 is for the West Virginia Cancer Coalition; $50,000 shall be expended for the West Virginia Aids Coalition; $100,000 is for Adolescent Immunization Education; $73,065 is for informal dispute resolution relating to nursing home administrative appeals; $50,000 is for Hospital Hospitality House of Huntington; and $200,000 is for Potomac Center Inc. of Romney, West Virginia.

The above appropriation for Office of Medical Cannabis (fund 0407, appropriation 42001) shall be transferred to the Division of Health, Medical Cannabis Fund, fund 5420, organization 0506.

From the above appropriation for Maternal and Child Health Clinics, Clinicians and Medical Contracts and Fees (fund 0407, appropriation 57500) up to $400,000 may be transferred to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Diagnostic Treatment Fund (fund 5197) and $11,000 is for the Marshall County Health Department for dental services.

CHAPTER 25

(S. B. 1056 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed July 22, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on July 29, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending items of appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury in the State Fund, General Revenue, to Department of Education, State Board of Education – State Aid to Schools, fund 0317, fiscal year 2020, organization 0402, by increasing and decreasing existing items of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2019, and further included an estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2020, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, It appears from the Executive Budget Document, statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and the Executive Message, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That Chapter 31, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session 2019, known as the Budget Bill, fund 0317, fiscal year 2020, organization 0402, be supplemented and amended to read as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

47 – State Board of Education –

State Aid to Schools

(WV Code Chapters 18 and 18A)

Fund 0317 FY 2020 Org 0402

			Appro-priation	**General Revenue Fund**
1	1	Other Current Expenses.....	02200	$ 162,583,490
2	2	Advanced Placement	05300	644,087
3	3	Professional Educators	15100	911,031,520
4	4	Service Personnel	15200	305,981,816
5	5	Fixed Charges.....	15300	108,941,390

6	Transportation	15400	75,457,864
7	Professional Student Support Services	65500	63,144,004
8	Improved Instructional Programs	15600	49,544,683
9	21st Century Strategic Technology Learning Growth	93600	21,584,131
10	Teacher and Leader Induction	93601	619,250
11	Basic Foundation Allowances		1,699,532,235
12	Less Local Share		(451,962,610)
13	Adjustments		(2,681,318)
14	Total Basic State Aid		1,244,888,307
15	Public Employees' Insurance Matching	01200	228,267,791
16	Teachers' Retirement System	01900	69,501,000
17	School Building Authority	45300	24,000,000
18	Retirement Systems – Unfunded Liability	77500	338,192,000
19	Total		$ 1,904,849,098

CHAPTER 26

(S. B. 1057 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed July 22, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on July 29, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending items of appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the State Board of Education - State Department of Education, fund 0313, fiscal year 2020, organization 0402, by adding a new item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2019, and further included an estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2020, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, It appears from the Executive Budget Document, statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and the Executive Message, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 0313, fiscal year 2020, organization 0402, be supplemented and amended by adding a new item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

45 – State Board of Education –

State Department of Education

(WV Code Chapters 18 and 18A)

Fund 0313 FY 2020 Org 0402

			Appro-priation		General Revenue Fund
1	8a	Attendance Incentive Bonus....	15001	$	2,056,717

CHAPTER 27

(S. B. 1058 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed July 22, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on July 29, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing and amending an item of appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Higher Education Policy Commission, Administration - Control Account, fund 0589, fiscal year 2020, organization 0441, by increasing an existing item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, setting forth therein the cash balance as of July 1, 2019, and further included an estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2020, less net appropriation balances forwarded and regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated June 17, 2019, which included a revised estimate of revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, and a statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, It appears from the Executive Budget Document, statement of the State Fund, General Revenue, and the Executive Message, there remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 0589, fiscal year 2020, organization 0441, be supplemented and amended by increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1. Appropriations from general revenue.

HIGHER EDUCATION POLICY COMMISSION

96 – Higher Education Policy Commission –

Administration –

Control Account

(WV Code Chapter 18B)

Fund 0589 FY 2020 Org 0441

			Appro-priation		**General Revenue Fund**
1	5	Underwood-Smith Scholarship Program –			
2		Student Awards	16700	$	300,000

CHAPTER 28

(H. B. 115 – By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §49-4-601 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to court actions in abuse and neglect proceedings and appointment of counsel in such proceedings; requiring a petition to include the names of all parents, guardians, custodians and other persons standing in loco parentis with the child who is the subject of the petition as well as an express statement as to whether each person named is alleged to have abused or neglected the child; requiring courts to appoint counsel for the child and any other named person who is without counsel prior to the initial hearing; clarifying when a court may and may not appoint counsel; and establishing criteria for appointment of counsel for unrepresented persons when necessary to ensure fundamental fairness.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4. COURT ACTIONS.

PART VI.

PROCEDURES IN CASES OF CHILD NEGLECT OR ABUSE.

§49-4-601. Petition to court when child believed neglected or abused; venue; notice; right to counsel; continuing legal education; findings; proceedings; procedure.

(a) *Petitioner and venue.* — If the department or a reputable person believes that a child is neglected or abused, the department or the person may present a petition setting forth the facts to the circuit court in the county in which the child resides, or if the petition is being brought by the department, in the county in which the custodial respondent or other named party abuser resides, or in which the abuse or neglect occurred, or to the judge of the court in vacation. Under no circumstance may a party file a petition in more than one county based on the same set of facts.

(b) *Contents of Petition.* — The petition shall be verified by the oath of some credible person having knowledge of the facts. The petition shall allege specific conduct including time and place, how the conduct comes within the statutory definition of neglect or abuse with references to the statute, any supportive services provided by the department to remedy the alleged circumstances, and the relief sought. Each petition shall name as a party each parent, guardian, custodian, other person standing in loco parentis of or to the child allegedly neglected or abused and state with specificity whether each parent, guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis is alleged to have abused or neglected the child.

(c) *Court action upon filing of petition.* — *Upon* filing of the petition, the court shall set a time and place for a hearing and shall appoint counsel for the child. When there is an order for temporary custody pursuant to this article, the preliminary hearing shall be held within 10 days of the order continuing or transferring custody, unless a continuance for a reasonable time is granted to a date certain, for good cause shown.

(d) *Department action upon filing of the petition.* — At the time of the institution of any proceeding under this article, the department shall provide supportive services in an effort to remedy circumstances detrimental to a child.

(e) *Notice of hearing.* —

(1) The petition and notice of the hearing shall be served upon both parents and any other guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis, giving to those persons at least five days' actual notice of a preliminary hearing and at least 10 days' notice of any other hearing.

(2) Notice shall be given to the department, any foster or pre-adoptive parent, and any relative providing care for the child.

(3) In cases where personal service within West Virginia cannot be obtained after due diligence upon any parent or other custodian, a copy of the petition and notice of the hearing shall be mailed to the person by certified mail, addressee only, return receipt requested, to the last known address of the person. If the person signs the certificate, service is complete and the certificate shall be filed as proof of the service with the clerk of the circuit court.

(4) If service cannot be obtained by personal service or by certified mail, notice shall be by publication as a Class II legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(5) A notice of hearing shall specify the time and place of hearings, the right to counsel of the child, parents, and other guardians, custodians, and other persons standing in loco parentis with the child and the fact that the proceedings can result in the permanent termination of the parental rights.

(6) Failure to object to defects in the petition and notice may not be construed as a waiver.

(f) *Right to counsel.* —

(1) In any proceeding under this article, the child shall have counsel to represent his or her interests at all stages of the proceedings.

(2) The court's initial order shall appoint counsel for the child and for any parent, guardian, custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis with the child if such person is without retained counsel.

(3) The court shall, at the initial hearing in the matter, determine whether persons other than the child for whom counsel has been appointed:

(A) Have retained counsel; and

(B) Are financially able to retain counsel.

(4) A parent, guardian, custodian, or other person standing in loco parentis with the child who is alleged to have neglected or abused the child and who has not retained counsel and is financially unable to retain counsel beyond the initial hearing, shall be afforded appointed counsel at every stage of the proceedings.

(5) Under no circumstances may the same attorney represent both the child and another party. The same attorney may not represent more than one parent or custodian: *Provided,* That one attorney may represent both parents or custodians where both parents or custodians consent to this representation after the attorney fully discloses to the client the possible conflict and where the attorney advises the court that she or he is able to represent each client without impairing her or his professional judgment. If more than one child from a family is involved in the proceeding, one attorney may represent all the children.

(6) A parent who is a co-petitioner is entitled to his or her own attorney.

(7) The court may allow to each attorney appointed pursuant to this section a fee in the same amount which appointed counsel can receive in felony cases.

(8) The court shall, sua sponte or upon motion, appoint counsel to any unrepresented party if, at any stage of the proceedings, the court determines doing so is necessary to satisfy the requirements of fundamental fairness.

(g) *Continuing education for counsel.* — Any attorney representing a party under this article shall receive a minimum of eight hours of continuing legal education training per reporting period on child abuse and neglect procedure and practice. In addition to this requirement, any attorney appointed to represent a child must first complete training on representation of children that is approved by the administrative office of the Supreme Court of Appeals. The Supreme Court of Appeals shall develop procedures for approval and certification of training required under this section. Where no attorney has completed the training required by this subsection, the court shall appoint a competent attorney with demonstrated knowledge of child welfare law to represent the parent or child. Any attorney appointed pursuant to this section shall perform all duties required of an attorney licensed to practice law in the State of West Virginia.

(h) *Right to be heard.* — In any proceeding pursuant to this article, the party or parties having custodial or other parental rights or responsibilities to the child shall be afforded a meaningful opportunity to be heard, including the opportunity to testify and to present and cross-examine witnesses. Foster parents, pre-adoptive parents, and relative caregivers shall also have a meaningful opportunity to be heard.

(i) *Findings of the court.* — Where relevant, the court shall consider the efforts of the department to remedy the alleged circumstances. At the conclusion of the adjudicatory hearing, the court shall make a determination based upon the evidence and shall make findings of fact and conclusions of law as to whether the child is abused or neglected and whether the respondent is abusing, neglecting, or, if applicable, a battered parent, all of which shall be

incorporated into the order of the court. The findings must be based upon conditions existing at the time of the filing of the petition and proven by clear and convincing evidence.

(j) *Priority of proceedings.* — Any petition filed and any proceeding held under this article shall, to the extent practicable, be given priority over any other civil action before the court, except proceedings under §48-27-309 of this code and actions in which trial is in progress. Any petition filed under this article shall be docketed immediately upon filing. Any hearing to be held at the end of an improvement period and any other hearing to be held during any proceedings under this article shall be held as nearly as practicable on successive days and, with respect to the hearing to be held at the end of an improvement period, shall be held as close in time as possible after the end of the improvement period and shall be held within 30 days of the termination of the improvement period.

(k) *Procedural safeguards.* — The petition may not be taken as confessed. A transcript or recording shall be made of all proceedings unless waived by all parties to the proceeding. The rules of evidence apply. Following the court's determination, it shall ask the parents or custodians whether or not appeal is desired and the response transcribed. A negative response may not be construed as a waiver. The evidence shall be transcribed and made available to the parties or their counsel as soon as practicable, if the transcript is required for purposes of further proceedings. If an indigent person intends to pursue further proceedings, the court reporter shall furnish a transcript of the hearing without cost to the indigent person if an affidavit is filed stating that he or she cannot pay for the transcript.

CHAPTER 29

(H. B. 116 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §49-4-722 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to persons eighteen years of age and older in the custody of the Bureau of Juvenile Services; directing notice between courts in criminal actions involving adults under the juvenile jurisdiction of the circuit court when such adults are charged or convicted of crimes while in custody of the Bureau of Juvenile Services; requiring notice of pending disposition to the circuit court with juvenile jurisdiction; prohibiting release of persons until after the court with juvenile jurisdiction holds a hearing as to future treatment of the person; and authorizing the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation to designate one or more units under his or her management to ensure that persons eighteen years of age or older under the juvenile jurisdiction of the circuit court are housed out of sight and sound of detained juveniles and incarcerated adult offenders.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 4. COURT ACTIONS.

§49-4-722. Conviction for offense while in custody.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, any person who is 18 years of age or older who is convicted as an adult of an offense that he or she committed while in the custody of the Bureau of Juvenile Services and

who is sentenced for the conviction to a regional jail or state correctional facility for the offense may not be returned to the custody of the bureau upon the completion of his or her adult sentence.

(b) Whenever a person of 18 years of age or older is charged with an offense while in the custody of the Bureau of Juvenile Services, the Bureau shall provide notice of the person's custodial status to the court in which the charge is pending and provide notice of the pending charge to the circuit court having juvenile jurisdiction over the person.

(c) At least 10 days prior to the sentencing on a criminal charge referred to in subsection (b) of this section, the sentencing court shall provide written notice of the sentencing hearing to the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation and to the circuit court having juvenile jurisdiction over the person. The person may not be released from custody until the sentencing court has received notice from the circuit court having juvenile jurisdiction over the person that it has held the hearing required by subsection (d) of this section.

(d) Prior to completion of the adult sentence referenced in subsection (c) of this section, the circuit court having jurisdiction over the underlying juvenile matter shall conduct a hearing to determine whether the person who has turned 18 years of age shall remain in the regional jail during pendency of the underlying juvenile matter or if another disposition or pretrial placement is appropriate and available: *Provided*, That the court may not remand a child who reached the age of 18 years to a juvenile facility or placement during the pendency of the underlying juvenile matter.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of §15A-3-12(i) of this code, the Commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation is authorized to designate a unit in one or more institutions, either juvenile facilities, jails, or prisons, under his or her management to house adults remaining under the juvenile jurisdiction of the circuit court to ensure that such persons are not within sight or sound of juvenile detainees or adult inmates.

CHAPTER 30

(S. B. 1001 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §5B-2-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Upper Kanawha Valley Resiliency and Revitalization Program; modifying the definition of "Upper Kanawha Valley"; requiring the council to waive its discretionary program guidelines to allow funding requests that may fall outside of the program's guidelines but address the Upper Kanawha Valley communities' goals for revitalization; extending the program to June 30, 2024; and providing that the annual report due under the program shall be delivered to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance with copies being provided to the county commissions and mayors of the Upper Kanawha Valley.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

§5B-2-15. Upper Kanawha Valley Resiliency and Revitalization Program.

1 (a) *Definitions.* —

2 (1) *General.* — Terms defined in this section have the
3 meanings ascribed to them by this section, unless a different
4 meaning is clearly required by either the context in which
5 the term is used, or by specific definition in this section.

6 (2) *Terms Defined.* —

(A) "Contributing partners" means those entities or their representatives described in subsection (f) of this section.

(B) "Prioritize" means, with regard to resources, planning, and technical assistance, that the members of the revitalization council are required to waive their discretionary program guidelines to allow funding requests that may fall outside of the program's guidelines but address the Upper Kanawha Valley communities' goals for revitalization: *Provided*, That properly filed funding applications by Upper Kanawha Valley communities shall be given preferential treatment.

(C) "Program" means the Upper Kanawha Valley Resiliency and Revitalization Program established in this section.

(D) "Revitalization council" means those entities or their representatives described in subsection (d) of this section.

(E) "Technical assistance" means resources provided by the state, revitalization council, contributing partners, or any other individuals or entities providing programming, funding, or other support to benefit the Upper Kanawha Valley under the program.

(F) "Upper Kanawha Valley" means an area historically known as the Upper Kanawha Valley including municipalities and surrounding areas from the Charleston city limits to Gauley Bridge or other communities in the vicinity of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology.

(G) "Upper Kanawha Valley Resiliency and Revitalization Program" means the entire process undertaken to further the goals of this section, including collaboration development and implementation between the members, contributors, and technical assistance resource providers.

(b) *Legislative purpose, findings, and intent.* —

(1) The decision to relocate the historic campus of the West Virginia University Institute of Technology from Montgomery, West Virginia, to Beckley, West Virginia, will have a dramatic economic impact on the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(2) The purpose of this section is to establish the Upper Kanawha Valley Resiliency and Revitalization Program. To further this purpose, this program creates a collaboration among state government, higher education, and private and nonprofit sectors to streamline technical assistance capacity, existing services, and other resources to facilitate community revitalization in the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(3) It is the intent of the Legislature to identify existing state resources that can be prioritized to support the Upper Kanawha Valley, generate thoughtful and responsible ideas to mitigate the negative effects of the departure of the West Virginia Institute of Technology from the Upper Kanawha Valley, and help chart a new course and prosperous future for the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(c) *Upper Kanawha Valley Resiliency and Revitalization Program established; duration of program.* —

(1) The Development Office shall establish the Upper Kanawha Valley Resiliency and Revitalization Program in accordance with the provisions of this section. The program shall inventory existing assets and resources, prioritize planning and technical assistance, and determine such other assistance as might be available to revitalize communities in the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(2) The program shall remain active until it concludes its work on June 30, 2024, and delivers a final report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance no later than October 1, 2024.

(d) *Revitalization council created.* — There is hereby created a revitalization council to fulfill the purposes of this section. The revitalization council shall be coordinated by the Development Office in the Department of Commerce and be subject to oversight by the secretary of the department. The following entities shall serve as members of the revitalization council:

(1) The Executive Director of the Development Office or their designee, who shall serve as chairperson of the council;

(2) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources or their designee;

(3) The Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture or their designee;

(4) The Executive Director of the West Virginia Housing Development Fund or their designee;

(5) A representative from the Kanawha County Commission;

(6) A representative from the Fayette County Commission;

(7) The mayor, or their designee, from the municipalities of Montgomery, Smithers, Pratt, and Gauley Bridge;

(8) A representative from Bridge Valley Community and Technical College; and

(9) A representative from West Virginia University.

(e) *Duties of the revitalization council.* —

(1) The council shall identify existing state resources that can be prioritized to support economic development efforts in the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(2) The council shall direct existing resources in a unified effort and in conjunction with contributing partners, as applicable, to support the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(3) The council shall develop a rapid response strategy to attract or develop new enterprises and job-creating opportunities in the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(4) The council shall conduct or commission a comprehensive assessment of assets available at the campus of the West Virginia Institute of Technology and determine how those assets will be preserved and repurposed.

(5) The council shall assist communities in the Upper Kanawha Valley by developing an economic plan to diversify and advance the community.

(6) Members of the council shall support both the planning and implementation for the program and shall give priority wherever possible to programmatic activity and discretionary, noncompetitive funding during the period the program remains in effect.

(7) Members of the council shall work together to leverage funding or other agency resources to benefit efforts to revitalize the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(f) *Contributing partners.* — To the extent possible, the revitalization council shall incorporate the resources and expertise of additional providers of technical assistance to support the program, which shall include but not be limited to:

(1) The West Virginia Small Business Development Center;

(2) The Center for Rural Health Development;

(3) The West Virginia University Brickstreet Center for Entrepreneurship;

(4) The West Virginia University Land Use and Sustainability Law Clinic;

(5) The West Virginia University Center for Big Ideas;

(6) The New River Gorge Regional Development Authority;

(7) The Appalachian Transportation Institute;

(8) The Marshall University Center for Business and Economic Research;

(9) TechConnect;

(10) The West Virginia Community Development Hub;

(11) The West Virginia University Northern Brownfields Assistance Center;

(12) West Virginia State University Extension Service; and

(13) West Virginia University Extension Service, Community, Economic and Workforce Development.

(g) *Reporting and agency accountability.* — The revitalization council, in coordination with its contributing partners, as applicable, shall report annually to the Governor and the Legislature detailing the progress of the technical assistance support provided by the program, the strategic plan for the Upper Kanawha Valley, and the results of these efforts. The annual report to the Legislature shall be made to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance regarding the previous fiscal year no later than October 1 of each year. Copies of the annual report to the Legislature shall be provided to the county commissions and the mayors of the Upper Kanawha Valley.

(h) *Economic incentives for businesses investing in the Upper Kanawha Valley.* — The Development Office and the revitalization council, as applicable, will work to educate

businesses investing, or interested in investing, in the Upper Kanawha Valley, about the availability of, and access to, economic development assistance, including but not limited to, the economic opportunity tax credit provided in §11-13Q-19 of this code; the manufacturing investment tax credit provided under §11-13S-1 *et seq.* of this code; and any other applicable tax credit or development assistance.

(i) *Use of state property and equipment; faculty.* — The Development Office or other owner of state property and equipment in the Upper Kanawha Valley is authorized to provide for the low cost and economical use and sharing of state property and equipment, including computers, research labs, and other scientific and necessary equipment to assist any business within the Upper Kanawha Valley at a nominal or reduced-cost reimbursements to the state for such use.

CHAPTER 31

(H. B. 206 - By Delegates Espinosa, Wilson, Bibby, Foster, Hardy, Householder, D. Jeffries, Little, Malcolm, Phillips and Waxman)

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §5-16-2 and §5-16-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-15-9s; to amend and reenact §15-1B-24 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2E-12; to amend and reenact §18-5-14, §18-5-16, §18-5-16a, §18-5-18a, §18-5-18b, and §18-5-46 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-5-49; to amend and reenact §18-5A-2, §18-5A-3 and §18-5A-5 of said code;

to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §18-5G-1, §18-5G-2, §18-5G-3, §18-5G-4, §18-5G-5, §18-5G-6, §18-5G-7, §18-5G-8, §18-5G-9, §18-5G-10, §18-5G-11 and §18-5G-12; to amend and reenact §18-7A-3 of said code; to amend and reenact §18-7B-2 of said code; to amend and reenact §18-8-4 of said code; to amend and reenact §18-9A-2, §18-9A-8 and §18-9A-9 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-9A-19; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-9B-22; to amend and reenact §18-20-5 of said code; to amend and reenact §18A-4-2, §18A-4-5, §18A-4-5a, §18A-4-7a, §18A-4-8a, and §18A-4-10 of said code; to amend and reenact §18C-4-1, §18C-4-2, §18C-4-3, §18C-4-4, and §18C-4-5 of said code; to amend and reenact §18C-4A-1, §18C-4A-2, and §18C-4A-3 of said code; and to amend and reenact §29-12-5a of said code, all relating to public education; allowing public charter schools to participate in the Public Employees Insurance Agency insurance program; exempting the purchase of certain goods from sales tax for a period of time; requiring the Governor to expand Mountaineer Challenge Academy at its existing location; permitting creation of a new Mountaineer Challenge Academy location subject to agreement required under federal law; requiring the State Board of Education to implement the Mountain State Digital Literacy Project as a pilot project; modifying requirements for policies to promote school board effectiveness and eliminating requirement for filing and refiling policies with state board; limiting meetings with improvement councils to those at low performing schools; modifying agenda for meeting with school improvement council; eliminating reporting requirement; permitting county boards to establish attendance zones; replacing existing provisions pertaining to student transfers with requirement for county boards to establish an open enrollment policy; requiring appeal process whereby a parent or guardian can appeal the refusal of a county board to accept the transfer of the student; requiring the county to which a student is transferred include the student in its net enrollment in certain instances; providing that certain transfer provisions do not

supersede eligibility requirements for participation in extracurricular activities established by the Secondary School Activities Commission; modifying student-teacher ratios; requiring the West Virginia Department of Education to survey districts to determine where overcrowding is impeding student achievement and requiring considerations therefore; increasing percentage of work time school counselors are required to spend in a direct counseling relationship with pupils; providing that the teacher's recommendation is a primary consideration in determining student promotion; authorizing county board to establish by policy an exceptional needs fund from certain surpluses and listing provisions that may be included; modifying membership of improvement councils; increasing prior notice of local school improvement council meetings; removing term limits for chair of council; removing council duty for meeting on student discipline issues and reporting to countywide council on productive and safe schools; requiring at least one council meeting annually for dialogue with parents and others on school's academic performance and standing; requiring meeting of certain council members of low performing school with county board and providing minimum issues to be addressed; referencing council authority to propose alternatives and request waivers of rules, policies, interpretations and state statutes; expanding issues on which school required to cooperate with council to promote innovations and improvements; removing reporting requirements; authorizing county boards to designate innovation schools and provide funding; reorganizing and clarifying authority and procedures for local school improvement councils to propose alternatives to the operation of school including request of waiver to rules, policies, interpretations and state statutes; preserving primary authority of county board to approve alternatives subject to grant of necessary waivers by other bodies; authorizing off-site classrooms; increasing faculty senate allotment to classroom teachers and librarians; stating legislative intent and purpose of public charter school provisions; providing for liberal interpretation; prohibiting interpretation to allow conversion of private schools to public charter school; prohibiting elected

official from profit or compensation except continued employment at school converted; limiting total number of public charter school authorized and in operation under an approved contract with periodic increases following reports by the State Board to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability; providing that the Mountain Challenge Academy does not count toward total public charter schools: defining terms; specifying required general criteria that public charter schools must meet; establishing general provisions for public charter school governing boards; enumerating laws, policies, and codes that charter schools must comply with; providing powers and duties of state board for implementation, general supervision and support for public charter schools; requiring best practices catalogue, provision of forms, and training programs; authorizing receipt and expenditure of gifts, grants and donations and application for federal funds; reporting requirements and reports to Governor and Legislature; requiring state board as authorizer in certain instances; requiring state board rules related to funding, authorizer oversight funding, and other necessary issues; authorizing state board rule for ensuring accountability; specifying local education agency status; providing for authorizer powers and duties with respect applications, contracts to oversight and authorization; requiring appropriate corrective action or sanctions in response to deficiencies; providing authorization to require reports; requiring payment of oversight fee; prohibiting attachment of civil liability to authorizer, members or employees for acts or omissions of public charter school; limiting regulation of public charter schools by state and county boards to powers and duties as authorizers; establishing public charter school governing board membership, qualifications, status as public corporate body and authorized powers; listing governing board responsibilities for operation of public charter school; authorizing participation in cocurricular and extracurricular activities; mandating compliance with freedom of information and open governmental proceedings; providing for contents of application to form public charter school; specifying items to

be addressed in charter contracts, contract term and execution; providing process for contract renewal, performance report and time frame for final determination; providing that failure of authorizer to act to be deemed approval; providing for revocation of charter contracts and specifying grounds; declaring authorizer responsibilities for closure when contract not renewed or revoked; providing for closure protocol and removal of governing board members; providing for processes for student enrollment in public charter schools; requiring publication of enrollment option by school and county board; prohibiting mandated enrollment or departures of students at a public charter school; requiring designation of primary recruitment area, its effect and basis; prohibiting discrimination in enrollment with allowance for program focus on students with special needs; authorizing establishment of enrollment preferences; establishing effect of enrollment preference on enrollment, excess capacity and random lottery when capacity exceeded; providing for student transfers to noncharter schools; requiring access to electronic information system for reporting student and school performance, certification of enrollment, attendance and other student information to Department of Education; providing process for public charter school use or lease of public facilities; allowing public charter schools to elect to participate in certain state retirement systems; modifying requirements applicable after certain numbers of unexcused student absences; including professional personnel providing direct social and emotional support services to students and professional personnel addressing chronic absenteeism within the definition of "professional student support personnel"; modifying definition of net enrollment; increasing calculated net enrollment for the purposes of determining a county's basic foundation program of certain counties with an actual net enrollment of less than 1,400; decreasing the percent of the levy rate used to calculate local share; basing the basic foundation allowance for professional student support personnel on a ratio of positions per students and providing that nothing in section precludes public-private partnerships or contracts to provide services; providing one year hold-

harmless on number of positions funded; increasing the percentage used to calculate each county's allowance for current expense; increasing allotment for academic materials, supplies and equipment; requiring that each county board receive its allocated state aid share of the county's basic foundation program in the form of block grants; requiring the State Superintendent to provide the State Auditor with the required data for use by the searchable budget data website; including public charter schools in the provisions pertaining to an appropriation to serve certain exceptional children; increasing teacher salaries; providing that certain math and special education teachers be considered to have three additional years of experience for the purposes of the salary schedule; providing equivalent amount in teacher's experience exceeds salary schedule maximum years; removing definition of salary equity among the counties; removing requirement that Department of Education include in its budget request a request for funding sufficient to meet the objective of salary equity; adding to exceptions to requirement that county salary schedules be uniform; providing for determination of seniority by random lottery within thirty days of employment for teachers employed on same date; requiring county board to base all decisions on reductions in force and reemployment on seniority, certification, licensure and performance evaluations; listing criteria county board must consider; requiring consideration of performance evaluations; modifying provisions pertaining to the preferred recall list and posting of position openings; removing requirement for county board to annually make available a list of all professional personnel employed, their areas of certification, and their seniority; providing that all personnel in a public charter school accrue seniority for the purpose of employment in noncharter public schools; increasing monthly pay for service personnel; increasing leave without cause days from three to four; requiring a bonus for classroom teachers who have not used more than four days of personal leave during the employment term; renaming the Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship and Loan Assistance programs the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program

and the Teacher Education Loan Repayment Program; modifying requirements for Higher Education Policy Commission rules providing for administration of the programs; requiring that Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award recipients receive additional academic support and training from mentors in their academic field; continuing the Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship and Loan Assistance Fund as the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program Fund; requiring each award recipient to be distinguished as an Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholar; establishing uses for moneys in the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program Fund; providing for continuation of certain terms, conditions, requirements, and agreements; requiring the Vice Chancellor for Administration to appoint a selection panel to select Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars; modifying eligibility criteria for Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars; modifying Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award agreement requirements; modifying renewal requirements for an Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award; modifying conditions under which a recipient is not in violation of the agreement; requiring Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award to be used in preparation for becoming a teacher in a critical shortage field in the public schools of this state; increasing the amount of the annual award; requiring as a condition of loan repayment award eligibility an applicant to be currently employed in a public school in this state in a critical teacher shortage field or as a school counselor in a school or geographic area of the state identified as an area of critical need for such field; requiring as a condition of eligibility an applicant to agree to be employed full time for two school years in a critical teacher shortage field or as a school counselor in a school or geographic area of critical need for such field for each year for which a loan repayment assistance award is received; modifying provisions pertaining to the amount of loan assistance and the requirements for eligibility; modifying eligibility requirements for renewal of scholarship award and loan repayment assistance award; removing accumulated limit on loan repayment awards; increasing minimum Board of

Risk and Insurance Management coverage; requiring at least annual written notice of Board of Risk and Insurance Management insurance coverages by county boards to employee insureds; allowing public charter schools to obtain insurance coverage from the Board of Risk and Insurance Management; providing effective dates and making technical changes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 5. GENERAL POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL; BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS; MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, OFFICES, PROGRAMS, ETC.

ARTICLE 16. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES INSURANCE ACT.

§5-16-2. Definitions.

The following words and phrases as used in this article, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated by the context, have the following meanings:

(1) "Agency" means the Public Employees Insurance Agency created by this article.

(2) "Director" means the Director of the Public Employees Insurance Agency created by this article.

(3) "Employee" means any person, including an elected officer, who works regularly full-time in the service of the State of West Virginia and, for the purpose of this article only, the term "employee" also means any person, including an elected officer, who works regularly full-time in the service of a county board of education; a public charter school established pursuant to §18-5G-1 *et seq.* of this code if the charter school includes in its charter contract entered into pursuant to §18-5G-7 of this code a determination to participate in the Public Employees Insurance program; a

county, city, or town in the State; any separate corporation or instrumentality established by one or more counties, cities, or towns, as permitted by law; any corporation or instrumentality supported in most part by counties, cities, or towns; any public corporation charged by law with the performance of a governmental function and whose jurisdiction is coextensive with one or more counties, cities, or towns; any comprehensive community mental health center or intellectually and developmentally disabled facility established, operated, or licensed by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources pursuant to §27-2A-1 of this code and which is supported in part by state, county, or municipal funds; any person who works regularly full-time in the service of the Higher Education Policy Commission, the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education or a governing board, as defined in §18B-1-2 of this code; any person who works regularly full-time in the service of a combined city-county health department created pursuant to §16-2-1 *et seq.* of this code; any person designated as a 21st Century Learner Fellow pursuant to §18A-3-11 of this code; and any person who works as a long-term substitute as defined in §18A-1-1 of this code in the service of a county board of education: *Provided,* That a long-term substitute who is continuously employed for at least 133 instructional days during an instructional term, and, until the end of that instructional term, is eligible for the benefits provided in this article until September 1 following that instructional term: *Provided, however,* That a long-term substitute employed fewer than 133 instructional days during an instructional term is eligible for the benefits provided in this article only during such time as he or she is actually employed as a long-term substitute. On and after January 1, 1994, and upon election by a county board of education to allow elected board members to participate in the Public Employees Insurance Program pursuant to this article, any person elected to a county board of education shall be considered to be an "employee" during the term of office of the elected member. Upon election by the state Board of

Education to allow appointed board members to participate in the Public Employees Insurance Program pursuant to this article, any person appointed to the state Board of Education is considered an "employee" during the term of office of the appointed member: *Provided further,* That the elected member of a county board of education and the appointed member of the state Board of Education shall pay the entire cost of the premium if he or she elects to be covered under this article. Any matters of doubt as to who is an employee within the meaning of this article shall be decided by the director.

On or after July 1, 1997, a person shall be considered an "employee" if that person meets the following criteria:

(A) Participates in a job-sharing arrangement as defined in §18A-1-1 of this code;

(B) Has been designated, in writing, by all other participants in that job-sharing arrangement as the "employee" for purposes of this section; and

(C) Works at least one-third of the time required for a full-time employee.

(4) "Employer" means the State of West Virginia, its boards, agencies, commissions, departments, institutions, or spending units; a county board of education; a public charter school established pursuant to §18-5G-1 *et seq.* of this code if the charter school includes in its charter contract entered into pursuant to §18-5G-7 of this code a determination to participate in the Public Employees Insurance Program; a county, city, or town in the state; any separate corporation or instrumentality established by one or more counties, cities, or towns, as permitted by law; any corporation or instrumentality supported in most part by counties, cities, or towns; any public corporation charged by law with the performance of a governmental function and whose jurisdiction is coextensive with one or more counties, cities or towns; any comprehensive community mental health

center or intellectually and developmentally disabled facility established, operated or licensed by the Secretary of Health and Human Resources pursuant to §27-2A-1 of this code and which is supported in part by state, county or municipal funds; a combined city-county health department created pursuant to §16-2-1 *et seq.* of this code; and a corporation meeting the description set forth in §18B-12-3 of this code that is employing a 21st Century Learner Fellow pursuant to §18A-3-11 of this code but the corporation is not considered an employer with respect to any employee other than a 21st Century Learner Fellow. Any matters of doubt as to who is an "employer" within the meaning of this article shall be decided by the director. The term "employer" does not include within its meaning the National Guard.

(5) "Finance board" means the Public Employees Insurance Agency finance board created by this article.

(6) "Person" means any individual, company, association, organization, corporation or other legal entity, including, but not limited to, hospital, medical or dental service corporations; health maintenance organizations or similar organization providing prepaid health benefits; or individuals entitled to benefits under the provisions of this article.

(7) "Plan", unless the context indicates otherwise, means the medical indemnity plan, the managed care plan option, or the group life insurance plan offered by the agency.

(8) "Retired employee" means an employee of the state who retired after April 29, 1971, and an employee of the Higher Education Policy Commission, the Council for Community and Technical College Education, a state institution of higher education or a county board of education who retires on or after April 21, 1972, and all additional eligible employees who retire on or after the effective date of this article, meet the minimum eligibility requirements for their respective state retirement system and

whose last employer immediately prior to retirement under the state retirement system is a participating employer in the state retirement system and in the Public Employees Insurance Agency: *Provided,* That for the purposes of this article, the employees who are not covered by a state retirement system, but who are covered by a state-approved or state-contracted retirement program or a system approved by the director, shall, in the case of education employees, meet the minimum eligibility requirements of the State Teachers Retirement System and in all other cases, meet the minimum eligibility requirements of the Public Employees Retirement System and may participate in the Public Employees Insurance Agency as retired employees upon terms as the director sets by rule as authorized in this article. Employers with employees who are, or who are eligible to become, retired employees under this article shall be mandatory participants in the Retiree Health Benefit Trust Fund created pursuant to §5-16D-1 *et seq.* of this code. Nonstate employers may opt out of the West Virginia other post-employment benefits plan of the Retiree Health Benefit Trust Fund and elect to not provide benefits under the Public Employees Insurance Agency to retirees of the nonstate employer, but may do so only upon the written certification, under oath, of an authorized officer of the employer that the employer has no employees who are, or who are eligible to become, retired employees and that the employer will defend and hold harmless the Public Employees Insurance Agency from any claim by one of the employer's past, present, or future employees for eligibility to participate in the Public Employees Insurance Agency as a retired employee. As a matter of law, the Public Employees Insurance Agency shall not be liable in any respect to provide plan benefits to a retired employee of a nonstate employer which has opted out of the West Virginia other post-employment benefits plan of the Retiree Health Benefit Trust Fund pursuant to this section.

§5-16-22. Permissive participation; exemptions.

The provisions of this article are not mandatory upon any employee or employer who is not an employee of, or is

not, the State of West Virginia, its boards, agencies, commissions, departments, institutions or spending units, or a county board of education, and nothing contained in this article compels any employee or employer to enroll in or subscribe to any insurance plan authorized by the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That nothing in this section requires a public charter school to participate in the Public Employees Insurance Agency program.

Those employees enrolled in the insurance program authorized under the provisions of §21A-2B-1 *et seq.* of this code are not required to enroll in or subscribe to an insurance plan or plans authorized by the provisions of this article, and the employees of any department which has an existing insurance program for its employees to which the government of the United States contributes any part or all of the premium or cost of the premium may be exempted from the provisions of this article. Any employee or employer exempted under the provisions of this paragraph may enroll in any insurance program authorized by the provisions of this article at any time, to the same extent as any other qualified employee or employer, but employee or employer may not remain enrolled in both programs.

Any plan established or administered by the Public Employees Insurance Agency pursuant to this article is exempt from the provisions of chapter 33 of this code unless explicitly stated. Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the Public Employees Insurance Agency is not an insurer or engaged in the business of insurance as defined in chapter 33 of this code.

Employers, other than the State of West Virginia, its boards, agencies, commissions, departments, institutions, spending units, or a county board of education, are exempt from participating in the insurance program provided for by the provisions of this article unless participation by the employer has been approved by a majority vote of the employer's governing body. It is the duty of the clerk or secretary of the governing body of an employer who by

majority vote becomes a participant in the insurance program to notify the director not later than 10 days after the vote.

Any employer, whether the employer participates in the Public Employees Insurance Agency insurance program as a group or not, which has retired employees, their dependents or surviving dependents of deceased retired employees who participate in the Public Employees Insurance Agency insurance program as authorized by this article, shall pay to the agency the same contribution toward the cost of coverage for its retired employees, their dependents or surviving dependents of deceased retired employees as the State of West Virginia, its boards, agencies, commissions, departments, institutions, spending units, or a county board of education pay for their retired employees, their dependents and surviving dependents of deceased retired employees, as determined by the finance board: *Provided,* That after June 30, 1996, an employer not mandated to participate in the plan is only required to pay a contribution toward the cost of coverage for its retired employees, their dependents or the surviving dependents of deceased retired employees who elect coverage when the retired employee participated in the plan as an active employee of the employer for at least five years: *Provided, however,* That those retired employees of an employer not participating in the plan who retire on or after July 1, 2010, who have participated in the plan as active employees of the employer for less than five years are responsible for the entire premium cost for coverage and the Public Employees Insurance Agency shall bill for and collect the entire premium from the retired employees, unless the employer elects to pay the employer share of the premium. Each employer is hereby authorized and required to budget for and make such payments as are required by this section.

CHAPTER 11. TAXATION.

ARTICLE 15. CONSUMERS SALES AND SERVICE TAX.

§11-15-9s. Exemption for certain school supplies, school instructional materials, laptop and tablet computers, and sports equipment.

(a) Effective July 1, 2021, the items identified in subdivisions (1) through (5) of this subsection are exempt from the tax imposed by this article and §11-15A-1 *et seq.* of this code, if the sale or purchase occurs on the first Sunday of August, or the previous Friday and Saturday, or the following Monday. The items exempt are:

(1) An item of clothing, the price of which is $125 or less;

(2) An item of school supplies, the price of which is $50 or less;

(3) An item of school instructional material, the price of which is $20 or less;

(4) Laptop and tablet computers, not purchased for use in a trade or business, the price of which is $500 or less; and

(5) Sports equipment, not purchased for use in a trade or business, the price of which is $150 or less.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Clothing" means all human wearing apparel suitable for general use. "Clothing" includes, but is not limited to, aprons, household and shop; athletic supporters; baby receiving blankets; bathing suits and caps; beach capes and coats; belts and suspenders; boots; coats and jackets; costumes; diapers, children and adult, including disposable diapers; ear muffs; footlets; formal wear; garters and garter belts; girdles; gloves and mittens for general use; hats and caps; hosiery; insoles for shoes; lab coats; neckties; overshoes; pantyhose; rainwear; rubber pants; sandals; scarves; shoes and shoe laces; slippers; sneakers; socks and stockings; steel-toed shoes; underwear; uniforms, athletic and nonathletic; and wedding apparel. "Clothing" does not

include items purchased for use in a trade or business; clothing accessories or equipment; protective equipment; sports or recreational equipment; belt buckles sold separately; costume masks sold separately; patches and emblems sold separately; sewing equipment and supplies including, but not limited to, knitting needles, patterns, pins, scissors, sewing machines, sewing needles, tape measures, and thimbles; and sewing materials that become part of "clothing" including, but not limited to, buttons, fabric, lace, thread, yarn, and zippers.

(2) "School supplies" means items commonly used by a student in a course of study. "School supplies" includes only the following items: Binders; book bags; calculators; cellophane tape; blackboard chalk; compasses; composition books; crayons; erasers; folders, expandable, pocket, plastic, and manila; glue, paste, and paste sticks; highlighters; index cards; index card boxes; legal pads; lunch boxes; markers; notebooks; paper, loose-leaf ruled notebook paper, copy paper, graph paper, tracing paper, manila paper, colored paper, poster board, and construction paper; pencil boxes and other school supply boxes; pencil sharpeners; pencils; pens; protractors; rulers; scissors; and writing tablets. "School supplies" does not include any item purchased for use in a trade or business.

(3) "School instructional material" means written material commonly used by a student in a course of study as a reference and to learn the subject being taught. "School instructional material" includes only the following items: reference books, reference maps and globes, textbooks, and workbooks. "School instructional material" does not include any material purchased for use in a trade or business.

(c) The tax commissioner shall promulgate emergency rules and shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to establish eligibility requirements for the exemptions established by this section.

CHAPTER 15. PUBLIC SAFETY.

ARTICLE 1B. NATIONAL GUARD.

§15-1B-24. Mountaineer Challenge Academy; expansion; cooperation of state executive agencies.

(a) Subject to the agreement entered into between the United States Secretary of Defense and the Governor to establish, organize, and administer the Mountaineer Challenge Academy pursuant to 32 U.S.C. § 509, the Governor shall:

(1) Expand the capacity of the Mountaineer Challenge Academy location in Preston County to accept cadets up to its maximum capacity;

(2) Expand the Mountaineer Challenge Academy to a second location in Fayette County; and

(3) To the extent necessary to accomplish the requirements set forth in this subsection and to maximize the use of federal funds, pursue an amendment to the agreement entered into with the United States Secretary of Defense pursuant to 32 U.S.C. § 509.

(b) The Mountaineer Challenge Academy, operated by the Adjutant General at Camp Dawson, is hereby acknowledged to be a program of great value in meeting the educational needs of at-risk youth throughout the state. Further, the Mountaineer Challenge Academy is hereby designated as a special alternative education program as is further provided pursuant to section §18-2-6 of this code. It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature that the Mountaineer Challenge Academy should enjoy the full cooperation of the executive agencies of state government in carrying out its program.

To this end, the State Board of Education shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this code to the contrary:

(1) Include the Mountaineer Challenge Academy in the child nutrition program;

(2) Provide the names and mailing addresses of all high school dropouts in the state to the director of the Mountaineer Challenge Academy annually; and

(3) Provide for Mountaineer Challenge Academy graduates to participate in the adult basic education program.

(c) Further cooperation with the Mountaineer Challenge Academy is encouraged by the Legislature for the purpose of assisting the Mountaineer Challenge Academy to achieve its mission and help prepare young people for productive adulthood.

CHAPTER 18. EDUCATION.

ARTICLE 2E. HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

§18-2E-12. Mountain State Digital Literacy Project.

(a) Beginning for the school year 2020-2021, the state board shall implement a pilot project, hereby designated the Mountain State Digital Literacy Project. The state board shall determine the number of schools eligible to participate in the pilot project and may adjust that number on a yearly basis. The state board shall select the schools to participate in the project, but selected schools shall possess varying geographic and demographic characteristics and serve students in grades K-8.

(b) Subject to legislative appropriation for this purpose, schools participating in the project shall be provided with instructional resources for students and teachers that feature an extensive curriculum related to digital literacy, online assessment preparation, and internet safety. Administrators and teachers at the participating schools shall be provided

access to online digital literacy related professional development and support.

(c) The project shall be designed and implemented to compliment and build upon the digital literacy standards and assessments established pursuant to §18-2-12, §18-2E-5(c)(16), and §18-2E-5(d)(5) of this code.

(d) The state board may contract with a third-party to facilitate the project. Any such third-party shall satisfy the following qualifications:

(1) Possesses demonstratable experience facilitating similar digital literacy initiatives with public school systems;

(2) Provides extensive digital literacy content over the internet that may be adapted to age or grade specific users and assessment tools, and integrates with widely used platforms; and

(3) Provides digital literacy-related professional development and support resources for administrators and teachers.

(e) On or before January 1, 2020, the state board shall submit to the Governor and the Legislative Oversight Committee on Education Accountability a report that provides information on the development, structure, and fiscal estimate of the Mountain State Digital Literacy Project.

(f) On or before January 1, 2025, the state board shall submit to the Governor and the Legislative Oversight Committee on Education Accountability an evaluation of the pilot project's impact on the performance and progress of students at the participating schools. The evaluation shall include a recommendation for pilot project continuation, expansion or termination and, if recommended for continuation or expansion, any recommendations for program modifications and utilization of the successful

participating schools as demonstration sites to facilitate program expansion.

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-14. Policies to promote school board effectiveness.

(a) No later than January, 2020, each county board shall adopt policies that promote school board effectiveness and may modify the policies as necessary. The policies shall address the following objectives:

(1) Establishing direct links between the county board and its local school improvement councils and between the county board and its faculty senates for the purpose of enabling the county board to receive information, comments and suggestions directly from the councils and faculty senates regarding the broad guidelines for oversight procedures, standards of accountability and planning for future needs as required by this section. To further development of these linkages, each county board shall:

(A) Meet at least annually with the local school improvement council of each school deemed to be low performing under the accountability system established by the state board. The meeting or meetings shall be held at a time and in a manner to be determined by the county board;

(B) At least 30 days before a meeting with the local school improvement council of a school deemed to be low performing, develop and submit to the council an agenda for the meeting which requires the school principal and council chair or a member designated by the chair, to address the dialogue of its meeting or meetings at which the parents, students, school employees, business partners and other interested parties were given the opportunity to make specific suggestions on how to address issues which are seen to affect the school's academic performance. The principal, council chair or other designated member shall also address any reports by the county superintendent with respect to the school's performance and progress, and any

one or more of the following issues as determined by the county board:

(i) School performance;

(ii) Curriculum;

(iii) Status of the school in meeting the school's strategic improvement plan established pursuant to §18-2E-5 of this code; and

(iv) Status of the school in meeting the relevant parts of the county's strategic improvement plan established pursuant to §18-2E-5 of this code;

(C) Make written requests for information from the local school improvement council throughout the year or hold community forums to receive input from the affected community as the county board considers necessary; and

(D) Nothing in this subdivision prohibits a county board from meeting with and requesting information from representatives of any of its local school improvement councils such times and in such manner determined by the county board.

(2) Providing for the development of direct links between the county board and the community at large allowing for community involvement at regular county board meetings and specifying how the county board will communicate regularly with the public regarding important issues;

(3) Providing for the periodic review of personnel policies of the district in order to determine their effectiveness;

(4) Setting broad guidelines for the school district, including the establishment of specific oversight procedures, the development and implementation of standards of accountability and the development of long-

range plans to meet future needs as required by this section; and

(5) Using school-based accountability and performance data provided by the state board and other available data in county board decision-making to meet the education goals of the state and other goals as the county board may establish.

(b) On or before August 1, of each year, county school boards shall review the policies listed in subsection (a) of this section and may modify these policies as necessary.

§18-5-16. Student transfers; definitions; appeals; calculating net enrollment; fees for transfer.

(a) *Establishment of attendance zones within counties.* – The county board may establish attendance zones within the county to designate the schools that its resident students shall attend. Upon the written request of any parent or guardian, or person legally responsible for any student, or for reasons affecting the best interests of the schools, the superintendent may transfer students from one school to another within the county. Any aggrieved person may appeal the decision of the county superintendent to the county board, and the decision of the county board is final.

(b) *Definitions.* – For the purposes of this section, unless a different meaning clearly appears from the context:

"Nonresident student" means a student who resides in this state and who is enrolled in or is seeking enrollment in a county school district other than the county school district in which the student resides.

"Open enrollment" means a policy adopted and implemented by a county board to allow nonresident students to enroll in any school within the district. Open enrollment is distinct from a mutual agreement of two county boards regarding mass transfer of students, as contemplated in §18-5-13(f)(1)(C) of this code.

23 (c) *Enrollment policies.* – County boards shall establish
24 and implement an open enrollment policy without charging
25 tuition and without obtaining approval from the board of the
26 county in which a student resides and transfers. These
27 policies shall clearly articulate any admission criteria,
28 application procedures, transportation provisions, timelines
29 for open enrollment periods, and restrictions on transfers
30 due to building capacity constraints. Enrollment policies are
31 subject to the following:

32 (1) A county board may give enrollment preference to:

33 (A) Siblings of students already enrolled through the
34 open enrollment policy;

35 (B) Secondary students who have completed 10th grade
36 and, due to family relocation, become nonresident students,
37 but express the desire to remain in a specific school to
38 complete their education;

39 (C) Students who are children, grandchildren, or legal
40 wards of employees;

41 (D) Students whose legal residences, though
42 geographically within another county, are more proximate
43 to a school within the receiving county, whether calculated
44 by miles or transportation time; and

45 (E) Students who reside in a portion of a county where
46 topography, impassable roads, long bus rides, or other
47 conditions prevent the practicable transportation of the
48 student to a school within the county, and a school within a
49 contiguous county is more easily accessible.

50 (2) A county must comply with all enrollment
51 requirements for children who are in foster care or who meet
52 the definition of unaccompanied youth prescribed in the
53 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. §
54 11434a(6).

(3) The county board for the county educating the nonresident student may provide an adequate means of transportation to nonresident students when students have complied with the procedure for obtaining authorization to attend school outside their county of residence, subject to the following:

(A) County boards of education are not required to uniformly provide nonresident student transportation, and may consider whether a nonresident student meets the eligibility criteria for free or reduced price lunch and milk established within the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. § 1758); and

(B) The county board for the county educating the nonresident student shall provide transportation to and from the school of attendance, or to and from an agreed pickup point on a regular transportation route, or for the total miles traveled each day for the nonresident student to reach the school of enrollment if the nonresident student is a student with disabilities and has an individualized education program that specifies that transportation is necessary for fulfillment of the program.

(d) *Appeal.* – The state board of education shall establish a process whereby a parent or guardian of a student may appeal the refusal of a county board to accept the transfer of the student. If during the appeal process, the State Superintendent discovers that the education and the welfare of the student could be enhanced, the State Superintended may direct that the student may be permitted to attend a school in the receiving county.

(e) *Net enrollment.* – For purposes of net enrollment as defined in §18-9A-2 of this code, whenever a student is transferred on a full-time basis from one school district to another district pursuant to the provisions of this section, the county to which the student is transferred shall include the student in its net enrollment: *Provided*, That if, after transferring to another county, a student chooses to return to

a school in his or her county of residence after the second month of any school year, the following applies:

(1) The county of residence may issue an invoice to the county from which the student transferred for the amount, determined on a pro rata basis, that the county of residence otherwise would have received under the state basic foundation program established in §18-9A-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(2) The county from which the student transferred shall reimburse the county of residence for the amount of the invoice.

(f) *Transfers between states.* — Transfer of students from this state to another state shall be upon such terms, including payment of tuition, as shall be mutually agreed upon by the board of the receiving county and the authorities of the school or district from which the transfer is made.

(g) No parent, guardian, or person acting as parent or guardian is required to pay for the transfer of a student or for the tuition of the student after the transfer when the transfer is carried out under the terms of this section.

(h) Nothing in this section supersedes the eligibility requirements for participation in extra-curricular activities established by the Secondary Schools Activities Commission.

(i) The amendments to this section during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature shall be effective for school years beginning on or after July 1, 2020, and the provisions of this section existing immediately prior to the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature remain in effect for school years beginning prior to July 1, 2020.

§18-5-16a. Authorization to transfer pupils from one district to another; mandatory transfer; payment of tuition; net enrollment.

(a) The provisions of this section expire effective July 1, 2020: *Provided*, That any agreement made pursuant to this section prior to July 1, 2020, shall remain in effect.

(b) Whenever, in the opinion of the board of education of any county, the education and welfare of a pupil will be enhanced, the board of education of such county shall have the authority to transfer any such pupil or pupils on a part-time or full-time basis from one school district to another school district within the state: *Provided*, That the boards of education of both the transferor and the transferee districts agree to the same by official action of both boards as reflected in the minutes of their respective meetings.

(c) Any pupil attending a school in a district of this state adjacent to the district of residence during the school year 1984-1985, is authorized to continue such attendance in the adjacent district, and, upon written request therefor by the parent or guardian, any person who is entitled to attend the public schools of this state and who resides in the same household and is a member of the immediate family of such pupil is authorized to enroll in such adjacent district. The transferor and transferee school districts shall effectuate any transfer herein authorized in accordance with the provisions of this section.

(d) Whenever a pupil is transferred from one school district to another district on a full-time or part-time basis, the board of education of the school district in which the pupil is a bona fide resident shall pay to the board of education of the school district to which the pupil is transferred a tuition that is agreed upon by both such boards. Tuition for each full-time pupil shall not exceed the difference between the state aid per pupil received by the county to which the pupil is transferred and the county cost per pupil in the county to which said pupil is transferred.

(e) For purposes of net enrollment as defined in §18-9A-2 of this code: (1) Whenever a pupil is transferred on a full-time basis from one school district to another district

pursuant to the provisions of this section, the county to which the pupil is transferred shall include such pupil in its net enrollment; and (2) whenever a pupil is transferred on a part-time basis from one school district to another school district pursuant to the provisions of this section, the county in which the student is a bona fide resident shall count the pupil in its net enrollment.

§18-5-18a. Maximum teacher-pupil ratio.

(a) County boards of education shall provide sufficient personnel, equipment, and facilities as will ensure that each first through sixth grade classroom, or classrooms having two or more grades that include one or more of the first through sixth grades shall not have more than 25 pupils for each teacher of the grade or grades and shall not have more than 20 pupils for each kindergarten teacher per session, unless the state superintendent has excepted a specific classroom upon application therefor by a county board.

(b) County school boards may not maintain a greater number of classrooms having two or more grades that include one or more of the grade levels referred to in this section than were in existence in said county as of January 1, 1983.

(c) The state superintendent is authorized, consistent with sound educational policy, to:

(1) Permit on a statewide basis, in grades four through six, more than 25 pupils per teacher in a classroom for the purposes of instruction in physical education; and

(2) Permit more than 20 pupils per teacher in a specific kindergarten classroom and 25 pupils per teacher in a specific classroom in grades four through six during a school year in the event of extraordinary circumstances as determined by the state superintendent after application by a county board of education.

(d) The state board shall establish guidelines for the exceptions authorized in this section, but in no event shall the superintendent except classrooms having more than three pupils above the pupil-teacher ratio as set forth in this section.

(e) The requirement for approval of an exception to exceed the 20 pupils per kindergarten teacher per session limit or the 25 pupils per teacher limit in grades one through six is waived in schools where the schoolwide pupil-teacher ratio is 25 or less in grades one through six: *Provided*, That a teacher shall not have more than three pupils above the teacher/pupil ratio as set forth in this section. Any kindergarten teacher who has more than 20 pupils per session and any classroom teacher of grades one through six who has more than 25 pupils, shall be paid additional compensation based on the affected classroom teacher's average daily salary divided by 20 for kindergarten teachers, or 25 for teachers of grades one through six, for every day times the number of additional pupils enrolled up to the maximum pupils permitted in the teacher's classroom. All such additional compensation shall be paid from county funds exclusively.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this section to the contrary, commencing with the school year beginning on July 1, 1994, a teacher in grades one, two or three or classrooms having two or more such grade levels, shall not have more than two pupils above the teacher/pupil ratio as set forth in this section: *Provided*, That commencing with the school year beginning on July 1, 1995, such teacher shall not have more than one pupil above the teacher/pupil ratio as set forth in this section: *Provided, however*, That commencing with the school year beginning on July 1, 1996, such teacher shall not have any pupils above the teacher/pupil ratio as set forth in this section.

(f) No provision of this section is intended to limit the number of pupils per teacher in a classroom for the purpose of instruction in choral, band or orchestra music.

(g) Each school principal shall assign students equitably among the classroom teachers, taking into consideration reasonable differences due to subject areas and/or grade levels.

(h) The state board shall collect from each county board of education information on class size and the number of pupils per teacher for all classes in grades seven through 12. The state board shall report such information to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability before January 1, of each year.

(i) The West Virginia Department of Education shall survey districts to determine those grade levels, content areas, and geographic locations where class overcrowding is impeding student achievement and report to the Legislature by July 1, 2020 a tailored plan for reducing class overcrowding in such areas.

The study shall include, but is not limited to, an examination of the following issues:

(1) The effect on student learning of limits on the number of pupils per teacher in a classroom in elementary classes and in a middle and high school format in which students have different teachers for different subject matter instruction;

(2) The effect on the equity among teachers in a middle school in which the number of pupils per teacher in a classroom is limited for some teachers and not for others, including the additional pay for certain teachers in whose classrooms the limits are exceeded; and

(3) The effect limits on the number of pupils per teacher in a classroom have on the ability of school systems to offer elective courses in secondary schools.

§18-5-18b. School counselors in public schools.

(a) A school counselor means a professional educator who holds a valid school counselor's certificate in accordance with §18A-1-1 of this code.

(b) Each county board shall provide counseling services for each pupil enrolled in the public schools of the county.

(c) The school counselor shall work with individual pupils and groups of pupils in providing developmental, preventive and remedial guidance and counseling programs to meet academic, social, emotional, and physical needs; including programs to identify and address the problem of potential school dropouts. The school counselor also may provide consultant services for parents, teachers, and administrators and may use outside referral services, when appropriate, if no additional cost is incurred by the county board.

(d) The state board may adopt rules consistent with the provisions of this section that define the role of a school counselor based on the "National Standards for School Counseling Programs" of the American School Counselor Association. A school counselor is authorized to perform such services as are not inconsistent with the provisions of the rule as adopted by the state board. To the extent that any funds are made available for this purpose, county boards shall provide training for counselors and administrators to implement the rule as adopted by the state board.

(e) Each county board shall develop a comprehensive drop-out prevention program utilizing the expertise of school counselors and any other appropriate resources available.

(f) School counselors shall be full-time professional personnel, shall spend at least 80 percent of work time in a direct counseling relationship with pupils, and shall devote no more than 20 percent of the work day to administrative activities: *Provided*, That such activities are counselor related.

(g) Nothing in this section prohibits a county board from exceeding the provisions of this section, or requires any specific level of funding by the Legislature.

§18-5-46. Requiring teacher to change grade prohibited; teacher recommendation relating to promotion.

(a) No teacher may be required by a principal or any other person to change a student's grade on either an individual assignment or a report card unless there is clear and convincing evidence that there was a mathematical error in calculating the student's grade.

(b) The teacher's recommendation relating to whether a student should be promoted to the next grade level shall be a primary consideration when making such a determination.

§18-5-49. County board exceptional needs expenditures from surplus funds.

Each county board may by policy establish an exceptional needs fund from surpluses for students who are likely to perform better outside of the public school setting. The policy may include:

(1) Allowing the county board to use excess funds or donated funds for expenditures related to services and materials necessary for that student's educational success that are not met within the public education school district;

(2) The amount of funds that is to be deposited into the fund each year which may vary based on availability of surpluses;

(3) The qualifying expenses that funds in the fund may be used for;

(4) Measures for protecting against improper use of the funds which may include auditing all expenditures related to an individual student for services outside of the public education district;

(5) The conditions under which payments from the Exceptional Needs Success Fund are to cease;

(6) Eligibility requirements for education service providers that can accept payments from the fund;

(7) A requirement that any overpayments recaptured from refunded expenditures revert to the Exceptional Student Success Fund; and

(8) Any other provision the county board determines appropriate.

ARTICLE 5A. LOCAL SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT.

§18-5A-2. Local school improvement councils; election and appointment of members and officers; meetings; required meetings with county board; assistance from state board.

(a) A local school improvement council shall be established at every school consisting of the following:

(1) The principal, who serves as an ex officio member of the council and is entitled to vote;

(2) Three teachers elected by the faculty senate of the school;

(3) Two service persons elected by the service personnel employed at the school, one of whom shall be a bus operator who transports students enrolled at the school;

(4) Three parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) of students enrolled at the school elected by the parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) members of the school's parent teacher organization. If there is no parent teacher organization, the parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) members shall be elected by the parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) of students enrolled at the school in such manner as may be determined by the principal. Under no circumstances may a parent member of the council be then employed at that school in any capacity;

(5) Three at-large members appointed by the principal, at least one of whom resides in the school's attendance area,

and at least one of whom represents business or industry, neither of whom are eligible for any local school improvement council membership under any of the other elected classes of members;

(6) In the case of vocational-technical schools, comprehensive middle schools and comprehensive high schools, the vocational director or principal, as applicable, shall appoint up to four additional members from any one or more of the following categories: Employer; employer sponsored training program; apprenticeship program; and post-secondary education; and

(7) In the case of a school with students in grade seven or higher, the student body president or other student in grade seven or higher elected by the student body in those grades.

(b) The principal shall arrange for the election of members to the local school improvement council to be held prior to September 15, of each school year to elect a council and shall give notice of the elections at least one week prior to the elections being held. To the extent practicable, all elections to select council members shall be held within the same week.

(c) Parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s), teachers and service personnel elected to the council shall serve a two-year term and elections shall be arranged in such a manner that no more than two teachers, no more than two parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) and no more than one service person are elected in a given year. All other nonex officio members shall serve one-year terms.

(d) Council members may only be replaced upon death, resignation, failure to appear at three consecutive meetings of the council for which notice was given, or a change in personal circumstances so that the person is no longer representative of the class of members from which appointed. In the case of a vacancy in an elected position,

the chair of the council shall appoint another qualified person to serve the unexpired term of the person being replaced or, in the case of an appointed member of the council, the principal shall appoint a replacement as soon as practicable.

(e) As soon as practicable after the election of council members, and no later than October 1, of each school year, the principal shall convene an organizational meeting of the school improvement council. The principal shall notify each member by written or electronic means at least five employment days in advance of the organizational meeting. At this meeting, the principal shall provide each member with the following:

(1) A copy of the current applicable sections of this code;

(2) Any state board rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to the operation of these councils; and

(3) Any information as may be developed by the Department of Education on the operation and powers of local school improvement councils and their important role in improving student and school performance and progress.

(f) The council shall elect from its membership a chair and two members to assist the chair in setting the agenda for each council meeting. The chair shall serve a term of one year. If the chair's position becomes vacant for any reason, the principal shall call a meeting of the council to elect another qualified person to serve the unexpired term. Once elected, the chair is responsible for notifying each member of the school improvement council in writing five employment days in advance of any council meeting.

(g) School improvement councils shall meet at least once every nine weeks or equivalent grading period at the call of the chair or by the petition of three fourths of its members. The principal shall notify each member by written

or electronic means at least five employment days in advance of the organizational meeting.

(h) The school improvement council annually shall conduct at least one meeting to engage parents, students, school employees, business partners and other interested parties in a positive and interactive dialogue regarding the school's academic performance and standing as determined by measures adopted by the state board. The dialogue shall include an opportunity for the parents, students, school employees, business partners and other interested parties to make specific suggestions on how to address issues which are seen to affect the school's academic performance which may include, but not limited to, parent and community involvement, the learning environment, student engagement, attendance, supports for at-risk students, curricular offerings, resources and the capacity for school improvement. The council shall announce any such meeting ten employment days in advance.

(i) The local school improvement council of each school deemed to be low performing under the accountability system established by the state board shall meet at least annually with the county board. At any such meeting, the principal and local school improvement council chair, or another member designated by the chair, shall be prepared to address the dialogue at its meeting or meetings to give the parents, students, school employees, business partners and other interested parties an opportunity to make specific suggestions on how to address issues which are seen to affect the school's academic performance and any other matters as may be requested by the county board as specified in the meeting agenda provided to the council and may further provide any other information, comments or suggestions the local school improvement council wishes to bring to the county board's attention. Anything presented under this subsection shall be submitted to the county board in writing.

(j) Local school improvement councils shall be considered for the receipt of school of excellence awards and competitive grant awards and may receive and expend such grants for the purposes provided. Local school improvement councils may propose alternatives to the operation of the school in accordance with §18-5A-3 of this code and may include in the proposal a request for a waiver of rules and policies of the county board and state board, state superintendent interpretations, and state statutes if necessary to implement the proposal.

(k) In any and all matters which may fall within the scope of both the school improvement councils and the school curriculum teams authorized in section five of this article, the school curriculum teams have jurisdiction.

(l) In order to promote innovations and improvements in the environment for teaching and learning at the school, a school improvement council shall receive cooperation from the school in implementing policies and programs it may adopt to:

(1) Encourage the involvement of parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) in their child's educational process and in the school;

(2) Encourage businesses to provide time for their employees who are parent(s), guardian(s) or custodian(s) to meet with teachers concerning their child's education;

(3) Encourage advice and suggestions from the business community;

(4) Encourage school volunteer programs and mentorship programs;

(5) Foster utilization of the school facilities and grounds for public community activities;

(6) Encourage students to adopt safe and healthy lifestyles; and

(7) Communicate to students the common skills and attributes sought by employers in prospective employees.

(m) Councils may adopt their own guidelines established under this section. In addition, the councils may adopt all or any part of the guidelines proposed by other local school improvement councils, as developed under this section, which are not inconsistent with the laws of this state, the policies of the West Virginia Board of Education or the policies of the county board.

(n) The State Board of Education shall provide assistance to a local school improvement council upon receipt of a reasonable request for that assistance. The state board also may solicit proposals from other parties or entities to provide orientation training for local school improvement council members and may enter into contracts or agreements for that purpose. Any training for members shall meet the guidelines established by the state board.

§18-5A-3. County board authority to designate innovation schools; local school improvement council proposals of alternatives to operation of school; process for requesting waivers of rules, policies, interpretations and statutes to implement alternatives.

(a) The intent of this section is to encourage and facilitate the design and implementation of innovative initiatives by local schools, working through their local school improvement councils, that meet the school's needs and circumstances. A school level initiative may propose alternatives to the operation of the public school that will enable the school to better meet or exceed the high quality standards established by the state board, increase administrative efficiency, enhance the delivery of instructional programs, promote student engagement in the learning process, promote business partnerships, promote parent and community involvement at the school, or improve the educational performance of the school generally. In accordance with this intent, a local school

15 improvement council established under the provisions of
16 §18-5A-2 of this code may submit to its county board
17 proposed alternatives to the operation of the public school
18 in accordance with this section. If the county board
19 approves the proposal in accordance with this section, it
20 may designate the school as an innovation school and may
21 provide funding to support implementation of the proposal,
22 if necessary.

23 (b) An alternative proposed by a local school
24 improvement council shall set forth:

25 (1) The objective or objectives to be accomplished
26 under the proposal;

27 (2) How the accomplishment of such objective or
28 objectives will meet or exceed the standards established by
29 the state board;

30 (3) The indicators upon which the meeting of such
31 standards should be judged;

32 (4) A projection of any funds to be saved by the proposal
33 and how such funds will be reallocated within the school, or
34 any costs associated with the proposal and proposed funding
35 sources; and

36 (5) Any policies or rules promulgated by the state or
37 county board, any state superintendent interpretations and
38 any state statutes for which a waiver will be required for the
39 proposed alternative to be implemented; and

40 (c) For an alternative to be proposed, at least two thirds
41 of the members of the local school improvement council
42 must vote in favor of the proposal. If the alternative to be
43 proposed includes the request for a waiver of policies or
44 rules promulgated by the state or county board, state
45 superintendent interpretations or state statutes affecting
46 employees, then prior to the proposal of the alternative, a
47 majority of the local affected employee group must agree.

(d) A local school improvement council shall submit its proposed alternative to the county board. The county board shall acknowledge receipt of the proposal and promptly review the proposed alternative. The county board may request additional information and clarifications from the local school improvement council regarding the proposed alternative. The county board shall approve or disapprove the proposal and return it to the council with a statement of the reasons for the action taken, subject to the following:

(1) If an alternative proposed by the local school improvement council requires the waiver of any policies or rules promulgated by the county board, approval of the proposal by the county board constitutes a grant of the waiver;

(2) If an alternative proposed by the local school improvement council requires the waiver of any policies or rules promulgated by the state board and the county board approves the proposal except that a waiver by the state board is required, the county board shall forward the approved proposal to the state board for final determination. The state board shall acknowledge receipt of the proposal and promptly review the proposed alternative in consultation with the county board or their agents and, in its discretion, approve implementation of the alternative or reply to the county board and council within a reasonable time as to its reasons for not approving the proposed alternative. Approval of the proposal by the state board constitutes a grant of the waiver;

(3) If an alternative proposed by the local school improvement council requires the waiver of a state superintendent's interpretation and the county board approves the proposal except that a waiver by the state superintendent is required, the county board shall forward the approved proposal to the state superintendent for final determination. The state superintendent shall acknowledge receipt of the proposal and promptly review the proposed alternative in consultation with the county board or their

agents and, in his or her discretion, approve implementation of the alternative or reply to the county board and council within a reasonable time as to its reasons for not approving the proposed alternative. Approval of the proposal by the state superintendent constitutes a grant of the waiver;

(4) If an alternative proposed by the local school improvement council requires the waiver of a state statute and the county board approves the proposal except that a waiver of the statute is required, the county board shall forward the approved proposal to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability. The commission shall acknowledge receipt of the proposal and promptly review the proposed alternative in consultation with the county board or their agents and determine whether a recommendation should be made for an Act of the Legislature to waive the statute to permit implementation of the proposed alternative;

(5) If an alternative that requires a waiver is proposed by more than one local school improvement council in the county and the county board approves, the county board may forward a consolidated proposal requesting the waiver to the appropriate bodies as provided in this subsection; and

(6) When an alternative to the operation of a school is approved, the county board shall establish a process for evaluation of the operation of the alternative. Approval for the operation of the alternative may be continued or revoked at any time based on the results and findings of the evaluation.

(e) Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law to the contrary, a local school improvement council is not prohibited from permitting off-site classrooms to be developed in conjunction with local businesses if those sites meet the requirements established by the county board for sites that are located off campus.

(f) The state board shall submit a report to the Legislative Oversight commission on education accountability and the Governor on September 1, of each year summarizing the proposed alternatives received, approved or rejected, continued or revoked during the preceding school year and the results and findings of the evaluations. The report shall specifically identify all policy, rule, and interpretation waiver requests including those requests made to county boards by local school improvement councils received during the preceding year and the disposition of each.

§18-5A-5. Public school faculty senates established; election of officers; powers and duties.

(a) There is established at every public school in this state a faculty senate which is comprised of all permanent, full-time professional educators employed at the school who shall all be voting members. "Professional educators", as used in this section, means "professional educators" as defined in chapter eighteen-a of this code. A quorum of more than one half of the voting members of the faculty shall be present at any meeting of the faculty senate at which official business is conducted. Prior to the beginning of the instructional term each year, but within the employment term, the principal shall convene a meeting of the faculty senate to elect a chair, vice chair and secretary and discuss matters relevant to the beginning of the school year. The vice chair shall preside at meetings when the chair is absent. Meetings of the faculty senate shall be held during the times provided in accordance with subdivision (12), subsection (b) of this section as determined by the faculty senate. Emergency meetings may be held during noninstructional time at the call of the chair or a majority of the voting members by petition submitted to the chair and vice chair. An agenda of matters to be considered at a scheduled meeting of the faculty senate shall be available to the members at least two employment days prior to the meeting. For emergency meetings the agenda shall be available as

soon as possible prior to the meeting. The chair of the faculty senate may appoint such committees as may be desirable to study and submit recommendations to the full faculty senate, but the acts of the faculty senate shall be voted upon by the full body.

(b) In addition to any other powers and duties conferred by law, or authorized by policies adopted by the state or county board or bylaws which may be adopted by the faculty senate not inconsistent with law, the powers and duties listed in this subsection are specifically reserved for the faculty senate. The intent of these provisions is neither to restrict nor to require the activities of every faculty senate to the enumerated items except as otherwise stated. Each faculty senate shall organize its activities as it considers most effective and efficient based on school size, departmental structure and other relevant factors.

(1) Each faculty senate shall control funds allocated to the school from legislative appropriations pursuant to section nine, article nine-a of this chapter. From those funds, each classroom teacher and librarian shall be allotted $300 for expenditure during the instructional year for academic materials, supplies or equipment which, in the judgment of the teacher or librarian, will assist him or her in providing instruction in his or her assigned academic subjects or shall be returned to the faculty senate: *Provided*, That nothing contained herein prohibits the funds from being used for programs and materials that, in the opinion of the teacher, enhance student behavior, increase academic achievement, improve self-esteem and address the problems of students at risk. The remainder of funds shall be expended for academic materials, supplies or equipment in accordance with a budget approved by the faculty senate. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the law to the contrary, funds not expended in one school year are available for expenditure in the next school year: *Provided, however*, That the amount of county funds budgeted in a fiscal year may not be reduced throughout the year as a result of the faculty appropriations in the same fiscal year for such materials, supplies and

equipment. Accounts shall be maintained of the allocations and expenditures of such funds for the purpose of financial audit. Academic materials, supplies or equipment shall be interpreted broadly, but does not include materials, supplies or equipment which will be used in or connected with interscholastic athletic events.

(2) A faculty senate may establish a process for members to interview or otherwise obtain information regarding applicants for classroom teaching vacancies that will enable the faculty senate to submit recommendations regarding employment to the principal. To facilitate the establishment of a process that is timely, effective, consistent among schools and counties, and designed to avoid litigation or grievance, the state board shall promulgate a rule pursuant to article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement the provisions of this subdivision. The rule may include the following:

(A) A process or alternative processes that a faculty senate may adopt;

(B) If determined necessary, a requirement and procedure for training for principals and faculty senate members or their designees who may participate in interviews and provisions that may provide for the compensation based on the appropriate daily rate of a classroom teacher who directly participates in the training for periods beyond his or her individual contract;

(C) Timelines that will assure the timely completion of the recommendation or the forfeiture of the right to make a recommendation upon the failure to complete a recommendation within a reasonable time;

(D) The authorization of the faculty senate to delegate the process for making a recommendation to a committee of no less than three members of the faculty senate; and

(E) Such other provisions as the state board determines are necessary or beneficial for the process to be established by the faculty senate.

(3) A faculty senate may nominate teachers for recognition as outstanding teachers under state and local teacher recognition programs and other personnel at the school, including parents, for recognition under other appropriate recognition programs and may establish such programs for operation at the school.

(4) A faculty senate may submit recommendations to the principal regarding the assignment scheduling of secretaries, clerks, aides and paraprofessionals at the school.

(5) A faculty senate may submit recommendations to the principal regarding establishment of the master curriculum schedule for the next ensuing school year.

(6) A faculty senate may establish a process for the review and comment on sabbatical leave requests submitted by employees at the school pursuant to section eleven, article two of this chapter.

(7) Each faculty senate shall elect three faculty representatives to the local school improvement council established pursuant to section two of this article.

(8) Each faculty senate may nominate a member for election to the county staff development council pursuant to section eight, article three, chapter eighteen-a of this code.

(9) Each faculty senate shall have an opportunity to make recommendations on the selection of faculty to serve as mentors for beginning teachers under beginning teacher internship programs at the school.

(10) A faculty senate may solicit, accept and expend any grants, gifts, bequests, donations and any other funds made available to the faculty senate: *Provided*, That the faculty senate shall select a member who has the duty of

maintaining a record of all funds received and expended by the faculty senate, which record shall be kept in the school office and is subject to normal auditing procedures.

(11) Any faculty senate may review the evaluation procedure as conducted in their school to ascertain whether the evaluations were conducted in accordance with the written system required pursuant to section twelve, article two, chapter eighteen-a of this code or pursuant to section two, article three-c, chapter eighteen-a of this code, as applicable, and the general intent of this Legislature regarding meaningful performance evaluations of school personnel. If a majority of members of the faculty senate determine that such evaluations were not so conducted, they shall submit a report in writing to the State Board of Education: *Provided*, That nothing herein creates any new right of access to or review of any individual's evaluations.

(12) A local board shall provide to each faculty senate at least six two-hour blocks of time for faculty senate meetings with at least one two-hour block of time scheduled in the first month of the employment term, one two-hour block of time scheduled in the last month of the employment term and at least one two-hour block of time scheduled in each of the months of October, December, February and April. A faculty senate may meet for an unlimited block of time during noninstructional days to discuss and plan strategies to improve student instruction and to conduct other faculty senate business. A faculty senate meeting scheduled on a noninstructional day shall be considered as part of the purpose for which the noninstructional day is scheduled. This time may be used and determined at the local school level and includes, but is not limited to, faculty senate meetings.

(13) Each faculty senate shall develop a strategic plan to manage the integration of special needs students into the regular classroom at their respective schools and submit the strategic plan to the superintendent of the county board periodically pursuant to guidelines developed by the State

Department of Education. Each faculty senate shall encourage the participation of local school improvement councils, parents and the community at large in developing the strategic plan for each school.

Each strategic plan developed by the faculty senate shall include at least: (A) A mission statement; (B) goals; (C) needs; (D) objectives and activities to implement plans relating to each goal; (E) work in progress to implement the strategic plan; (F) guidelines for placing additional staff into integrated classrooms to meet the needs of exceptional needs students without diminishing the services rendered to the other students in integrated classrooms; (G) guidelines for implementation of collaborative planning and instruction; and (H) training for all regular classroom teachers who serve students with exceptional needs in integrated classrooms.

ARTICLE 5G. PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOLS.

§18-5G-1. Legislative purpose and intent.

(a) The purpose of this article is to establish a process for the creation, governance and oversight accountability of public charter schools with a renewed the commitment to the mission, goals, and diversity of public education that benefits students, parents, teachers, and community members.

(b) Public charter schools are intended to empower new, innovative, and more flexible ways of educating all children within the public school system to:

(1) Improve student learning by creating more diverse public schools with high standards for student performance;

(2) Allow innovative educational methods, practices and programs that engage students in the learning process, thus resulting in higher student achievement;

(3) Enable schools to establish a distinctive school curriculum, a specialized academic or technical theme, or method of instruction;

(4) Provide expanded opportunities within the public schools for parents to choose among the school curricula, specialized academic or technical themes, and methods of instruction that best serve the interests or needs of their child;

(5) Provide students, parents, community members, and local entities with expanded opportunities for involvement in the public school system;

(6) Allow authorized public schools and programs within public schools exceptional levels of self-direction and flexibility in exchange for exceptional levels of results-driven accountability for student learning; and

(7) Encourage the replication of successful strategies for improving student learning.

(c) All public charter schools established under this article are public schools and are part of the state's public education system.

(d) The provisions of this article shall be interpreted liberally to support the purpose and intent of this section and to advance a renewed commitment by the state to the mission, goals and diversity of public education.

(e) No provision of this article may be interpreted to allow the conversion of private schools into public charter schools.

(f) An elected official may not profit or receive any monetary consideration from a charter school: *Provided*, That this prohibition does not apply with respect to the continued employment of an elected official who was employed by a public school prior to its conversion to a public charter school.

(g) The total number of public charter schools authorized and in operation under an approved contract in this state shall be limited to 3 pilot public charter schools until July 1, 2023. The State Board shall report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability by November 1, 2022, and every 3 years thereafter, on the status of the state's public charter schools. LOCEA shall report its findings and recommendations, if any, to the Legislature during its next Regular Session. Beginning July 1, 2023, and every 3 years thereafter, an additional 3 public charter schools may be authorized and in operation under an approved contract in this state. The Mountaineer Challenge Academy, if converted to a public charter school, shall not count towards the limitation established by this subsection.

§18-5G-2. Definitions.

The following words used in this article and any proceedings pursuant thereto have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(1) "Applicant" means any one or more in combination of parents, community members, teachers, school administrators, or institutions of higher education in this state who are interested in organizing a public charter school and:

(A) Have obtained 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status or have submitted an application for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status; and

(B) Have developed and submitted an application to an authorizer to establish a public charter school;

(2) "Authorizer" means the entity empowered under this article to review applications, decide whether to approve or reject applications, enter into charter contracts with applicants, oversee public charter schools, and decide whether to renew, not renew, or revoke charter contracts. Authorizers include:

(A) A county school board when the charter school or application to form a charter school includes a primary recruitment area that is wholly within the county over which the board has jurisdiction;

(B) Two or more county school boards when the charter school or application to form a charter school includes a primary recruitment area that encompasses territory in the two or more counties over which the respective boards have jurisdiction; or

(C) The West Virginia Board of Education in the following instances:

(i) The charter school or application to form a charter school or to renew a charter contract is in a county where the state board has intervened in the operation of the school system and limited the authority of the county board to act pursuant to §18-2E-5 of this code; and

(ii) The application to form a public charter school or to renew a charter contract is approved by the affected county board or boards and is forwarded it to the West Virginia Board of Education with a request that it perform to the authorizer function.

(3) "Charter application" means a proposal from an applicant to an authorizer to enter into a charter contract whereby the proposed school obtains public charter school status;

(4) "Charter contract" or "contract" means a fixed-term, renewable contract between a public charter school's governing board and an authorizer that identifies the roles, powers, responsibilities, operational duties, accountability, and performance expectations for each party to the contract, consistent with the requirements of this article;

(5) "Conversion public charter school" means a public charter school that existed as a noncharter public school before becoming a public charter school;

(6) "County board" means a board exercising management and control of a school district. A county board's management and control of a public charter school is limited to only that granted under this article. In the case of a school district in which the state board has intervened and limited the authority of the county board to act pursuant to §18-2E-5 of this code, "county board" means the state board. In the case of a multicounty vocational or technical center, "county board" means the administrative council of the multicounty center;

(7) "Education service provider" means an education management organization, school design provider, or any other partner entity with which a public charter school contracts for educational design, implementation, or comprehensive management;

(8) "Governing board" means a public charter school governing board that meets the requirements §18-5G-3 and §18-5G-7 of this code and is party to the charter contract with the authorizer;

(9) "Noncharter public school" means a public school or multicounty vocational center other than a public charter school established pursuant to this article;

(10) "Parent" means a parent, guardian, or other person or entity having legal custody over a child;

(11) "Public charter school" means a public school or program within a public school that is authorized in accordance with the provisions of this article and meets the general criteria, governance structure and statutory compliance requirements described in §18-5G-3 of this code, and other provisions of this article;

(12) "Program conversion public charter school" means a program within an existing noncharter public school that is either preexisting and converted or newly created to become a separate and discreet program governed and

operated in accordance with this article within the noncharter public school;

(13) "Start-up public charter school" means a public charter school that did not exist as a noncharter public school prior to becoming a public charter school.

(14) "State board" means the West Virginia Board of Education; and

(15) "Student" means any person that is eligible for attendance in a public school in West Virginia.

§18-5G-3. Public charter school criteria, governance structure and statutory compliance requirements; applicable federal and state laws.

(a) Public charter schools authorized pursuant to this article shall meet the following general criteria:

(1) Are part of the state's system of public schools and are subject to general supervision by the West Virginia Board of Education for meeting the student performance standards required of other public school students under §18-2E-5(d) and (e) of this code;

(2) Are subject to the oversight of the school's authorizer for operating in accordance with its approved charter contract and for meeting the terms and performance standards established in the charter contract;

(3) Are not home school-based;

(4) Are not affiliated with or espouse any specific religious denomination, organization, sect, or belief and do not promote or engage in any religious practices in their educational program, admissions, employment policies, or operations;

(5) Are not affiliated with any organized group whose espoused beliefs attack or malign an entire class of people,

typically for immutable characteristics, as identified through listings of such groups as may be made by the U. S. Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or officials having similar jurisdiction in this state;

(6) Are public schools to which parents or legal guardians choose to send their child or children;

(7) Do not charge tuition and may only charge such fees as may be imposed by noncharter public schools in this state; and

(8) Have no requirements that would exclude any child from enrollment who would not be excluded at a noncharter public school.

(b) A public charter school authorized pursuant to this article shall be governed by a board that meets the requirements established in §18-5G-7 of this code and:

(1) Has autonomy over key decisions, including, but not limited to, decisions concerning finance, personnel, scheduling, curriculum, and instruction except as provided in this article;

(2) Has no power to levy taxes;

(3) Operates in pursuit of a specific set of educational objectives as defined in its charter contract;

(4) Provides a program of public education that:

(A) Includes one or more of the following: Prekindergarten and any grade or grades from kindergarten to grade 12 including any associated post-secondary embedded credit, dual credit, advanced placement, internship, and industry or workforce credential programs that the public charter school chooses to incorporate into its programs;

(B) May include in its mission a specific focus on students with special needs, including, but not limited to, at-risk students, English language learners, students with severe disciplinary problems at a noncharter public school, or students involved with the juvenile justice system; and

(C) May include a specific academic approach or theme including, but not limited to, approaches or themes such as STEM education, mastery-based education, early college, or fine and performing arts;

(5) Provides programs and services to a student with a disability in accordance with the student's individualized education program and all federal and state laws, regulations, rules and policies. A charter school shall deliver the services directly or contract with a county board or another provider to deliver the services as set forth in its charter contract;

(6) Is eligible to participate in state-sponsored or district-sponsored athletic and academic interscholastic leagues, competitions, awards, scholarships, and recognition programs for students, educators, administrators, and schools to the same extent as noncharter public schools;

(7) Employs its own personnel as employees of the public charter school and is ultimately responsible for processing employee paychecks, managing its employees' participation in the applicable retirement system, and managing its employees' participation in insurance plans: *Provided*, That nothing in this subdivision prohibits the public charter school from contracting with another person or entity to perform services relating to managing its employees' participation in the retirement system or insurance plan. A county board may not require any employee of its school system to be employed in a public charter school. A county board may not harass, threaten, discipline, discharge, retaliate, or in any manner discriminate against any school system employee involved

directly or indirectly with an application to establish a public charter school as authorized under this section. All personnel in a public charter school who were previously employed by the county board shall continue to accrue seniority with the county board in the same manner that they would accrue seniority if employed in a noncharter public school in the county for purposes of employment in noncharter public schools; and

(8) Is responsible for establishing a staffing plan that includes the requisite qualifications and any associated certification and/or licensure necessary for teachers and other instructional staff to be employed at the public charter school and for verifying that these requirements are met.

(c) A public charter school authorized pursuant to this article is exempt from all statutes and rules applicable to a noncharter public school or board of education except the following:

(1) All federal laws and authorities applicable to noncharter public schools in this state including, but not limited to, the same federal nutrition standards, the same civil rights, disability rights and health, life and safety requirements applicable to noncharter public schools in this state;

(2) The provisions of §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code relating to freedom of information and the provisions of §6-9A-1 *et seq.* of this code relating to open governmental proceedings;

(3) The same immunization requirements applicable to noncharter public schools;

(4) The same compulsory school attendance requirements applicable to noncharter public schools;

(5) The same minimum number of days or an equivalent amount of instructional time per year as required of

noncharter public school students under §18-5-45 of this code;

(6) The same student assessment requirements applicable to noncharter public schools in this state, but only to the extent that will allow the state board to measure the performance of public charter school students pursuant to §18-2E-5(d) and (e) of this code. Nothing precludes a public charter school from establishing additional student assessment measures that go beyond state requirements;

(7) The Student Data Accessibility, Transparency and Accountability Act pursuant to §18-2-5h of this code;

(8) Use of the electronic education information system established by the West Virginia Department of Education for the purpose of reporting required information;

(9) Reporting information on student and school performance to parents, policy-makers, and the general public in the same manner as noncharter public schools utilizing the electronic format established by the West Virginia Department of Education. Nothing precludes a public charter school from utilizing additional measures for reporting information on student and school performance that go beyond state requirements;

(10) All applicable accounting and financial reporting requirements as prescribed for public schools, including adherence to generally accepted accounting principles. A public charter school shall annually engage an external auditor to perform an independent audit of the school's finances. The public charter school shall submit the audit to its authorizer and to the state superintendent of schools within nine months of the end of the fiscal year for which the audit is performed;

(11) A criminal history check pursuant to §18A-3-10 of this code for any staff person that would be required if the person was employed in a noncharter public school, unless

a criminal history check has already been completed for that staff person pursuant to that section. Governing board members and other public charter school personnel are subject to criminal history record checks and fingerprinting requirements applicable to noncharter public schools in this state. Contractors and service providers or their employees are prohibited from making direct, unaccompanied contact with students and from access to school grounds unaccompanied when students are present if it cannot be verified that the contractors, service providers or employees have not previously been convicted of a qualifying offense pursuant to §18-5-15c of this code;

(12) The same zoning rules for its facilities that apply to noncharter public schools in this state;

(13) The same building codes, regulations and fees for its facilities that apply to noncharter public schools in this state, including any inspections required for noncharter public schools under this chapter and the West Virginia State Fire Marshal for inspection and issuance of a certificate of occupancy for any facility used by the public charter school; and

(14) The same student transportation safety laws applicable to public schools when transportation is provided.

§18-5G-4. West Virginia Board of Education; powers and duties for implementation, general supervision and support of public charter schools; authorizer responsibilities; limit on charter schools authorized.

(a) The state board shall consult with nationally recognized charter school organizations and establish and maintain a catalogue of best practices for public charter schools applicable for all applicants, authorizers, governing board members, and administrators that are consistent with this article and nationally recognized principles and professional standards for quality public charter school

authorizing and governance in all major areas of authorizing and governance responsibility in the following areas:

(1) Organizational capacity and infrastructure;

(2) Solicitation and evaluation of charter applications;

(3) A framework to guide the development of charter contracts;

(4) Performance contracting including a performance framework;

(5) Providing transparency and avoiding all conflicts of interest;

(6) Ongoing charter school oversight and evaluation; and

(7) Charter approval, renewal, and revocation decision-making;

(b) The state board is responsible for exercising, in accordance with this article, the following powers and duties with respect to the oversight and authorization of public charter schools:

(1) Provide forms to promote the quality and ease of use for authorizers to solicit applications for public charter schools, for applicants to complete applications, and for establishing quality charter contracts that include a framework for performance standards. The forms shall be available for use and solicitations made not later than the beginning of February, 2020. The forms shall include an application deadline of August 2020 for any charter school proposing to begin operation for the 2021-22 school year. No charter school may begin operation prior to the 2021-22 school year;

(2) Provide training programs for public charter school applicants, administrators and governing board members, as applicable, that include, but are not limited to:

(i) Pre-application training programs and forms to assist in the development of high quality public charter school applications;

(ii) The required components and the necessary information of the public charter school application and the charter contract as set forth in this article;

(iii) The charter school board's statutory role and responsibilities;

(iv) Charter school employment policies and practices; and

(v) Authorizer responsibilities for charter school contract oversight and performance evaluation;

(3) Receive and expend appropriate gifts, grants and donations of any kind from any public or private entity to carry out the purposes of this act, subject to all lawful terms and conditions under which the gifts, grants or donations are given;

(4) Apply for any federal funds that may be available for the implementation of public charter school programs;

(5) Establish reporting requirements that enable the state board to monitor the performance and legal compliance of authorizers and public charter schools; and

(6) Submit to the Governor and the Legislature an annual report within 60 days of the end of each school year summarizing:

(A) The student performance of all operating public charter schools; and

(B) The authorization status of all public charter schools within the last school year, identifying all public charter schools as:

(i) Application pending;

(ii) Application denied;

(iii) Application approved, but not yet operating;

(iv) Operating and years of operation;

(v) Renewed and years of operation;

(vi) Terminated;

(vii) Closed;

(viii) Never opened; and

(ix) Any successful innovations applied in authorized schools which may be replicated in other schools. The report shall provide information about how noncharter public schools may implement these innovations.

(c) The state board shall be the authorizer of a public charter school when a county board or boards approve the application for a public charter school and requests the state board to perform the authorizer duties and responsibilities or when an application to form a public charter school or to renew a charter contract is submitted from an applicant within a county in which the state board has intervened and limited the power of the county board to act pursuant to §18-2E-5 of this code.

§18-5G-5. State board rule relating to funding for charter school enrollment and other necessary provisions; local education agency status; authorizer oversight fee.

(a) The state board shall promulgate a rule pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code setting forth requirements for public charter school funding. The rule

shall include a requirement that 90 percent of the per pupil total basic foundation allowance follow the student to the public charter school, subject to the following:

(1) Notwithstanding §18-9A-1 *et seq.* of this code, the rule may provide for modifications to the calculations set forth in §18-9A-7 of this code regarding the allowance for student transportation and in §18-9A-9(1) of this code regarding the allowance for current expense for the purpose of making appropriate adjustments to those allowances to account for student transportation and current expense related funding a school district loses in situations where it pays money to a charter school pursuant to this subsection without a corresponding decrease in the county's transportation and current expense related expenditures;

(2) The rule shall designate which county school district is required to pay for a student attending a public charter school, and notwithstanding the terms in the definition of "net enrollment" in §18-9A-2 of this code, shall provide that the county school district paying for the student attending a public charter school have that student included in its net enrollment for the purposes of §18-9A-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(3) The rule shall require the Department of Education to follow federal requirements in ensuring that federal funding follows the student to a public charter school.

(b) The state board may promulgate a rule in accordance with §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code, if necessary, for ensuring the accountability of public charter schools for meeting the standards for student performance required of other public school students under §18-2E-5 of this code and the accountability of authorizers for ensuring that those standards are met in the schools authorized by it. If an authorizer fails to close a charter school that does not meet the standards, the authorizer shall appear before the state board to justify its decision. The state board may uphold or

39 overturn the authorizer's decision and may revoke the
40 authority of the authorizer to authorize charter schools.

41 (c) The school district in which the public charter school
42 is located remains the local educational agency for all public
43 charter schools authorized by the county board and the
44 public charter school is a school within that local
45 educational agency except that the public charter school is
46 treated as a local educational agency for purposes of
47 applying for competitive federal grants. The state board is
48 the local education agency for public charter schools
49 authorized by the state board except that the public charter
50 school is treated as a local educational agency for purposes
51 of applying for competitive federal grants.

52 (d) To cover authorizer costs for overseeing public
53 charter schools, the state board shall establish a statewide
54 formula for authorizer oversight funding, which shall apply
55 uniformly to every authorizer in the state. Each public
56 charter school shall remit to its respective authorizer an
57 oversight fee. The oversight fee shall be drawn from and
58 calculated as a uniform percentage of the per pupil basic
59 foundation as provided pursuant to state board rule
60 promulgated in accordance with this section, not to exceed
61 one percent of each public charter school's per-student
62 funding in a single school year. The state board may
63 establish a sliding scale for authorizing funding, with the
64 funding percentage decreasing after the authorizer has
65 achieved a certain threshold, such as after a certain number
66 of schools have been authorized or after a certain number of
67 students are enrolled in the authorizer's public charter
68 schools. The state board shall establish a cap on the total
69 amount of funding that an authorizer may withhold from a
70 full-time public charter school. The state board shall
71 annually review the effectiveness of the state formula for
72 authorizer funding and shall adjust the formula if necessary
73 to maximize public benefit and strengthen the
74 implementation of this act.

(e) The state board shall promulgate a rule in accordance with §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code to clarify, if necessary, the requirements of this article and address any unforeseen issues that might arise relating to the implementation of the requirements of this article. The rule also shall include a provision prohibiting a county board from discrimination against any district employee involved directly or indirectly with an application to establish a public charter school under this article.

(f) All state board rules required to be promulgated by this article shall be promulgated on or before January 1, 2020.

§18-5G-6. Authorizer powers and duties.

(a) Each authorizing authority is responsible for exercising in accordance with this article the following powers and duties with respect to the oversight and authorization of public charter schools:

(1) Demonstrate public accountability and transparency in all matters concerning its charter-authorizing practices, decisions, and expenditures;

(2) Establish and maintain policies and practices consistent with the principles and professional standards for authorizers of public charter schools, including standards relating to:

(A) Organizational capacity and infrastructure;

(B) Evaluating applications;

(C) Ongoing public charter school oversight and evaluation; and

(D) Charter approval, renewal, and revocation decision-making.

(3) Solicit applications and guide the development of high-quality public charter school applications;

(4) Approve new charter applications that meet the requirements of this article and on the basis of their application satisfying all requirements of §18-5G-8 of this code, that demonstrate the ability to operate the school in an educationally and fiscally sound manner, and that are likely to improve student achievement through the program detailed in the charter application;

(5) Decline to approve charter applications that fail to meet the requirements of §18-5G-8 of this code;

(6) Negotiate and execute in good faith a charter contract with each public charter school it authorizes;

(7) Monitor the performance and compliance of public charter schools according to the terms of the charter contract; and

(8) Determine whether each charter contract it authorizes merits renewal or revocation.

(b) After an applicant submits a written application to establish a public charter school, the authorizer shall:

(1) Complete a thorough review process;

(2) Conduct an in-person interview with the applicant;

(3) Provide an opportunity in a public forum for local residents to provide input and learn about the charter application;

(4) Provide a detailed analysis of the application to the applicant or applicants;

(5) Allow an applicant a reasonable time to provide additional materials and amendments to its application to address any identified deficiencies; and

(6) Approve or deny a charter application based on established objective criteria or request additional information.

(c) In deciding to approve a charter application, the authorizer shall:

(1) Approve charter applications only to applicants that possess competence in all elements of the application requirements identified in this section and §18-5G-8 of this code;

(2) Base decisions on documented evidence collected through the application review process; and

(3) Follow charter-granting policies and practices that are transparent, based on merit, and avoid conflicts of interest.

(d) No later than 90 days following the filing of the charter application, the authorizer shall approve or deny the charter application. The authorizer shall provide its decision in writing, including an explanation stating the reasons for approval or denial of its decision during an open meeting. Any failure to act on a charter application within the time specified shall be deemed an approval by the authorizer.

(e) An authorizer's charter application approval shall be submitted to the West Virginia Department of Education.

(f) An authorizer shall conduct or require oversight activities that enable it to fulfill its responsibilities under this article, including conducting appropriate inquiries and investigations, so long as those activities are consistent with the intent of this article, adhere to the terms of the charter contract and do not unduly inhibit the autonomy granted to charter schools. In the event that a public charter school's performance or legal compliance appears unsatisfactory, the authorizer shall promptly notify in writing the public charter school governing board of perceived problems and provide reasonable opportunity for the school to remedy the

problems: *Provided*, That if the problem warrants revocation, the revocation time frames will apply;

(g) An authorizer shall take appropriate corrective actions or exercise sanctions in response to apparent deficiencies in a charter school's performance or legal compliance. If warranted, the actions or sanctions may include requiring a charter school to develop and execute a corrective action plan within a specified time frame;

(h) An authorizer may require each charter school it oversees to submit an annual report to assist the authorizer in gathering complete information about each school, consistent with the performance framework.

(i) To cover authorizer costs for overseeing public charter schools, each public charter school shall remit to its respective authorizer an oversight fee drawn from and calculated as a uniform percentage of the per student operational funding allocated to each public charter school as established by the state board by rule pursuant to §18-5G-5 of this code.

(j) An authorizer may receive and expend appropriate gifts, grants and donations of any kind from any public or private entity to carry out the purposes of this act, subject to all lawful terms and conditions under which the gifts, grants or donations are given, and may apply for any federal funds that may be available for the implementation of public charter school programs;

(k) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, no civil liability shall attach to an authorizer or to any of its members or employees for any acts or omissions of the public charter school. Neither the county board of education nor the State of West Virginia shall be liable for the debts or financial obligations of a public charter school or any person or entity that operates a public charter school.

(l) Regulation of public charter schools by the state board and a county board shall be limited to those powers and duties of authorizers prescribed in this article and general supervision consistent with the spirit and intent of this article.

§18-5G-7. Public Charter school governing board.

(a) To ensure compliance with this article, a public charter school shall be administered by a governing board accountable to the authorizer as set forth in the charter contract. A public charter school governing board shall consist of no fewer than five members elected or selected in a manner specified in the charter application, including at least the following:

(1) Two parents of students attending the public charter school operating under the governing board; and

(2) Two members who reside in the community served by the public charter school.

(b) Members of the governing board shall:

(A) Not be an employee of the public charter school administered by the governing board;

(B) Not be an employee of an education service provider that provides services to the public charter school;

(C) File a full disclosure report to the authorizer identifying potential conflicts of interest, relationships with management organizations, and relationships with family members who are employed by the public charter school or have other business dealings with the school, the management organization of the school, or any other public charter school;

(D) Collectively possess expertise in leadership, curriculum and instruction, law, and finance; and

(E) Be considered an officer of a school district under the provisions of §6-6-7 of this code and removal from office shall be in accordance with the provisions of that section.

(c) The public charter school governing board shall:

(1) Operate under the oversight of its authorizer in accordance with its charter contract;

(2) As a public corporate body, have the powers necessary for carrying out the terms of its charter contract, including, but not limited to the power to:

(A) Receive and disburse funds for school purposes;

(B) Secure appropriate insurance and enter into contracts and leases;

(C) Contract with an education service provider, so long as the governing board retains final oversight and authority over the school;

(D) Pledge, assign, or encumber its assets to be used as collateral for loans or extensions of credit;

(E) Solicit and accept any gifts or grants for school purposes, subject to applicable laws and the terms of its charter; and

(F) Acquire real property for use as its facilities or facilities from public or private sources;

(3) Enroll students in the public charter school pursuant to §18-5G-11 of this code;

(4) Require any education service provider contracted with the governing board to provide a monthly detailed budget to the board; and

(5) Provide programs and services to a student with a disability in accordance with the student's individualized

education program and all federal and state laws, rules, and regulations. A public charter school shall deliver the services directly or contract with another provider to deliver the services.

(d) A public charter school authorized under this article may:

(1) Negotiate and contract with its authorizer or any third party for the use, operation, and maintenance of a building and grounds, liability insurance, and the provision of any service, activity, or undertaking that the public charter school is required to perform in order to carry out the educational program described in its charter contract. Any services for which a public charter school contracts with a school district shall be provided by the district at cost and shall be negotiated as a separate agreement after final charter contract negotiations;

(2) Sue and be sued in its own name;

(3) Own, rent, or lease its space;

(4) Participate in cocurricular activities to the same extent as noncharter public schools; and

(5) Participate in extracurricular activities to the same extent as noncharter public schools.

(e) The public charter school governing board is responsible for the operation of its public charter school, including, but not limited to, ensuring compliance with the public charter school criteria, governance and statutory compliance set forth §18-5G-3 of this code, the preparation of an annual budget, contracting for services, school curriculum, personnel matters, and achieving the objectives and goals of the public charter school's program.

(f) The public charter school governing board shall comply with the provisions of §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code relating to freedom of information and the provisions of §6-

9A-1 *et seq.* of this code relating to open governmental proceedings.

§18-5G-8. Application to establish public charter school.

(a) To establish a new public charter school, to convert an existing noncharter public school to a public charter school or establish a program conversion public charter school, an applicant shall submit a charter application to an authorizer. Charter authorizers shall accept and document the date and time of receipt of all charter applications.

(b) The application shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(1) A mission statement and a vision statement for the public charter school, including specialized academic focus, if any, to be promoted and advanced through the establishment of the public charter school;

(2) A detailed description of the public charter school's proposed program;

(3) The student achievement goals for the public charter school's program and the chosen methods of evaluating whether students have attained the skills and knowledge specified for those goals;

(4) The school's plan for using data derived from student evaluations and assessments, including the statewide summative assessment, to drive instruction and promote continued school improvement;

(5) An explanation of how the school's proposed program is likely to improve the achievement of traditionally underperforming students in the local school district;

(6) The proposed governance structure of the school, including a list of members of the initial governing board, a draft of bylaws that include the description of the

qualifications, terms, and methods of appointment or election of governing board members, and the organizational structure of the school that clearly presents lines of authority and reporting between the governing board, school administrators, staff, any related bodies such as advisory bodies or parent and teacher councils, and any external organizations that will play a role in managing the school;

(7) Plans and timelines for student enrollment, including the school primary recruitment area and policies and procedures for conducting transparent and random admission lotteries when applications for enrollment exceed capacity that are open to the public and consistent with this article;

(8) A proposed five-year budget, including the start-up year and projections for four additional years with clearly stated assumptions;

(9) Proposed fiscal and internal control policies for the public charter school;

(10) Acknowledgement that the public charter school will participate in the state's accountability system;

(11) A proposed handbook that outlines the personnel policies of the public charter school, including the criteria to be used in the hiring of qualified teachers, school administrators, and other school employees, a description of staff responsibilities, and the school's plan to evaluate personnel on an annual basis;

(12) An explanation of proposed student discipline procedures, including disciplinary procedures for students with disabilities, which shall be consistent with the requirements of due process and with state and federal laws and regulations governing the placement of students with disabilities;

(13) A description of the facilities to be used by the public charter school, including the location of the school and how the facility supports the implementation of the school's program. The school shall obtain all required occupation and operation certificates and licenses prior to the first instructional day for students;

(14) The proposed ages and grade levels to be served by the public charter school, including the planned minimum and maximum enrollment per grade per year;

(15) The school calendar and school day schedule;

(16) Types and amounts of insurance coverage to be obtained by the public charter school, which:

(A) Shall include adequate insurance for liability, property loss, and the personal injury of students comparable to noncharter public schools within the local school district operated by the county board; and

(B) May include coverage from the Board of Risk and Insurance Management pursuant to §29-12-5a of this code;

(17) A description of the food services to be provided to students attending the school;

(18) Process and procedures to be followed in the case of the closure or dissolution of the public charter school, including provisions for the transfer of students and student records to the appropriate local school district and an assurance and agreement to payment of net assets or equity after payment of debts;

(19) A code of ethics for the school setting forth the standards of conduct expected of its governing board, officers, and employees;

(20) The public charter school's plan for successfully serving students with disabilities, students who are English language learners, bilingual students, and students who are

academically behind and gifted, including, but not limited to, the school's plan for compliance with all applicable federal and state laws and regulations;

(21) A description of cocurricular and extracurricular programs to be offered by the public charter school and how they will be funded and delivered;

(22) The process by which the school will resolve any disputes with the authorizer;

(23) A detailed start-up plan, including financing, tasks, timelines, and individuals responsible for carrying out the plan;

(24) The public charter school's plan for notice to parents and others of enrollment in the school as an option available for students and the school's primary recruitment area; and

(25) The public charter school's plan for parental involvement.

(c) If the applicant intends to contract with an education service provider for educational program implementation or comprehensive management, the application shall additionally require the applicant to provide the following information with respect to the educational service provider:

(1) Evidence of success in serving student populations similar to the targeted population, including demonstrated academic achievement as well as successful management of nonacademic school functions, if applicable;

(2) Student performance data and financial audit reports for all current and past public charter schools;

(3) Documentation of and explanation for any actions taken, legal or otherwise, against any of its public charter schools for academic, financial, or ethical concerns;

(4) The proposed duration of the service contract;

(5) The annual proposed fees and other amounts to be paid to the education service provider;

(6) The roles and responsibilities of the governing board, the school staff, and the education service provider;

(7) The scope of services and resources to be provided by the education service provider;

(8) Performance evaluation measures and timelines;

(9) Methods of contract oversight and enforcement;

(10) Investment disclosure;

(11) Conditions for renewal and termination of the contract; and

(12) Disclosure and explanation any existing or potential conflicts of interest between the governing board and the proposed education service provider or any affiliated business entities.

§18-5G-9. Charter contract requirements; term of contract.

(a) Within 90 days of the approval of a charter application, the governing board and the authorizer shall negotiate and enter into a charter contract.

(b) The charter contract shall address, in detail, the following items:

(1) The term of the contract: *Provided*, That the contract term shall be no longer than five years;

(2) The agreements relating to each item required in the charter application and, if applicable, the agreement with an education service provider that the governing boards intends to contract with for educational program implementation or comprehensive management;

(3) The rights and duties of the authorizer and the public charter school;

(4) The administrative relationship between the authorizer and the public charter school;

(5) The process the authorizer will use to provide ongoing oversight;

(6) The specific commitments of the authorizer relating to its obligations to oversee, monitor the progress of, and supervise the public charter school;

(7) The process and criteria the authorizer will use to annually monitor and evaluate the overall academic, operating, and fiscal conditions of the public charter school, including the process the authorizer will use to oversee the correction of any deficiencies found;

(8) The process for revision or amendment to the terms of the charter contract agreed to by the authorizer and the governing board;

(9) The process agreed to by the authorizer and the governing board that identifies how disputes between the authorizer and the board will be handled;

(10) Any other terms and conditions agreed to by the authorizer and the governing board, including preopening conditions.

(c) The charter contract shall include provisions relating to the performance of the public charter school that set forth the academic and operational performance indicators, measures, and metrics to be used by the authorizer to evaluate the public charter school. At a minimum, the performance provisions shall include indicators, measures, and metrics for:

(1) Student academic proficiency;

(2) Student academic growth;

(3) Achievement gaps in both student proficiency and student growth between student subgroups, including race, sex, socioeconomic status, and areas of exceptionality;

(4) Student attendance;

(5) Student suspensions;

(6) Student withdrawals;

(7) Recurrent enrollment from year to year;

(8) Governing board's performance and stewardship, including compliance with all applicable statutes and terms of charter contract; and

(9) Additional valid and reliable indicators requested by the public charter school.

(d) A charter contract shall include provisions for revoking the charter contract. At a minimum, these provisions shall include:

(1) The information that must be included in the authorizer's initial decision to revoke the charter contract;

(2) Notification requirements to the governing board about the authorizer's initial decision to revoke a charter contract and the reasons for the revocation;

(3) An opportunity and timeframe for the governing board to provide a response to the authorizer's initial decision to revoke the charter contract;

(4) An opportunity for the governing board to submit documentation and provide testimony as to why the charter contract should not be revoked;

(5) An opportunity for a recorded public hearing, at the request of the governing board;

(6) That the authorizer shall consider the governing board's response, testimony, and documentation, as well as the recorded public hearing, prior to rendering a final decision on the revocation of the charter contract;

(7) The information that must be included in the authorizer's final decision if it determines to revoke the charter contract;

(8) A timeline for an authorizer to render a final decision on whether or not to revoke a charter contract;

(9) Rendering of the authorizer's decision shall be adopted during an open meeting; and

(10) A provision that the failure of the authorizer to act on a renewal application within the designated timeframes shall be deemed approval of the application.

(e) The authorizer shall be responsible for collecting and reporting to the state board all state-required assessment and achievement data for the public charter school.

(f) The charter contract shall be signed by the chair of the governing board and the president of the county board, presidents of the county boards, or the president of the public or private institution of higher education, as applicable. A copy of the charter contract shall be provided to the State Superintendent of Schools.

(g) No public charter school may commence operations without a charter contract that meets the requirements of this section, has been properly executed, and has been approved by, as applicable, a county board, county boards, or the state board.

§18-5G-10. Charter contract renewal; performance report by authorizer and renewal guidance; renewal application; renewal term; nonrenewal and revocation; closure and dissolution.

(a) No later than June 30 of a public charter school's fourth year of operation under each five-year term of a charter contract, the authorizer shall issue a performance report on the public charter school. The performance report shall summarize the public charter school's performance record to date, based on the data collected under the performance framework in section eleven of this article and the charter contract, and shall provide notice of any weaknesses or concerns perceived by the authorizer concerning the school that may jeopardize its position in seeking renewal if not timely rectified. The school and the authorizer shall mutually agree to a reasonable time period for the charter school to respond to the performance report and submit any corrections for the report.

(b) If the public charter school's contract is expiring, the authorizer shall offer contract renewal application guidance to the school. The renewal application guidance required by this subsection shall include or refer explicitly to the criteria and standards that will guide the authorizer's renewal decisions. These criteria and standards shall be based on the performance framework set forth in section eleven of this article, as set forth in the charter contract and consistent with this article. The renewal application guidance shall, at a minimum, require and provide an opportunity for the public charter school to:

(1) Present additional evidence, beyond the data contained in the performance report, supporting its case for charter renewal;

(2) Describe improvements undertaken or planned for the school; and

(3) Detail the school's plans for the next charter term.

(c) No later than September 30 of a public charter school's final authorized year of operation under a term of a charter contract, the governing board of the public charter school seeking renewal shall submit a renewal application

to the authorizer pursuant to the renewal application guidance offered by the authorizer under subsection (b) of this section. The authorizer shall rule in a public meeting and by resolution on the renewal application no later than 45 days after the filing of the renewal application. In making charter renewal decisions, the authorizer shall:

(1) Ground its decisions on a thorough analysis of evidence of the school's performance over the term of the charter contract in accordance with the terms and measures established in the performance framework set forth in the charter contract;

(2) Ensure that data used in making renewal decisions are available to the public charter school and the public;

(3) Provide a public report summarizing the evidence basis for each decision; and

(4) Include one of the following rulings:

(A) Renew the charter contract for another term of five years based on the school's performance data and demonstrated capacities of the public charter school; or

(B) Decline to renew the charter contract. The authorizer shall clearly state in a resolution the reasons for the nonrenewal. The governing board of the school shall be granted 30 days to respond in writing to the decision and public report before that decision becomes final. The governing board shall be allowed to provide the authorizer with such arguments and supporting information as it sees fit and also shall be granted an opportunity for a recorded public hearing, at the request of the governing board. The authorizer shall consider the governing board's response, testimony, and documentation, as well as the recorded public hearing, prior to rendering a final decision on the revocation of the charter contract. The authorizer shall render its final determination within 10 days of the close of the 30-day period.

(d) The failure of the authorizer to act on a renewal application within the designated timeframes shall be deemed an approval of the renewal application.

(e) Within 10 days of taking final action to renew, not renew or revoke a charter under this section, the authorizer shall report the action taken and reasons for the decision to the school's governing board and the state board or affected county board, as applicable. A copy of the report shall be submitted at the same time to the state superintendent.

(f) A charter contract may be revoked at any time or not renewed if the authorizer determines that the health and safety of students attending the public charter school is threatened or the public charter school has:

(A) Failed to comply with the provisions of this article:

(B) Committed a material violation of any of the terms, conditions, standards or procedures required under this chapter or the charter contract;

(C) Failed to meet the performance expectations set forth in the charter contract;

(D) Failed to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; or

(E) Violated any provision of law from which the school was not exempted.

(g) If an authorizer does not renew or revokes a charter contract, the authorizer shall clearly state in a resolution in a public meeting, the reasons for the nonrenewal or revocation.

(h) If an authorizer revokes a charter contract, the authorizer shall close the school: *Provided*, That when the charter is revoked or not renewed for a school that began as a conversion public charter school or program conversion public charter school, the county board of the district in

which the school is located may return it to noncharter public school status.

(i) If a public charter school is closed, the authorizer shall clearly state in a resolution in a public meeting, the reasons for the closure.

(j) In the event of a public charter school closure for any reason, the authorizer shall oversee and work with the closing school to ensure a smooth and orderly closure and transition for students and parents, as guided by the closure protocol established by the state board including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Overseeing and working with the closing public charter school to ensure timely notification to parents, orderly transition of students and student records to new schools and proper disposition of school funds, property and assets in accordance with the requirements of this chapter; and

(2) Distributing the assets of the public charter school first to satisfy outstanding payroll obligations for employees of the public charter school and then to creditors of the public charter school. Any remaining funds shall be paid to the county board. If the assets of the public charter school are insufficient to pay all parties to whom the public charter school owes compensation, the prioritization of distribution of assets may be determined by decree of a court of law.

(k) If a public charter school is subject to closure or transition, following exhaustion of any appeal allowed under §18-5G-13 of this code, an authorizer may remove at will at any time any or all of the members of the board of directors of the public charter school in connection with ensuring a smooth and orderly closure or transition. If the authorizer removes members of the board of directors such that the board of directors can no longer function, the authorizer shall be empowered to take any further necessary and proper acts connected with closure or transition of the

public charter school in the name and interest of the public charter school.

§18-5G-11. Public charter school students; enrollment and eligibility; enrollment preferences; random selection lottery; enrollment discrimination prohibited; credit transfers; participation in interscholastic sports.

(a) Public charter schools are open for enrollment to all students of appropriate grade level age and all students shall be enrolled in accordance with the following:

(1) A public charter school shall provide or publicize to parents and the general public information about the public charter school as an enrollment option for students and the process for application and enrollment, including dates and timelines. If the public charter school includes in its mission a specific focus on students with special needs, including, but not limited to, at-risk students, English language learners, students with severe disciplinary problems at a noncharter public school or students involved with the juvenile justice system, it shall include the information in such publication. A public charter school's recruitment effort shall include all segments of the student populations served by noncharter public schools of comparable grade levels;

(2) A county board shall provide or publicize to parents and the general public information about public charter schools within the county as an enrollment option to the same extent and through the same means that the county provides and publicizes information about noncharter public schools in the county;

(3) A county board may not require any student residing in the county to enroll in a public charter school, nor may it prohibit any charter school student from returning to a noncharter public school;

(4) A public charter school shall designate its primary recruitment area in its charter application and charter

contract. The establishment of a primary recruitment area by a public charter school does not negate any overlapping attendance area or areas established by a county board or boards for noncharter public schools. A primary recruitment area may include territory in more than one county;

(5) The primary recruitment area shall be based on the public charter school's estimated facility and program capacity. The capacity of the public charter school shall be determined annually by the governing board of the public charter school in conjunction with its authorizer and in consideration of the public charter school's ability to facilitate the academic success of its students, to achieve the other objectives specified in the charter contract, and to ensure that the student enrollment does not exceed the capacity of its facility, site and programs. An authorizer may not restrict the number of students a public charter school may enroll;

(6) Public charter schools may not discriminate against any person on any basis which would be unlawful for noncharter public schools in the school district. A public charter school may not establish admission policies or limit student admissions in any manner in which a public school is not permitted to establish admission policies or limit student admissions: *Provided*, That this subdivision may not be construed to limit the formation of a public charter school that is dedicated to focusing its education program and services on students with special needs, including, but not limited to, at-risk students, English language learners, students with severe disciplinary problems at a noncharter public school, or students involved with the juvenile justice system;

(7) A public charter school may establish any one or more of the following enrollment preferences for:

(A) Children who reside within the school's primary recruitment area;

(B) Students enrolled in the public charter school the previous school year and siblings of students already enrolled in the public charter school;

(C) Children with special needs, including, but not limited to, at-risk students, English language learners, students with severe disciplinary problems at a noncharter public school, or students involved with the juvenile justice system, it shall include the information in such publication; and

(D) Children of governing board members and full-time employees of the school as long as the number of students enrolled under this preference constitute no more than five percent of the school's total student enrollment;

(8) A start-up public charter school shall enroll all students who apply and to whom an enrollment preference has been established. If the school has excess capacity after enrolling these students, the school shall enroll all other students who apply: *Provided*, That if the remaining applicants exceed the enrollment capacity of the program, class, grade level or building of the public charter school, the public charter school shall select students for enrollment from among all remaining applicants by a random selection lottery. The school's lottery procedures and timelines support equal and open access for all students and take place in an open meeting;

(9) A conversion public charter school shall guarantee enrollment to all students who were previously enrolled in the noncharter public school and shall adopt and maintain a policy that gives enrollment preference to students who reside within the attendance area as established prior to the conversion of the school. If the school has excess capacity after enrolling these students and all others to whom an enrollment preference has been given, the school shall enroll all other students who apply: *Provided*, That if the remaining applicants exceed the enrollment capacity of the program, class, grade level or building of a public charter

school, the public charter school shall select students for enrollment from among all remaining applicants by a random selection lottery. The school's lottery procedures and timelines support equal and open access for all students and take place in an open meeting; and

(10) A program conversion public charter school shall enroll all students who apply for enrollment in the program who, at the time of authorization, are enrolled in the noncharter public school at which the program is operated. A program conversion public charter school shall adopt and maintain a policy that gives enrollment preference to students who are enrolled in the noncharter public school at which the program is operated. If the school has excess capacity after enrolling these students, the school shall enroll all other students who apply: *Provided*, That if the remaining applicants exceed the enrollment capacity of the program, class, grade level or building of a public charter school, the public charter school shall select students for enrollment from among all remaining applicants by a random selection lottery. The school's lottery procedures and timelines support equal and open access for all students and take place in an open meeting.

(b) If a student who was previously enrolled in a public charter school transfers enrollment to a noncharter public school in this state, the school to which the student transfers shall accept credits earned by the student in courses or instructional programs at the public charter school in a uniform and consistent manner and according to the same criteria that are used to accept academic credits from other noncharter public schools or that consider content competency when appropriate due to differences in curriculum delivery, instructional methods and strategies, or course designations and sequence.

(c) Each public charter school shall be given access to and shall utilize the electronic education information system established by the West Virginia Department of Education, is subject to the Student Data Accessibility, Transparency

and Accountability Act pursuant to section §18-2-5h of this code, and shall report information on student and school performance to parents, policy-makers and the general public in the same manner as noncharter public schools utilizing the electronic format established by the West Virginia Department of Education.

(d) Each public charter school shall certify annually to the State Department of Education and to the county board of the school district in which the charter school is located its student enrollment, average daily attendance and student participation in the national school lunch program, special education, vocational education, gifted education, advanced placement and dual credit courses, and federal programs in the same manner as school districts.

§18-5G-12. Access to public facilities.

(a) A public charter school may request usage of public facilities from the county board or other public entity in the county where the charter school is located or proposes to locate. A county board or other public entity shall make facilities available to the charter school that are either not used, in whole or in part, for classroom instruction at the time the charter school seeks to use or lease the public facility.

(b) If a charter school seeks to lease the whole or part of a public facility, the cost of the lease must be at or under current market value.

(c) During the term of the lease, the charter school is solely responsible for the direct expenses related to the public facility lease, including utilities, insurance, maintenance, repairs, and remodeling. The county school board is responsible for any debt incurred or liens that are attached to the school building before the charter school leases the public facility.

ARTICLE 7A. STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

§18-7A-3. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

"Accumulated contributions" means all deposits and all deductions from the gross salary of a contributor plus regular interest.

"Accumulated net benefit" means the aggregate amount of all benefits paid to or on behalf of a retired member.

"Actuarially equivalent" or "of equal actuarial value" means a benefit of equal value computed upon the basis of the mortality table and interest rates as set and adopted by the retirement board in accordance with the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That when used in the context of compliance with the federal maximum benefit requirements of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code, "actuarially equivalent" shall be computed using the mortality tables and interest rates required to comply with those requirements.

"Annuities" means the annual retirement payments for life granted beneficiaries in accordance with this article.

"Average final salary" means the average of the five highest fiscal year salaries earned as a member within the last 15 fiscal years of total service credit, including military service as provided in this article, or if total service is less than 15 years, the average annual salary for the period on which contributions were made: *Provided*, That salaries for determining benefits during any determination period may not exceed the maximum compensation allowed as adjusted for cost of living in accordance with §5-10D-7 of this code and Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code.

"Beneficiary" means the recipient of annuity payments made under the retirement system.

"Contributor" means a member of the retirement system who has an account in the Teachers Accumulation Fund.

"Deposit" means a voluntary payment to his or her account by a member.

"Employer" means the agency of and within the state which has employed or employs a member.

"Employer error" means an omission, misrepresentation, or violation of relevant provisions of the West Virginia Code, or of the West Virginia Code of State Regulations, or the relevant provisions of both the West Virginia Code and of the West Virginia Code of State Regulations by the participating public employer that has resulted in an underpayment or overpayment of contributions required. A deliberate act contrary to the provisions of this section by a participating public employer does not constitute employer error.

"Employment term" means employment for at least 10 months, a month being defined as 20 employment days.

"Gross salary" means the fixed annual or periodic cash wages paid by a participating public employer to a member for performing duties for the participating public employer for which the member was hired. Gross salary shall be allocated and reported in the fiscal year in which the work was done. Gross salary also includes retroactive payments made to a member to correct a clerical error, or made pursuant to a court order or final order of an administrative agency charged with enforcing federal or state law pertaining to the member's rights to employment or wages, with all retroactive salary payments to be allocated to and considered paid in the periods in which the work was or would have been done. Gross salary does not include lump sum payments for bonuses, early retirement incentives, severance pay, or any other fringe benefit of any kind including, but not limited to, transportation allowances,

automobiles or automobile allowances, or lump sum payments for unused, accrued leave of any type or character.

"Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as it has been amended.

"Member" means any person who has accumulated contributions standing to his or her credit in the State Teachers Retirement System. A member shall remain a member until the benefits to which he or she is entitled under this article are paid or forfeited, or until cessation of membership pursuant to §18-7A-13 of this code.

"Members of the administrative staff of the public schools" means deans of instruction, deans of men, deans of women, and financial and administrative secretaries.

"Members of the extension staff of the public schools" means every agricultural agent, boys and girls club agent, and every member of the agricultural extension staff whose work is not primarily stenographic, clerical, or secretarial.

"New entrant" means a teacher who is not a present teacher.

"Nonteaching member" means any person, except a teacher member, who is regularly employed for full-time service by: (A) Any county board of education or educational services cooperative; (B) the State Board of Education; (C) the Higher Education Policy Commission; (D) the West Virginia Council for Community and Technical College Education; (E) a governing board, as defined in §18B-1-2 of this code; or (F) a public charter school established pursuant to §18-5G-1 *et seq.* of this code if the charter school includes in its charter contract entered into pursuant to §18-5G-7 of this code a determination to participate in the retirement systems under this article and §18-7B-1 *et seq.* of this code, subject to §18-7B-7a: *Provided*, That any person whose employment with the Higher Education Policy Commission, the West Virginia

Council for Community and Technical College Education, or a governing board commences on or after July 1, 1991, is not considered a nonteaching member.

"Plan year" means the 12-month period commencing on July 1 and ending the following June 30 of any designated year.

"Present member" means a present teacher or nonteacher who is a member of the retirement system.

"Present teacher" means any person who was a teacher within the 35 years beginning July 1, 1934, and whose membership in the retirement system is currently active.

"Prior service" means all service as a teacher completed prior to July 1, 1941, and all service of a present member who was employed as a teacher and did not contribute to a retirement account because he or she was legally ineligible for membership during the service.

"Public schools" means all publicly supported schools, including colleges and universities in this state.

"Refund beneficiary" means the estate of a deceased contributor or a person he or she has nominated as beneficiary of his or her contributions by written designation duly executed and filed with the retirement board.

"Regular interest" means interest at four percent compounded annually, or a higher earnable rate if set forth in the formula established in legislative rules, series seven of the Consolidated Public Retirement Board, 162 CSR 7.

"Regularly employed for full-time service" means employment in a regular position or job throughout the employment term regardless of the number of hours worked or the method of pay.

"Required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of: (A) The calendar year in which the member attains age 70 and one-half years; or (B) the calendar year in which the member retires or ceases covered employment under the system after having attained the age of 70 and one-half years.

"Retirant" means any member who commences an annuity payable by the retirement system.

"Retirement board" means the Consolidated Public Retirement Board created pursuant to §5-10D-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Retirement system" means the State Teachers Retirement System established by this article.

"Teacher member" means the following persons, if regularly employed for full-time service: (A) Any person employed for instructional service in the public schools of West Virginia; (B) principals; (C) public school librarians; (D) superintendents of schools and assistant county superintendents of schools; (E) any county school attendance director holding a West Virginia teacher's certificate; (F) members of the research, extension, administrative, or library staffs of the public schools; (G) the State Superintendent of Schools, heads and assistant heads of the divisions under his or her supervision, or any other employee under the state superintendent performing services of an educational nature; (H) employees of the State Board of Education who are performing services of an educational nature; (I) any person employed in a nonteaching capacity by the State Board of Education, any county board of education, the State Department of Education, or the State Teachers Retirement Board, if that person was formerly employed as a teacher in the public schools; (J) all classroom teachers, principals, and educational administrators in schools under the supervision of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Division of Health, or the Division of Human Services; (K)

an employee of the State Board of School Finance, if that person was formerly employed as a teacher in the public schools; (L) employees of an educational services cooperative who are performing services of an educational nature; (M) any person designated as a 21st Century Learner Fellow pursuant to §18A-3-11 of this code who elects to remain a member of the State Teachers Retirement System provided in this article; and (N) any person employed by a public charter school established pursuant to §18-5G-1 *et seq.* of this code if the charter school includes in its charter contract entered into pursuant to §18-5G-7 of this code a determination to participate in the retirement systems under this article and §18-7B-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Total service" means all service as a teacher or nonteacher while a member of the retirement system since last becoming a member and, in addition thereto, credit for prior service, if any.

Age in excess of 70 years shall be considered to be 70 years.

ARTICLE 7B. TEACHERS' DEFINED CONTRIBUTION RETIREMENT SYSTEM.

§18-7B-2. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

"Annual addition" means, for purposes of the limitations under Section 415(c) of the Internal Revenue Code, the sum credited to a member's account for any limitation year of: (A) Employer contributions; (B) employee contributions; and (C) forfeitures. Repayment of cash-outs or contributions as described in Section 415(k)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, rollover contributions and picked-up employee contributions to a defined benefit plan may not be treated as annual additions, consistent with the requirements of Treasury Regulation §1.415(c)-1.

"Annuity account" or "annuity" means an account established for each member to record the deposit of member contributions and employer contributions and interest, dividends, or other accumulations credited on behalf of the member.

"Compensation" means the full compensation actually received by members for service whether or not a part of the compensation is received from other funds, federal or otherwise, than those provided by the state or its subdivisions: *Provided*, That annual compensation for determining contributions during any determination period may not exceed the maximum compensation allowed as adjusted for cost of living in accordance with §5-10D-7 of this code and Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code: *Provided, however*, That solely for purposes of applying the limitations of Section 415 of the Internal Revenue Code to any annual addition, "compensation" has the meaning given it in §18-7B-13(d) of this code.

"Consolidated board" or "board" means the Consolidated Public Retirement Board created and established pursuant to §5-10D-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Defined contribution system" or "system" means the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System created and established by this article.

"Employer" means the agency of and within the State of West Virginia which has employed or employs a member.

"Employer contribution" means an amount deposited into the member's individual annuity account on a periodic basis coinciding with the employee's regular pay period by an employer from its own funds.

"Employment term" means employment for at least 10 months in any plan year with a month being defined as 20 employment days.

"Existing employer" means any employer who employed or employs a member of the system.

"Existing retirement system" means the State Teachers Retirement System established in §18-7A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as it has been amended.

"Member" or "employee" means the following persons, if regularly employed for full-time service: (A) Any person employed for instructional service in the public schools of West Virginia; (B) principals; (C) public school librarians; (D) superintendents of schools and assistant county superintendents of schools; (E) any county school attendance director holding a West Virginia teacher's certificate; (F) members of the research, extension, administrative, or library staffs of the public schools; (G) the State Superintendent of Schools, heads and assistant heads of the divisions under his or her supervision, or any other employee under the state superintendent performing services of an educational nature; (H) employees of the State Board of Education who are performing services of an educational nature; (I) any person employed in a nonteaching capacity by the State Board of Education, any county board of education, or the State Department of Education, if that person was formerly employed as a teacher in the public schools; (J) all classroom teachers, principals, and educational administrators in schools under the supervision of the Division of Corrections and the Department of Health and Human Resources; (K) any person who is regularly employed for full-time service by any county board of education, educational services cooperative, or the State Board of Education; (L) the administrative staff of the public schools including deans of instruction, deans of men and deans of women, and financial and administrative secretaries; (M) any person designated as a 21st Century Learner Fellow pursuant to §18A-3-11 of this code who elects to remain a member of the Teachers'

Defined Contribution Retirement System established by this article; and (N) any person employed by a public charter school established pursuant to §18-5G-1 *et seq.* of this code if the charter school includes in its charter contract entered into pursuant to §18-5G-7 of this code a determination to participate in the retirement systems under this article, subject to §18-7B-7a, and §18-7A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

"Member contribution" means an amount reduced from the employee's regular pay periods, and deposited into the member's individual annuity account within the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System.

"Permanent, total disability" means a mental or physical incapacity requiring absence from employment service for at least six months: *Provided*, That the incapacity is shown by an examination by a physician or physicians selected by the board: *Provided, however*, That for employees hired on or after July 1, 2005, "permanent, total disability" means an inability to engage in substantial gainful activity by reason of any medically determinable physical or mental impairment that can be expected to result in death, or has lasted or can be expected to last for a continuous period of not less than 12 months and the incapacity is so severe that the member is likely to be permanently unable to perform the duties of the position the member occupied immediately prior to his or her disabling injury or illness.

"Plan year" means the 12-month period commencing on July 1 of any designated year and ending on the following June 30.

"Public schools" means all publicly supported schools, including normal schools, colleges, and universities in this state.

"Regularly employed for full-time service" means employment in a regular position or job throughout the employment term regardless of the number of hours worked or the method of pay.

"Required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of: (A) The calendar year in which the member attains age 70 and one-half years; or (B) the calendar year in which the member retires or otherwise ceases employment with a participating employer after having attained the age of 70 and one-half years.

"Retirement" means a member's withdrawal from the active employment of a participating employer and completion of all conditions precedent to retirement.

"Year of employment service" means employment for at least 10 months, with a month being defined as 20 employment days: *Provided*, That no more than one year of service may be accumulated in any 12-month period.

ARTICLE 8. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

§18-8-4. Duties of attendance director and assistant directors; complaints, warrants and hearings.

(a) The county attendance director and the assistants shall diligently promote regular school attendance. The director and assistants shall:

(1) Ascertain reasons for unexcused absences from school of students of compulsory school age and students who remain enrolled beyond the compulsory school age as defined under section one-a of this article;

(2) Take such steps as are, in their discretion, best calculated to encourage the attendance of students and to impart upon the parents and guardians the importance of attendance and the seriousness of failing to do so;

(3) For the purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

(A) "Excused absence" includes:

(i) Personal illness or injury of the student;

(ii) Personal illness or injury of the student's parent, guardian, custodian, or family member: *Provided*, That the excuse must provide a reasonable explanation for why the student's absence was necessary and caused by the illness or injury in the family;

(iii) Medical or dental appointment with written excuse from physician or dentist;

(iv) Chronic medical condition or disability that impacts attendance;

(v) Participation in home or hospital instruction due to an illness or injury or other extraordinary circumstance that warrants home or hospital confinement;

(vi) Calamity, such as a fire or flood;

(vii) Death in the family;

(viii) School-approved or county-approved curricular or extra-curricular activities;

(ix) Judicial obligation or court appearance involving the student;

(x) Military requirement for students enlisted or enlisting in the military;

(xi) Personal or academic circumstances approved by the principal; and

(xii) Such other situations as may be further determined by the county board: *Provided*, That absences of students with disabilities shall be in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the federal and state regulations adopted in compliance therewith; and

(B) "Unexcused absence" means any absence not specifically included in the definition of "excused absence"; and

(4) All documentation relating to absences shall be provided to the school no later than three instructional days after the first day the student returns to school.

(b) In the case of three total unexcused absences of a student during a school year, the attendance director, assistant, or principal shall make meaningful contact with the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student to ascertain the reasons for the unexcused absences and what measures the school may employ to assist the student in attending and not incurring any additional unexcused absences.

(c) In the case of five total unexcused absences, the attendance director or assistant or principal shall again make meaningful contact with the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student to ascertain the reasons for the unexcused absences and what measures the school may employ to assist the student in attending school and not incurring any additional unexcused absences.

(d) In the case of 10 total unexcused absences of a student during a school year, the attendance director or assistant may make a complaint against the parent, guardian or custodian before a magistrate of the county. If it appears from the complaint that there is probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed and that the accused has committed it, a summons or a warrant for the arrest of the accused shall issue to any officer authorized by law to serve the summons or to arrest persons charged with offenses against the state. More than one parent, guardian or custodian may be charged in a complaint. Initial service of a summons or warrant issued pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be attempted within ten calendar days of receipt of the summons or warrant and subsequent attempts at service shall continue until the summons or warrant is executed or until the end of the school term during which the complaint is made, whichever is later.

(e) The magistrate court clerk, or the clerk of the circuit court performing the duties of the magistrate court as

authorized in §50-1-8 of this code, shall assign the case to a magistrate within 10 days of execution of the summons or warrant. The hearing shall be held within 20 days of the assignment to the magistrate, subject to lawful continuance. The magistrate shall provide to the accused at least 10 days' advance notice of the date, time and place of the hearing.

(f) When any doubt exists as to the age of a student absent from school, the attendance director and assistants have authority to require a properly attested birth certificate or an affidavit from the parent, guardian or custodian of the student, stating age of the student. In the performance of his or her duties, the county attendance director and assistants have authority to take without warrant any student absent from school in violation of the provisions of this article and to place the student in the school in which he or she is or should be enrolled.

(g) The county attendance director and assistants shall devote such time as is required by section three of this article to the duties of attendance director in accordance with this section during the instructional term and at such other times as the duties of an attendance director are required. All attendance directors and assistants hired for more than 200 days may be assigned other duties determined by the superintendent during the period in excess of 200 days. The county attendance director is responsible under direction of the county superintendent for efficiently administering school attendance in the county.

(h) In addition to those duties directly relating to the administration of attendance, the county attendance director and assistant directors also shall perform the following duties:

(1) Assist in directing the taking of the school census to see that it is taken at the time and in the manner provided by law;

(2) Confer with principals and teachers on the comparison of school census and enrollment for the detection of possible nonenrollees;

(3) Cooperate with existing state and federal agencies charged with enforcing child labor laws;

(4) Prepare a report for submission by the county superintendent to the State Superintendent of Schools on school attendance, at such times and in such detail as may be required. The state board shall promulgate a legislative rule pursuant to §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code that set forth student absences that are excluded for accountability purposes. The absences that are excluded by rule shall include, but are not limited to, excused student absences, students not in attendance due to disciplinary measures and absent students for whom the attendance director has pursued judicial remedies to compel attendance to the extent of his or her authority. The attendance director shall file with the county superintendent and county board at the close of each month a report showing activities of the school attendance office and the status of attendance in the county at the time;

(5) Promote attendance in the county by compiling data for schools and by furnishing suggestions and recommendations for publication through school bulletins and the press, or in such manner as the county superintendent may direct;

(6) Participate in school teachers' conferences with parents and students;

(7) Assist in such other ways as the county superintendent may direct for improving school attendance;

(8) Make home visits of students who have excessive unexcused absences, as provided in subsection-a of this section, or if requested by the chief administrator, principal or assistant principal; and

151 (9) Serve as the liaison for homeless children and youth.

ARTICLE 9A. PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT.

§18-9A-2. Definitions.

1 For the purpose of this article:

2 (a) "State board" means the West Virginia Board of
3 Education.

4 (b) "County board" or "board" means a county board of
5 education.

6 (c) "Professional salaries" means the state legally
7 mandated salaries of the professional educators as provided
8 in §18A-4-1 *et seq.* of this code.

9 (d) "Professional educator" shall be synonymous with
10 and shall have the same meaning as "teacher" as defined
11 in §18-1-1 of this code, and includes technology integration
12 specialists.

13 (e) "Professional instructional personnel" means a
14 professional educator whose regular duty is as that of a
15 classroom teacher, librarian, attendance director, or school
16 psychologist. A professional educator having both
17 instructional and administrative or other duties shall be
18 included as professional instructional personnel for that
19 ratio of the school day for which he or she is assigned and
20 serves on a regular full-time basis in appropriate instruction,
21 library, attendance, or psychologist duties.

22 (f) "Professional student support personnel" means a
23 "teacher" as defined in §18-1-1 of this code who is assigned
24 and serves on a regular full-time basis as a counselor or as a
25 school nurse with a bachelor's degree and who is licensed
26 by the West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered
27 Professional Nurses. Professional student support personnel
28 shall also include professional personnel providing direct
29 social and emotional support services to students, as well as

professional personnel addressing chronic absenteeism. For all purposes except for the determination of the allowance for professional educators pursuant to §18-9A-4 of this code, professional student support personnel are professional educators.

(g) "Service personnel salaries" means the state legally mandated salaries for service personnel as provided in §18A-4-8a of this code.

(h) "Service personnel" means all personnel as provided in §18A-4-8 of this code. For the purpose of computations under this article of ratios of service personnel to net enrollment, a service employee shall be counted as that number found by dividing his or her number of employment days in a fiscal year by 200: *Provided,* That the computation for any service person employed for three and one-half hours or fewer per day as provided in §18A-4-8a of this code shall be calculated as one-half an employment day.

(i) "Net enrollment" means the number of pupils enrolled in special education programs, kindergarten programs, and grades one to 12, inclusive, of the public schools of the county. Net enrollment further shall include:

(1) Adults enrolled in vocational programs: *Provided*, That net enrollment includes no more than 2,500 of those adults counted on the basis of full-time equivalency and apportioned annually to each county to support Advanced Career Education programs, as provided in §18-2E-11 of this code, in proportion to the adults participating in vocational programs counted on the basis of full-time equivalency: *Provided further,* That beginning with the 2021 fiscal year and every year thereafter, a career technical education center may only receive the funding for enrollment as authorized by this paragraph if the center has satisfied the requirements of §18-2E-11 of this code;

(2) Students enrolled in early childhood education programs as provided in §18-5-44 of this code, counted on the basis of full-time equivalency;

(3) A pupil may not be counted more than once by reason of transfer within the county or from another county within the state, and a pupil may not be counted who attends school in this state from another state;

(4) The enrollment shall be modified to the equivalent of the instructional term and in accordance with the eligibility requirements and rules established by the state board; and

(5) For the purposes of determining the county's basic foundation program only, for any county whose net enrollment as determined under all other provisions of this definition is less than 1,400, the net enrollment of the county shall be increased by an amount to be determined in accordance with the following:

(A) Divide the state's lowest county student population density by the county's actual student population density;

(B) Multiply the amount derived from the calculation in §18-9A-2(i)(5)(A) of this code by the difference between 1,400 and the county's actual net enrollment;

(C) Add the amount derived from the calculation in paragraph (B) of this subdivision to the county's actual net enrollment and increase that total amount by 10 percent; and

(D) If the net enrollment as determined under this subdivision is greater than 1,400, the calculated net enrollment shall be reduced to 1,400; and

(E) During the 2008-2009 interim period and every three interim periods thereafter, the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability shall review this subdivision to determine whether these provisions properly

address the needs of counties with low enrollment and a sparse population density.

(j) "Sparse-density county" means a county whose ratio of net enrollment, excluding any increase in the net enrollment of counties, pursuant to §18-9A-2(i)(5) of this code, of the definition of "net enrollment", to the square miles of the county is less than five.

(k) "Low-density county" means a county whose ratio of net enrollment, excluding any increase in the net enrollment of counties, pursuant to §18-9A-2(i)(5) of this code, of the definition of "net enrollment", to the square miles of the county is equal to or greater than five but less than 10.

(l) "Medium-density county" means a county whose ratio of net enrollment, excluding any increase in the net enrollment of counties, pursuant to §18-9A-2(i)(5) of this code, of the definition of "net enrollment", to the square miles of the county is equal to or greater than 10 but less than 20.

(m) "High-density county" means a county whose ratio of net enrollment, excluding any increase in the net enrollment of counties, pursuant to §18-9A-2(i)(5) of this code, of the definition of "net enrollment", to the square miles of the county is equal to or greater than 20.

(n) "Levies for general current expense purposes" means 85 percent of the levy rate for county boards of education calculated or set by the Legislature pursuant to §11-8-6f of this code.

(o) "Technology integration specialist" means a professional educator who has expertise in the technology field and is assigned as a resource teacher to provide information and guidance to classroom teachers on the integration of technology into the curriculum.

(p) "State aid eligible personnel" means all professional educators and service personnel employed by a county board in positions that are eligible to be funded under this article and whose salaries are not funded by a specific funding source such as a federal or state grant, donation, contribution, or other specific funding source not listed.

(q) The amendments to this section during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature shall be effective for the 2019-2020 funding year, and the provisions of this section existing immediately prior to the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature remain in effect for funding years prior to the 2019-2020 funding year.

§18-9A-8. Foundation allowance for professional student support services.

(a) Until the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the basic foundation allowance to the county for professional student support personnel shall be the same amount of money as in the 2013 fiscal year, plus any additional amount of funding necessary to cover any increases in the State Minimum Salary Schedule set forth in §18A-4-2 of this code.

(b) Effective for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and thereafter, the basic foundation allowance to the county for professional student support personnel is the amount of money required to pay the state minimum salaries, in accordance with provisions of §18A-4-1 *et seq.* of this code, subject to the following:

(1) In making this computation, each county shall receive an allowance for five state aid eligible professional student support personnel positions to each 1,000 students in net enrollment: *Provided*, That nothing in this section precludes the county from entering into public-private partnerships or other contracts to provide these services;

(2) For any professional student support personnel positions, or fraction thereof, determined for a county pursuant to subdivision (1) of this subsection that exceed the

number employed, the county's allowance for these positions shall be determined using the average state funded salary of professional student support personnel for the county;

(3) The number of and the allowance for personnel paid in part by state and county funds shall be prorated; and

(4) Where two or more counties join together in support of a vocational or comprehensive high school or any other program or service, the professional student support personnel for the school or program may be prorated among the participating counties on the basis of each one's enrollment therein and the personnel shall be considered within the above-stated limit.

(5) For the 2019-2020 fiscal year only, the number of positions funded for each county by subdivision (1) cannot be less than the number of positions that would have been funded in accordance with the previous methodology for determining the number of professional student support personnel positions funded for each county.

§18-9A-9. Foundation allowance for other current expense and substitute employees and faculty senates.

The total allowance for other current expense and substitute employees is the sum of the following:

(1) For current expense:

(A) The non-salary related expenditures for operations and maintenance, exclusive of expenditures reported in special revenue funds, for the latest available school year, in each county, divided by the total square footage of school buildings in each county is used to calculate a state average expenditure per square foot for operations and maintenance;

(B) The total square footage of school buildings in each county divided by each county's net enrollment for school

aid purposes is used to calculate a state average square footage per student;

(C) Each county's net enrollment for school aid purposes multiplied by the state average expenditure per square foot for operations and maintenance as calculated in paragraph (A) of this subdivision and multiplied by the state average square footage per student as calculated in paragraph (B) of this subdivision is that county's state average costs per square footage per student for operations and maintenance;

(D) Where two or more counties join together in support of a vocational or comprehensive high school or any other program or service, the allowance for current expense may be prorated among the participating counties by adjusting the net enrollment for school aid purposes utilized in the calculation by the number of students enrolled therein for each county; and

(E) Each county's allowance for current expense is 70.25% of the county's state average costs per square footage per student for operations and maintenance amount as calculated in paragraph (C) of this subdivision: *Provided*, That effective for the 2019-2020 fiscal year and each year thereafter, each county's allowance for current expense is 71.25 percent of the county's state average costs per square footage per student for operations and maintenance amount as calculated in paragraph (C) of this subdivision; plus

(2) For professional educator substitutes or current expense, two and five-tenths percent of the computed state allocation for professional educators and professional student support personnel as determined in §18-9A-4 and §18-9A-8 of this code. Distribution to the counties is made proportional to the number of professional educators and professional student support personnel authorized for the county in compliance with §18-9A-4 and §18-9A-8 of this code; plus

(3) For service personnel substitutes or current expense, two and five-tenths percent of the computed state allocation for service personnel as determined in §18-9A-5 of this code. Distribution to the counties is made proportional to the number of service personnel authorized for the county in compliance with §18-9A-5 of this code; plus

(4) For academic materials, supplies and equipment for use in instructional programs, $400 multiplied by the number of professional instructional personnel and professional student support personnel employed in the schools of the county. Distribution is made to each county for allocation to the faculty senate of each school in the county on the basis of $400 per professional instructional personnel and professional student support personnel employed at the school. "Faculty Senate" means a faculty senate created pursuant to §18-5A-5 of this code. Decisions for the expenditure of such funds are made at the school level by the faculty senate in accordance with the provisions of said section five, article five-a and may not be used to supplant the current expense expenditures of the county. Beginning on September 1, 1994, and every September thereafter, county boards shall forward to each school for the use by faculty senates the appropriation specified in this section. Each school shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of expenditures.

§18-9A-19. State Aid Block Grant Funding.

Beginning for the school year 2019-2020 and thereafter, each county board shall receive its allocated state aid share of the county's basic foundation program as calculated pursuant to this article in the form of block grants. Notwithstanding other provisions within this article, all funds distributed to a county board in a block grant shall be exempt from expenditure requirements and limitations contained within this article and a recipient county board may expend such funds in any authorized and allowable manner the county board deems appropriate: *Provided*, That

all expenditures shall be consistent with the provisions of all other articles of this code.

ARTICLE 9B. SCHOOL FINANCE.

§18-9B-22. Searchable budget database and website.

(a) Effective July 1, 2020, the state superintendent shall provide the State Auditor with the required data for use by the searchable budget data website: *Provided,* That the state superintendent shall not be required to violate the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act in providing such data. The data shall also contain the required information for the previous three fiscal years provided such data is available.

(b) The required data shall include for use by the searchable budget database website the following content:

(1) The name and principal location or residence of the entity or recipients of funds: *Provided,* That employee addresses shall not be made public or otherwise displayed on the budget data website;

(2) The name of the person or entity requesting the funds;

(3) The amount of funds expended;

(4) The funding or expending agency;

(5) The funding source of the revenue expended;

(6) The budget program or activity of the expenditure;

(7) A descriptive purpose for the funding action or expenditure;

(8) Any state audit or report relating to the entity or recipient of funds or the budget program or agency; and

(9) Any other relevant information specified by the Legislature.

(c) The information shall be updated for each fiscal year no later than 30 days following the end of the fiscal year. In addition, the State Auditor shall update the searchable budget database website as new data becomes available. The State Auditor shall provide guidance to the state superintendent to ensure compliance with this section.

(d) Nothing in this subsection is intended to cause a substantial modification to the West Virginia Education Information System.

ARTICLE 20. EDUCATION OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

§18-20-5. Powers and duties of state superintendent.

(a) The State Superintendent of Schools shall organize, promote, administer and be responsible for:

(1) Stimulating and assisting county boards of education in establishing, organizing and maintaining special schools, classes, regular class programs, home-teaching and visiting-teacher services for exceptional children.

(2) Cooperating with all other public and private agencies engaged in relieving, caring for, curing, educating and rehabilitating exceptional children, and in helping coordinate the services of such agencies.

(3) (A) Preparing the necessary rules, policies, and formulas for distribution of available appropriated funds, reporting forms and procedures necessary to define minimum standards in providing suitable facilities for education of exceptional children and ensuring the employment, certification and approval of qualified teachers and therapists subject to approval by the State Board of Education: *Provided*, That no state rule, policy or standard under this article or any county board rule, policy or standard governing special education may exceed the requirements of federal law or regulation.

(B) A separate appropriation shall be made to the Department of Education to be disbursed to county boards and public charter schools authorized pursuant to §18-5G-1 *et seq.* of this code to assist them with serving exceptional children with high cost/high acuity special needs that exceed the capacity of county to provide with funds available. Each county board and public charter school shall apply to the state superintendent to receive this funding in a manner set forth by the state superintendent that assesses and takes into account varying acuity levels of the exceptional students. Any remaining funds at the end of a fiscal year from the appropriation shall be carried over to the next fiscal year. When possible, federal funds shall be disbursed to county boards and public charter schools for this purpose before any of the state appropriation is disbursed. The state board shall promulgate a rule in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code that implements the provisions of this subdivision relating to disbursing the funds to the county boards and public charter schools. The rule at least shall include a definition for "children with high acuity needs".

(4) Receiving from county boards and public charter schools, their applications, annual reports and claims for reimbursement from such moneys as are appropriated by the Legislature, auditing such claims, and preparing vouchers to reimburse said counties the amounts reimbursable to them.

(5) Assuring that all exceptional children in the state, including children in mental health facilities, residential institutions, private schools and correctional facilities as provided in §18-2-13f of this code receive an education in accordance with state and federal laws: *Provided*, That the state superintendent shall also assure that adults in correctional facilities and regional jails receive an education to the extent funds are provided therefor.

(6) Performing other duties and assuming other responsibilities in connection with this program as needed.

(b) Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prevent any county board of education from establishing and maintaining special schools, classes, regular class programs, home-teaching or visiting-teacher services for exceptional children out of funds available from local revenue.

CHAPTER 18A. SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

ARTICLE 4. SALARIES, WAGES, AND OTHER BENEFITS.

§18A-4-2. State minimum salaries for teachers.

(a) It is the goal of the Legislature to increase the state minimum salary for teachers with zero years of experience and an A. B. degree, including the supplement, to at least $43,000 by fiscal year 2019.

(b) For school year 2018–2019, and continuing thereafter, each teacher shall receive the amount prescribed in the State Minimum Salary Schedule I as set forth in this section; specific additional amounts prescribed in this section or article; and any county supplement in effect in a county pursuant to §18A-4-5a of this code during the contract year: *Provided*, That for the school year 2019-2020, and continuing thereafter, each teacher shall receive the amount prescribed in the State Minimum Salary Schedule II as set forth in this section, specific additional amounts prescribed in this section or article, and any county supplement in effect in a county pursuant to §18A-4-5a of this code during the contract year.

STATE MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE I

Years Exp	4th Class	3rd Class	2nd Class	A.B.	A.B. + 15	M.A.	M.A. + 15	M.A. + 30	M.A. + 45	Doc-torate
0	29,937	30,626	30,892	32,335	33,096	34,863	35,624	36,385	37,146	38,181
1	30,265	30,954	31,220	32,853	33,614	35,382	36,143	36,903	37,664	38,699
2	30,594	31,282	31,548	33,372	34,133	35,900	36,661	37,422	38,183	39,218
3	30,922	31,610	31,876	33,891	34,651	36,419	37,180	37,940	38,701	39,736
4	31,494	32,182	32,448	34,653	35,414	37,182	37,943	38,703	39,464	40,499

5	31,822	32,510	32,776	35,172	35,933	37,700	38,461	39,222	39,983	41,018
6	32,150	32,838	33,104	35,690	36,451	38,219	38,980	39,740	40,501	41,536
7	32,478	33,167	33,432	36,209	36,970	38,737	39,498	40,259	41,020	42,055
8	32,806	33,495	33,761	36,727	37,488	39,256	40,017	40,777	41,538	42,573
9	33,134	33,823	34,089	37,246	38,007	39,774	40,535	41,296	42,057	43,092
10	33,463	34,151	34,417	37,766	38,526	40,294	41,055	41,816	42,576	43,611
11	33,791	34,479	34,745	38,284	39,045	40,813	41,573	42,334	43,095	44,130
12	34,119	34,807	35,073	38,803	39,563	41,331	42,092	42,853	43,613	44,648
13	34,447	35,135	35,401	39,321	40,082	41,850	42,610	43,371	44,132	45,167
14	34,775	35,463	35,729	39,840	40,600	42,368	43,129	43,890	44,650	45,685
15	35,103	35,791	36,057	40,358	41,119	42,887	43,647	44,408	45,169	46,204
16	35,431	36,119	36,385	40,877	41,637	43,405	44,166	44,927	45,687	46,722
17	35,759	36,448	36,713	41,395	42,156	43,924	44,685	45,445	46,206	47,241
18	36,087	36,776	37,042	41,914	42,675	44,442	45,203	45,964	46,725	47,760
19	36,415	37,104	37,370	42,432	43,193	44,961	45,722	46,482	47,243	48,278
20	36,743	37,432	37,698	42,951	43,712	45,479	46,240	47,001	47,762	48,797
21	37,072	37,760	38,026	43,469	44,230	45,998	46,759	47,519	48,280	49,315
22	37,400	38,088	38,354	43,988	44,749	46,516	47,277	48,038	48,799	49,834
23	37,728	38,416	38,682	44,507	45,267	47,035	47,796	48,556	49,317	50,352
24	38,056	38,744	39,010	45,025	45,786	47,554	48,314	49,075	49,836	50,871
25	38,384	39,072	39,338	45,544	46,304	48,072	48,833	49,594	50,354	51,389
26	38,712	39,400	39,666	46,062	46,823	48,591	49,351	50,112	50,873	51,908
27	39,040	39,728	39,994	46,581	47,341	49,109	49,870	50,631	51,391	52,426
28	39,368	40,057	40,322	47,099	47,860	49,628	50,388	51,149	51,910	52,945
29	39,696	40,385	40,651	47,618	48,378	50,146	50,907	51,668	52,428	53,463
30	40,024	40,713	40,979	48,136	48,897	50,665	51,425	52,186	52,947	53,982
31	40,353	41,041	41,307	48,655	49,416	51,183	51,944	52,705	53,465	54,500
32	40,681	41,369	41,635	49,173	49,934	51,702	52,463	53,223	53,984	55,019
33	41,009	41,697	41,963	49,692	50,453	52,220	52,981	53,742	54,503	55,538
34	41,337	42,025	42,291	50,210	50,971	52,739	53,500	54,260	55,021	56,056
35	41,665	42,353	42,619	50,729	51,490	53,257	54,018	54,779	55,540	56,575

STATE MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE II

Years Exp	4th Class	3rd Class	2nd Class	A.B.	A.B. + 15	M.A.	M.A. + 15	M.A. + 30	M.A. + 45	Doc-torate
0	32,057	32,746	33,012	34,455	35,216	36,983	37,744	38,505	39,266	40,301
1	32,385	33,074	33,340	34,973	35,734	37,502	38,263	39,023	39,784	40,819

2	32,714	33,402	33,668	35,492	36,253	38,020	38,781	39,542	40,303	41,338
3	33,042	33,730	33,996	36,011	36,771	38,539	39,300	40,060	40,821	41,856
4	33,614	34,302	34,568	36,773	37,534	39,302	40,063	40,823	41,584	42,619
5	33,942	34,630	34,896	37,292	38,053	39,820	40,581	41,342	42,103	43,138
6	34,270	34,958	35,224	37,810	38,571	40,339	41,100	41,860	42,621	43,656
7	34,598	35,287	35,552	38,329	39,090	40,857	41,618	42,379	43,140	44,175
8	34,926	35,615	35,881	38,847	39,608	41,376	42,137	42,897	43,658	44,693
9	35,254	35,943	36,209	39,366	40,127	41,894	42,655	43,416	44,177	45,212
10	35,583	36,271	36,537	39,886	40,646	42,414	43,175	43,936	44,696	45,731
11	35,911	36,599	36,865	40,404	41,165	42,933	43,693	44,454	45,215	46,250
12	36,239	36,927	37,193	40,923	41,683	43,451	44,212	44,973	45,733	46,768
13	36,567	37,255	37,521	41,441	42,202	43,970	44,730	45,491	46,252	47,287
14	36,895	37,583	37,849	41,960	42,720	44,488	45,249	46,010	46,770	47,805
15	37,223	37,911	38,177	42,478	43,239	45,007	45,767	46,528	47,289	48,324
16	37,551	38,239	38,505	42,997	43,757	45,525	46,286	47,047	47,807	48,842
17	37,879	38,568	38,833	43,515	44,276	46,044	46,805	47,565	48,326	49,361
18	38,207	38,896	39,162	44,034	44,795	46,562	47,323	48,084	48,845	49,880
19	38,535	39,224	39,490	44,552	45,313	47,081	47,842	48,602	49,363	50,398
20	38,863	39,552	39,818	45,071	45,832	47,599	48,360	49,121	49,882	50,917
21	39,192	39,880	40,146	45,589	46,350	48,118	48,879	49,639	50,400	51,435
22	39,520	40,208	40,474	46,108	46,869	48,636	49,397	50,158	50,919	51,954
23	39,848	40,536	40,802	46,627	47,387	49,155	49,916	50,676	51,437	52,472
24	40,176	40,864	41,130	47,145	47,906	49,674	50,434	51,195	51,956	52,991
25	40,504	41,192	41,458	47,664	48,424	50,192	50,953	51,714	52,474	53,509
26	40,832	41,520	41,786	48,182	48,943	50,711	51,471	52,232	52,993	54,028
27	41,160	41,848	42,114	48,701	49,461	51,229	51,990	52,751	53,511	54,546
28	41,488	42,177	42,442	49,219	49,980	51,748	52,508	53,269	54,030	55,065
29	41,816	42,505	42,771	49,738	50,498	52,266	53,027	53,788	54,548	55,583
30	42,144	42,833	43,099	50,256	51,017	52,785	53,545	54,306	55,067	56,102
31	42,473	43,161	43,427	50,775	51,536	53,303	54,064	54,825	55,585	56,620
32	42,801	43,489	43,755	51,293	52,054	53,822	54,583	55,343	56,104	57,139
33	43,129	43,817	44,083	51,812	52,573	54,340	55,101	55,862	56,623	57,658
34	43,457	44,145	44,411	52,330	53,091	54,859	55,620	56,380	57,141	58,176
35	43,785	44,473	44,739	52,849	53,610	55,377	56,138	56,899	57,660	58,695

18 (c) Six hundred dollars shall be paid annually to each
19 classroom teacher who has at least 20 years of teaching

experience. The payments: (i) Shall be in addition to any amounts prescribed in the applicable State Minimum Salary Schedule; (ii) shall be paid in equal monthly installments; and (iii) shall be considered a part of the state minimum salaries for teachers.

(d) Effective July 1, 2019, each classroom teacher providing math instruction in the teacher's certified area of study for at least 60 percent of the time the teacher is providing instruction to students shall be considered to have three additional years of experience only for the purposes of the salary schedule set forth in subsection (b) of this section: *Provided*, That for any classroom teacher who satisfies these requirements and whose years of experience plus the three additional years due to them exceeds the years of experience provided for on the salary schedule shall be paid the additional amount equivalent to three additional years of experience notwithstanding the maximum experience provided on the salary schedule.

(e) Effective July 1, 2019, each classroom teacher certified in special education and employed as a full-time special education teacher shall be considered to have three additional years of experience only for the purposes of the salary schedule set forth in subsection (b) of this section: *Provided*, That for any classroom teacher who satisfies these requirements and whose years of experience plus the three additional years due to them exceeds the years of experience provided for on the salary schedule shall be paid the additional amount equivalent to three additional years of experience notwithstanding the maximum experience provided on the salary schedule.

(f) In accordance with §18A-4-5 of this code, each teacher shall be paid the supplement amount as applicable for his or her classification of certification or classification of training and years of experience as follows, subject to the provisions of that section:

(1) For "4th Class" at zero years of experience, $1,781. An additional $38 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience;

(2) For "3rd Class" at zero years of experience, $1,796. An additional $67 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience;

(3) For "2nd Class" at zero years of experience, $1,877. An additional $69 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience;

(4) For "A. B." at zero years of experience, $2,360. An additional $69 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience;

(5) For "A. B. + 15" at zero years of experience, $2,452. An additional $69 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience;

(6) For "M. A." at zero years of experience, $2,644. An additional $69 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience;

(7) For "M. A. + 15" at zero years of experience, $2,740. An additional $69 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience;

(8) For "M. A. + 30" at zero years of experience, $2,836. An additional $69 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience;

(9) For "M. A. + 45" at zero years of experience, $2,836. An additional $69 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience; and

(10) For "Doctorate" at zero years of experience, $2,927. An additional $69 shall be paid for each year of experience up to and including 35 years of experience.

These payments: (i) Shall be in addition to any amounts prescribed in the applicable State Minimum Salary Schedule, any specific additional amounts prescribed in this section and article and any county supplement in effect in a county pursuant to §18A-4-5a of this code; (ii) shall be paid in equal monthly installments; and (iii) shall be considered a part of the state minimum salaries for teachers.

§18A-4-5. State salary supplement.

(a) The Legislature recognizes its constitutional responsibility to provide for a thorough and efficient system of education. To carry out this responsibility the Legislature enacted, and continues to update, as necessary, the public school support program as set forth in §18-9A-1, *et seq.* of this code. The public school support program is a non-discriminatory funding mechanism for financing the educational system in this state as it takes into account each county's specific characteristics, and ensures that all counties are provided equitable funding.

(b) The Legislature further finds that the purpose of the public school support program is not to deter counties from growing economically or from using county resources in a manner that best meets their specific educational needs and the desires of their citizens. To that end, counties must have the discretion and flexibility to use local county funds, not otherwise factored into the public school support program, to provide the best education possible to their students, including, but not limited to, providing salary supplements to teachers.

(c) Subject to available state appropriations and the conditions set forth herein, each teacher and school service personnel shall receive a supplement amount as specified in §18A-4-2 and §18A-4-8a of this code, respectively, of this article in addition to the amount from the state minimum salary schedules provided in those sections. State funds for this purpose shall be paid within the West Virginia public school support plan in accordance with §18-9A-1 *et seq.* of

this code. The amount allocated for this supplement shall be apportioned between teachers and school service personnel in direct proportion to that amount necessary to support the professional salaries and service personnel salaries statewide under §18-9A-4, §18-9A-5, and §18-9A-8 of this code.

(d) Pursuant to this section, each teacher and service person shall receive from state funds the supplement amount indicated in §18A-4-2(f) and §18A-4-8a(f) of this code, as applicable, reduced by any amount provided by the county as a salary supplement for teachers and school service personnel on January 1, 1984.

(e) The amount received pursuant to this section shall not be decreased as a result of any county supplement increase instituted after January 1, 1984: *Provided*, That any amount received pursuant to this section may be reduced proportionately based upon the amount of funds appropriated for this purpose. No county may reduce any salary supplement that was in effect on January 1, 1984, except as permitted by §18-4-5a and §18-4-5b of this code.

(f) The amendments to this section during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature shall be effective for school years beginning on or after July 1, 2019, and the provisions of this section existing immediately prior to the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature remain in effect for school years beginning prior to July 1, 2019.

§18A-4-5a. County salary supplements for teachers.

(a) County boards of education in fixing the salaries of teachers shall use at least the state minimum salaries established under the provisions of this article. The board may establish salary schedules which shall be in excess of the state minimums fixed by this article, such county schedules to be uniform throughout the county as to the classification of training, experience, responsibility and other requirements subject to the following:

(1) Counties may fix higher salaries for teachers placed in special instructional assignments, for those assigned to or employed for duties other than regular instructional duties, and for teachers of one-teacher schools;

(2) Counties may provide additional compensation for any teacher assigned duties in addition to the teacher's regular instructional duties wherein such noninstructional duties are not a part of the scheduled hours of the regular school day;

(3) Counties may provide additional compensation for teachers who are assigned and fully certified to teach in a subject area in which the county board finds it has a critical need and shortage of fully certified teachers;

(4) Counties may provide additional compensation or other financial assistance to teachers who teach in schools that are in remote geographical locations or have experienced high rates of turnover in experienced teachers; and

(5) Counties may provide additional compensation to teachers who, in addition to regularly assigned teaching duties, are assigned as a master teacher, mentor, academic coach, or other title whose duties include providing strong school-based support and supervision to assist licensure candidates in a clinical internship, beginning teachers, and other teachers at the school to improve their professional practice as set forth in the county's comprehensive system of support for teacher and leader induction and professional growth provided for in section §18A-3C-3 of this code.

(b) In establishing such local salary schedules authorized in subsection (a) of this section, a county may not reduce local funds allocated for salaries in effect on January 1, 1990, and used in supplementing the state minimum salaries as provided for in this article, unless forced to do so by defeat of a special levy, or a loss in assessed values or events over which it has no control and

for which the county board has received approval from the state board prior to making such reduction.

(c) Counties may provide, in a uniform manner, benefits for teachers which require an appropriation from local funds including, but not limited to, dental, optical, health and income protection insurance, vacation time and retirement plans excluding the State Teachers Retirement System. Nothing herein shall prohibit the maintenance nor result in the reduction of any benefits in effect on January 1, 1984, by any county board of education.

§18A-4-7a. Employment, promotion, and transfer of professional personnel; qualifications.

(a) A county board of education shall make decisions affecting the filling of vacancies in professional positions of employment on the basis of the applicant with the highest qualifications: *Provided*, That the county superintendent shall be hired under separate criteria pursuant to §18-4-2 of this code.

(b) In judging qualifications for the filling of vacancies of professional positions of employment, consideration shall be given to each of the following:

(1) Appropriate certification, licensure or both;

(2) Amount of experience relevant to the position or, in the case of a classroom teaching position, the amount of teaching experience in the required certification area;

(3) The amount of course work, degree level or both in the relevant field and degree level generally;

(4) Academic achievement;

(5) In the case of a principal or classroom teaching position, certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

(6) Specialized training relevant to performing the duties of the job;

(7) Past performance evaluations conducted pursuant to §18A-2-12 and §18A-3C-2 of this code or, in the case of a classroom teacher, past evaluations of the applicant's performance in the teaching profession;

(8) Seniority;

(9) Other measures or indicators upon which the relative qualifications of the applicant may fairly be judged;

(10) In the case of a classroom teaching position, the recommendation of the principal of the school at which the applicant will be performing a majority of his or her duties; and

(11) In the case of a classroom teaching position, the recommendation, if any, resulting from the process established pursuant to the provisions of §18-5A-5 of this code by the faculty senate of the school at which the employee will be performing a majority of his or her duties.

(c) When filling of a vacancy pursuant to this section, a county board is entitled to determine the appropriate weight to apply to each of the criterion when assessing an applicant's qualifications: *Provided*, That if one or more permanently employed instructional personnel apply for a classroom teaching position and meet the standards set forth in the job posting, each criterion under subsection (b) of this section shall be given equal weight except that the criterion in subdivisions (10) and (11) shall each be double weighted.

(d) For a classroom teaching position, if the principal and faculty senate recommend the same applicant pursuant to subdivisions (10) and (11), subsection (b) of this section, and the superintendent concurs with those recommendations, then the other provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section do not apply and the county board

shall appoint that applicant notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary.

(e) The state board shall promulgate a rule, including an emergency rule if necessary, in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3B-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement and interpret the provisions of this section. The rule may provide for a classroom teacher who directly participates in making recommendations pursuant to this section to be compensated at the appropriate daily rate during periods of participation beyond his or her individual contract.

(f) The recommendations of the principal and faculty senate made pursuant to subdivisions (10) and (11), subsection (b) of this section shall be based on a determination as to which applicant is the most highly qualified for the position: *Provided*, That nothing in this subsection may require principals or faculty senates to assign any amount of weight to any factor in making a recommendation.

(g) With the exception of guidance counselors, the seniority of classroom teachers, as defined in section one, article one of this chapter, shall be determined on the basis of the length of time the employee has been employed as a regular full-time certified and/or licensed professional educator by the county board of education and shall be granted in all areas that the employee is certified, licensed or both.

(h) If two or more employees with the same certification establish an identical seniority date as a result of initial employment as a regular teacher on or after July 1, 2019, the priority between these employees shall be determined by a random selection system established by the employees and approved by the county board. A board shall conduct the random selection within 30 days of the time the employees with the same certification establish an identical seniority date. All employees with an identical seniority date and the same certification shall participate in the random selection.

As long as the affected employees hold the identical seniority date within a certification, the initial random selection conducted by the board shall be permanent for the duration of the employment of the employees by the board.

(i) Upon completion of 133 days of employment in any one school year, substitute teachers, except retired teachers and other retired professional educators employed as substitutes, shall accrue seniority exclusively for the purpose of applying for employment as a permanent, full-time professional employee. One hundred thirty-three days or more of said employment shall be prorated and shall vest as a fraction of the school year worked by the permanent, full-time teacher.

(j) Guidance counselors and all other professional employees, as defined in §18A-1-1 of this code, except classroom teachers, shall gain seniority in their nonteaching area of professional employment on the basis of the length of time the employee has been employed by the county board of education in that area: *Provided*, That if an employee is certified as a classroom teacher, the employee accrues classroom teaching seniority for the time that employee is employed in another professional area. For the purposes of accruing seniority under this subsection, employment as principal, supervisor or central office administrator, as defined in §18A-1-1 of this code, shall be considered one area of employment.

(k) Employment for a full employment term equals one year of seniority, but an employee may not accrue more than one year of seniority during any given fiscal year. Employment for less than the full employment term shall be prorated.

(l) All decisions on reductions in force shall be based on qualifications as set forth in a county board policy. Furthermore, for the purposes of this subsection and subsections (m) through (t), inclusive, of this section, the word “qualifications” means the qualifications set forth in

county board policy and only means qualifications set forth in subsection (b) of this section to the extent those qualifications are set forth in county board policy: *Provided*, That in defining the word "qualifications" in its policy, the county board:

(1) Shall consider including the following criteria:

(A) Seniority;

(B) Appropriate certification, licensure, or both;

(C) Amount of experience relevant to the position or, in the case of a classroom teaching position, the amount of teaching experience in the required certification area;

(D) The amount of course work, degree level, or both in the relevant field and degree level generally;

(E) Academic achievement;

(F) In the case of a principal or classroom teaching position, certification by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards;

(G) Specialized training relevant to performing the duties of the job;

(H) Past performance evaluations conducted pursuant to §18A-2-12 and §18A-3C-2 of this code or, in the case of a classroom teacher, past evaluations of the applicant's performance in the teaching profession;

(I) Other measures or indicators upon which the relative qualifications of the applicant may fairly be judged;

(J) In the case of transfer or recall to a classroom teaching position, the recommendation of the principal of the school at which the applicant will be performing a majority of his or her duties; and

(K) In the case of transfer or recall to a classroom teaching position, the recommendation, if any, resulting from the process established pursuant to the provisions of §18-5A-5 of this code by the faculty senate of the school at which the employee will be performing a majority of his or her duties;

(2) Shall consider other criteria set forth in subdivision (1) of this subsection to the extent they are included in the county board policy only after considering personnel whose last performance evaluation conducted pursuant to §18A-2-12 or §18A-3C-2 of this code, as applicable, is less than satisfactory; and

(3) May not include salary as one of the criteria in the definition.

(m) Whenever a county board is required to reduce the number of professional personnel in its employment, the selection of the employee to be properly notified and released from employment pursuant to the provisions of section two, article two of this chapter shall be based upon seniority, certification, licensure and performance evaluations. The provisions of this subsection are subject to the following:

(1) In the event of a reduction in force, a county board of education may properly notify and release from employment pursuant to the provisions of section two, article two of this chapter any classroom teacher with unsatisfactory evaluations for the previous two consecutive years regardless of years of service instead of release from employment of less senior classroom teachers with satisfactory performance evaluations;

(2) All persons employed in a certification area to be reduced who are employed under a temporary permit shall be properly notified and released before a fully certified employee in such a position is subject to release;

(3) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, for any vacancy in an established, existing or newly created position that, on or before March 1, is known to exist for the ensuing school year, upon recommendation of the superintendent, the board shall appoint the successful applicant from among all qualified applicants. All employees subject to release shall be considered applicants for the positions for which they are qualified and shall be considered before posting such vacancies for application by nonemployees;

(4) An employee subject to release shall be employed in any other professional position where the employee is certified and was previously employed or to any lateral area for which the employee is certified, licensed or both, if the employees seniority is greater than the seniority of any other employee in that area of certification, licensure or both;

(5) If an employee subject to release holds certification, licensure or both in more than one lateral area and if the employees seniority is greater than the seniority of any other employee in one or more of those areas of certification, licensure or both, the employee subject to release shall be employed in the professional position held by the employee with the least seniority in any of those areas of certification, licensure or both; and

(6) If, prior to August 1 of the year, a reduction in force is approved, the reason for any particular reduction in force no longer exists as determined by the county board in its sole and exclusive judgment, the board shall rescind the reduction in force or transfer and shall notify the released employee in writing of his or her right to be restored to his or her position of employment. Within five days of being so notified, the released employee shall notify the board, in writing, of his or her intent to resume his or her position of employment or the right to be restored shall terminate. Notwithstanding any other provision of this subdivision, if there is another employee on the preferred recall list with proper certification and higher seniority, that person shall be

placed in the position restored as a result of the reduction in force being rescinded.

(n) For the purpose of this article, all positions which meet the definition of "classroom teacher" as defined in §18A-1-1 of this code shall be lateral positions. For all other professional positions, the county board of education shall adopt a policy by October 31, 1993, and may modify the policy thereafter as necessary, which defines which positions shall be lateral positions. In adopting the policy, the board may give consideration to the rank of each position in terms of title; nature of responsibilities; salary level; and certification, licensure or both; along with the days in the period of employment.

(o) All professional personnel whose lesser qualifications, as determined by county board policy, with the county board is insufficient to allow their retention by the county board during a reduction in workforce shall be placed upon a preferred recall list. As to any professional position opening within the area where they had previously been employed or to any lateral area for which they have certification, licensure or both, the employee shall be recalled on the basis of qualifications if no regular, full-time professional personnel, or those returning from leaves of absence with greater qualifications apply for and accept the position.

(p) The board shall annually notify professional personnel on the preferred list of the job application procedures and any websites used to advertise vacancies. The notice shall be sent by certified mail via the U.S. Postal Service to the last known address of the employee, and it shall be the duty of each professional person to notify the board of continued availability annually of any change in address, or of any change in certification, licensure or both.

(q) Openings in established, existing or newly created positions shall be processed as follows:

(1) Boards shall be required to post and date notices of each opening at least once. At their discretion, boards may post an opening for a position other than classroom teacher more than once in order to attract more qualified applicants. At their discretion, boards may repost an opening for a classroom teacher after the first posting in order to attract more qualified applicants subject to the following:

(A) Each notice shall be posted in conspicuous working places for all professional personnel to observe for at least five working days which may include any website maintained by the county board;

(B) At least one notice shall be posted within 20 working days of the position openings and shall include the job description;

(C) Any special criteria or skills that are required by the position shall be specifically stated in the job description and directly related to the performance of the job;

(D) Postings for vacancies made pursuant to this section shall be written so as to ensure that the largest possible pool of qualified applicants may apply; and

(E) Job postings may not require criteria which are not necessary for the successful performance of the job and may not be written with the intent to favor a specific applicant;

(2) No vacancy may be filled until after the five-day minimum posting period of the most recent posted notice of the vacancy;

(3) If one or more applicants under all the postings for a vacancy meets the qualifications listed in the job posting, the successful applicant to fill the vacancy shall be selected by the board within 30 working days of the end of the first posting period;

(4) A position held by a teacher who is certified, licensed or both, who has been issued a permit for full-time

employment and is working toward certification in the permit area shall not be subject to posting if the certificate is awarded within five years; and

(5) Nothing provided herein may prevent the county board of education from eliminating a position due to lack of need.

(r) Notwithstanding any other provision of the code to the contrary, where the total number of classroom teaching positions in an elementary school does not increase from one school year to the next, but there exists in that school a need to realign the number of teachers in one or more grade levels, kindergarten through six, teachers at the school may be reassigned to grade levels for which they are certified without that position being posted: *Provided*, That the employee and the county board mutually agree to the reassignment.

(s) Reductions in classroom teaching positions in elementary schools shall be determined pursuant to the considerations set forth in county board policy and processed as follows:

(1) When the total number of classroom teaching positions in an elementary school needs to be reduced, the reduction shall be made on the basis of qualifications with the least qualified classroom teacher being recommended for transfer; and

(2) When a specified grade level needs to be reduced and the least qualified employee in the school is not in that grade level, the least qualified classroom teacher in the grade level that needs to be reduced shall be reassigned to the position made vacant by the transfer of the least qualified classroom teacher in the school without that position being posted: *Provided*, That the employee is certified, licensed or both and agrees to the reassignment.

(t) Any board failing to comply with the provisions of this article may be compelled to do so by mandamus and shall be liable to any party prevailing against the board for court costs and reasonable attorney fees as determined and established by the court. Further, employees denied promotion or employment in violation of this section shall be awarded the job, pay and any applicable benefits retroactive to the date of the violation and payable entirely from local funds. Further, the board shall be liable to any party prevailing against the board for any court reporter costs including copies of transcripts.

(u) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, upon recommendation of the principal and approval by the classroom teacher and county board, a classroom teacher assigned to the school may at any time be assigned to a new or existing classroom teacher position at the school without the position being posted.

(v) All personnel in a public charter school shall continue to accrue seniority in the same manner that they would accrue seniority if employed in a noncharter public school in the county for the purpose of employment in noncharter public schools.

§18A-4-8a. Service personnel minimum monthly salaries.

(a) The minimum monthly pay for each service employee shall be as follows:

(1) For school year 2018–2019, the minimum monthly pay for each service employee whose employment is for a period of more than three and one-half hours a day shall be at least the amounts indicated in the State Minimum Pay Scale Pay Grade Schedule I and the minimum monthly pay for each service employee whose employment is for a period of three and one-half hours or less a day shall be at least one-half the amount indicated in the State Minimum Pay Scale Pay Grade Schedule I set forth in this subdivision: *Provided*, That for school year 2019-2020, and continuing

thereafter, the minimum monthly pay for each service employee whose employment is for a period of more than three and one-half hours a day shall be at least the amounts indicated in the State Minimum Pay Scale Pay Grade Schedule II and the minimum monthly pay for each service employee whose employment is for a period of three and one-half hours or less a day shall be at least one-half the amount indicated in the State Minimum Pay Scale Pay Grade Schedule II set forth in this subdivision.

STATE MINIMUM PAY SCALE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE I

Years Exp.	PAY GRADE							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
0	1,770	1,791	1,833	1,886	1,939	2,002	2,034	2,107
1	1,802	1,824	1,865	1,918	1,972	2,035	2,066	2,140
2	1,835	1,856	1,898	1,951	2,004	2,067	2,099	2,172
3	1,867	1,889	1,931	1,984	2,037	2,100	2,132	2,205
4	1,900	1,922	1,963	2,016	2,069	2,133	2,164	2,239
5	1,933	1,954	1,996	2,049	2,102	2,165	2,197	2,271
6	1,965	1,987	2,030	2,082	2,135	2,198	2,230	2,304
7	1,999	2,019	2,062	2,114	2,167	2,231	2,262	2,337
8	2,032	2,052	2,095	2,147	2,200	2,263	2,295	2,369
9	2,064	2,085	2,128	2,181	2,233	2,296	2,327	2,402
10	2,097	2,118	2,160	2,213	2,265	2,330	2,361	2,435
11	2,130	2,151	2,193	2,246	2,298	2,362	2,394	2,467
12	2,162	2,184	2,225	2,279	2,332	2,395	2,426	2,500
13	2,195	2,216	2,258	2,311	2,364	2,427	2,459	2,533
14	2,228	2,249	2,291	2,344	2,397	2,460	2,492	2,565
15	2,260	2,282	2,323	2,376	2,429	2,493	2,524	2,598
16	2,293	2,314	2,356	2,409	2,462	2,525	2,557	2,631
17	2,325	2,347	2,390	2,442	2,495	2,558	2,590	2,664
18	2,358	2,380	2,422	2,474	2,527	2,591	2,622	2,697
19	2,392	2,412	2,455	2,507	2,560	2,623	2,655	2,729
20	2,424	2,445	2,488	2,541	2,593	2,656	2,688	2,763
21	2,457	2,477	2,520	2,573	2,625	2,689	2,720	2,797
22	2,490	2,511	2,553	2,606	2,658	2,722	2,754	2,829
23	2,522	2,544	2,586	2,639	2,692	2,756	2,788	2,863
24	2,555	2,576	2,618	2,671	2,724	2,790	2,821	2,897

25	2,588	2,609	2,651	2,704	2,758	2,822	2,855	2,929
26	2,620	2,642	2,683	2,738	2,792	2,856	2,887	2,963
27	2,653	2,674	2,716	2,770	2,824	2,888	2,921	2,996
28	2,686	2,707	2,750	2,804	2,858	2,922	2,955	3,030
29	2,718	2,741	2,783	2,836	2,891	2,956	2,987	3,064
30	2,752	2,773	2,817	2,870	2,924	2,988	3,021	3,097
31	2,785	2,807	2,851	2,904	2,958	3,022	3,055	3,130
32	2,819	2,840	2,883	2,937	2,990	3,056	3,087	3,164
33	2,853	2,873	2,917	2,971	3,024	3,088	3,121	3,197
34	2,885	2,907	2,951	3,005	3,058	3,122	3,155	3,230
35	2,919	2,941	2,983	3,037	3,090	3,156	3,188	3,264
36	2,953	2,974	3,017	3,071	3,125	3,189	3,222	3,296
37	2,985	3,008	3,051	3,105	3,159	3,223	3,255	3,330
38	3,019	3,040	3,083	3,137	3,191	3,256	3,288	3,364
39	3,053	3,074	3,117	3,171	3,225	3,289	3,322	3,396
40	3,085	3,108	3,150	3,204	3,259	3,323	3,355	3,430

STATE MINIMUM PAY SCALE PAY GRADE SCHEDULE II

Years Exp.	PAY GRADE							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
0	1,885	1,906	1,948	2,001	2,054	2,117	2,149	2,222
1	1,917	1,939	1,980	2,033	2,087	2,150	2,181	2,255
2	1,950	1,971	2,013	2,066	2,119	2,182	2,214	2,287
3	1,982	2,004	2,046	2,099	2,152	2,215	2,247	2,320
4	2,015	2,037	2,078	2,131	2,184	2,248	2,279	2,354
5	2,048	2,069	2,111	2,164	2,217	2,280	2,312	2,386
6	2,080	2,102	2,145	2,197	2,250	2,313	2,345	2,419
7	2,114	2,134	2,177	2,229	2,282	2,346	2,377	2,452
8	2,147	2,167	2,210	2,262	2,315	2,378	2,410	2,484
9	2,179	2,200	2,243	2,296	2,348	2,411	2,442	2,517
10	2,212	2,233	2,275	2,328	2,380	2,445	2,476	2,550
11	2,245	2,266	2,308	2,361	2,413	2,477	2,509	2,582
12	2,277	2,299	2,340	2,394	2,447	2,510	2,541	2,615
13	2,310	2,331	2,373	2,426	2,479	2,542	2,574	2,648
14	2,343	2,364	2,406	2,459	2,512	2,575	2,607	2,680
15	2,375	2,397	2,438	2,491	2,544	2,608	2,639	2,713
16	2,408	2,429	2,471	2,524	2,577	2,640	2,672	2,746

17	2,440	2,462	2,505	2,557	2,610	2,673	2,705	2,779
18	2,473	2,495	2,537	2,589	2,642	2,706	2,737	2,812
19	2,507	2,527	2,570	2,622	2,675	2,738	2,770	2,844
20	2,539	2,560	2,603	2,656	2,708	2,771	2,803	2,878
21	2,572	2,592	2,635	2,688	2,740	2,804	2,835	2,912
22	2,605	2,626	2,668	2,721	2,773	2,837	2,869	2,944
23	2,637	2,659	2,701	2,754	2,807	2,871	2,903	2,978
24	2,670	2,691	2,733	2,786	2,839	2,905	2,936	3,012
25	2,703	2,724	2,766	2,819	2,873	2,937	2,970	3,044
26	2,735	2,757	2,798	2,853	2,907	2,971	3,002	3,078
27	2,768	2,789	2,831	2,885	2,939	3,003	3,036	3,111
28	2,801	2,822	2,865	2,919	2,973	3,037	3,070	3,145
29	2,833	2,856	2,898	2,951	3,006	3,071	3,102	3,179
30	2,867	2,888	2,932	2,985	3,039	3,103	3,136	3,212
31	2,900	2,922	2,966	3,019	3,073	3,137	3,170	3,245
32	2,934	2,955	2,998	3,052	3,105	3,171	3,202	3,279
33	2,968	2,988	3,032	3,086	3,139	3,203	3,236	3,312
34	3,000	3,022	3,066	3,120	3,173	3,237	3,270	3,345
35	3,034	3,056	3,098	3,152	3,205	3,271	3,303	3,379
36	3,068	3,089	3,132	3,186	3,240	3,304	3,337	3,411
37	3,100	3,123	3,166	3,220	3,274	3,338	3,370	3,445
38	3,134	3,155	3,198	3,252	3,306	3,371	3,403	3,479
39	3,168	3,189	3,232	3,286	3,340	3,404	3,437	3,511
40	3,200	3,223	3,265	3,319	3,374	3,438	3,470	3,545

(2) Each service employee shall receive the amount prescribed in the State Minimum Pay Scale Pay Grade in accordance with the provisions of this subsection according to their class title and pay grade as set forth in this subdivision:

CLASS TITLE	PAY GRADE
Accountant I	D
Accountant II	E
Accountant III	F
Accounts Payable Supervisor	G

32	Aide I	A
33	Aide II	B
34	Aide III	C
35	Aide IV	D
36	Audiovisual Technician	C
37	Auditor	G
38	Autism Mentor	F
39	Braille Specialist	E
40	Bus Operator	D
41	Buyer	F
42	Cabinetmaker	G
43	Cafeteria Manager	D
44	Carpenter I	E
45	Carpenter II	F
46	Chief Mechanic	G
47	Clerk I	B
48	Clerk II	C
49	Computer Operator	E
50	Cook I	A
51	Cook II	B
52	Cook III	C
53	Crew Leader	F

54	Custodian I	A
55	Custodian II	B
56	Custodian III	C
57	Custodian IV	D
58	Director or Coordinator of Services	H
59	Draftsman	D
60	Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher I	E
61	Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher II	E
62	Early Childhood Classroom Assistant Teacher III	F
63	Educational Sign Language Interpreter I	F
64	Educational Sign Language Interpreter II	G
65	Electrician I	F
66	Electrician II	G
67	Electronic Technician I	F
68	Electronic Technician II	G
69	Executive Secretary	G
70	Food Services Supervisor	G
71	Foreman	G
72	General Maintenance	C
73	Glazier	D
74	Graphic Artist	D
75	Groundsman	B

76	Handyman	B
77	Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanic I	E
78	Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanic II	G
79	Heavy Equipment Operator	E
80	Inventory Supervisor	D
81	Key Punch Operator	B
82	Licensed Practical Nurse	F
83	Locksmith	G
84	Lubrication Man	C
85	Machinist	F
86	Mail Clerk	D
87	Maintenance Clerk	C
88	Mason	G
89	Mechanic	F
90	Mechanic Assistant	E
91	Office Equipment Repairman I	F
92	Office Equipment Repairman II	G
93	Painter	E
94	Paraprofessional	F
95	Payroll Supervisor	G
96	Plumber I	E
97	Plumber II	G

98 Printing Operator ..... B

99 Printing Supervisor ..... D

100 Programmer ..... H

101 Roofing/Sheet Metal Mechanic ..... F

102 Sanitation Plant Operator ..... G

103 School Bus Supervisor ..... E

104 Secretary I ..... D

105 Secretary II ..... E

106 Secretary III ..... F

107 Sign Support Specialist ..... E

108 Supervisor of Maintenance ..... H

109 Supervisor of Transportation ..... H

110 Switchboard Operator-Receptionist ..... D

111 Truck Driver ..... D

112 Warehouse Clerk C

113 Watchman ..... B

114 Welder ..... F

115 WVEIS Data Entry and Administrative Clerk ..... B

116 (b) An additional $12 per month is added to the
117 minimum monthly pay of each service person who holds a
118 high school diploma or its equivalent.

119 (c) An additional $11 per month also is added to the
120 minimum monthly pay of each service person for each of
121 the following:

(1) A service person who holds 12 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(2) A service person who holds 24 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(3) A service person who holds 36 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(4) A service person who holds 48 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(5) A service employee who holds 60 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(6) A service person who holds 72 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(7) A service person who holds 84 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(8) A service person who holds 96 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(9) A service person who holds 108 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board;

(10) A service person who holds 120 college hours or comparable credit obtained in a trade or vocational school as approved by the state board.

(d) An additional $40 per month also is added to the minimum monthly pay of each service person for each of the following:

(1) A service person who holds an associate's degree;

(2) A service person who holds a bachelor's degree;

(3) A service person who holds a master's degree;

(4) A service person who holds a doctorate degree.

(e) An additional $11 per month is added to the minimum monthly pay of each service person for each of the following:

(1) A service person who holds a bachelor's degree plus 15 college hours;

(2) A service person who holds a master's degree plus 15 college hours;

(3) A service person who holds a master's degree plus 30 college hours;

(4) A service person who holds a master's degree plus 45 college hours; and

(5) A service person who holds a master's degree plus 60 college hours.

(f) Each service person is paid a supplement, as set forth in §18A-4-5 of this code, of $164 per month, subject to the provisions of that section. These payments: (i) Are in addition to any amounts prescribed in the applicable State Minimum Pay Scale Pay Grade, any specific additional amounts prescribed in this section and article and any county supplement in effect in a county pursuant to §18A-4-5b of this code; (ii) are paid in equal monthly installments; and (iii) are considered a part of the state minimum salaries for service personnel.

(g) When any part of a school service person's daily shift of work is performed between the hours of 6:00 p. m. and 5:00 a. m. the following day, the employee is paid no less than an additional $10 per month and one half of the pay is paid with local funds.

(h) Any service person required to work on any legal school holiday is paid at a rate one and one-half times the person's usual hourly rate.

(i) Any full-time service personnel required to work in excess of their normal working day during any week which contains a school holiday for which they are paid is paid for the additional hours or fraction of the additional hours at a rate of one and one-half times their usual hourly rate and paid entirely from county board funds.

(j) A service person may not have his or her daily work schedule changed during the school year without the employee's written consent and the person's required daily work hours may not be changed to prevent the payment of time and one-half wages or the employment of another employee.

(k) The minimum hourly rate of pay for extra duty assignments as defined in §18A-4-8b of this code is no less than one seventh of the person's daily total salary for each hour the person is involved in performing the assignment and paid entirely from local funds: *Provided*, That an alternative minimum hourly rate of pay for performing extra duty assignments within a particular category of employment may be used if the alternate hourly rate of pay is approved both by the county board and by the affirmative vote of a two-thirds majority of the regular full-time persons within that classification category of employment within that county: *Provided, however*, That the vote is by secret ballot if requested by a service person within that classification category within that county. The salary for any fraction of an hour the employee is involved in performing the assignment is prorated accordingly. When

performing extra duty assignments, persons who are regularly employed on a one-half day salary basis shall receive the same hourly extra duty assignment pay computed as though the person were employed on a full-day salary basis.

(l) The minimum pay for any service personnel engaged in the removal of asbestos material or related duties required for asbestos removal is their regular total daily rate of pay and no less than an additional $3 per hour or no less than $5 per hour for service personnel supervising asbestos removal responsibilities for each hour these employees are involved in asbestos-related duties. Related duties required for asbestos removal include, but are not limited to, travel, preparation of the work site, removal of asbestos, decontamination of the work site, placing and removal of equipment and removal of structures from the site. If any member of an asbestos crew is engaged in asbestos-related duties outside of the employee's regular employment county, the daily rate of pay is no less than the minimum amount as established in the employee's regular employment county for asbestos removal and an additional $30 per each day the employee is engaged in asbestos removal and related duties. The additional pay for asbestos removal and related duties shall be payable entirely from county funds. Before service personnel may be used in the removal of asbestos material or related duties, they shall have completed a federal Environmental Protection Act-approved training program and be licensed. The employer shall provide all necessary protective equipment and maintain all records required by the Environmental Protection Act.

(m) For the purpose of qualifying for additional pay as provided in §18A-5-8 of this code, an aide is considered to be exercising the authority of a supervisory aide and control over pupils if the aide is required to supervise, control, direct, monitor, escort, or render service to a child or children when not under the direct supervision of a certified

professional person within the classroom, library, hallway, lunchroom, gymnasium, school building, school grounds, or wherever supervision is required. For purposes of this section, "under the direct supervision of a certified professional person" means that certified professional person is present, with and accompanying the aide.

§18A-4-10. Personal leave for illness and other causes; leave banks; substitutes.

(a) Personal Leave.

(1) At the beginning of the employment term, any full-time employee of a county board is entitled annually to at least one and one-half days personal leave for each employment month or major fraction thereof in the employee's employment term. Unused leave shall be accumulative without limitation and is transferable within the state. A change in job assignment during the school year does not affect the employee's rights or benefits.

(2) A regular full-time employee who is absent from assigned duties due to accident, sickness, death in the immediate family, or life threatening illness of the employee's spouse, parents or child, or other cause authorized or approved by the board, shall be paid the full salary from his or her regular budgeted salary appropriation during the period which the employee is absent, but not to exceed the total amount of leave to which the employee is entitled.

(3) Each employee is permitted to use three days of leave annually without regard to the cause for the absence: *Provided*, That effective July 1, 2019, each employee is permitted to use four days of leave annually without regard to the cause for the absence. Personal leave without cause may not be used on consecutive work days unless authorized or approved by the employee's principal or immediate supervisor, as appropriate. The employee shall give notice of leave without cause to the principal or

immediate supervisor at least 24 hours in advance, except that in the case of sudden and unexpected circumstances, notice shall be given as soon as reasonably practicable. The principal or immediate supervisor may deny use of the day if, at the time notice is given, either 15 percent of the employees or three employees, whichever is greater, under the supervision of the principal or immediate supervisor, have previously given notice of their intention to use that day for leave. Personal leave may not be used in connection with a concerted work stoppage or strike. Where the cause for leave originated prior to the beginning of the employment term, the employee shall be paid for time lost after the start of the employment term. If an employee uses personal leave which the employee has not yet accumulated on a monthly basis and subsequently leaves the employment, the employee is required to reimburse the board for the salary or wages paid for the unaccumulated leave.

(4) The State Board shall maintain a rule to restrict the payment of personal leave benefits and the charging of personal leave time used to an employee receiving a workers' compensation benefit from a claim filed against and billed to the county board by which the person is employed. If an employee is awarded this benefit, the employee shall receive personal leave compensation only to the extent the compensation is required, when added to the workers' compensation benefit, to equal the amount of compensation regularly paid the employee. If personal leave compensation equal to the employee's regular pay is paid prior to the award of the workers' compensation benefit, the amount which, when added to the benefit, is in excess of the employee's regular pay shall be deducted from the employee's subsequent pay. The employee's accrued personal leave days shall be charged only for such days as equal the amount of personal leave compensation required to compensate the employee at the employee's regular rate of pay.

(5) The county board may establish reasonable rules for reporting and verification of absences for cause. If any error in reporting absences occurs, the county board may make necessary salary adjustments:

(A) In the next pay after the employee has returned to duty; or

(B) In the final pay if the absence occurs during the last month of the employment term.

(b) Leave Banks.

(1) Each county board shall establish a personal leave bank that is available to all school personnel. The board may establish joint or separate banks for professional personnel and school service personnel. Each employee may contribute up to two days of personal leave per school year. An employee may not be coerced or compelled to contribute to a personal leave bank.

(2) The personal leave bank shall be established and operated pursuant to a rule adopted by the county board. The rule:

(A) May limit the maximum number of days used by an employee;

(B) Shall limit the use of leave bank days to an active employee with fewer than five days accumulated personal leave who is absent from work due to accident or illness of the employee; and

(C) Shall prohibit the use of days to:

(i) Qualify for or add to service for any retirement system administered by the state; or

(ii) Extend insurance coverage pursuant to §5-16-13 of this code.

(D) Shall require that each personal leave day contributed:

(i) Is deducted from the number of personal leave days to which the donor employee is entitled by this section;

(ii) Is not deducted from the personal leave days without cause to which a donor employee is entitled if sufficient general personal leave days are otherwise available to the donor employee;

(iii) Is credited to the receiving employee as one full personal leave day;

(iv) May not be credited for more or less than a full day by calculating the value of the leave according to the hourly wage of each employee; and

(v) May be used only for an absence due to the purpose for which the leave was transferred. Any transferred days remaining when the catastrophic medical emergency ends revert back to the leave bank.

(3) The administration, subject to county board approval, may use its discretion as to the need for a substitute where limited absence may prevail, when an allowable absence does not:

(i) Directly affect the instruction of the students; or

(ii) Require a substitute employee because of the nature of the work and the duration of the cause for the absence.

(4) If funds in any fiscal year, including transfers, are insufficient to pay the full cost of substitutes for meeting the provisions of this section, the remainder shall be paid on or before the August 31 from the budget of the next fiscal year.

(5) A county board may supplement the leave provisions in any manner it considers advisable in

accordance with applicable rules of the state Board and the provisions of this chapter and chapter 18 of this code.

(c) Effective July 1, 2019, a classroom teacher who has not utilized more than four days of personal leave during the 200-day employment term shall receive a bonus of $500 at the end of the school year. If the appropriations to the Department of Education for this purpose are insufficient to compensate all applicable classroom teachers, the Department of Education shall request a supplemental appropriation in an amount sufficient to compensate all eligible classroom teachers. This bonus may not be counted as part of the final average salary for the purpose of calculating retirement.

CHAPTER 18C. STUDENT LOANS; SCHOLARSHIPS AND STATE AID.

ARTICLE 4. UNDERWOOD-SMITH TEACHING SCHOLARS PROGRAM.

§18C-4-1. Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program Fund created; purposes; funding; effective date.

(a) It is the purpose of this article and §18C-4A-1 *et seq.* of this code to improve the quality of education in the public schools of West Virginia by encouraging and enabling individuals who have demonstrated outstanding academic abilities to pursue teaching careers in critical shortage fields at the elementary, middle or secondary levels in the public schools of this state. Particular efforts shall be made in the scholarship selection criteria and procedures to reflect the state's present and projected critical teacher shortage fields.

(b) In consultation with the State Board of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools, the commission shall propose legislative rules in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3A-1 *et seq.* of this code. The rules shall provide for the administration of the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program and the Teacher Education Loan Repayment Program by the Vice Chancellor for

Administration in furtherance of the purposes of this article, and §18C-4A-1 *et seq.* of this code including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Establishing scholarship selection criteria and procedures;

(2) Establishing criteria and procedures for identifying critical teacher shortage fields;

(3) Establishing and updating as necessary a list of critical teacher shortage fields in the public schools for which scholarships are available;

(4) Requiring scholarship recipients to teach in a public school in this state at the elementary, middle or secondary level in a critical teacher shortage field pursuant to the provisions of §18C-4-3 of this code;

(5) Awarding loan repayment assistance, including establishing conditions under which partial awards may be granted for less than a full year of teaching in a critical teacher shortage field;

(6) Determining eligibility for loan repayment assistance renewal;

(7) Establishing procedures ensuring that loan repayment assistance funds are paid directly to the proper lending entity;

(8) Establishing criteria for determining participant compliance or noncompliance with terms of the agreement and establishing procedures to address noncompliance including, but not limited to, repayment, deferral and excusal; and

(9) Developing model agreements.

(c) The commission and State Board of Education jointly shall ensure that Underwood-Smith Teaching

Scholars award recipients receive additional academic support and training from mentors in their academic field beginning with the freshman year and continuing through degree completion and the teaching obligation.

(d) The Underwood-Smith Teacher Scholarship and Loan Assistance Fund is continued in the State Treasury as a special revolving fund and is hereafter to be known as the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program Fund. The fund shall be administered by the Vice Chancellor for Administration solely for granting scholarships and loan repayment assistance to teachers and prospective teachers in accordance with this article and §18C-4A-1 *et seq.* of this code. Any moneys which may be appropriated by the Legislature, or received by the Vice Chancellor for Administration from other sources, for the purposes of this article and §18C-4A-1 *et seq.* of this code shall be deposited in the fund. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the close of a fiscal year shall be carried forward for use in the next fiscal year. Any moneys repaid to the Vice Chancellor for Administration by reason of default of a scholarship or loan repayment assistance agreement under this article or §18C-4A-1 *et seq.* of this code also shall be deposited in the fund. Fund balances shall be invested with the state's consolidated investment fund, and any and all interest earnings on these investments shall be used solely for the purposes for which moneys invested were appropriated or otherwise received.

(e) The Vice Chancellor for Administration may accept and expend any gift, grant, contribution, bequest, endowment, or other money for the purposes of this article and §18C-4A-1 *et seq.* of this code and shall make a reasonable effort to encourage external support for the scholarship and loan repayment assistance programs.

(f) For the purpose of encouraging support for the scholarship and loan repayment assistance programs from private sources, the Vice Chancellor for Administration may set aside no more than half of the funds appropriated

by the Legislature for Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program and loan repayment assistance awards to be used to match two state dollars to each private dollar from a nonstate source contributed on behalf of a specific institution of higher education in this state.

(g) In recognition of the high academic achievement necessary to receive an award under this article, each recipient shall be distinguished as an "Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholar" in a manner befitting the distinction as determined by the commission.

(h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (d) of this section, and §18C-4A-3 of this code:

(1) Moneys in the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program Fund may be used to satisfy loan repayment assistance agreements pursuant to §18C-4A-1 *et seq.* of this code and any renewals for which a recipient would be eligible pursuant to the prior enactment of §18C-4A-1 *et seq.* of this code for any student who is receiving such loan repayment assistance or fulfilling the requirements of an agreement on the effective date of this section;

(2) Moneys in the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars Program Fund may be used to fund Underwood-Smith teacher scholarships, and any renewals for which a recipient would be eligible pursuant to the prior enactment of this article, for those students receiving such scholarship on the effective date of this section; and

(3) The terms, conditions, requirements, and agreements applicable to an Underwood-Smith teacher scholarship or loan repayment recipient prior to the effective date of this section shall continue in effect and are not altered by the reenactment of this section during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature.

(i) The amendments to this article during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature shall be effective for school years beginning on or after July 1, 2020, and the provisions of this article existing immediately prior to the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature remain in effect for school years beginning prior to July 1, 2020.

§18C-4-2. Selection criteria and procedures for awarding scholarships.

(a) Vice Chancellor for Administration shall appoint a selection panel comprised of individuals representing higher education, public education, and the community at large to select Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars who meet the eligibility criteria set forth in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) Eligibility for an Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award shall be limited to students who meet the following criteria:

(1) Have graduated or are graduating from high school with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 on a 4.0 scale;

(2) Have met the college algebra ready assessment standards and college readiness English, reading, and writing standards as established by the commission; and

(3) Agree to teach in a critical teacher shortage field at the elementary, middle or secondary level in a public school in the state pursuant to the provisions of §18C-4-3 of this code.

(c) To be eligible for an award, a non-citizen of the United States shall hold a valid Employment Authorization Document (EAD), or work permit, issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

(d) In accordance with the rules of the commission, the Vice Chancellor for Administration shall develop criteria

and procedures for the selection of scholarship recipients. The selection criteria shall reflect the purposes of this article and shall specify the areas in which particular efforts will be made in the selection of scholars as set forth in §18C-4-1 of this code. Selection procedures and criteria also may include, but are not limited to, the grade point average of the applicant, involvement in extracurricular activities, financial need, current academic standing and an expression of interest in teaching as demonstrated by an essay written by the applicant. These criteria and procedures further may require the applicant to furnish letters of recommendation from teachers and others. It is the intent of the Legislature that academic abilities be the primary criteria for selecting scholarship recipients.

(e) In developing the selection criteria and procedures to be used by the selection panel, the Vice Chancellor for Administration shall solicit the views of public and private education agencies and institutions and other interested parties. Input from interested parties shall be solicited by means of written and published selection criteria and procedures in final form for implementation and may be solicited by means of public hearings on the present and projected teacher needs of the state or any other methods the Vice Chancellor for Administration may determine to be appropriate to gather the information.

(f) The Vice Chancellor for Administration shall make application forms for Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars available to public and private high schools in the state and in other locations convenient to applicants, parents and others, and shall make an effort to attract students from low-income backgrounds, ethnic or racial minority students, students with disabilities, and women or minority students who show interest in pursuing teaching careers in mathematics and science and who are under-represented in those fields.

§18C-4-3. Scholarship agreement.

(a) Each recipient of an Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award shall enter into an agreement with the Vice Chancellor for Administration under which the recipient shall meet the following conditions:

(1) Provide the commission with evidence of compliance with §18C-4-4(a) of this code;

(2) Beginning within one year after completing the teacher education program for which the scholarship was awarded, teach full-time in a critical teacher shortage field at the elementary, middle or secondary level, under contract with a county board of education in a public education program in the state, for a period of not fewer than five consecutive years for the four academic years. Any teaching time accrued during the required five-year period as a substitute teacher for a county board of education in a critical teacher shortage field at the elementary, middle or secondary level shall be credited pro rata in accordance with rules promulgated by the commission; or

(3) Repay all or part of an Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award received under this article plus interest and, if applicable, reasonable collection fees in accordance with §18C-4-4 of this code.

(b) Scholarship agreements shall disclose fully the terms and conditions under which assistance under this article is provided and under which repayment may be required. The agreements shall include the following:

(1) A description of the conditions and procedures to be established under §18C-4-4 of this code; and

(2) A description of the appeals procedure required to be established under §18C-4-4 of this code.

(c) The scholarship terms, conditions, requirements, and agreements applicable to an Underwood-Smith teacher

scholarship recipient prior to the effective date of this section shall continue in effect and are not altered by the reenactment of this section during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature.

§18C-4-4. Renewal conditions; noncompliance; deferral; excusal.

(a) The recipient of an Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award is eligible for scholarship renewal only during those periods when the recipient meets the following conditions:

(1) Is enrolled as a full-time student in an accredited institution of higher education in this state;

(2) Is pursuing a program of study leading to teacher certification in a critical teacher shortage field at the elementary, middle or secondary level;

(3) Is maintaining satisfactory progress as determined by the institution of higher education the recipient is attending;

(4) Is maintaining a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; and

(5) Is complying with such other standards as the commission may establish by rule.

(b) Recipients found to be in noncompliance with the agreement entered into under §18C-4-3 of this code shall be required to repay the amount of the scholarship awards received, plus interest, and, where applicable, reasonable collection fees, on a schedule and at a rate of interest prescribed in the program guidelines. Guidelines also shall provide for proration of the amount to be repaid by a recipient who teaches for part of the period required under §18C-4-3(a) of this code and for appeal procedures under which a recipient may appeal any determination of noncompliance.

(c) A recipient is not in violation of the agreement entered into under §18C-4-3 of this code during any period in which the recipient is meeting any of the following conditions:

(1) Pursuing a full-time course of study at an accredited institution of higher education;

(2) Serving, not in excess of four years, as a member of the armed services of the United States;

(3) Satisfying the provisions of any repayment exemptions that may be prescribed by the commission by rule; or

(4) Failing to comply with the terms of the agreement due to death or permanent or temporary disability as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.

(d) The rules adopted by the commission may provide guidelines under which the Vice Chancellor for Administration may extend the time period for beginning or fulfilling the teaching obligation if extenuating circumstances exist.

§18C-4-5. Amount and duration of scholarship; relation to other assistance.

(a) An Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award shall be used in preparation for becoming an elementary, middle or secondary teacher in a critical teacher shortage field in the public schools of this state. Each award shall be in the amount of $10,000 annually, and is available for a maximum of four academic years for the completion of a bachelor's degree.

(b) An individual may not receive a scholarship award under this article which exceeds the cost of attendance at the institution the individual is attending. The cost of attendance shall be based upon the actual cost of tuition and fees, and reasonable allowances for books, educational supplies,

room and board and other expenses necessitated by individual circumstances, in accordance with the program guidelines. For the purposes of establishing an award amount, the Vice Chancellor for Administration shall take into account the amount of financial aid assistance the recipient has or will receive from all other sources. If the amount of the Underwood-Smith Teaching Scholars award and the amount of scholarship and grant awards which the recipient has received from all other sources exceed the cost of attendance, the institution's financial aid officer, in consultation with the scholar, will determine what aid is to be reduced and shall do so in a manner to the best advantage of the scholar.

(c) The amendments to this article during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature shall be effective for academic years beginning on or after July 1, 2019, and the provisions of this article existing immediately prior to the 2019 first extraordinary session of the Legislature remain in effect for academic years beginning prior to July 1, 2019.

ARTICLE 4A. TEACHER EDUCATION LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

§18C-4A-1. Selection criteria and procedures for loan assistance; effective date.

(a) The Higher Education Student Financial Aid Advisory Board created by §18C-1-5 of this code shall select recipients to receive Teacher Education Loan Repayment Program awards. The advisory board shall make decisions regarding loan repayment awards pursuant to §18C-4-1 of this code and rules of the commission.

(b) To be eligible for a loan repayment award, an applicant shall currently be employed in a public school in this state as a teacher in a critical teacher shortage field or as a school counselor at the elementary, middle or

secondary level in a school or geographic area of the state identified as an area of critical need for such field.

(c) In accordance with the rule promulgated pursuant to §18C-4-1 of this code, the Vice Chancellor for Administration shall develop additional eligibility criteria and procedures for the administration of the loan repayment program.

(d) The Vice Chancellor for Administration shall make available program application forms to public and private schools in the state via the website of the commission and the State Department of Education and in other locations convenient to potential applicants.

(e) The amendments to this article during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature shall be effective for school years beginning on or after July 1, 2020, and the provisions of this article existing immediately prior to the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature remain in effect for school years beginning prior to July 1, 2020.

§18C-4A-2. Teacher Education Loan Repayment agreement.

(a) Before receiving a loan repayment award, each eligible applicant shall enter into an agreement with the Vice Chancellor for Administration and shall meet the following criteria:

(1) Provide the commission with evidence of compliance with §18C-4-4 of this code;

(2) Agree to be employed full time under contract with a county board of education for a period of two school years as a teacher in a critical teacher shortage field or as a school counselor at the elementary, middle or secondary level in a school or geographic area of critical need for such field for each year for which a loan repayment assistance award is received pursuant to this article. The Vice Chancellor for Administration may grant a partial award to an eligible

recipient whose contract term is for less than a full school year pursuant to criteria established by commission rule;

(3) Acknowledge that an award is to be paid to the recipient's student loan institution, not directly to the recipient, and only after the commission determines that the recipient has complied with all terms of the agreement; and

(4) Agree to repay all or part of an award received pursuant to this article if the award is not paid to the student loan institution or if the recipient does not comply with the other terms of the agreement.

(b) Each loan repayment agreement shall disclose fully the terms and conditions under which an award may be granted pursuant to this article and under which repayment may be required. The agreement also is subject to and shall include the terms and conditions established by §18C-4-5 of this code.

§18C-4A-3. Amount and duration of loan repayment awards; limits.

(a) Each award recipient is eligible to receive loan assistance in an amount determined annually by the commission based upon available funds, but not less than $3,000 annually in an amount determined annually by the commission based upon available funds, and subject to limits set forth in subsection (b) of this section, if the recipient:

(1) Has been employed for a full school year under contract with a county board of education as a teacher in a critical teacher shortage field or as a school counselor at the elementary, middle or secondary level in a school or geographic area of critical need; and

(2) Otherwise has complied with the terms of the agreement and with applicable provisions of this article and §18C-4-1 *et seq.* of this code, and any rules promulgated pursuant thereto.

(b) The recipient is eligible for renewal of a loan repayment assistance award only during periods when the recipient complies with other criteria and conditions established by rule, and is under contract with a county board of education as a teacher in a critical teacher shortage field or as a school counselor at the elementary, middle or secondary level, in a school or geographic area of critical need in such field.

CHAPTER 29. MISCELLANEOUS BOARDS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 12. STATE INSURANCE.

§29-12-5a. Liability insurance for county boards of education, their employees and members, the county superintendent of schools, public charter schools electing to obtain coverage, and for employees and officers of the state Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation; written notice of coverage to insureds.

(a) In accordance with the provisions of this article, the State Board of Risk and Insurance Management shall provide appropriate professional or other liability insurance for all county boards of education, teachers, supervisory and administrative staff members, service personnel, county superintendents of schools, and school board members and for all employees and officers of the State Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation: *Provided,* That the Board of Risk and Insurance Management is not required to provide insurance for every property, activity, or responsibility of county boards of education, teachers, supervisory and administrative staff members, service personnel, county superintendents of schools, and school board members, and for all employees and officers of the state Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

(b) Insurance provided by the Board of Risk and Insurance Management pursuant to the provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall cover claims, demands,

actions, suits, or judgments by reason of alleged negligence or other acts resulting in bodily injury or property damage to any person within or without any school building or correctional institution if, at the time of the alleged injury, the teacher, supervisor, administrator, service personnel employee, county superintendent, school board member, or employee or officer of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation was acting in the discharge of his or her duties, within the scope of his or her office, position or employment, under the direction of the county board of education, or Commissioner of Corrections, or in an official capacity as a county superintendent or as a school board member or as Commissioner of Corrections.

(c) Insurance coverage provided by the Board of Risk and Insurance Management pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be in an amount to be determined by the state Board of Risk and Insurance Management, but in no event less than $1,250,000 for each occurrence. In addition, each county board of education shall purchase, through the Board of Risk and Insurance Management, excess coverage of at least $5 million for each occurrence. The cost of this excess coverage will be paid by the respective county boards of education. Any insurance purchased under this section shall be obtained from a company licensed to do business in this state.

(d) The insurance policy provided by the Board of Risk and Insurance Management pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall include comprehensive coverage, personal injury coverage, malpractice coverage, corporal punishment coverage, legal liability coverage, as well as a provision for the payment of the cost of attorney's fees in connection with any claim, demand, action, suit, or judgment arising from such alleged negligence or other act resulting in bodily injury under the conditions specified in this section.

(e) The county superintendent and other school personnel shall be defended by the county board or an insurer in the case of suit, unless the act or omission shall

not have been within the course or scope of employment or official responsibility or was motivated by malicious or criminal intent.

(f) At least annually, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, county boards shall provide written notice of insurance coverage to each of its insureds, including teachers, supervisors, administrators, service personnel employees, county superintendent, and school board members. The notice shall identify the coverages, monetary limits of insurance, and duty to defend for each occurrence as provided to insureds by the Board of Risk and Insurance Management under this section. The written notice may be sent via email, or via first-class mail to the insured's last mailing address known to the county board. The written notice shall also include contact information for the Board of Risk and Insurance Management.

(g) The provisions of this section apply to public charter schools that have been authorized pursuant to §18-5G-1 *et seq.* of this code and have included in their charter contract entered into pursuant to §18-5G-7 of this code a determination to obtain insurance coverage from the Board of Risk and Insurance Management pursuant to this section. If a public charter school elects to obtain coverage pursuant to this section:

(1) Any provision in this section applicable to a county board also applies to a charter school governing board;

(2) Any provision in this section applicable to a school board member also applies to a member of a charter school governing board; and

(3) Any provision of this section applicable to teachers, supervisory and administrative staff members, and service personnel employed by a county board also applies to teachers, supervisory or administrative staff members, and service personnel employed by a public charter school.

(h) The amendments to this section during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature shall be effective for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2019: *Provided,* That the amendment to subsection (c) of this section during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session of the Legislature shall be effective for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2020.

CHAPTER 32

(S. B. 1004 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18-16-1, §18-16-2, §18-16-3, and §18-16-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating generally to prohibiting hazing; adopting a short title; defining terms; criminalizing participation in hazing; establishing criminal penalties; expanding and clarifying organizations subject to anti-hazing provisions; requiring institutions of higher education to promulgate policies related to hazing; requiring enforcement of institution anti-hazing policies; and authorizing institutions to impose noncriminal penalties for hazing.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 16. ANTIHAZING LAW.

§18-16-1. Short title.

This article shall be known and may be cited as the West Virginia Anti-hazing Law.

§18-16-2. Definitions.

As used in this article:

(1) "Hazing" means to cause any action or situation which recklessly or intentionally endangers the mental or physical health or safety of another person or persons or causes another person or persons to destroy or remove public or private property for the purpose of initiation or admission into or affiliation with, or as a condition for continued membership in, any organization the members of which are primarily students or alumni of an institution of higher education. The term includes, but is not limited to, acts of a physical nature, such as whipping, beating, branding, required consumption of any food, liquor, drug, or other substance, or any other required physical activity which could reasonably be deemed to adversely affect the physical health and safety of the person or persons so treated, and includes any activity which would subject the person or persons so treated to extreme mental stress, such as sleep deprivation, forced exclusion from social contact, required conduct which could result in extreme embarrassment, or any other required activity which could reasonably be deemed to adversely affect the mental health or dignity of the person or persons so treated, or any willful destruction or removal of public or private property: *Provided*, That the implied or expressed consent or willingness of a person or persons to hazing may not be a defense under this section.

(2) "Institution of higher education" or "institution" means any public or private institution as defined in §18B-1-2 of this code.

(3) "Organization" means any fraternity, sorority, association, corporation, order, society, corps, club, or similar group, or a national or international affiliate thereof, the membership of which is primarily made up students or alumni of an institution of higher education.

§18-16-3. Hazing prohibited.

Any person who causes hazing is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than $100 nor more than $1,000, or confined in jail for not more than nine months, or both fined and confined.

§18-16-4. Enforcement by institutions.

(a) *Anti-hazing policy.* —The governing body of each institution of higher education in this state shall promulgate and enforce anti-hazing rules consistent with this article.

(b) *Enforcement and penalties.* —

(1) Each institution shall provide a program for the enforcement of rules promulgated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and shall adopt appropriate penalties for violations thereof.

(2) Penalties may include recision of permission for an organization to operate on campus property or to otherwise operate under the sanction or recognition of the institution.

(3) All penalties imposed under the authority of this section shall be in addition to any penalty imposed for violation of §18-16-3 of this code or of any of the criminal laws of this state.

(4) Rules adopted pursuant hereto apply to acts conducted on or off campus whenever such acts constitute hazing as defined in §18-16-2 of this code.

CHAPTER 33

(H. B. 133 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 28, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §55-7B-7a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the admissibility of health care staffing requirements in medical professional liability litigation; providing that compliance with minimum staffing requirements under state law creates rebuttable presumptions that appropriate staffing and adequate supervision of patients to prevent accidents were provided; requiring that if staffing is less than requirements dictated by state law then there is a rebuttable presumption that there was inadequate supervision of patients and that inadequate staffing or inadequate supervision was a contributing cause of the patient's fall and resulting injuries or death; and requiring the jury be instructed accordingly.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 7B. MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY.

§55-7B-7a. Admissibility and use of certain information.

(a) In an action brought, there is a rebuttable presumption that the following information may not be introduced unless it applies specifically to the injured person or it involves substantially similar conduct that occurred within one year of the particular incident involved:

(1) A state or federal survey, audit, review or other report of a health care provider or health care facility;

(2) Disciplinary actions against a health care provider's license, registration or certification;

(3) An accreditation report of a health care provider or health care facility; and

(4) An assessment of a civil or criminal penalty.

(b) In any action brought alleging inappropriate staffing or inadequate supervision, if the health care facility or health care provider demonstrates compliance with the minimum staffing requirements under state law, the health care facility or health care provider is entitled to a rebuttable presumption that appropriate staffing and adequate supervision of patients to prevent accidents were provided, and the jury shall be instructed accordingly.

(c) In any action brought alleging inappropriate staffing or inadequate supervision, if staffing is less than the minimum staffing requirements under state law, then there is a rebuttable presumption that there was inadequate supervision of patients and that inadequate staffing or inadequate supervision was a contributing cause of the patient's fall and injuries or death arising therefrom, and the jury shall be instructed accordingly.

(d) Information under this section may only be introduced in a proceeding if it is otherwise admissible under the West Virginia Rules of Evidence.

CHAPTER 34

(H. B. 118 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 17, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §30-1-24, relating generally to criteria for initial licensure to engage in certain professions and occupations; regulating and making consistent the consideration of prior criminal convictions in initial licensure determinations by certain boards and licensing authorities; requiring a rational nexus between prior criminal convictions considered by certain boards and licensing authorities and the profession or occupation for which the initial licensure is sought; providing criteria for certain boards and licensing authorities to consider when determining whether a criminal conviction has a rational nexus to a profession or occupation; defining terms; eliminating offenses generally described as ones of moral turpitude from grounds for denial of an initial license to engage in certain professions and occupations absent there being a rational nexus between the underlying offense and the profession or occupation for which licensure is sought; requiring certain boards and licensing authorities to allow a previously disqualified applicant to apply for licensure after a certain period of time, with exceptions; requiring certain boards and licensing authorities to allow a potential applicant to petition the board or authority for a determination as to whether his or her criminal record precludes licensure and requiring the board or agency to provide the applicant with such determination within a certain period of time; and

requiring certain boards and licensing authorities to promulgate rules.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATE BOARDS OF EXAMINATION OR REGISTRATION REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER.

§30-1-24. Use of criminal records as disqualification from authorization to practice.

(a) *Definitions.* — For the purposes of this section:

(1) "Board" means the board, authority, or other agency authorized by the provisions of this chapter to issue licenses, certifications, registrations, or other authorizations to engage in a particular profession or occupation.

(2) "License" or "licensure" means the official authorization to engage in a profession or occupation issued by a board, pursuant to the requirements of this chapter.

(3) "Unreversed", as that term refers to a criminal conviction, means that a conviction has not been set aside, vacated, pardoned, or expunged.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, except for the professions and occupations regulated by §30-2-1 *et seq.*, §30-3-1 *et seq.*, §30-3E-1 *et seq.*, §30-14-1 *et seq.*, §30-18-1 *et seq.*, and §30-29-1 *et seq.* of this code, and where not in conflict with an existing compact or model act:

(1) Boards subject to the requirements of this section may not disqualify an applicant from initial licensure to engage in a profession or occupation because of a prior criminal conviction that remains unreversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the profession or occupation requiring licensure. In determining whether a criminal conviction bears a rational nexus to a

profession or occupation, the board shall consider at a minimum:

(A) The nature and seriousness of the crime for which the individual was convicted;

(B) The passage of time since the commission of the crime;

(C) The relationship of the crime to the ability, capacity, and fitness required to perform the duties and discharge the responsibilities of the profession or occupation; and

(D) Any evidence of rehabilitation or treatment undertaken by the individual.

(2) Because the term "moral turpitude" is vague and subject to inconsistent applications, boards subject to the requirements of this section may not rely upon the description of a crime for which an applicant has been convicted as one of "moral turpitude" as a basis for denying licensure: *Provided*, That if the prior conviction for the underlying crime bears a rational nexus to the profession or occupation requiring licensure, the board may consider the conviction according to the requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter to the contrary, if an applicant is disqualified from licensure because of a prior criminal conviction, a board shall permit the applicant to apply for initial licensure if:

(A) A period of five years has elapsed from the date of conviction or the date of release from incarceration, whichever is later;

(B) The individual has not been convicted of any other crime during the period of time following the disqualifying offense; and

(C) The conviction was not for an offense of a violent or sexual nature: *Provided*, That a conviction for an offense of a violent or sexual nature may subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification from licensure, to be determined by the individual board.

(4) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure may petition the appropriate board at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the board to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the specific nature of the conviction. The board shall provide the determination within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The board may charge a fee to recoup its costs for each petition.

(5) The requirements of this section do not apply to the criteria that boards may consider when making determinations regarding relicensure or discipline of licensees.

(c) Every board subject to the provisions of this section shall propose rules or amendments to existing rules for legislative approval to comply with the provisions of this section. These rules or amendments to rules shall be proposed pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code within the applicable time limit to be considered by the Legislature during its regular session in the year 2020.

CHAPTER 35

(S. B. 1006 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §30-20-8a, relating to authorizing the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy to conduct criminal background checks on applicants seeking their initial license; requiring applicants seeking initial license to submit to national and state criminal record background check as condition of eligibility for license; mandating such applicants to submit fingerprints and authorize board, West Virginia State Police, and Federal Bureau of Investigation to use records submitted to screen applicants; prohibiting release of background check results, with certain exceptions; establishing that background check records are not public records for purposes of chapter 29B of this code; obligating such applicants to complete background check as soon as possible after application for license; requiring applicants to pay costs of fingerprinting and background check; prohibiting board from disqualifying applicants from licensure because of prior conviction unless conviction was for crime bearing rational nexus to the occupation for which licensure is sought; barring board from using crimes of moral turpitude to make licensure decisions; allowing applicants disqualified for licensure because of criminal conviction to reapply after five years after later date of conviction or date of release from penalty imposed for conviction and providing exception for violent or sexual offenses; establishing procedure for individuals with criminal

records to petition board for determination whether such criminal record will disqualify individual from obtaining licensure; and requiring rulemaking by a certain deadline.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 20. PHYSICAL THERAPISTS.

§30-20-8a. West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy criminal history record checks.

(a) The West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy is authorized to require state and national criminal history record checks for the purpose of issuing licenses. The West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy shall require an applicant, including physical therapists and physical therapy assistants, as a condition of eligibility for initial license to submit to a state and national criminal history record check as set forth in this section.

(b) The applicant shall meet all requirements necessary to accomplish the state and national criminal history record check, including:

(1) Submitting fingerprints for the purposes set forth in this subsection; and

(2) Authorizing the board, the West Virginia State Police, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to use all records submitted and produced for the purpose of screening the applicant for a license.

(c) The results of the state and national criminal history record check may not be released to or by a private entity except:

(1) To the individual who is the subject of the criminal history record check;

(2) With the written authorization of the individual who is the subject of the criminal history record check; or

(3) Pursuant to a court order.

(d) The criminal history record check and related records are not public records for the purposes of §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(e) The applicant shall ensure that the criminal history record check is completed as soon as possible after the date of the original application for registration.

(f) The applicant shall pay the actual costs of the fingerprinting and criminal history record check.

(g) The board may not disqualify an applicant for initial licensure because of a prior criminal conviction that has not been reversed unless that conviction is for a crime that bears a rational nexus to the occupation requiring licensure.

(h) The board may not use crimes involving moral turpitude in making licensure determinations.

(i) If an applicant is disqualified for licensure because of a criminal conviction that has not been reversed, the board shall afford the applicant the opportunity to reapply for licensure after the expiration of five years from the date of conviction or date of release from the penalty that was imposed, whichever is later, if the individual has not been convicted of any other crime during that period of time: *Provided*, That convictions for violent or sexual offenses or offenses shall subject an individual to a longer period of disqualification, to be determined by the board.

(j) An individual with a criminal record who has not previously applied for licensure, certification, or registration may petition the board at any time for a determination of whether the individual's criminal record will disqualify the individual from obtaining a license or other authorization to practice. This petition shall include sufficient details about the individual's criminal record to enable the board to identify the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, the date of the conviction, and the

specific nature of the conviction. The board shall inform the individual of his or her standing within 60 days of receiving the petition from the applicant. The board may charge a fee established by rule to recoup its costs for each petition.

(k) The board shall propose rules or amendments to existing rules for legislative approval to comply with the provisions of this section. These rules or amendments to rules shall be proposed pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code within the applicable time limit to be considered by the Legislature during its regular session in the year 2020.

CHAPTER 36

(H. B. 146 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-53-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to substance use disorder; clarifying who is eligible to receive funds; providing the secretary with discretion to decide who is eligible to funds; and removing certain limitations on funding limitations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 53. ESTABLISHING ADDITIONAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITIES.

§16-53-1. Establishment of substance use disorder treatment and recovery services.

(a) The Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources shall ensure that substance use disorder treatment or recovery services, or both, are made available in locations throughout the state which the department determines to be the highest priority for serving the needs of the state.

(b) The secretary shall identify and allocate funds to appropriate facilities to provide substance use disorder treatment services, which shall be provided via an inpatient or outpatient service model. These facilities shall:

(1) Give preference to West Virginia residents;

(2) Accept payment from private pay patients, third person payors, or patients covered by Medicaid;

(3) Offer treatment, based upon need;

(4) Work closely with the Adult Drug Court Program, provided for in §62-15-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(5) Be licensed by this state to provide substance use disorder treatment services.

(c) The secretary shall identify and allocate funds to appropriate facilities to provide recovery services. Peer-led facilities shall follow standards set forth by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences and offer access to peer support services.

(d) Other programs or projects designed to address substance use disorder, and a study or studies designed to evaluate substance use prevention education programs in schools, may be eligible for funding at the secretary's discretion and as funds are available.

CHAPTER 37

(S. B. 1012 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §16-59-1, §16-59-2, and §16-59-3, all relating to regulation of recovery residences; providing voluntary certification procedures; providing voluntary inspection standards; providing requirements for the referral of persons; providing criminal penalties and fines; permitting rulemaking; requiring compliance with the Fair Housing Act and Americans with Disabilities Act; and providing for the payment of state funds to recovery residences in certain circumstances.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 59. CERTIFICATION OF RECOVERY RESIDENCES.

§16-59-1. Definitions.

1 As used in this article, the term:

2 (1) "Certificate of compliance" means a certificate that
3 is issued to a recovery residence by the department's
4 appointed certifying agency.

5 (2) "Certified recovery residence" means a recovery
6 residence that holds a valid certificate of compliance.

7 (3) "Department" means the Department of Health and
8 Human Resources.

(4) "Recovery residence" means a single-family, drug-free, and alcohol-free residential dwelling unit, or other form of group housing, that is offered or advertised by any person or entity as a residence that provides a drug-free and alcohol-free living environment for the purposes of promoting sustained, long-term recovery from substance use disorder.

§16-59-2. Voluntary certification of recovery residences.

(a) The department shall contract with an entity to serve as the certifying agency for a voluntary certification program for drug-free and alcohol-free recovery residences based upon standards determined by the National Alliance for Recovery Residences (NARR) or a similar entity. The certifying agency shall establish and implement an accreditation program for drug-free and alcohol-free recovery residences that shall maintain nationally recognized standards that:

(1) Uphold industry best practices and support a safe, healthy, and effective recovery environment;

(2) Evaluate the residence's ability to assist persons in achieving long-term recovery goals;

(3) Protect residents of drug- and alcohol-free housing against unreasonable and unfair practices in setting and collecting fee payments.

(b) The department shall require the recovery residence to submit the following:

(1) Documentation verifying certification as specified and administered by the certifying agency;

(2) If a municipality or county offers or requires verification of compliance with local building, maximum occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to single-family housing, documentation of verification by the

25 municipality or county where the recovery residence is
26 located stating that the recovery residence is in compliance.

27 (c) If a municipality or county offers or requires
28 verification of compliance with local building, maximum
29 occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to
30 single-family housing, the municipality or county must
31 perform requested or required inspections within 30 days of
32 receiving a request for verification. If a residence is located
33 within a municipality or county that offers or requires
34 verification of compliance with local building, maximum
35 occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to
36 single-family housing, and the municipality or county fails
37 to perform requested or required inspections within 30 days
38 of receiving a request for verification, the residence may
39 apply for and be granted certification directly through the
40 certifying agency without the aforementioned verification.

41 (d) Upon receiving a complete application, the
42 certifying agency shall evaluate the residence to determine
43 if the residence is in compliance with national best-practice
44 standards and safety requirements. Additionally, any
45 application of the items specified in this section must
46 comply with the Fair Housing Act, 42 U.S.C. § 3601 *et seq.*
47 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 2008, 42 U.S.C.
48 § 12101 *et seq.*

49 (1) If it is determined that the residence is in
50 compliance, the certification agency shall issue a certificate
51 of compliance to the recovery residence operator for the
52 specific recovery residence location set forth in the
53 application.

54 (2) Each residence location, even if operated by the
55 same person or entity, must maintain a certificate of
56 compliance for the purposes of this article.

57 (e) The certifying agency may suspend or revoke a
58 certificate of compliance if the recovery residence is not in
59 compliance with any provision of this section or has failed

to remedy any deficiency identified in writing and served by certified mail. Suspension or revocation may take place after a notice of deficiency is served and has existed for at least 30 days.

(f) The certifying agency shall implement and maintain a process by which a residence whose certification has been suspended or revoked may apply for and be granted reinstatement. If a municipality or county offers or requires verification of compliance with local building, maximum occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to single-family housing, and if the residence's certification suspended or revoked for noncompliance with local building, maximum occupancy, fire safety, and sanitation codes applicable to single-family housing, the municipality or county may charge a fee of up to $100 for any requested reinspection of a recovery residence by the residence seeking reinstatement.

(g) The department shall periodically evaluate the quality, integrity, and efficacy of the accreditation program developed. The department shall promulgate rules subject to legislative approval in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement this section that shall include a process for receiving complaints against drug-free and alcohol-free recovery residences and criteria by which such residences' certifications can be revoked.

(h) A person may not advertise to the public any recovery residence as a "certified recovery residence" unless the recovery residence has first secured a certificate of compliance under this section. A person who violates this subsection commits a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than $1,000 nor more than $5,000 for each infraction.

(i) Nothing herein shall be read to require any recovery residence to obtain certifications set forth herein in order to conduct operations.

§16-59-3. Referrals to recovery residences; prohibitions; receipt of state funds.

(a) The certifying agency shall maintain, publish, and disseminate a list of drug- and alcohol-free housing certified pursuant to this section. This list shall be disseminated to the department for use by each state agency or vendor with a statewide contract that provides substance use disorder treatment services. The list shall also be posted on the website maintained by the certifying agency.

(b) The Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the Parole Board, county probation offices, day report centers, municipal courts, and a medical or clinical treatment facility that receives any funds for its operations from the State Treasury may not make a referral of any prisoner, parolee, probationer, or prospective, current, or discharged patient or client to a recovery residence unless the recovery residence holds a valid certificate of compliance as provided in §16-59-2 of this code.

(c) No recovery residence is eligible to receive funds from any source within the State Treasury unless it holds a valid certificate of compliance as provided in §16-59-2 of this code.

(d) A state agency and a medical or clinical treatment facility that receive funds for its operation from the State Treasury, that make referrals to recovery residences shall maintain records of referrals to or from recovery residences.

(e) Nothing in this section requires a state agency or a clinical or medical provider to make a referral of a person to a recovery residence.

(f) A person who violates this section commits a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of not less than $500 nor more than $1,000.

CHAPTER 38

(S. B. 1013 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-5Y-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting certain trained professionals to provide counseling in a medication-assisted treatment program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5Y. MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT PROGRAM LICENSING ACT.

§16-5Y-5. Operational requirements.

(a) The medication-assisted treatment program shall be licensed and registered in this state with the secretary, the Secretary of State, the State Tax Department, and all other applicable business or licensing entities.

(b) The program sponsor need not be a licensed physician but shall employ a licensed physician for the position of medical director, when required by the rules promulgated pursuant to this article.

(c) Each medication-assisted treatment program shall designate a medical director. If the medication-assisted treatment program is accredited by a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration approved accrediting body that meets nationally accepted standards for providing medication-assisted treatment, including the

Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities or the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, then the program may designate a medical director to oversee all facilities associated with the accredited medication-assisted treatment program. The medical director shall be responsible for the operation of the medication-assisted treatment program, as further specified in the rules promulgated pursuant to this article. He or she may delegate the day-to-day operation of a medication-assisted treatment program as provided in rules promulgated pursuant to this article. Within 10 days after termination of a medical director, the medication-assisted treatment program shall notify the director of the identity of another medical director for that program. Failure to have a medical director practicing at the program may be the basis for a suspension or revocation of the program license. The medical director shall:

(1) Have a full, active, and unencumbered license to practice allopathic medicine or surgery from the West Virginia Board of Medicine or to practice osteopathic medicine or surgery from the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine in this state and be in good standing and not under any probationary restrictions;

(2) Meet both of the following training requirements:

(A) If the physician prescribes a partial opioid agonist, he or she shall complete the requirements for the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000; and

(B) Complete other programs and continuing education requirements as further described in the rules promulgated pursuant to this article;

(3) Practice at the licensed or registered medication-assisted treatment program a sufficient number of hours, based upon the type of medication-assisted treatment license or registration issued pursuant to this article, to ensure regulatory compliance, and carry out those duties

specifically assigned to the medical director as further described in the rules promulgated pursuant to this article;

(4) Be responsible for monitoring and ensuring compliance with all requirements related to the licensing and operation of the medication-assisted treatment program;

(5) Supervise, control, and direct the activities of each individual working or operating at the medication-assisted treatment program, including any employee, volunteer, or individual under contract, who provides medication-assisted treatment at the program or is associated with the provision of that treatment. The supervision, control, and direction shall be provided in accordance with rules promulgated by the secretary; and

(6) Complete other requirements prescribed by the secretary by rule.

(d) Each medication-assisted treatment program shall designate counseling staff, either employees, or those used on a referral-basis by the program, which meet the requirements of this article and the rules promulgated pursuant to this article. The individual members of the counseling staff shall have one or more of the following qualifications:

(1) Be a licensed psychiatrist;

(2) Certification as an alcohol and drug counselor;

(3) Certification as an advanced alcohol and drug counselor;

(4) Be a counselor, psychologist, marriage and family therapist, or social worker with a master's level education with a specialty or specific training in treatment for substance use disorders, as further described in the rules promulgated pursuant to this article;

(5) Under the direct supervision of an advanced alcohol and drug counselor, be a counselor with a bachelor's degree in social work or another relevant human services field: *Provided*, That the individual practicing with a bachelor's degree under supervision applies for certification as an alcohol and drug counselor within three years of the date of employment as a counselor;

(6) Be a counselor with a graduate degree actively working toward licensure or certification in the individual's chosen field under supervision of a licensed or certified professional in that field and/or advanced alcohol and drug counselor;

(7) Be a psych-mental health nurse practitioner or a psych-mental health clinical nurse specialist; or

(8) Be a psychiatry CAQ-certified physician assistant.

(e) The medication-assisted treatment program shall be eligible for, and not prohibited from, enrollment with West Virginia Medicaid and other private insurance. Prior to directly billing a patient for any medication-assisted treatment, a medication-assisted treatment program must receive either a rejection of prior authorization, rejection of a submitted claim, or a written denial from a patient's insurer or West Virginia Medicaid denying coverage for such treatment: *Provided*, That the secretary may grant a variance from this requirement pursuant to §15-5Y-6 of this code. The program shall also document whether a patient has no insurance. At the option of the medication-assisted treatment program, treatment may commence prior to billing.

(f) The medication-assisted treatment program shall apply for and receive approval as required from the United States Drug Enforcement Administration, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, or an organization designated by Substance Abuse and Mental Health and Mental Health Administration.

(g) All persons employed by the medication-assisted treatment program shall comply with the requirements for the operation of a medication-assisted treatment program established within this article or by any rule adopted pursuant to this article.

(h) All employees of an opioid treatment program shall furnish fingerprints for a state and federal criminal records check by the Criminal Identification Bureau of the West Virginia State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The fingerprints shall be accompanied by a signed authorization for the release of information and retention of the fingerprints by the Criminal Identification Bureau and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The opioid treatment program shall be subject to the provisions of §16-49-1 *et seq.* of this code and subsequent rules promulgated thereunder.

(i) The medication-assisted treatment program shall not be owned by, nor shall it employ or associate with, any physician or prescriber:

(1) Whose Drug Enforcement Administration number is not currently full, active, and unencumbered;

(2) Whose application for a license to prescribe, dispense, or administer a controlled substance has been denied by and is not full, active, and unencumbered in any jurisdiction; or

(3) Whose license is anything other than a full, active, and unencumbered license to practice allopathic medicine or surgery by the West Virginia Board of Medicine or osteopathic medicine or surgery by the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine in this state, and who is in good standing and not under any probationary restrictions.

(j) A person may not dispense any medication-assisted treatment medication, including a controlled substance as defined by §60A-1-101 of this code, on the premises of a

licensed medication-assisted treatment program, unless he or she is a physician or pharmacist licensed in this state and employed by the medication-assisted treatment program unless the medication-assisted treatment program is a federally certified narcotic treatment program. Prior to dispensing or prescribing medication-assisted treatment medications, the treating physician must access the Controlled Substances Monitoring Program Database to ensure the patient is not seeking medication-assisted treatment medications that are controlled substances from multiple sources and to assess potential adverse drug interactions, or both. Prior to dispensing or prescribing medication-assisted treatment medications, the treating physician shall also ensure that the medication-assisted treatment medication utilized is related to an appropriate diagnosis of a substance use disorder and approved for such usage. The physician shall also review the Controlled Substances Monitoring Program Database no less than quarterly and at each patient's physical examination. The results obtained from the Controlled Substances Monitoring Program Database shall be maintained with the patient's medical records.

(k) A medication-assisted treatment program responsible for medication administration shall comply with:

(1) The West Virginia Board of Pharmacy regulations;

(2) The West Virginia Board of Examiners for Registered Professional Nurses regulations;

(3) All applicable federal laws and regulations relating to controlled substances; and

(4) Any requirements as specified in the rules promulgated pursuant to this article.

(l) Each medication-assisted treatment program location shall be licensed separately, regardless of whether the

program is operated under the same business name or management as another program.

(m) The medication-assisted treatment program shall develop and implement patient protocols, treatment plans, or treatment strategies and profiles, which shall include, but not be limited by, the following guidelines:

(1) When a physician diagnoses an individual as having a substance use disorder, the physician may treat the substance use disorder by managing it with medication in doses not exceeding those approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration as indicated for the treatment of substance use disorders and not greater than those amounts described in the rules promulgated pursuant to this article. The treating physician and treating counselor's diagnoses and treatment decisions shall be made according to accepted and prevailing standards for medical care;

(2) The medication-assisted treatment program shall maintain a record of all of the following:

(A) Medical history and physical examination of the individual;

(B) The diagnosis of substance use disorder of the individual;

(C) The plan of treatment proposed, the patient's response to the treatment, and any modification to the plan of treatment;

(D) The dates on which any medications were prescribed, dispensed, or administered, the name and address of the individual for whom the medications were prescribed, dispensed, or administered, and the amounts and dosage forms for any medications prescribed, dispensed, or administered;

(E) A copy of the report made by the physician or counselor to whom referral for evaluation was made, if applicable; and

(F) A copy of the coordination of care agreement, which is to be signed by the patient, treating physician, and treating counselor. If a change of treating physician or treating counselor takes place, a new agreement must be signed. The coordination of care agreement must be updated or reviewed at least annually. If the coordination of care agreement is reviewed, but not updated, this review must be documented in the patient's record. The coordination of care agreement will be provided in a form prescribed and made available by the secretary;

(3) Medication-assisted treatment programs shall report information, data, statistics, and other information as directed in this code, and the rules promulgated pursuant to this article to required agencies and other authorities;

(4) A prescriber authorized to prescribe a medication-assisted treatment medication who practices at a medication-assisted treatment program is responsible for maintaining the control and security of his or her prescription blanks and any other method used for prescribing a medication-assisted treatment medication. The prescriber shall comply with all state and federal requirements for tamper-resistant prescription paper. In addition to any other requirements imposed by statute or rule, the prescriber shall notify the secretary and appropriate law-enforcement agencies in writing within 24 hours following any theft or loss of a prescription blank or breach of any other method of prescribing a medication-assisted treatment medication; and

(5) The medication-assisted treatment program shall have a drug testing program to ensure a patient is in compliance with the treatment strategy.

(n) Medication-assisted treatment programs shall only prescribe, dispense, or administer liquid methadone to patients pursuant to the restrictions and requirements of the rules promulgated pursuant to this article.

(o) The medication-assisted treatment program shall immediately notify the secretary, or his or her designee, in writing of any changes to its operations that affect the medication-assisted treatment program's continued compliance with the certification and licensure requirements.

(p) If a physician treats a patient with more than 16 milligrams per day of buprenorphine then clear medical notes shall be placed in the patient's medical file indicating the clinical reason or reasons for the higher level of dosage.

(q) If a physician is not the patient's obstetrical or gynecological provider, the physician shall consult with the patient's obstetrical or gynecological provider to the extent possible to determine whether the prescription is appropriate for the patient.

(r) A practitioner providing medication-assisted treatment may perform certain aspects of telehealth if permitted under his or her scope of practice.

(s) The physician shall follow the recommended manufacturer's tapering schedule for the medication-assisted treatment medication. If the schedule is not followed, the physician shall document in the patient's medical record and the clinical reason why the schedule was not followed. The secretary may investigate a medication-assisted treatment program if a high percentage of its patients are not following the recommended tapering schedule.

CHAPTER 39

(S. B. 1037 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §16A-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §16A-4-3 of said code; to amend and reenact §16A-6-3 and §16A-6-13 of said code; to amend and reenact §16A-7-4 of said code; to amend and reenact §16A-8-1 of said code; to amend and reenact §16A-9-1 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto two new sections, designated §16A-9-3 and §16A-9-4; to amend and reenact §16A-10-6 of said code; to amend and reenact §16A-11-1 of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §16A-15-10; and to amend and reenact §16A-16-1 of said code, all relating generally to medical cannabis; defining terms; modifying certain definitions; modifying conditions for issuance of patient certifications; expanding practitioner reporting requirements; defining "resident" for purposes of the act; requiring that state residents own a majority of business entities applying for medical cannabis organization permits; removing regional distribution requirements for growers, processors, and dispensaries; establishing criteria for choosing the locations of dispensary permittees; requiring the Bureau for Public Health to adopt fair and objective evaluation procedures in choosing permittees; requiring numeric scoring of applications; increasing the maximum number of dispensary permits; increasing the number of dispensary permits a person or entity may hold; authorizing persons or entities to hold grower, processor, and dispensary

permits; authorizing the bureau to oversee testing of medical cannabis; removing the requirement that dispensaries have a physician or pharmacist onsite; modifying tax rates and tax procedures related to medical cannabis organizations; establishing a 10 percent tax on gross proceeds at the dispensary level; authorizing electronic filing with the Tax Commissioner; directing tax proceeds to be deposited in the Medical Cannabis Program Fund; clarifying applicability of the West Virginia Tax Procedure and Administration Act and the West Virginia Tax Crimes and Penalties Act apply to medical cannabis operations; extending the authority of the bureau to adopt emergency rules until July 1, 2021; adding two osteopathic physicians appointed by the West Virginia Osteopathic Association to the Medical Cannabis Advisory Board; immunizing state officials and employees from causes of action in their personal capacities for actions taken to implement the act; limiting any type of recovery to proceeds of available insurance; obligating the state to defend and indemnify state officials and employees against one type of action brought against them for implementing the act; authorizing precertification of patients; maintaining restriction that patient certificates may not be issued until July 1, 2019; and incorporating certain tax offenses and penalties by reference.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. DEFINITIONS.

§16A-2-1. Definitions.

1 (a) The following words and phrases when used in this
2 chapter shall have the meanings given to them in this section
3 unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

4 (1) "Act" means the West Virginia Medical Cannabis
5 Act and the provisions contained in §60A-1-101 *et seq.* of
6 this code.

7 (2) "Advisory board" means the advisory board
8 established under §16A-11-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(3) "Bureau" means the Bureau for Public Health within the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources.

(4) "Caregiver" means the individual designated by a patient or, if the patient is under 18 years of age, an individual authorized under §16A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code, to deliver medical cannabis.

(5) "Certified medical use" means the acquisition, possession, use, or transportation of medical cannabis by a patient, or the acquisition, possession, delivery, transportation, or administration of medical cannabis by a caregiver, for use as part of the treatment of the patient's serious medical condition, as authorized in a certification under this act, including enabling the patient to tolerate treatment for the serious medical condition.

(6) "Change in control" means the acquisition by a person or group of persons acting in concert of a controlling interest in an applicant or permittee either all at one time or over the span of a 12-consecutive-month period.

(7) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health.

(8) "Continuing care" means treating a patient, in the course of which the practitioner has completed a full assessment of the patient's medical history and current medical condition, including an in-person consultation with the patient, and is able to document and make a medical diagnosis based upon the substantive treatment of the patient.

(9) "Controlling interest" means:

(A) For a publicly traded entity, voting rights that entitle a person to elect or appoint one or more of the members of the board of directors or other governing board or the ownership or beneficial holding of five percent or more of the securities of the publicly traded entity.

(B) For a privately held entity, the ownership of any security in the entity.

(10) "Dispensary" means a person, including a natural person, corporation, partnership, association, trust, or other entity, or any combination thereof, which holds a permit issued by the bureau to dispense medical cannabis. The term does not include a health care medical cannabis organization as defined in §16A-13-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(11) "Family or household member" means the same as defined in §48-27-204 of this code.

(12) "Financial backer" means an investor, mortgagee, bondholder, note holder, or other source of equity, capital, or other assets, other than a financial institution.

(13) "Financial institution" means a bank, a national banking association, a bank and trust company, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building and loan association, a mutual savings bank, a credit union, or a savings bank.

(14) "Form of medical cannabis" means the characteristics of the medical cannabis recommended or limited for a particular patient, including the method of consumption and any particular dosage, strain, variety and quantity, or percentage of medical cannabis or particular active ingredient.

(15) "Fund" means the Medical Cannabis Program Fund established in §16A-9-2 of this code.

(16) "Grower" means a person, including a natural person, corporation, partnership, association, trust, or other entity, or any combination thereof, which holds a permit from the bureau under this act to grow medical cannabis. The term does not include a health care medical cannabis organization as defined in §16-13-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(17) "Grower/processor" means either a grower or a processor.

(18) "Identification card" means a document issued under §16A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code that authorizes access to medical cannabis under this act.

(19) "Individual dose" means a single measure of medical cannabis.

(20) "Medical cannabis" means cannabis for certified medical use as set forth in this act.

(21) "Medical cannabis organization" means a dispensary, grower, or processor. The term does not include a health care medical cannabis organization as defined in §16A-13-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(22) "Patient" means an individual who:

(A) Has a serious medical condition;

(B) Has met the requirements for certification under this act; and

(C) Is a resident of this state.

(23) "Permit" means an authorization issued by the bureau to a medical cannabis organization to conduct activities under this act.

(24) "Physician" or "practitioner" means a doctor of allopathic or osteopathic medicine who is fully licensed pursuant to the provisions of either §30-3-1 *et seq.* or §30-14-1 *et seq.* of this code to practice medicine and surgery in this state.

(25) "Post-traumatic stress disorder" means a diagnosis made as part of continuing care of a patient by a medical doctor, licensed counselor, or psychologist.

(26) "Prescription drug monitoring program" means the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program under §60A-9-101 *et seq.* of this code.

(27) "Principal" means an officer, director, or person who directly owns a beneficial interest in or ownership of the securities of an applicant or permittee, a person who has a controlling interest in an applicant or permittee, or who has the ability to elect the majority of the board of directors of an applicant or permittee, or otherwise control an applicant or permittee, other than a financial institution.

(28) "Processor" means a person, including a natural person, corporation, partnership, association, trust, or other entity, or any combination thereof, which holds a permit from the bureau under this act to process medical cannabis. The term does not include a health care medical cannabis organization as defined in §16A-13-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(29) "Registry" means the registry established by the bureau for practitioners.

(30) "Serious medical condition" means any of the following, as has been diagnosed as part of a patient's continuing care:

(A) Cancer.

(B) Positive status for human immunodeficiency virus or acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

(C) Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

(D) Parkinson's disease.

(E) Multiple sclerosis.

(F) Damage to the nervous tissue of the spinal cord with objective neurological indication of intractable spasticity.

(G) Epilepsy.

134 (H) Neuropathies.

135 (I) Huntington's disease.

136 (J) Crohn's disease.

137 (K) Post-traumatic stress disorder.

138 (L) Intractable seizures.

139 (M) Sickle cell anemia.

140 (N) Severe chronic or intractable pain of neuropathic
141 origin or severe chronic or intractable pain.

142 (O) Terminally ill.

143 (31) "Terminally ill" means a medical prognosis of life
144 expectancy of approximately one year or less if the illness
145 runs its normal course.

ARTICLE 4. PRACTITIONERS.

§16A-4-3. Issuance of certification.

1 (a) *Conditions for issuance.* — A certification to use
2 medical cannabis may be issued by a practitioner to a patient
3 if all of the following requirements are met:

4 (1) The practitioner has been approved by the bureau for
5 inclusion in the registry and has a valid, unexpired,
6 unrevoked, unsuspended license to practice medicine in this
7 state at the time of the issuance of the certification.

8 (2) The practitioner has determined that the patient has
9 a serious medical condition and has included the condition
10 in the patient's health care record.

11 (3) The patient is under the practitioner's continuing
12 care for the serious medical condition.

13 (4) In the practitioner's professional opinion and review
14 of past treatments, the practitioner determines the patient is

15 likely to receive therapeutic or palliative benefit from the
16 use of medical cannabis.

17 (5) The practitioner has determined that the patient has
18 no past or current medical condition(s) or medication use
19 that would constitute a contraindication for the use of
20 cannabis.

21 (6) The practitioner has determined that the patient is
22 experiencing serious pathophysiological discomfort,
23 disability, or dysfunction that may be attributable to a
24 serious medical condition and may possibly benefit from
25 cannabis treatment when current medical research exhibits
26 a moderate or higher probability of efficacy; and

27 (7) The practitioner has educated the patient about
28 cannabis and its safe use.

29 (b) *Contents.* — The certification shall include:

30 (1) The patient's name, date of birth, and address.

31 (2) The specific serious medical condition of the patient.

32 (3) A statement by the practitioner that the patient has a
33 serious medical condition and the patient is under the
34 practitioner's continuing care for the serious medical
35 condition.

36 (4) The date of issuance.

37 (5) The name, address, telephone number, and signature
38 of the practitioner.

39 (6) Any requirement or limitation concerning the
40 appropriate form of medical cannabis and limitation on the
41 duration of use, if applicable, including whether the patient
42 is terminally ill.

43 (7) A statement by the practitioner attesting that he or
44 she has performed the requirements contained in subsection
45 (a) of this section on a form to be issued by the West

46 Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources,
47 Bureau for Public Health.

48 (c) *Consultation.* —

49 (1) A practitioner shall review the prescription drug
50 monitoring program prior to:

51 (A) Issuing a certification to determine the controlled
52 substance history of a patient.

53 (B) Recommending a change of amount or form of
54 medical cannabis.

55 (2) The practitioner shall consider and give due
56 consideration to other controlled substances the patient may
57 be taking prior to certifying medical cannabis.

58 (d) Other access by practitioner. — A practitioner may
59 access the prescription drug monitoring program to do any
60 of the following:

61 (1) Determine whether a patient may be under treatment
62 with a controlled substance by another physician or other
63 person.

64 (2) Allow the practitioner to review the patient's
65 controlled substance history as deemed necessary by the
66 practitioner.

67 (3) Provide to the patient, or caregiver, on behalf of the
68 patient if authorized by the patient, a copy of the patient's
69 controlled substance history.

70 (e) *Duties of practitioner.* — The practitioner shall:

71 (1) Provide the certification to the patient.

72 (2) Provide a copy of the certification to the bureau,
73 which shall place the information in the patient directory
74 within the bureau's electronic database. The bureau shall
75 permit electronic submission of the certification.

(3) File a copy of the certification in the patient's health care record.

(f) *Prohibition.* — A practitioner may not issue a certification for the practitioner's own use or for the use of a family or household member.

ARTICLE 6. MEDICAL CANNABIS ORGANIZATIONS.

§16A-6-3. Granting of permit.

(a) The bureau may grant or deny a permit to a grower, processor, or dispensary. In making a decision under this subsection, the bureau shall determine that:

(1) The applicant will maintain effective control of and prevent diversion of medical cannabis.

(2) The applicant will comply with all applicable laws of this state.

(3) The applicant is a resident of this state as defined in §29-22B-327 of this code or is organized under the law of this state. If the applicant is a business entity, majority ownership in the business entity must be held by a state resident or residents.

(4) The applicant is ready, willing, and able to properly carry on the activity for which a permit is sought.

(5) The applicant possesses the ability to obtain in an expeditious manner sufficient land, buildings, and equipment to properly grow, process, or dispense medical cannabis.

(6) It is in the public interest to grant the permit.

(7) The applicant, including the financial backer or principal, is of good moral character and has the financial fitness necessary to operate.

(8) The applicant is able to implement and maintain security, tracking, recordkeeping, and surveillance systems relating to the acquisition, possession, growth, manufacture, sale, delivery, transportation, distribution, or the dispensing of medical cannabis as required by the bureau.

(9) The applicant satisfies any other conditions as determined by the bureau.

(b) *Nontransferability.* — A permit issued under this chapter shall be nontransferable.

(c) *Privilege.* — The issuance or renewal of a permit shall be a revocable privilege.

(d) *Dispensary location.* — The bureau shall consider the following when issuing a dispensary permit:

(1) Geographic location;

(2) Regional population;

(3) The number of patients suffering from serious medical conditions;

(4) The types of serious medical conditions;

(5) Access to public transportation;

(6) Approval by local health departments;

(7) Whether the county has disallowed the location of a grower, processor, or dispensary; and

(8) Any other factor the bureau deems relevant.

(e) *Application procedure.* — The bureau shall establish a procedure for the fair and objective evaluation of all applications for all medical cannabis organization permits. Such evaluations shall score each applicant numerically according to standards set forth in this chapter.

§16A-6-13. Limitations on permits.

(a) The following limitations apply to approval of permits for growers, processors, and dispensaries, subject to the limitations in subsection (b) of this section:

(1) The bureau may not issue permits to more than 10 growers: *Provided*, That each grower may have up to two locations per permit.

(2) The bureau may not issue permits to more than 10 processors.

(3) The bureau may not issue permits to more than 100 dispensaries.

(4) The bureau may not issue more than 10 individual dispensary permits to one person.

(5) The bureau may not issue more than one individual grower permit to one person.

(6) The bureau may not issue more than one individual processor permit to one person.

(7) A dispensary may only obtain medical cannabis from a grower or processor holding a valid permit under this act.

(8) A grower or processor may only provide medical cannabis to a dispensary holding a valid permit under this act.

(9) A person may hold a grower permit, a processor permit, and a dispensary permit, or any combination thereof, concurrently.

(b) Before a permit may be issued, the bureau shall obtain the following:

(1) A written approval from the board of health for the county in which the permit is to be located and operate business.

(2) A written statement from the county commission for the county in which the permit is to be located and conduct business that the county has not voted, pursuant to §16A-7-6 of this code, to disapprove a medical cannabis organization to be located or operate within the county.

ARTICLE 7. MEDICAL CANNABIS CONTROLS.

§16A-7-4. Laboratory.

(a) A grower and processor shall contract with an independent laboratory to test the medical cannabis produced by the grower or processor. The bureau shall approve the laboratory and require that the laboratory report testing results in a manner as the bureau shall determine, including requiring a test at harvest and a test at final processing. The possession by a laboratory of medical cannabis shall be a lawful use.

(b) All medical cannabis produced pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to testing as directed by the bureau.

(c) The bureau shall ensure that there is sufficient testing capacity to meet patient demand.

(d) All laboratories providing testing pursuant to this section shall be certified to do so by the Office of Laboratory Services.

ARTICLE 8. DISPENSARIES.

§16A-8-1. Dispensing to patients and caregivers.

(a) *General rule.* — A dispensary that has been issued a permit under §16A-6-1 *et seq.* of this code may lawfully dispense medical cannabis to a patient or caregiver upon presentation to the dispensary of a valid identification card for that patient or caregiver. The dispensary shall provide to

the patient or caregiver a receipt, as appropriate. The receipt shall include all of the following:

(1) The name, address, and any identification number assigned to the dispensary by the bureau.

(2) The name and address of the patient and caregiver.

(3) The date the medical cannabis was dispensed.

(4) Any requirement or limitation by the practitioner as to the form of medical cannabis for the patient.

(5) The form and the quantity of medical cannabis dispensed.

(b) *Filing with bureau.* — Prior to dispensing medical cannabis to a patient or caregiver, the dispensary shall file the receipt information with the bureau utilizing the electronic tracking system. When filing receipts under this subsection, the dispensary shall dispose of any electronically recorded certification information as provided by rule.

(c) *Limitations.* — No dispensary may dispense to a patient or caregiver:

(1) A quantity of medical cannabis greater than that which the patient or caregiver is permitted to possess under the certification; or

(2) A form of medical cannabis prohibited by this act.

(d) *Supply.* — When dispensing medical cannabis to a patient or caregiver, the dispensary may not dispense an amount greater than a 30-day supply until the patient has exhausted all but a seven-day supply provided pursuant to §16A-4-5 of this code.

(e) *Verification.* — Prior to dispensing medical cannabis to a patient or caregiver, the dispensary shall verify the information in subsections (d) and (f) of this section by

consulting the electronic tracking system included in the bureau's electronic database established under §16A-3-1 of this code and the dispensary tracking system under §16A-7-1 of this code.

(f) *Form of medical cannabis.* — Medical cannabis dispensed to a patient or caregiver by a dispensary shall conform to any requirement or limitation set by the practitioner as to the form of medical cannabis for the patient.

(g) *Safety insert.* — When a dispensary dispenses medical cannabis to a patient or caregiver, the dispensary shall provide to that patient or caregiver, as appropriate, a safety insert. The insert shall be developed and approved by the bureau. The insert shall provide the following information:

(1) Lawful methods for administering medical cannabis in individual doses.

(2) Any potential dangers stemming from the use of medical cannabis.

(3) How to recognize what may be problematic usage of medical cannabis and how to obtain appropriate services or treatment for problematic usage.

(4) How to prevent or deter the misuse of medical cannabis by minors or others.

(5) Any other information as determined by the bureau.

(h) *Sealed and labeled package.* — Medical cannabis shall be dispensed by a dispensary to a patient or caregiver in a sealed, properly labeled, and child-resistant package. The labeling shall contain the following:

(1) The information required to be included in the receipt provided to the patient or caregiver, as appropriate, by the dispensary.

(2) The packaging date.

(3) Any applicable date by which the medical cannabis should be used.

(4) A warning stating:

"This product is for medicinal use only. Women should not consume during pregnancy or while breastfeeding except on the advice of the practitioner who issued the certification and, in the case of breastfeeding, the infant's pediatrician. This product might impair the ability to drive or operate heavy machinery. Keep out of reach of children."

(5) The amount of individual doses contained within the package and the species and percentage of tetrahydrocannabinol and cannabidiol.

(6) A warning that the medical cannabis must be kept in the original container in which it was dispensed.

(7) A warning that unauthorized use is unlawful and will subject the person to criminal penalties.

(8) Any other information required by the bureau.

ARTICLE 9. TAX ON MEDICAL CANNABIS.

§16A-9-1. Tax on medical cannabis.

(a) *Tax imposed.* — For the privilege of engaging or continuing within this state in the business of a dispensary of medical cannabis, as defined in §16A-2-1 of this code, there is hereby levied upon and collected from every person exercising the privilege a privilege tax.

(b) *Rate and measure of tax.* — The rate of tax imposed by this section shall be 10 percent of the gross receipts the dispensary receives or accrues during the reporting period, depending upon its method of accounting for federal income tax purposes, from the sale of medical cannabis to a patient or to a caregiver. The tax imposed by this section shall not

be added by the dispensary as a separate charge or line item on any sales slip, invoice, receipt, other statement, or memorandum of the price paid by a patient, or caregiver.

(c) *Definitions.* — For purposes of this article:

(1) "Gross receipts" means and includes the gross receipts, however denominated, derived from the sale, distribution, or transfer of medical cannabis, without any deduction on account of the cost of property sold; the cost of materials used to grow, process, or sell the medical cannabis; labor costs, taxes, royalties paid in cash or in kind, or otherwise; interest or discount paid; or any other expense, however denominated.

(2) "Person" includes any natural person, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, or other business entity as those terms are defined in §11-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(d) *Payment of tax and reports.* — Every person subject to the tax imposed by this section shall make quarterly payments under this section for each calendar quarter at the rate prescribed in subsection (b) of this section on the gross receipts received or accrued for the calendar quarter, depending upon the person's method of accounting for federal income tax purposes. The tax shall be due and payable on the 20th day of January, April, July, and October for the preceding calendar quarter. When the payment of tax is due, the person shall file a tax return in a form prescribed by the Tax Commissioner. The Tax Commissioner may require such forms, schedules, and returns and impose such filing and remittance requirements as may be necessary or convenient for the efficient administration of taxes imposed by this section.

(e) *Electronic filing and payment.* — The taxes imposed by this section shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner by electronic funds transfer, unless electronic payment is prohibited by state or federal law. Tax returns required by

this section shall be filed electronically with the Tax Commissioner.

(f) *Liability for reporting and payment of tax.* — If any dispensary does not renew its permit, gives up its permit, loses its permit to operate a dispensary, or otherwise ceases business then any tax, additions to tax, penalties, and interest imposed by this article and by §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code shall become due and payable immediately and the dispensary shall make a final return or returns and pay any tax which is due within 30 days after not renewing its permit, giving up its permit, losing its permit to operate a dispensary, or otherwise ceasing business. The unpaid amount of any tax is a lien upon the property of the dispensary and of its owners.

(g) *Deposits of proceeds.* — All money received from the tax imposed under this section, including any interest and additions to tax paid under §11-10-1 *et seq.*, less the amount of any refunds, shall be deposited into the Medical Cannabis Program Fund.

(h) *Exemption.* — Sales of medical cannabis shall not be subject to the taxes imposed by §11-15-1 *et seq.* and §11-15A-1 *et seq.* of this code if gross receipts from the sale thereof are included in the measure of tax under this section and the tax has been paid as provided in this section. Additionally, sales of medical cannabis shall not be subject to a special district excise tax imposed by a county or municipality pursuant to this code, or to a county or municipal sales tax.

(i) *Information.* —

(1) Persons subject to the tax imposed by this section shall provide to the Tax Commissioner any information the Tax Commissioner may require to administer, collect, and enforce the tax imposed by this section.

(2) Notwithstanding any provision of §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code or of this article to the contrary, the Tax Commissioner, the bureau, and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources may enter into written agreements pursuant to which the Tax Commissioner will disclose to designated employees of the bureau and the Secretary of Health and Human Resources, whether a particular grower, processor, or dispensary is in good standing with the Tax Commissioner, and the bureau and the secretary will disclose to designated employees of the Tax Commissioner information a grower, processor, or dispensary provides to the bureau and the secretary pursuant to this code. Tax information disclosed pursuant to a written agreement shall remain confidential in the hands of the receiver and shall not be disclosable under §29B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code. To the extent feasible, this information should be shared or exchanged electronically.

(j) *Rules.* — The Tax Commissioner may promulgate, in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, such procedural, interpretive, or legislative rules, including emergency rules, as the Tax Commissioner may deem necessary or convenient for the efficient administration of taxes imposed by this §16A-9-1 of this code.

§16A-9-3. Tax on medical cannabis crimes and penalties.

Notwithstanding any provision in §11-9-1 *et seq.* of this code to the contrary, each and every provision of the West Virginia Tax Crimes and Penalties Act set forth in §11-9-1 *et seq.* of this code shall apply to the tax imposed by §16A-9-1 *et seq.* of this code with like effect as if said act were applicable only to the tax imposed by §16A-9-1 *et seq.* of this code and were set forth in extenso in §16A-9-1 *et seq.* of this code.

§16A-9-4. Procedure and administration of the tax on medical cannabis.

Notwithstanding any provision of §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code or any other provision of this code to the contrary, each and every provision of the West Virginia Tax Procedure and Administration Act set forth in §11-10-1 *et seq.* of this code shall apply to the tax imposed by §16A-9-1 *et seq.* with like effect as if the said West Virginia Tax Procedure and Administration Act were applicable only to the tax imposed by §16A-9-1 *et seq.* of this code and were set forth in extenso in §16A-9-1 *et seq.* of this code.

ARTICLE 10. ADMINISTRATION.

§16A-10-6. Emergency rules.

(a) *Promulgation.* — In order to facilitate the prompt implementation of this act, the bureau may promulgate emergency rules that shall expire not later than two years following the publication of the emergency rule.

(b) *Expiration.* — The bureau's authority to adopt emergency rules under subsection (a) of this section shall expire July 1, 2021. Rules adopted after this period shall be promulgated as provided by law.

(c) *Publication.* — The bureau shall begin publishing emergency rules in the State Register no later than six months after the effective date of this section.

ARTICLE 11. MEDICAL CANNABIS ADVISORY BOARD.

§16A-11-1. Advisory board.

(a) The Medical Cannabis Advisory Board is established within the bureau. The advisory board shall consist of the following members:

(1) The commissioner or a designee.

(2) The Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police or a designee.

(3) Four physicians licensed to practice in the state to be appointed by the State Medical Association with one from each of the following specialized medicine:

(A) Family Practice/Neurologist/General Practitioner.

(B) Pain Management.

(C) Oncologist/Palliative Care.

(D) Psychiatrist.

(4) Two physicians who are licensed pursuant to §30-14-1 *et seq.* of this code appointed by the West Virginia Osteopathic Association.

(5) One pharmacist licensed to practice in the state, to be designated by the Board of Pharmacy.

(6) One pharmacologist who has experience in the science of cannabis and a knowledge of the uses, effects, and modes of actions of drugs, to be appointed by the Governor.

(7) One member who is a horticulturalist, to be designated by the West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture.

(8) One member designated by the West Virginia Association of Alcoholism and Drug Counselors.

(9) An attorney licensed in the state who is knowledgeable about medical cannabis laws.

(10) One member appointed by the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute.

(11) One member appointed by the Governor, who shall be a patient, a family or household member of a patient, or a patient advocate.

(b) *Terms.* — Except as provided under subsection (g) of this section, the members shall serve a term of four years or until a successor has been appointed and qualified, but no longer than six months beyond the four-year period.

(c) *Chair.* — The commissioner, or a designee, shall serve as chair of the advisory board.

(d) *Voting; quorum.* — A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of organizing the advisory board, conducting its business, and fulfilling its duties. A vote of the majority of the members present shall be sufficient for all actions of the advisory board unless the bylaws require a greater number.

(e) *Attendance.* — A member of the advisory board who fails to attend three consecutive meetings shall be deemed vacant, unless the commissioner, upon written request from the member, finds that the member should be excused from a meeting for good cause. A member who cannot be physically present may attend meetings via electronic means, including video conference.

(f) *Governance.* — The advisory board shall have the power to prescribe, amend, and repeal bylaws governing the manner in which the business of the advisory board is conducted and the manner in which the duties granted to it are fulfilled. The advisory board may delegate supervision of the administration of advisory board activities to an administrative commissioner and other employees of the bureau as the commissioner shall appoint.

(g) *Initial terms.* — The initial terms of members appointed under subsection (a) of this section shall be for terms of one, two, three, or four years, the particular term of each member to be designated by the commissioner at the

time of appointment. All other members shall serve for a term of four years.

(h) *Vacancy.* — In the event that any member appointed under subsection (a) of this section shall die or resign, or otherwise become disqualified during the member's term of office, a successor shall be appointed in the same way and with the same qualifications as set forth in this section and shall hold office for the unexpired term. An appointed member of the advisory board shall be eligible for reappointment.

(i) *Expenses.* — A member shall receive the amount of reasonable travel, hotel, and other necessary expenses incurred in the performance of the duties of the member in accordance with state rules but shall receive no other compensation for the member's service on the board.

(j) *Duties.* — The advisory board shall have the following duties:

(1) To examine and analyze the statutory and regulatory law relating to medical cannabis within this state.

(2) To examine and analyze the law and events in other states and the nation with respect to medical cannabis.

(3) To accept and review written comments from individuals and organizations about medical cannabis.

(4) To issue, two years after the effective date of this section, a written report to the Governor, the Senate, and the House of Delegates.

(5) The written report under subdivision (4) of this subsection shall include recommendations and findings as to the following:

(A) Whether to change the types of medical professionals who can issue certifications to patients.

(B) Whether to change, add, or reduce the types of medical conditions which qualify as serious medical conditions under this act.

(C) Whether to change the form of medical cannabis permitted under this act.

(D) Whether to change, add, or reduce the number of growers, processors, or dispensaries.

(E) How to ensure affordable patient access to medical cannabis.

(F) Whether to permit medical cannabis to be dispensed in dry leaf or plant form, for administration by vaporization.

(6) The final written report under this section shall be adopted at a public meeting.

ARTICLE 15. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

§16A-15-10. State employee actions and federal law.

(a) No cause of action exists against the state officers and employees in their personal capacities, while acting within the scope of duties contemplated by §16A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code. Any recovery for claims or actions arising from this section is limited solely to the proceeds of available insurance coverage.

(b) To the extent permitted by law, the State of West Virginia shall defend state officers and employees involved in implementing the provisions of §16A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code against any claims, charges, liabilities, or expenses and shall indemnify and hold harmless state officers and employees involved in implementing the provisions of §16A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code provided they acted within the scope of their duties or employment in accordance with the act, including without limitation, defense in any state, federal, or local court and payment of the amount of any

judgment obtained, damages, legal fees, expenses, and any other expenses incurred.

ARTICLE 16. EFFECTIVE DATE.

§16A-16-1. Effective date.

(a) Unless excepted in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, the provisions of this act shall be effective upon passage.

(b) The provisions of §16A-12-1 *et seq.* of this code, and any other criminal provisions or penalties contained in this act, shall not be effective until 90 days from passage of Senate Bill 386 during the 2017 regular session.

(c) Notwithstanding any provision of this chapter to the contrary, no identification cards may be issued to patients until July 1, 2019. The bureau may take sufficient steps through rule to implement the preliminary provisions in preparation for implementation of the provisions of this act.

(d) Notwithstanding the prohibition contained in subsection (c) of this section on the issuance of identification cards until July 1, 2019, the bureau may implement a process for the preregistration of patients with a serious medical condition who have been issued a certification approved by the bureau and to a caregiver designated by the patient: *Provided*, That a patient who is preregistered must nevertheless comply with the provisions of §16A-5-1 of this code and may not be issued an identification card necessary to obtain and use medical cannabis as authorized by this act until July 1, 2019.

CHAPTER 40

(H. B. 144 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Miley and Howell)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §24-2-1n, relating to creating a pilot program to encourage utility infrastructure development to certain lands; declaring certain legislative findings; defining certain terms; requiring the Secretary of Commerce to consider certain applications; allowing the secretary to certify sites that do not currently have adequate public utility services from one or more public utilities regulated by the Public Service Commission as having potential for industrial development; requiring the Public Service Commission to consider certain multi-year comprehensive plans for infrastructure development to construct public utility infrastructure and provide services to industrial development sites as certified by the secretary, in lieu of a proceeding pursuant to §24-2-11 of the code; requiring the applicant to publish the anticipated rates and, if any, rate increase under the proposal, by average percentage and dollar amount for customers within a class of service, as a Class I legal advertisement; providing the Public Service Commission with the authority to allow certain public utility infrastructure projects to recover certain costs via ratemaking; providing for the expiration of certain statutory provisions; and providing for an effective date of the provisions of this section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

§24-2-1n. West Virginia Business Ready Sites Program.

(a) The Legislature finds and declares that:

(1) Presently, West Virginia's available industrial sites lack competitiveness with industrial sites in surrounding states due in part to the lack of presently constructed, adequate utility infrastructure serving sites having industrial potential;

(2) Having construction-ready industrial sites with adequately developed utility infrastructure will increase the state's potential to attract new industrial projects to the state and advance the state's economic development efforts;

(3) Incentivizing utilities to construct adequate public utility infrastructure and provide services to sites identified as having industrial potential will increase the likelihood that such sites are developed; and

(4) Responsibly increasing the number of industrial sites with adequate and fully developed utility services is in the public interest of the state.

(b) Definitions. – For the purpose of this section:

(1) "Industrial Development Agency" means any incorporated organization, foundation, association, or agency to whose members or shareholders no profit inures, which has as its primary function the promotion, encouragement, and development of industrial, commercial, manufacturing, and tourist enterprises or projects in this state;

(2) "Industrial Development Site" means a land development containing a minimum of 50 contiguous acres that is identified by the secretary as having potential for industrial development and that does not currently have

adequate public utility services from one or more public utilities regulated by the Public Service Commission;

(3) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Commerce; and

(4) "Utility" means electricity, natural gas, water, or sewage service provided by a public utility regulated by the Public Service Commission.

(c) The secretary shall identify a pilot program known hereafter as "The West Virginia Business Ready Sites Program" for the purpose of promoting economic development in certain areas of the state by facilitating the construction of utility infrastructure necessary to increase the attractiveness of such sites for industrial development within the state.

(d) An industrial development agency may identify a potential industrial development site and apply to the secretary for approval of the site as an industrial development site.

(e) Upon receipt of the application, the secretary shall determine whether the potential industrial development site has the attributes to accomplish the public purposes of this section; and, upon determining that the site has such attributes, the secretary may certify the site as an industrial development site and communicate such certification to the Public Service Commission.

(f) After the Public Service Commission receives the certification described in subsection (e) of this section, public utilities may file with the Public Service Commission an application for a multi-year comprehensive plan for infrastructure development to construct public utility infrastructure and provide services to industrial development sites. Subject to commission review and approval, a plan may be amended and updated by the public utility as circumstances warrant. The recovery of costs in

support of the plans shall be allowed in the manner set forth in this section if the proposed plans have been found to be prudent and useful.

(g) The application submitted to the Public Service Commission under subsection (f) of this section is in lieu of a proceeding pursuant to §24-2-11 of this code and shall contain the following:

(1) A description of the infrastructure program, in such detail as the Public Service Commission prescribes, and the projected annual amount in approximate line sizes and feet, general location, type, and projected installation timing of the facilities that the applicant proposes to replace, construct, or improve;

(2) The projected net cost, on an annual basis, of the replacement, construction, or improvements;

(3) The projected start date for the infrastructure program;

(4) The projected numbers of potential new customers that may be served by the infrastructure program and the projected annual demand for public utility services of the customers;

(5) The projected debt for the infrastructure program funding and the projected capital structure for infrastructure program funding;

(6) A proposed full and timely cost recovery mechanism consistent with this section; and

(7) Other information the applicant considers relevant or the Public Service Commission requires.

(h) Upon filing of the application, the applicant shall publish, in the form the Public Service Commission directs, which form shall include, but not be limited to, the anticipated rates and, if any, rate increase under the

proposal, by average percentage and dollar amount for customers within a class of service, as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, the publication area to be each county in which service is provided by the public utility, a notice of the filing of the application, and that the commission shall hold a hearing on the application within 90 days of the notice; unless no opposition to the rate change is received by the commission within one week of the proposed hearing date, in which case the hearing can be waived, and issue a final order within 150 days of the application filing date.

(i) Upon notice and hearing, if required by the Public Service Commission, the commission shall approve the infrastructure program and allow expedited recovery of costs related to the expenditures as provided in subsection (j) of this section if the commission finds that the expenditures and the associated rate requirements are just, reasonable, and are not contrary to the public interest: *Provided*, That the commission may approve infrastructure programs undertaken in connection with a maximum of 10 industrial development sites under this program: *Provided, however*, That no more than four industrial development sites shall be located in any one congressional district, as such congressional districts are defined in §1-2-3 of this code on the effective date of this section: *Provided further*, That if the number of congressional districts is reduced to two, that no more than five industrial development sites shall be located in any one congressional district.

(j) Upon Public Service Commission approval, utilities will be authorized to implement the infrastructure programs and to recover related incremental costs, net of contributions to recovery of return, operation and maintenance, depreciation and tax expenses directly attributable to the infrastructure program served by the infrastructure program investments, if any, as provided in the following:

(1) An allowance for return shall be calculated by applying a rate of return to the average planned net

133 incremental increase to rate base attributable to the
134 infrastructure program for the coming year, considering the
135 projected amount and timing of expenditures under the
136 infrastructure program plus any expenditures in previous
137 years of the infrastructure program. The rate of return shall
138 be determined by utilizing the rate of return on equity
139 authorized by the Public Service Commission in the public
140 utility's most recent rate case proceeding or in the case of a
141 settled rate case, a rate of return on equity as determined by
142 the commission, and the projected cost of the public utility's
143 debt during the period of the infrastructure program to
144 determine the weighted cost of capital based upon the public
145 utility's capital structure.

146 (2) Income taxes applicable to the return allowed on the
147 infrastructure program shall be calculated at the statutory
148 tax rate for inclusion in rates.

149 (3) Incremental operation and maintenance,
150 depreciation, and property tax expenses directly attributable
151 to the infrastructure program shall be estimated for the
152 upcoming year.

153 (4) Following Public Service Commission approval of
154 its infrastructure program, a public utility shall place into
155 effect rates that include an increment that recovers the
156 allowance for return, related income taxes at the statutory
157 rate, operation and maintenance, depreciation, and property
158 tax expenses associated with the public utility's estimated
159 infrastructure program investments for the upcoming year,
160 net of contributions to recovery of those incremental costs
161 provided by new customers served by the infrastructure
162 program investments, if any. In each year subsequent to the
163 order approving the infrastructure program and the
164 incremental cost recovery increment, the public utility shall
165 file a petition with the Public Service Commission setting
166 forth a new proposed incremental cost recovery increment
167 based on investments to be made in the subsequent year,
168 plus any under-recovery or minus any over-recovery of

169 actual incremental costs attributable to the infrastructure
170 program investments, for the preceding year.

171 (5) The facilities installed in an application approved by
172 the Public Service Commission shall be considered used
173 and useful as of the date of construction expenditure for rate
174 recovery.

175 (k) The public utility may make any accounting accruals
176 necessary to establish a regulatory asset or liability through
177 which actual incremental costs incurred and costs recovered
178 through the rate mechanism are tracked.

179 (l) Utilities may defer incremental operation and
180 maintenance expenditures attributable to regulatory and
181 compliance-related requirements introduced after the public
182 utility's last rate case proceeding and not included in the
183 public utility's current rates. In a future rate case, the Public
184 Service Commission may allow recovery of the deferred
185 costs amortized over a reasonable period of time to be
186 determined by the commission provided the commission
187 finds that the costs were reasonable and prudently incurred
188 and were not reflected in rates in prior rate cases.

189 (m) The provisions of this section shall expire on
190 December 31, 2024. The expiration of this section shall not
191 affect the full and timely cost recovery of constructing a
192 project that is commenced pursuant to this section prior to
193 such date.

194 (n) The provisions of this section are effective upon
195 passage.

CHAPTER 41

(Com. Sub. for H. B. 193 - By Delegates Ellington, Linville, Waxman, Foster, Howell, Dean, Harshbarger, Summers, Hamrick, Bibby and Cooper)

[Passed July 22, 2019; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18A-2-7a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the statewide school personnel job bank; expanding the purpose of the statewide job bank to include the recruitment and reemployment of professional experienced personnel; requiring that a total compensation statement be contained within a job posting on the statewide job bank; and defining terms.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. SCHOOL PERSONNEL.

§18A-2-7a. Statewide job bank.

(a) The state board shall establish and maintain a statewide job bank to assist the recruitment and reemployment of experienced professional personnel. The job bank shall consist of the following for each county:

(1) A list of the names, qualifications, and contact information of all professional personnel who have been terminated because of a reduction in force, except personnel who have requested in writing that they not be listed in the job bank;

(2) A list of professional positions for which the county is seeking applicants; and

(3) A total compensation statement for each listed position.

(b) The job bank shall be accessible electronically to each county and to individuals on a read only basis, except that each county shall have the capability of editing information for the county and shall be responsible for maintaining current information on the county lists.

(c) The following terms are defined as follows:

(1) "Direct compensation" means base salary and incentives that are provided regularly and consistently.

(2) "Indirect compensation" means any noncash benefit provided to an employee, including, but not limited to:

(A) Health insurance;

(B) Dental insurance;

(C) Vision insurance;

(D) Life insurance;

(E) Disability income protection;

(F) Retirement benefits;

(G) Employer student loan contributions or other employee assistance programs;

(H) Educational benefits;

(I) Childcare;

(J) Relocation benefits; and

(K) Vacation leave, sick leave, and any other form of paid time-off.

(3) "Total compensation statement" means a list of direct and indirect compensation provided or offered for a

39 position, including an itemized list of the types of
40 compensation provided or offered and a cumulative total of
41 the value of all compensation provided or offered.

CHAPTER 42

(S. B. 1009 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §18C-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §18C-3-5, all relating to establishing health professionals student loan programs; providing legislative findings and purpose; establishing a loan repayment program for mental health providers; providing for in-state tuition rates to out-of-state medical students who agree to practice for a specific time within West Virginia; establishing the program eligibility requirements; setting forth repayment schedules; creating application procedures; establishing violations; providing for civil penalties for the failure to complete the required service; creating special revenue accounts; and providing for specific policy provisions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. HEALTH PROFESSIONALS STUDENT LOAN PROGRAMS.

§18C-3-3. Health Sciences Service Program; establishment; administration; eligibility.

(a) There is continued a special revolving fund account under the Higher Education Policy Commission in the State Treasury formerly known as the Health Sciences Scholarship Fund. The fund shall be used to accomplish the purposes of this section. The fund consists of any of the following:

(1) All unexpended health sciences scholarship funds on deposit in the State Treasury on the effective date of this section;

(2) Appropriations as may be provided by the Legislature;

(3) Repayments, including interest as set by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, collected from program award recipients who fail to practice or teach in West Virginia under the terms of an award agreement or the Health Sciences Scholarship Program previously established by this section; and

(4) Amounts that may become available from other sources.

Balances remaining in the fund at the end of the fiscal year do not expire or revert to the general revenue. All costs associated with the administration of this section shall be paid from the Health Sciences Service Program Fund under the direction of the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences.

(b) Award preference is given to West Virginia residents. An individual is eligible for consideration for a Health Sciences Service Program award if the individual:

(1) Either:

(A) Is a fourth-year medical student at the Marshall University School of Medicine, West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, or West Virginia University School of Medicine who has been accepted in a primary care or

emergency medicine internship/residency program in West Virginia; or

(B) Is enrolled in an approved education program at a West Virginia institution leading to a degree or certification in the field of nurse practitioner, nurse educator, nurse midwife, physician assistant, dentist, pharmacist, physical therapist, doctoral clinical psychologist, licensed independent clinical social worker, or other disciplines identified as shortage fields by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences; and

(2) Signs an agreement to practice for at least two years in an underserved area of West Virginia or, if pursuing a master's degree in nursing, signs an agreement to teach at least two years for a school of nursing located in West Virginia, as may be determined by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, after receiving the master's degree.

(c) Program awards shall be in an amount set by the Higher Education Policy Commission of at least $20,000 for medical and dental students and at least $10,000 for all others and may be awarded by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, with the advice of an advisory panel, from the pool of all applicants with a commitment to practice in an underserved area of West Virginia. This section does not grant or guarantee any applicant any right to a program award.

(d) A program award recipient who fails to practice in an underserved area of West Virginia within six months of the completion of his or her training, or who fails to complete his or her training or required teaching, is in breach of contract and is liable for repayment of the program award and any accrued interest. The granting or renewal of a license to practice in West Virginia or to reciprocal licensure in another state based upon licensure in West Virginia is contingent upon beginning payment and continuing payment until complete repayment of the award and any accrued interest. A license, renewal, or reciprocity

may not be granted to any person whose repayment is in arrears. The appropriate regulatory board shall inform all other states where a recipient has reciprocated based upon West Virginia licensure of any refusal to renew licensure in West Virginia as a result of failure to repay the award. This provision shall be explained in bold type in the award contract. Repayment terms, not inconsistent with this section, shall be established by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences pursuant to the rule required by this section.

(e) (1) There is created a student loan repayment program to be administered by the Higher Education Policy Commission. The loan repayment program shall help repay the student loans for mental health providers who provide therapy and counseling services and who reside in West Virginia and work in an underserved area of West Virginia for up to three years beginning January 1, 2020. Individuals participating in the loan repayment program may be eligible to receive up to $30,000 to be dispersed as follows:

(A) A participant may receive a loan repayment program award of up to $10,000 each year in exchange for the participant completing one year of practice in an underserved area.

(B) A participant may not receive a program award for more than three years of practice.

(C) A participant must direct each award received toward the repayment of his or her educational loans.

(2) There is created a special revenue fund account under the Higher Education Policy Commission in the State Treasury known as the Mental Health Provider Student Loan Repayment Fund. The fund shall be used to accomplish the purposes of this subsection. The fund shall consist of appropriations as may be provided by the Legislature. Any moneys remaining in the fund at the close of a fiscal year shall be carried forward for use in the next fiscal year.

(f) *Rule.* — The Higher Education Policy Commission shall promulgate a rule pursuant to §29A-3A-1 *et seq.* of this code to implement and administer this section.

(g) As used in this section:

(1) "Training" means:

(A) The entire degree program or certification program for nurse midwives, nurse practitioners, nurse educators, physician assistants, dentists, pharmacists, physical therapists, doctoral clinical psychologists, licensed independent clinical social workers, and other disciplines identified as shortage fields by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences; or

(B) Completion of a degree program and an approved residency/internship program for students pursuing a degree in medicine or osteopathy, or as otherwise may be designated for such students in the rule required by this section.

(2) "Underserved area" means any primary care health professional shortage area located in the state as determined by the Bureau for Public Health or any additional health professional shortage area, including an emergency medicine professional determined by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences.

§18C-3-5. Nonresident Medical Student Tuition Regularization Program.

(a) The Legislature finds as follows:

(1) There is a critical need for additional primary care physicians practicing in West Virginia;

(2) West Virginia has an aging population and an increasing need for recruiting primary care physicians, and placing primary care physicians in rural areas of the state;

(3) West Virginia has a historically low retention rate of state resident medical students following graduation;

(4) Efforts by the medical schools in West Virginia to increase class sizes as a means of increasing the number of physicians practicing in the state have been largely ineffective;

(5) The primary care field of practice yields a lower wage than other medical specialties and maintains an extreme shortage of practicing physicians, particularly in rural areas of the state;

(6) The high cost of nonresident medical education tuition, and resulting high level of debt incurred by students, often prohibit nonresident graduates who remain in the state from entering a primary care practice;

(7) Many nonresident medical students in West Virginia have indicated that they would be willing to remain in the state as a practicing physician if it was affordable;

(8) A waiver of the state resident to nonresident tuition rate differential would offset the significant student debt load incurred by nonresident medical school graduates;

(9) Beginning a medical practice with up to four years committed to practicing medicine in a specific area has a strong likelihood of influencing a nonresident medical school graduate to remain in that area following the service commitment;

(10) Investing resources, developing professional networks, and creating community ties all serve to create permanent connections to an area for an individual who is not originally from that area; and

(11) Attracting practicing physicians to rural and medically underserved areas of the state will further attract related health care professionals that support a medical

practice or facility and will expand the economic and job-growth potential of such areas.

(b) It is the purpose of this section to offer nonresident medical students a partial tuition waiver as a means of recruiting practicing physicians to underserved areas, and to primary care and practitioner shortage fields in West Virginia.

(c) There is created the Nonresident Medical Student Tuition Regularization Program to be administered by the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences in cooperation with the deans of the three medical schools in the state.

(1) Two nonresident medical students from each medical school in the state are selected annually to participate in the program subject to the exception provided in subsection (f) of this section.

(2) Each student selected is charged the state resident tuition rate for each academic year he or she is enrolled in the program and has the cost differential between the resident and nonresident rates waived by the institution at which he or she is enrolled.

(3) For each academic year that a medical student participates in the program, he or she shall commit to render services for one calendar year as a medical doctor or a doctor of osteopathy in this state in a medically underserved area or in a primary care or specialty practice or field in which there is a shortage of physicians, as determined by the Division of Health at the time the application for the program is submitted. The service commitment begins within six months after graduation from an accredited residency program.

(4) Once selected to participate in the program, a student may continue in the program for as long as he or she continues to meet the eligibility criteria in subsection (d) of this section, for a maximum of four academic years.

(d) An individual is eligible for enrollment or continuation in the program if he or she meets the following criteria:

(1) Is enrolled or accepted for enrollment at the West Virginia University School of Medicine, the Marshall University School of Medicine, or the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in a program leading to the degree of Medical Doctor (M.D.) or Doctor of Osteopathy (D.O.);

(2) Has not yet received one of the degrees provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection;

(3) Satisfies the academic standards established by the program rule;

(4) Is not in default of any previous student loan;

(5) Is a nonresident student who is charged nonresident tuition rates;

(6) Commits to render services for one calendar year as a Medical Doctor or a Doctor of Osteopathy in this state in a medically underserved area or in a primary care or specialty practice or field in which there is a shortage of physicians for each academic year for which he or she participates in the program;

(7) Submits to the commission:

(A) An application for enrollment in the program as provided by the commission; and

(B) A sworn statement of commitment to service on a form provided by the commission for that purpose; and

(8) Other criteria as established by the program rule.

(e) (1) A program participant violates the service commitment if he or she:

(A) Fails to render services as a Medical Doctor or Doctor of Osteopathy in accordance with the sworn statement he or she submitted to the commission. This includes failure to begin serving within six months of completing an accredited residency program, or failure to complete each one-year term to which he or she committed to serve; or

(B) Fails to complete or remain enrolled in the medical education program for which he or she obtained the tuition waiver.

(2) A program participant who violates the service commitment is subject to the following:

(A) He or she shall repay the amount of nonresident tuition charges waived plus interest at a rate of five percent per annum;

(B) The granting or renewal of a license to practice medicine in West Virginia or to reciprocal licensure in another state based upon licensure in West Virginia is contingent upon commencing payment and continuing payment until full repayment of the obligation if the recipient fails to complete the required practice commitment. A license, renewal, or reciprocity may not be granted to an individual whose repayments are in arrears. The West Virginia Board of Medicine shall inform all other states where a recipient has reciprocated based upon West Virginia licensure of any refusal to renew licensure in West Virginia as a result of failure to repay the tuition amount.

(f) The commission shall develop policy to provide for:

(1) A method for selecting annually the six new students to be enrolled in the program, with priority consideration to applicants in the earliest academic years of the medical education program;

(2) A method for selecting greater or fewer than two participants from a single medical school in any year where two suitable applicants are not available at each school;

(3) A method for the applicant to select the service area or specialty to which he or she commits to practice medicine;

(4) A method for developing a mutually agreeable modification to the terms of a participant's service commitment regarding the medically underserved area or primary care or specialty practice or field in which he or she committed to serve under circumstances where the Division of Health determines at the time the participant's service commitment is scheduled to commence that the area is no longer medically underserved or that primary care or service specialty is no longer experiencing a physician shortage;

(5) Provisions for enforcing sanctions against a participant who fails to satisfy the service commitment; and

(6) Such other provisions as the commission considers necessary to administer the program.

(g) There is created in the State Treasury a special revenue account to be designated the Nonresident Medical Student Tuition Regularization Fund which is an interest-bearing account that may be invested and retain all earnings. Expenditures from the fund shall be for the purposes set forth in this section and are to be made only in accordance with appropriation by the Legislature and in accordance with §11B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code.

CHAPTER 43

(H. B. 111 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-14C-30 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to refunds of excise taxes collected from dealers of petroleum products under certain circumstances; and increasing a cap on the amount of tax that may be refunded for fuels lost through evaporation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 14C. MOTOR FUEL EXCISE TAX.

§11-14C-30. Refund of taxes erroneously collected, etc.; refund for gallonage exported or lost through casualty or evaporation; change of rate; petition for refund.

(a) The commissioner is hereby authorized to refund from the funds collected under the provisions of this article any tax, interest, additions to tax or penalties which have been erroneously collected from any person.

(b) Any supplier, distributor, producer, retail dealer, exporter or importer, while the owner of motor fuel in this state, that loses any invoiced gallons of motor fuel through fire, lightning, breakage, flood or other casualty, which gallons having been previously included in the tax by or for that person, may claim a refund of a sum equal to the amount of the flat rate of the tax levied by section five of this article paid upon the invoiced gallons lost.

(c) Any dealer as defined in §47-11C-2 of this code, and any bulk plant in this state that purchases or receives motor fuel in this state upon which the tax levied by section five of this article has been paid, is entitled to an annual refund of the flat rate of the tax levied by section five of this article for invoiced gallons lost through evaporation: *Provided*, That only the owner of the bulk plant that is also the owner of the fuel in the bulk plant may claim this refund for invoiced gallons lost through evaporation. The refund is computed at the flat rate of tax levied per gallon under this article on all invoiced gallons of motor fuel actually lost due to evaporation, not exceeding one percent of the adjusted total accountable gallons, computed as determined by the commissioner.

(d) Every supplier, distributor or producer, retail dealer, exporter or importer is entitled to a refund of the flat rate of the tax levied by section five of this article from this state of the amount resulting from a change of rate decreasing the tax under the provisions of this article on motor fuel on hand and in inventory on the effective date of the rate change, which motor fuel has been included in any previous computation by which the tax levied by this article has been paid.

CHAPTER 44

(H. B. 112 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-21-17 and §11-21-17a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §11-21-37c of said code as contained in Chapter 244, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2019; and to amend

said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-21-12k, all relating generally to the personal income tax; creating additional modification to West Virginia adjusted gross income of shareholder of S corporation, or member of a limited liability company, when engaged in business as a financial organization in this state; setting forth apportionment rules for certain financial organizations; specifying special gross receipts factor; defining terms; making technical corrections; and providing retroactive effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 21. PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

§11-21-12k. Additional modification reducing federal adjusted gross income for shareholders of S corporations and members of limited liability companies engaged in banking business.

(a) For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, the West Virginia adjusted gross income of a taxpayer who is a shareholder of an S corporation, or member of a limited liability company, engaged in business as a financial organization as defined in §11-24-3a(a)(14) of this code, as adjusted pursuant to §11-21-12 of this code, shall be further adjusted by multiplying that portion of the taxpayer's West Virginia adjusted gross income attributable to the taxpayer's proportional share of all items of income, loss, deduction or credit of the S corporation, or limited liability company, as shown on the K-1 received by the taxpayer for the tax year, by a fraction equal to one minus a fraction:

(1) The numerator of which is the sum of the average of the monthly beginning and ending account balances of the S corporation, or limited liability company, during the taxable year (account balances to be determined at cost in the same manner that obligations, investments and loans are reported on Schedule L of Federal Form 1120S, or Schedule L of Form 1065) of the following:

(A) Obligations or securities of the United States, or of any agency, authority, commission or instrumentality of the United States and any other corporation or entity created under the authority of the United States Congress for the purpose of implementing or furthering an objective of national policy;

(B) Obligations or securities of this state and any political subdivision or authority of the state;

(C) Investments or loans primarily secured by mortgages, or deeds of trust, on residential property located in this state and occupied by nontransients; and

(D) Loans primarily secured by a lien or security agreement on residential property in the form of a mobile home, modular home or double-wide located in this state and occupied by nontransients.

(2) The denominator of which is the average of the monthly beginning and ending account balances of the total assets of the S corporation, or limited liability company, which are shown on Schedule L of Federal Form 1120S, which is filed by the S corporation, or on Schedule L of Federal Form 1065, which is filed by the limited liability company, with the Internal Revenue Service: *Provided*, That the adjustment allowed herein shall not be made to the extent that the adjustments provided for in this section are otherwise allowed by §11-21-12 of this code and shall not be made to adjusted gross income of a taxpayer who is a shareholder of an S corporation, or a member of a limited liability company, engaged in banking business if the income of the S corporation, or limited liability company, of which the taxpayer is a shareholder, or member, has been adjusted at the S corporation, or limited liability company, level for the tax year.

(b) *Apportionment rules for organizations engaged in business both within and without this state.* — For taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2018, an S

corporation, or a limited liability company, engaged in business as a financial organization as defined in §11-24-3a(a)(14) of this code, which regularly engages in business both within and without this state shall apportion the business income component of its federal taxable income, after adjustment as provided in subsection (a) of this section, by multiplying the amount thereof by the special gross receipts factor determined as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) *Special gross receipts factor.* — The gross receipts factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total gross receipts of the S corporation, or limited liability company, engaged in business as a financial organization as defined in §11-24-3a(a)(14) of this code from sources within this state during the taxable year and the denominator of which is the total gross receipts of the S corporation, or limited liability company, engaged in business as a financial organization as defined in §11-24-3a(a)(14) of this code wherever earned during the taxable year: *Provided*, That neither the numerator nor the denominator of the gross receipts factor shall include receipts from obligations described in subsection(a) of this section.

(d) *Effective date.* — The provisions of this section are retroactive with respect to tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2018, the law in effect for each of those years is fully preserved as to those years, except as provided in this section.

§11-21-17. Resident partners.

(a) *Partner's modifications.* — In determining West Virginia adjusted gross income and West Virginia taxable income of a resident partner, any modification described in §11-21-12(b), §11-21-12(c), §11-21-12(d), or §11-21-12j of this code, which relates to an item of partnership income, gain, loss or deduction shall be made in accordance with the partner's distributive share, for federal income tax purposes, of the items to which the modifications relate. Where a

partner's distributive share of any such item is not required to be taken into account separately for federal income tax purposes, the partner's distributive share of such item shall be his or her distributive share for federal income tax purposes of partnership taxable income or loss generally.

(b) *Character of items.* — Each item of partnership income, gain, loss, or deduction shall have the same character for a partner under this article as for federal income tax purposes. Where an item is not characterized for federal income tax purposes, it shall have the same character for a partner as if realized directly from the source from which realized by the partnership, or incurred in the same manner as incurred by the partnership.

(c) *West Virginia tax avoidance or evasion.* — Where a partner's distributive share of an item of partnership income, gain, loss or deduction is determined for federal income tax purposes by special provision in the partnership agreement with respect to such item, and where the principal purpose of such provision is the avoidance or evasion of tax under this article, the partner's distributive share of such item, and any modification required with respect thereto shall be determined as if the partnership agreement made no special provision with respect to such item.

(d) *Partnership defined.* – For purposes of this article, "partnership" means a partnership as defined in §11-21A-1 of this code.

§11-21-17a. Resident shareholders of S corporations.

(a) *S corporation shareholder's modifications.* — In determining West Virginia adjusted gross income and West Virginia taxable income of a resident S corporation shareholder, any modification described in §11-21-12(b), §11-21-12(c), §11-21-12(d), or §11-21-12j of this code, which relates to an item of income, gain, loss or deduction shall be made in accordance with the S corporation

shareholder's pro rata share, for federal income tax purposes, of the items to which the modifications relate. Where a shareholder's pro rata share of any such item is not required to be taken into account separately for federal income tax purposes, the shareholder's pro rata share of such item shall be his or her pro rata share for federal income tax purposes of S corporation taxable income or loss generally.

(b) *Character of items.* — Each item of S corporation income, gain, loss or deduction shall have the same character for a shareholder under this article as for federal income tax purposes. Where an item is not characterized for federal income tax purposes, it shall have the same character for a shareholder as if realized directly from the source from which realized by the S corporation, or incurred in the same manner as incurred by the S corporation.

§11-21-37c. Special apportionment rules - financial organizations.

(a) *General.* — The Legislature hereby finds that the general formula set forth in §11-21-37a of this code for apportioning the business income of persons taxable in this state as well as in another state is inappropriate for use by financial organizations due to the particular characteristics of those organizations and the manner in which their business is conducted. Accordingly, the general formula set forth in §11-21-37a of this code may not be used to apportion the business income of financial organizations, which shall use only the apportionment formula and methods set forth in this section.

(b) *West Virginia financial organizations taxable in another state.* — The West Virginia taxable income of a financial organization that has its commercial domicile in this state and which is taxable in another state shall be the sum of: (1) The nonbusiness income component of its adjusted federal taxable income for the taxable year which is allocated to this state as provided §11-21-37a(d) of this code; plus (2) the business income component of its

adjusted federal taxable income for the taxable year which is apportioned to this state as provided in this section.

(c) *Out-of-state financial organizations with business activities in this state.* — The West Virginia taxable income of a financial organization that does not have its commercial domicile in this state but which regularly engages in business in this state shall be the sum of: (1) The nonbusiness income component of its adjusted federal taxable income for the taxable year which is allocated to this state as provided in §11-21-37a(d) of this code; plus (2) the business income component of its adjusted federal taxable income for the taxable year which is apportioned to this state as provided in this section.

(d) *Engaging in business - nexus presumptions and exclusions.* — A financial organization that has its commercial domicile in another state is presumed to be regularly engaging in business in this state if during any year it obtains or solicits business with 20 or more persons within this state, or if the sum of the value of its gross receipts attributable to sources in this state equals or exceeds $100,000. However, gross receipts from the following types of property, as well as those contacts with this state reasonably and exclusively required to evaluate and complete the acquisition or disposition of the property, the servicing of the property or the income from it, the collection of income from the property or the acquisition or liquidation of collateral relating to the property shall not be a factor in determining whether the owner is engaging in business in this state:

(1) An interest in a real estate mortgage investment conduit, a real estate investment trust, or a regulated investment company;

(2) An interest in a loan backed security representing ownership or participation in a pool of promissory notes or certificates of interest that provide for payments in relation

to payments or reasonable projections of payments on the notes or certificates;

(3) An interest in a loan or other asset from which the interest is attributed to a consumer loan, a commercial loan, or a secured commercial loan and in which the payment obligations were solicited and entered into by a person that is independent, and not acting on behalf, of the owner;

(4) An interest in the right to service or collect income from a loan or other asset from which interest on the loan is attributed as a loan described in the previous paragraph and in which the payment obligations were solicited and entered into by a person that is independent, and not acting on behalf, of the owner; or

(5) Any amounts held in an escrow or trust account with respect to property described above.

(e) *Definitions.* — For purposes of this section:

(1) "Commercial domicile" has same meaning as that term is defined in §11-24-3a of this code.

(2) "Deposit" means:

(A) The unpaid balance of money or its equivalent received or held by a financial organization in the usual course of business and for which it has given or it is obligated to give credit, either conditionally or unconditionally, to a commercial, checking, savings, time, or thrift account whether or not advance notice is required to withdraw the credit funds, or which is evidenced by a certificate of deposit, thrift certificate, investment certificate, or certificate of indebtedness, or other similar name, or a check or draft drawn against a deposit account and certified by the financial organization, or a letter of credit or a traveler's check on which the financial organization is primarily liable: *Provided*, That without limiting the generality of the term "money or its equivalent", any account or instrument must be regarded as

evidencing the receipt of the equivalent of money when credited or issued in exchange for checks or drafts or for a promissory note upon which the person obtaining any credit or instrument is primarily or secondarily liable or for a charge against a deposit account or in settlement of checks, drafts or other instruments forwarded to the bank for collection;

(B) Trust funds received or held by the financial organization, whether held in the trust department or held or deposited in any other department of the financial organization;

(C) Money received or held by a financial organization or the credit given for money or its equivalent received or held by a financial organization in the usual course of business for a special or specific purpose, regardless of the legal relationship thereby established, including, without being limited to, escrow funds, funds held as security for an obligation due the financial organization or other, including funds held as dealers' reserves or for securities loaned by the financial organization, funds deposited by a debtor to meet maturing obligations, funds deposited as advance payment on subscriptions to United States government securities, funds held for distribution or purchase of securities, funds held to meet its acceptances or letters of credit, and withheld taxes: *Provided*, That there may not be included funds which are received by the financial organization for immediate application to the reduction of an indebtedness to the receiving financial organization, or under condition that the receipt thereof immediately reduces or extinguishes an indebtedness;

(D) Outstanding drafts, including advice or authorization to charge a financial organization's balance in another organization, cashier's checks, money orders or other officer's checks issued in the usual course of business for any purpose, but not including those issued in payment for services, dividends, or purchases or other costs or expenses of the financial organization itself; and

(E) Money or its equivalent held as a credit balance by a financial organization on behalf of its customer if the entity is engaged in soliciting and holding balances in the regular course of its business.

(3) "Financial organization" has the same meaning as that term is defined in §11-21-3a of this code.

(4) "Sales" means, for purposes of apportionment under this section, the gross receipts of a financial organization included in the gross receipts factor described in subsection (g) of this section, regardless of their source.

(f) *Apportionment rules.* — A financial organization which regularly engages in business both within and without this state shall apportion the business income component of its federal taxable income, after adjustment as provided in §11-21-12j of this code, by multiplying the amount thereof by the special gross receipts factor determined as provided in subsection (g) of this section.

(g) *Special gross receipts factor.* — The gross receipts factor is a fraction, the numerator of which is the total gross receipts of the taxpayer from sources within this state during the taxable year and the denominator of which is the total gross receipts of the taxpayer wherever earned during the taxable year: *Provided*, That neither the numerator nor the denominator of the gross receipts factor shall include receipts from obligations described in §11-21-12j(a)(1)(A), (B), (C), and (D) of this code.

(1) *Numerator.* — The numerator of the gross receipts factor shall include, in addition to items otherwise includable in the sales factor under §11-21-37a of this code, the following:

(A) Receipts from the lease or rental of real or tangible personal property whether as the economic equivalent of an extension of credit or otherwise if the property is located in this state;

(B) Interest income and other receipts from assets in the nature of loans which are secured primarily by real estate or tangible personal property if the security property is located in the state. If the security property is also located in one or more other states, receipts are presumed to be from sources within this state, subject to rebuttal based upon factors described in rules to be proposed by the Tax Commissioner, including the factor that the proceeds of any loans were applied and used by the borrower entirely outside of this state;

(C) Interest income and other receipts from consumer loans which are unsecured or are secured by intangible property that are made to residents of this state, whether at a place of business, by traveling loan officer, by mail, by telephone or other electronic means or otherwise;

(D) Interest income and other receipts from commercial loans and installment obligations which are unsecured or are secured by intangible property if and to the extent that the borrower or debtor is a resident of or is domiciled in this state: *Provided*, That receipts are presumed to be from sources in this state and the presumption may be overcome by reference to factors described in rules to be proposed by the Tax Commissioner, including the factor that the proceeds of any loans were applied and used by the borrower entirely outside of this state;

(E) Interest income and other receipts from a financial organization's syndication and participation in loans, under the rules set forth in paragraphs (A) through (D), inclusive, of this subdivision;

(F) Interest income and other receipts, including service charges, from financial institution credit card and travel and entertainment credit card receivables and credit card holders' fees if the borrower or debtor is a resident of this state or if the billings for any receipts are regularly sent to an address in this state;

(G) Merchant discount income derived from financial institution credit card holder transactions with a merchant located in this state. When merchants are located within and without this state, only receipts from merchant discounts attributable to sales made from locations within this state shall be attributed to this state. It shall be presumed, subject to rebuttal, that the location of a merchant is the address shown on the invoice submitted by the merchant to the taxpayer;

(H) Gross receipts from the performance of services are attributed to this state if:

(i) The service receipts are loan-related fees, including loan servicing fees, and the borrower resides in this state, except that, at the taxpayer's election, receipts from loan-related fees which are either: (I) "Pooled" or aggregated for collective financial accounting treatment; or (II) manually written as nonrecurring extraordinary charges to be processed directly to the general ledger may either be attributed to a state based upon the borrowers' residences or upon the ratio that total interest sourced to that state bears to total interest from all sources;

(ii) The service receipts are deposit-related fees and the depositor resides in this state, except that, at the taxpayer's election, receipts from deposit-related fees which are either: (I) "Pooled" or aggregated for collective financial accounting treatment; or (II) manually written as nonrecurring extraordinary charges to be processed directly to the general ledger may either be attributed to a state based upon the depositors' residences or upon the ratio that total deposits sourced to that state bears to total deposits from all sources;

(iii) The service receipt is a brokerage fee and the account holder is a resident of this state;

(iv) The service receipts are fees related to estate or trust services and the estate's decedent was a resident of this state

immediately before death or the grantor who either funded or established the trust is a resident of this state; or

(v) The service receipt is associated with the performance of any other service not identified above and the service is performed for an individual resident of, or for a corporation or other business domiciled in, this state and the economic benefit of service is received in this state;

(I) Gross receipts from the issuance of travelers' checks and money orders if the checks and money orders are purchased in this state; and

(J) All other receipts not attributed by this rule to a state in which the taxpayer is taxable shall be attributed pursuant to the laws of the state of the taxpayer's commercial domicile.

(2) *Denominator.* — The denominator of the gross receipts factor shall include all of the taxpayer's gross receipts from transactions of the kind included in the numerator, but without regard to their source or situs.

(h) *Effective date.* — The provisions of this section enacted in 2019 shall apply to all taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2018.

CHAPTER 45

(H. B. 113 – By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed June 24, 2019; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on June 28, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-21-12l; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-24-6b, all relating generally to establishing tax incentive for new business activity in qualified opportunity zones; establishing eligibility requirements; defining terms; specifying duration of tax benefit; providing rulemaking authority; providing for termination of program; and specifying effective dates.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 21. PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

§11-21-12l. Decreasing modification reducing federal adjusted gross income for the net income of Qualified Opportunity Zone Businesses; effective date.

(a) *General.* — In addition to the amounts authorized to be subtracted from federal adjusted gross income pursuant to §11-21-12(c) of this code, a modification reducing federal adjusted gross income is hereby authorized for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2019:

(1) For individuals: in an amount equal to and limited to that portion of net income included in federal adjusted gross income by a taxpayer in the taxable year that is directly derived from a qualified opportunity zone business located

in a qualified opportunity zone which is located in West Virginia;

(2) For partners or members of limited liability companies that are treated as partnerships for federal income tax purposes, and other pass-through entities: in an amount equal to and limited to that portion of the distributive share of the partner or member that is attributable to the flow through income directly derived from the qualified opportunity zone business located in West Virginia. A similar rule applies to shareholders in corporations taxed under subchapter S of the Internal Revenue Code.

(b) *Eligibility.* — To be entitled to modification provided for in subsection (a) of this section, the qualified opportunity zone business must be a newly registered business in West Virginia registered on or after January 1, 2019 and before January 1, 2024. Limited liability companies that are treated as corporations for purposes of the federal income tax and West Virginia corporation net income tax and which otherwise qualify in accordance with the requirements and limitations of this section may qualify for the modification authorized under this section.

(c) *Duration.* — The modification provided for in subsection (a) of this section shall apply with respect to a taxpayer for a 10-year period beginning with the first full taxable year during which the qualified opportunity zone business first qualifies as a qualified opportunity zone business, or the first year in which the qualified opportunity zone business reports net income: *Provided*, That the qualified opportunity zone business first qualifies as such on or after January 1, 2019.

(d) The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of the United States as defined in §11-21-9 or §11-24-3 of this code.

(2) "Newly registered business" means a business that is formed on or after January 1, 2019 and before January 1, 2024, that is first required to obtain a business registration certificate under §11-12-1 *et seq.* of this code from the Tax Commissioner on or after January 1, 2019 and before January 1, 2024, and which is not the reorganization of a business that existed prior to January 1, 2019.

(3) "Reorganization of an existing business" includes, but is not limited to, a change in the name of a business, a change in the form of doing business such as, but not limited to, a proprietorship that reorganizes as a partnership or other business entity, a subsidiary that becomes a stand-alone business entity, a division of an existing business that becomes a separate business and any other similar type of business reorganization. For purposes of this definition any entity or organization that is determined by the Tax Commissioner to be an alter ego, nominee or instrumentality of an existing or previously existing business, as determined in accordance with the criteria specified in §11-12-5 of this code is a business resulting from reorganization of an existing business.

(4) "Qualified Opportunity Zone Business" means Qualified Opportunity Zone Business as that term is defined in Section §1400Z-2 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(5) "Qualified Opportunity Zone" means Qualified Opportunity Zone as that term is defined in Section 1400Z-1 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(e) *Rules.* — The Tax Commissioner may propose legislative rules, or promulgate interpretive or procedural rules, as the commissioner deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and to provide guidelines and requirements to ensure uniform administrative practices statewide to effect the intent of this section. All rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(f) *Effective date; expiration of modification, preservation of entitlement.* — The modification authorized by this section becomes effective and is authorized for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2019: *Provided*, That unless sooner terminated by law, the modification authorized by this section will terminate for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2024, and no new entitlement to the modification is authorized thereafter; *Provided however,* That those taxpayers shall retain that entitlement for the remainder of the 10-year application period over which the original entitlement applies, if the Taxpayer otherwise remains in compliance with the requirements of this section.

ARTICLE 24. CORPORATION NET INCOME TAX.

§11-24-6b. Decreasing modification reducing federal taxable income for the income of Qualified Opportunity Zone Businesses; effective date.

(a) *General.* — In addition to the amounts authorized to be subtracted from federal taxable income pursuant to §11-24-6(c) of this code, there shall be subtracted from federal taxable income, an amount equal to net income included in federal taxable income by a corporate taxpayer in a taxable year that is ordinary income derived from a qualified opportunity zone business located in a qualified opportunity zone located in West Virginia.

(b) *Eligibility.* — To be entitled to modification provided for in subsection (a), the qualified opportunity zone business must be a newly registered business in West Virginia registered on or after January 1, 2019 and before January 1, 2024. Limited liability companies that are treated as corporations for purposes of the federal income tax and West Virginia corporation net income tax and which otherwise qualify in accordance with the requirements and limitations of this section may qualify for the modification authorized under this section.

(c) *Duration.* — The modification provided for in subsection (a) of this section shall apply with respect to a taxpayer during the 10-year period beginning with the first full taxable year during which the qualified opportunity zone business first qualifies as a qualified opportunity zone business, or the first year in which the qualified opportunity zone business reports net income: *Provided*, That the qualified opportunity zone business first qualifies as such on or after January 1, 2019.

(d) The following definitions apply to this section:

(1) "Newly registered business" means a business that is formed on or after January 1, 2019 and before January 1, 2024, that is first required to obtain a business registration certificate under §11-12-1 *et seq.* of this code from the Tax Commissioner on or after January 1, 2019 and before January 1, 2024, and which is not the reorganization of a business that existed prior to January 1, 2019.

(2) "Reorganization of an existing business" includes, but is not limited to, a change in the name of a business, a change in the form of doing business such as, but not limited to, a proprietorship that reorganizes as a partnership or other business entity, a subsidiary that becomes a stand-alone business entity, a division of an existing business that becomes a separate business and any other similar type of business reorganization. For purposes of this definition any entity or organization that is determined by the Tax Commissioner to be an alter ego, nominee or instrumentality of an existing or previously existing business, as determined in accordance with the criteria specified in §11-12-5 of this code is a business resulting from reorganization of an existing business.

(3) "Qualified Opportunity Zone Business" means Qualified Opportunity Zone Business as that term is defined in Section 1400Z-2 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(4) "Qualified Opportunity Zone" means Qualified Opportunity Zone as that term is defined in Section 1400Z-1 of the Internal Revenue Code.

(e) *Rules.* — The Tax Commissioner may propose legislative rules, or promulgate interpretive or procedural rules, as the commissioner deems necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and to provide guidelines and requirements to ensure uniform administrative practices statewide to effect the intent of this section. All rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(f) *Effective date; expiration of modification, preservation of entitlement.* — The modification authorized by this section becomes effective and is authorized for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2019: *Provided*, That unless sooner terminated by law, the modification authorized by this section will terminate for taxable years beginning on and after January 1, 2024, and no new entitlement to the modification is authorized thereafter; *Provided however,* That those taxpayers shall retain that entitlement for the remainder of the 10-year application period over which the original entitlement applies, if the Taxpayer otherwise remains in compliance with the requirements of this section.

CHAPTER 46

(H. B. 207 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed July 23, 2019; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on July 30, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-13-2q, relating to exempting from business and occupation tax certain merchant power plants; defining merchant power plant; specifying conditions for exemption from tax; and specifying effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13. BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX.

§11-13-2q. Exemption from tax for certain merchant power plants.

(a) *Exemption.* — Notwithstanding the provisions of §11-13-2o of this code, for taxable years, or portions thereof, beginning on or after January 1, 2020, a merchant power plant is exempt from the business and occupation tax imposed by §11-13-2o of this code on the generating capacity of its generating units located in this state that are owned or leased by the taxpayer and used to generate electricity. When the January 1, 2020, date falls during a taxpayer's taxable year, the tax liability for that year shall be prorated based upon the number of months before and the number of months beginning on and after January 1, 2020, in that taxable year.

(b) *Definition.* — As used in this section, the term "merchant power plant" means an electricity generating plant in this state that (1) Is not subject to regulation of its rates by the West Virginia Public Service Commission, (2) sells electricity it generates only on the wholesale market, (3) does not sell electricity pursuant to one or more long-term sales contracts, and (4) does not sell electricity to retail consumers.

CHAPTER 47

(H. B. 117 - By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Miley)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed May 20, 2019; in effect ninety days from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on May 29, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §11-13-3f of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §11-13F-1, §11-13F-2 and §11-13F-3 of said code; to amend and reenact §11-24-11 of said code; to amend and reenact §24-2A-5 of said code; and to amend and reenact §24-3-2 of said code, all relating to reduced rates for low-income residential customers of privately owned sewer and combined water and sewer utilities; providing for application for reduced rates; updating definitions; authorizing certain tax credits for cost of using reduced rates; and providing for retroactive effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 11. TAXATION.

ARTICLE 13. BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX.

§11-13-3f. Tax credit for reducing electric, natural gas or water utility rates for low-income residential customers; regulations.

(a) There shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this article, the cost of providing electric or natural gas or water utility service, or any combination of electric, natural gas or water utility services, at reduced rates to qualified low-income residential customers which has not been reimbursed by any other means.

(b) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by this article, the cost of providing sewer service or sewer and water service at reduced rates to qualified low-income residential customers which has not been reimbursed by any other means.

(c) The tax commissioner may prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this section, of §11-13F-1 *et seq.* of this code and of §11-24-11 of this code.

ARTICLE 13F. BUSINESS AND OCCUPATION TAX CREDIT FOR REDUCING ELECTRIC, NATURAL GAS, WATER, AND SEWER UTILITY RATES FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS.

§11-13F-1. Legislative Purpose.

In order to reimburse public utilities for the revenue deficiencies that they incur in providing special reduced electric or natural gas, water, or sewer utility rates to low-income residential customers in accordance with the provisions of §24-2A-1 *et seq.* of this code, there is hereby provided a business and occupation tax credit for reducing electric, natural gas, water, or sewer utility rates for low-income residential customers.

§11-13F-2. Definitions.

(a) Any term used in this article shall have the same meaning as when used in a comparable context in §11-13-1 *et seq.* of this code, unless a different meaning is clearly required by the context of its use or by definition in this article.

(b) For purposes of this article, the term:

(1) "Eligible taxpayer" means a utility which has provided electric or natural gas service, or both electric and natural gas service; or water or sewer service, or both water and sewer service, to qualified low-income residential customers at special reduced rates.

(2) "Cost of providing utility service at special reduced rates" means the amount certified by the Public Service Commission under the provisions of §24-2A-2 of this code as the revenue deficiency incurred by a public utility in providing special reduced rates for electric, natural gas, sewer, or water utility service as required by §24-2A-1 or approved pursuant to §24-2A-5 of this code.

(3) "Special reduced rates" means the rates ordered by the Public Service Commission under the authority of §24-2A-1 or §24-2A-5 of this code.

(4) "Qualified low-income residential customers" means those utility customers eligible to receive electric, natural gas, water, or sewer utility service under special reduced rates.

§11-13F-3. Amount of credit.

(a) There shall be allowed to any eligible taxpayer a credit against the business and occupation taxes imposed by §11-13-1 *et seq.* of this code, for reducing electric and natural gas utility rates. The amount of the credit available to any eligible taxpayer shall be equal to its cost of providing electric or natural gas service, or both, at special

reduced rates as certified by the Public Service Commission under the provisions of §24-2A-2 of this code to qualified residential customers, less any reimbursement of said cost which the taxpayer has received through any other means.

(b) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, there shall be allowed to any eligible taxpayer a credit against the business and occupation taxes imposed by §11-13-1 *et seq.* of this code, for reducing rates for providing electric, natural gas, sewer or water service, or any combination of electric, natural gas, water or sewer services. The amount of the credit available to any eligible taxpayer shall be equal to its cost of providing utility service at special reduced rates to qualified residential customers, less any reimbursement of said cost which the taxpayer has received through any other means.

ARTICLE 24. CORPORATION NET INCOME TAX.

§11-24-11. Credit for reducing electric or natural gas or water utility rates for low-income residential customers.

(a) *General.* — A credit shall be allowed against the primary tax liability of an eligible taxpayer under this article for the cost of providing electric or natural gas or water utility service, or any combination of electric, natural gas or water utility services, at special reduced rates to qualified low-income residential customers which has not been reimbursed by any other means.

(b) *Definitions.* — For purposes of this section, the term:

(1) "Eligible taxpayer" means a utility which has provided electric, natural gas, water, or sewer utility service, or any combination of electric, natural gas, water, or sewer utility services, to qualified low-income residential customers at special reduced rates.

(2) "Cost of providing electric or natural gas or water or sewer utility service, or any combination of electric, or natural gas, or water, or sewer utility services, at special

reduced rates" means the amount certified by the Public Service Commission under the provisions of §24-2A-2 of this code, as the revenue deficiency incurred by a public utility in providing special reduced rates for electric or natural gas or water or sewer utility service, or any combination of electric, natural gas or water or sewer utility services, as required by §24-2A-1 of this code or authorized by §24-2A-5 of this code.

(3) "Special reduced rates" means the rates ordered or approved by the Public Service Commission under the authority of §24-2A-1 or §24-2A-5 of this code.

(4) "Qualified low-income residential customers" means those utility customers eligible to receive electric, or natural gas, or water or sewer utility service, or any combination of electric, natural gas, or water or sewer utility services, under special reduced rates.

(c) *Amount of credit.* —

(1) For tax years beginning prior to January 1, 2019, the amount of the credit available to any eligible taxpayer shall be equal to its cost of providing electric, or natural gas, or water utility service, or any combination of electric, natural gas, or water utility services, at special reduced rates to qualified residential customers, less any reimbursement of said cost which the taxpayer has received through any other means.

(2) For tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2019, the amount of the credit available to any eligible taxpayer shall be equal to its cost of providing electric, or natural gas, or water or sewer utility service, or any combination of electric, natural gas, water or sewer utility services, at special reduced rates to qualified residential customers, less any reimbursement of said cost which the taxpayer has received through any other means.

(d) When credit may be taken. — An eligible taxpayer may claim a credit allowed under this section on its annual return for the taxable year in which it receives certification of the amount of its revenue deficiency from the Public Service Commission.

Notwithstanding the provisions of §11-24-16 of this code to the contrary, no credit may be claimed on any declaration of estimated tax filed for such taxable year prior to July 1 of such taxable year. Such credit may be claimed on a declaration or amended declaration filed on or after that date but only if the amount certified will not be recovered by application of the business and occupation tax credit allowed by §11-13-3f of this code. In such event, only that amount not recovered by that credit may be considered or taken as a credit when estimating the tax due under this article. In no event may the eligible taxpayer recover more than 100 percent of its revenue deficiency as certified by the Public Service Commission.

(e) *Application of credit.* — The credit allowable by this section for a taxable year is not subject to the 50 percent limitation specified in §11-24-9 of this code. Notwithstanding the provisions of §11-13F-4 of this code, any unused credit may be carried over and applied against business and occupation taxes in the manner specified in §11-13F-5 of this code.

(f) *Copy of certification order.* — A copy of a certification order from the Public Service Commission shall be attached to any annual return under this article on which a credit allowed by this section is taken.

ARTICLE 2A. REDUCED RATES FOR LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS OF ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS, WATER, OR SEWER.

§24-2A-5. Special rates for certain water, sewer, or combined water and sewer utility customers.

(a) The commission may authorize a privately owned water, sewer or combined water and sewer utility to voluntarily implement a rate design featuring reduced rates and charges for service for residential utility customers receiving:

(1) Social Security Supplemental Security Income (SSI);

(2) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF);

(3) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families-Unemployed Parent Program (TANF-UP); or

(4) Assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) if they are sixty years of age or older.

(b) The special reduced rate offered by each water, sewer, or combined water and sewer utility to its eligible customers shall be a percentage less, which shall be approved by the commission, than the rate that would be applicable to such customers if they were not receiving any of the four forms of assistance that confer eligibility for the special reduced rates approved by the commission: *Provided*, That such rate reduction shall not exceed 20 percent of the rate that would be otherwise applicable.

(c) Before any individual may qualify to receive the special reduced rates, the following requirements must be met:

(1) The special reduced rates may apply only to current customers or to those persons who subsequently become customers in their own right. If an SSI, TANF, TANF-UP or SNAP recipient is living in a household that is served under the name of a person who is not an SSI, TANF, TANF-UP or SNAP recipient, that service may not be changed or have been changed subsequent to July 1 , 2011, to the name of the SSI, TANF, TANF-UP or SNAP

recipient in order to qualify for service under the special reduced rates.

(2) The burden of proving eligibility for the special reduced rates shall be on the customer requesting such rates. The Department of Health and Human Resources shall establish by rules and procedures:

(A) To inform persons receiving any of the four forms of assistance that confer eligibility for the special reduced rates about the availability of the special reduced rates;

(B) To assist applicants for the special reduced rates in proving their eligibility therefor; and

(C) To assist water, sewer, or combined water and sewer utilities offering the special reduced rates in determining on a continuing basis the eligibility therefor of persons receiving or applying for such rates.

The commission shall establish rules and procedures for the application for and provision of service under the special reduced rates and for the determination and certification of revenue deficiencies resulting from the special reduced rates.

(3) In order to provide each eligible residential utility customer the special reduced rates, each utility providing the special reduced rates shall credit against amounts otherwise owed by each customer an amount equal to the difference between the total amount that each customer was actually billed during the previous month and the total amount that each customer would have been entitled to be billed under the special reduced rates. Each credit shall be fully reflected on the first bill issued to each customer after approval of each customer's application for the special reduced rates, except in cases where the interval between the approval and the issuance of the next bill is so short that it is administratively impracticable to do so, in which case, such credits shall be fully reflected on the second bill issued to each customer after approval of that customer's application. If the interval between the approval and the

issuance of the next bill is 15 days or more, it may not be deemed administratively impracticable to reflect the credit on the customer's first bill.

ARTICLE 3. DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF PUBLIC UTILITIES SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS OF COMMISSION.

§24-3-2. Discrimination prohibited.

No public utility subject to the provisions of this chapter shall, directly or indirectly, by any special rate, rebate, drawback or other device or method, charge, demand, collect or receive from any person, firm or corporation, a greater or less compensation, for any service rendered or to be rendered, than it charges, demands, collects, or receives from any other person, firm or corporation for doing a like and contemporaneous service under the same or substantially similar circumstances and conditions.

It shall be unlawful for any public utility subject to the provisions of this chapter to make or give any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any particular person, company, firm, corporation or locality, or any particular character of traffic or service, in any respect whatsoever, or to subject any particular person, firm, corporation, company or locality, or any particular character of traffic or service, to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage in any respect whatsoever.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the commission from:

(a) Authorizing or requiring any rate design consistent with the purposes and policies set forth in §24-2A-1 *et seq.* of this code; or

(b) Authorizing a private water, sewer, or combined water and sewer utility to voluntarily implement a rate design featuring reduced rates and charges for service to qualifying low-income residential customers.

LEGISLATURE OF WEST VIRGINIA

ACTS

SECOND EXTRAORDINARY SESSION, 2019

CHAPTER 1

(S. B. 2003 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed November 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on November 20, 2019.]

AN ACT supplementing, amending, decreasing, and increasing items of the existing appropriations from the State Road Fund to the Department of Transportation, Division of Highways, fund 9017, fiscal year 2020, organization 0803, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Whereas, West Virginia voters ratified an amendment to the constitution, Roads to Prosperity Amendment of 2017, to provide for matching available federal funds for highway and bridge construction in this state and for general highway and secondary roads and bridge construction or improvements in each of the 55 counties in this state, by the issuance of bonds not to exceed $1.6 billion in the aggregate to be paid for from the State Road Fund and the collection of annual state taxes as provided by the Legislature by general law; and

Whereas, The Legislature adopted House Concurrent Resolution 104 allowing the state to sell the fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 allocations of such bonds for an additional $600 million, during the 2019 First Extraordinary Session; and

Whereas, The costs of issuance and additional debt service required for the issuance of the fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 allocations of such bonds were contemplated by the passage of Senate Bill 1006, increasing funding for the State Road Fund, during the 2017 First Extraordinary Session; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature the Executive Budget Document, dated January 9, 2019, which included a statement of the State Road Fund, setting forth therein the cash balances and investments as of July 1, 2018, and further included the estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2019, less regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2019 and that also sets forth therein the estimated cash balance and investments as of July 1, 2019, and further included the estimate of revenues for the fiscal year 2020, less regular appropriations for the fiscal year 2020; and

Whereas, The Governor submitted to the Legislature an Executive Message, dated June 17, 2019, which included a fiscal year 2019 revised estimate of revenues for the State Road Fund and a statement of the State Fund, State Road Fund for the fiscal years 2019 and 2020; and

Whereas, It appears from the Statement of the State Road Fund there now remains an unappropriated balance in the State Treasury which is available for appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020; therefore

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the total appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020, to fund 9017, fiscal year 2020, organization 0803, be supplemented and amended by decreasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 2. Appropriations from state road fund.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 – Division of Highways –

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 9017 FY 2020 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	State Road Fund
1	2	Maintenance.....	23700	$ 25,000,000

2 And, That the total appropriation for the fiscal year
3 ending June 30, 2020, to fund 9017, fiscal year 2020,
4 organization 0803, be supplemented and amended by
5 increasing an existing item of appropriation as follows:

TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.

Sec. 2. Appropriations from state road fund.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

111 – Division of Highways –

(WV Code Chapters 17 and 17C)

Fund 9017 FY 2020 Org 0803

			Appro-priation	State Road Fund
1	1	Debt Service	04000	$ 25,000,000

CHAPTER 2

(S. B. 2002 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed November 18, 2019; in effect from passage.]
[Approved by the Governor on November 20, 2019.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-11-26b; and to amend and reenact §62-16-5 and §62-16-6 of said code, all relating generally to certain convictions or charges for motor vehicle traffic control offenses and records thereof; providing that courts are without jurisdiction to expunge convictions for motor vehicle traffic control offenses for any person who held a commercial driver's license or permit or was operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the offense; providing that a court or other tribunal may not enter an order or take any action that will prevent a motor vehicle traffic control offense from appearing on an offender's commercial driving record; clarifying that courts are without jurisdiction to expunge convictions for offenses involving driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; providing that a court or other tribunal may not enter an order or take any action with regard to a motor vehicle traffic control offense in violation of applicable federal laws and regulations; providing that a person charged with any crime involving driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs is not eligible to participate in a military service member court program, except where the offender is eligible to participate in the Motor Vehicle Test and Lock Program; clarifying that military service member courts may not enter an order or take any action that will prevent a motor vehicle traffic control offense from appearing on an offender's commercial driving record; limiting the authority of military service member courts to expunge certain

motor vehicle traffic offenses; and clarifying that a military service member court may not enter an order or take any action with regard to a motor vehicle traffic control offense in violation of applicable federal laws and regulations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 61. CRIMES AND THEIR PUNISHMENT.

ARTICLE 11. GENERAL PROVISIONS CONCERNING CRIMES.

§61-11-26b. Limitation on expungement for certain motor vehicle traffic control offenses.

(a) Notwithstanding the provisions of §61-11-26, §61-11-26a, and §62-16-1 *et seq.* of this code, no court or other tribunal has the authority to:

(1) Order the expungement of a conviction for a motor vehicle traffic control violation for a person who held a commercial driver's license or permit or who was operating a commercial motor vehicle at the time of the offense;

(2) Enter an order or take any action to mask a charge or conviction, divert a charge, or modify the records of a charge or conviction in a manner that would prevent an offense from appearing on an offender's commercial driving record; or

(3) Order the expungement of any conviction for driving under the influence of alcohol or controlled substances, as provided in §61-11-26 of this code.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, no court or other tribunal may enter an order or take any other action related to a motor vehicle traffic control offense that violates any applicable federal law or regulation, including, but not limited to:

(1) The requirements or conditions contained in 23 U.S.C. §164 *et seq.* and 23 C.F.R. §1275 *et seq.*; and

(2) The requirements or conditions contained in 49 U.S.C. §31311 and 49 C.F.R. §384 *et seq.*

CHAPTER 62. CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

ARTICLE 16. THE MILITARY SERVICE MEMBERS COURT ACT.

§62-16-5. Eligibility; written agreement.

(a) *Eligibility.* — A military service member offender, who is eligible for probation based upon the nature of the offense for which he or she has been charged, and in consideration of his or her criminal background, if any, may, upon application, be admitted into a court program only upon the agreement of the prosecutor and the offender. Additionally, the court must also determine whether the offense is in any way attributable to the offender's military service.

(b) A military service member offender may not participate in the court program if he or she has been charged with any of the following offenses:

(1) A sexual offense, including, but not limited to, a violation of the felony provisions of §61-8-1 *et seq.*, §61-8B-1 *et seq.*, §61-8C-1 *et seq.*, or §61-8D-1 *et seq.* of this code, or a criminal offense where the judge has made a written finding that the offense was sexually motivated;

(2) A felony violation of the provisions of §61-8D-2, §61-8D-2a, or §61-8D-3a of this code;

(3) A felony violation of the provisions of §61-14-3 or §61-14-4 of this code;

(4) A felony violation of §61-2-9b or §61-2-14 of this code;

(5) A felony violation of §61-2-28 of this code;

(6) If he or she has previously been convicted in this state, another state, or in a federal court for any of the offenses enumerated above; or

(7) A violation of §17C-5-2 of this code, except where the military service member is eligible to participate in the Motor Vehicle Test and Lock Program under §17C-5A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(c) *Written agreement.* — Participation in a Military Service Members Court program, with the consent of both the prosecutor and the court, shall be pursuant to a written agreement. This written agreement shall set forth all of the agreed upon provisions to allow the military service member offender to proceed in the court. The offender shall execute a written agreement with the court as to his or her participation in the program and shall agree to all of the terms and conditions of the program, including, but not limited to, the possibility of sanctions or incarceration for failing to comply with the terms of the program.

(d) Upon successful completion of a court program, the judge shall dispose of an offender's case in the manner prescribed by the written agreement and by the applicable policies and procedures adopted by the court. Disposition may include, but is not limited to, withholding criminal charges, dismissal of charges, probation, deferred sentencing, suspended sentencing, split sentencing, or a reduced period of incarceration: *Provided*, That a military service member court may not enter an order or take any action to mask a charge or conviction, divert a charge, or modify the records of a charge or conviction in a manner that would prevent an offense from appearing on an offender's commercial driving record.

§62-16-6. Procedure; mental health and substance abuse treatment; violation; termination.

(a) *Procedure.* — Upon application, the court shall order the offender to submit to an eligibility screening, a mental

3 health and drug/alcohol screening, and an assessment by the
4 Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Veterans Justice
5 Outreach to provide information on the offender's mental
6 health or military service member status. The assessment
7 shall include a risks assessment and be based, in part, upon
8 the known availability of treatment resources available to the
9 court. The assessment shall also include recommendations
10 for treatment of the conditions which are indicating a need
11 for treatment under the monitoring of the court and reflect a
12 level of risk assessed for the individual seeking admission.
13 The court is not required to order an assessment if a valid
14 screening or assessment related to the present charge(s)
15 pending against the offender has been completed within the
16 previous 60 days.

17 (b) The court may order the offender to complete
18 substance abuse treatment in an outpatient, inpatient,
19 residential, or jail-based custodial treatment program, order
20 the offender to complete mental health counseling in an
21 inpatient or outpatient basis, comply with all physician
22 recommendations regarding medications, and complete all
23 follow-up treatment. The mental health issues for which
24 treatment may be provided include, but are not limited to,
25 post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and
26 depression.

27 (c) *Mental health and substance abuse treatment.* —
28 The court may maintain a network of mental health
29 treatment programs and substance abuse treatment
30 programs representing a continuum of graduated mental
31 health and substance abuse treatment options commensurate
32 with the needs of offenders; these shall include programs
33 with the VA, the department, this state, and community-
34 based programs.

35 (d) *Violation.* — The court may impose reasonable
36 sanctions under the offender's written agreement, including,
37 but not limited to, imprisonment or dismissal of the offender
38 from the program. The court may reinstate criminal
39 proceedings against him or her for a violation of probation,

conditional discharge, or supervision hearing, if the court finds from the evidence presented, including, but not limited to, the reports or proffers of proof from the court's professionals that:

(1) The offender is not performing satisfactorily in the assigned program;

(2) The offender is not benefitting from educational treatment or rehabilitation;

(3) The offender has engaged in criminal conduct rendering him or her unsuitable for the program; or

(4) The offender has otherwise violated the terms and conditions of the program or his or her sentence or is for any reason unable to participate.

(e) *Termination.* — Upon successful completion of the terms and conditions of the program, the court may dismiss the original charges against the offender, successfully terminate the offender's sentence, permit the offender to enter into a plea agreement to a lesser offense, or otherwise discharge him or her from any further proceedings against him or her in the original prosecution.

(f) Nothing in this article shall be construed to permit a military service member court or any other court or tribunal to enter an order or take any other action that violates any applicable federal law or regulation, including, but not limited to:

(1) The requirements or conditions contained in 23 U.S.C. §164 *et seq.* and 23 C.F.R. §1275 *et seq.*; and

(2) The requirements or conditions contained in 49 U.S.C. 31311 and 49 C.F.R. §384 *et seq.*

CHAPTER 3

(S. B. 2001 - By Senators Carmichael (Mr. President) and Prezioso)
[By Request of the Executive]

[Passed December 16, 2019; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §5B-2E-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to extending tax credits for certain tourism development and expansion projects authorized under the West Virginia Tourism Development Act.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2E. WEST VIRGINIA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT ACT.

§5B-2E-11. Termination.

The development office may not accept any new project application after December 31, 2025, and all applications submitted prior to January 1, 2026, that have not been previously approved or not approved, shall be deemed not approved and shall be null and void as of January 1, 2026.

DISPOSITION OF BILLS ENACTED

The first column gives the number of the bill and the second column gives the chapter assigned to it.

Regular Session, 2020

HOUSE BILLS

Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter
2086	128	4077	177	4361	197
2149	330	4088	143	4362	90
2338	218	4090	133	4363	257
2419	98	4091	134	4365	178
2478	312	4092	40	4375	249
2497	256	4094	41	4377	321
2602	89	4099	245	4378	317
2646	204	4102	274	4381	233
2696	162	4103	275	4388	6
2892	99	4108	276	4393	91
2922	55	4113	333	4396	73
2924	163	4123	295	4406	32
2961	271	4129	103	4409	298
2967	331	4130	166	4410	33
3039	102	4137	126	4411	34
3098	5	4141	167	4412	179
3127	116	4146	193	4414	279
4001	104	4149	194	4415	42
4003	190	4161	277	4417	250
4004	164	4165	118	4421	334
4007	272	4166	100	4422	280
4009	273	4176	296	4434	281
4015	36	4178	297	4437	288
4017	314	4179	278	4438	150
4019	332	4198	195	4439	335
4020	244	4217	211	4444	299
4022	176	4252	212	4447	282
4026	219	4275	213	4450	220
4030	350	4352	246	4452	336
4042	165	4353	247	4461	168
4058	191	4354	56	4464	221
4061	192	4359	196	4466	198
4069	117	4360	248	4470	43

DISPOSITION OF BILLS ENACTED

The first column gives the number of the bill and the second column gives the chapter assigned to it.

Regular Session, 2020

HOUSE BILLS
-Continued-

Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter
4474	222	4558	337	4697	9
4476	300	4559	2	4714	340
4477	199	4560	8	4715	301
4478	223	4576	145	4717	54
4480	214	4581	170	4729	180
4484	135	4582	49	4737	181
4494	283	4585	45	4747	171
4496	200	4587	306	4748	310
4497	119	4589	351	4749	252
4499	234	4593	127	4760	152
4501	62	4600	74	4773	287
4502	201	4601	75	4777	253
4504	224	4607	251	4780	121
4509	169	4611	147	4790	122
4510	63	4615	92	4797	77
4513	235	4618	93	4803	254
4514	236	4619	37	4804	320
4515	237	4620	285	4823	308
4519	120	4621	35	4852	58
4522	225	4633	76	4859	302
4523	238	4634	105	4882	10
4524	7	4647	151	4925	123
4529	144	4655	286	4929	146
4530	226	4661	307	4946	78
4543	202	4665	289	4955	148
4544	57	4666	344	4958	227
4546	318	4668	94	4959	106
4551	44	4691	319	4969	338
4557	284	4693	4		

DISPOSITION OF BILLS ENACTED

The first column gives the number of the bill and the second column gives the chapter assigned to it.

Regular Session, 2020

SENATE BILLS

Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter
6	341	291	186	551	345
16	339	300	322	552	130
35	80	303	110	554	140
42	107	307	323	560	261
46	81	308	85	562	87
51	101	310	324	569	12
94	124	311	96	570	13
96	64	312	240	571	14
120	129	321	138	572	15
125	95	322	155	573	16
130	342	323	205	575	38
136	311	339	206	576	157
144	82	357	207	578	326
150	11	364	208	579	303
175	153	449	209	583	304
180	215	470	228	586	158
193	154	472	59	589	346
195	136	487	229	597	79
201	83	490	86	600	290
202	309	491	3	610	159
208	52	500	230	614	111
209	65	501	231	615	48
213	137	510	139	620	60
225	66	517	232	623	315
230	108	522	46	641	187
232	149	523	68	642	53
240	258	529	47	647	262
241	109	530	325	648	182
261	84	532	69	649	70
269	259	534	255	651	31
281	67	544	241	652	210
288	260	545	156	654	71
289	348	547	203	657	160

DISPOSITION OF BILLS ENACTED

The first column gives the number of the bill and the second column gives the chapter assigned to it.

Regular Session, 2020

SENATE BILLS
-Continued-

Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter
660	343	729	72	802	305
662	141	734	313	803	21
664	263	738	161	804	22
668	142	739	347	805	23
670	1	740	185	806	24
676	291	746	264	810	132
678	61	747	265	812	25
686	216	748	266	816	329
689	239	749	267	830	51
690	217	750	114	838	293
691	316	760	173	839	175
703	172	765	88	842	115
705	349	767	268	843	26
706	242	770	243	844	27
707	112	778	18	845	28
711	39	779	19	846	270
712	292	780	20	848	97
716	183	781	174	849	189
717	184	785	125	851	294
719	327	787	188	852	29
723	113	789	50	853	30
725	17	793	328		
727	131	797	269		

DISPOSITION OF BILLS ENACTED

The first column gives the chapter assigned and the second column gives the bill number.

Regular Session, 2020

House Bills = 4 Digits Senate Bills = 1-3 Digits

Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.
1	670	33	4410	65	209
2	4559	34	4411	66	225
3	491	35	4621	67	281
4	4693	36	4015	68	523
5	3098	37	4619	69	532
6	4388	38	575	70	649
7	4524	39	711	71	654
8	4560	40	4092	72	729
9	4697	41	4094	73	4396
10	4882	42	4415	74	4600
11	150	43	4470	75	4601
12	569	44	4551	76	4633
13	570	45	4585	77	4797
14	571	46	522	78	4946
15	572	47	529	79	597
16	573	48	615	80	35
17	725	49	4582	81	46
18	778	50	789	82	144
19	779	51	830	83	201
20	780	52	208	84	261
21	803	53	642	85	308
22	804	54	4717	86	490
23	805	55	2922	87	562
24	806	56	4354	88	765
25	812	57	4544	89	2602
26	843	58	4852	90	4362
27	844	59	472	91	4393
28	845	60	620	92	4615
29	852	61	678	93	4618
30	853	62	4501	94	4668
31	651	63	4510	95	125
32	4406	64	96	96	311

DISPOSITION OF BILLS ENACTED

The first column gives the chapter assigned and the second column gives the bill number.

Regular Session, 2020
-Continued-

House Bills = 4 Digits Senate Bills = 1-3 Digits

Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.	Chapter	Bill No.
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