

1 **ENROLLED**

2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

3 FOR

4 **Senate Bill No. 618**

5 (SENATORS SNYDER, BEACH AND BROWNING, *original sponsors*)

6 \_\_\_\_\_  
7 [Passed March 10, 2012; in effect ninety days from passage.]  
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11  
12 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
13 adding thereto a new section, designated §7-5-2a; to amend and  
14 reenact §8-10-2a and §8-10-2b of said code; to amend and  
15 reenact §8-13-15 of said code; and to amend and reenact §50-3-  
16 2a of said code, all relating to certain payments to  
17 governmental units; authorizing the use of credit or check  
18 cards for certain payments; authorizing a fee to be collected  
19 for the use of credit or check cards; requiring governmental  
20 units to obtain bids for credit card services; requiring  
21 compliance with rules of issuer of credit cards; requiring  
22 governmental units to wait ninety days after failure to pay  
23 costs, fines, forfeitures, restitutions or penalties or  
24 failure to appear before notifying the Division of Motor

1 Vehicles; requiring costs, fines, forfeitures, restitutions or  
2 penalties imposed by magistrate courts to be paid in full; and  
3 establishing the priority of crediting payments to certain  
4 funds.

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

6 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended  
7 by adding thereto a new section, designated §7-5-2a; that 8-10-2a  
8 and §8-10-2b of said code be amended and reenacted; that §8-13-15  
9 of said code be amended and reenacted; and that §50-3-2a of said  
10 code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

11 **CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.**

12 **ARTICLE 5. FISCAL AFFAIRS.**

13 **§7-5-2a. Credit cards as form of payment.**

14 Notwithstanding any code provision to the contrary, county  
15 officers required or authorized to collect fines, fees, taxes or  
16 other moneys provided by law may accept credit or check cards as a  
17 form of payment. County officers may set a fee to be added to each  
18 transaction equal to the charge paid by the county officers for the  
19 use of the credit or check card by the payor: *Provided*, That the  
20 county officer is required to obtain three bids and use the lowest  
21 qualified bid received: *Provided, however*, That if a county officer  
22 has obtained credit card services, another county officer may be  
23 added to that service without receiving bids for that service. The  
24 county officer shall disclose the amount of the fee to the payor

1 prior to the transaction and no other fees for the use of a credit  
2 or check card may be imposed upon the payor. Acceptance of a  
3 credit or check card as a form of payment shall be in accordance  
4 with the rules and requirements set forth by the credit or check  
5 card provider.

6 **CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.**

7 **ARTICLE 10. POWERS AND DUTIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS.**

8 **§8-10-2a. Payment of fines by credit cards or payment plan;  
9 suspension of driver's license for failure to pay motor  
10 vehicle violation fines or to appear in court.**

11 (a) A municipal court may accept credit cards in payment of  
12 all costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties. A municipal court may  
13 collect a substantial portion of all costs, fines, forfeitures or  
14 penalties at the time such amount is imposed by the court so long  
15 as the court requires the balance to be paid within one hundred  
16 eighty days from the date of judgment and in accordance with a  
17 payment plan: *Provided*, That all costs, fines, forfeitures or  
18 penalties imposed by the municipal court upon a nonresident of this  
19 state by judgment entered upon a conviction for a motor vehicle  
20 violation defined in section three-a, article three, chapter  
21 seventeen-b of this code must be paid within eighty days from the  
22 date of judgment. The payment plan shall specify: (1) The number  
23 of additional payments to be made; (2) the dates on which such  
24 payments and amounts shall be made; and (3) amounts due on such

1 dates.

2 (b) If costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties imposed by the  
3 municipal court for motor vehicle violations as defined in section  
4 three-a, article three, chapter seventeen-b of this code are not  
5 paid within the time limits imposed pursuant to subsection (a) of  
6 this section, or if a person fails to appear or otherwise respond  
7 in court when charged with a motor vehicle violation as defined in  
8 section three-a, article three, chapter seventeen-b of this code,  
9 the municipal court must notify the Commissioner of the Division of  
10 Motor Vehicles of such failure to pay or failure to appear:  
11 *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of this code to  
12 the contrary, the municipal court shall wait at least ninety days  
13 from the date that all costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties are  
14 due in full or, for failure to appear or otherwise respond, ninety  
15 days from the date of such failure before notifying the Division of  
16 Motor Vehicles thereof.

17 **§8-10-2b. Suspension of licenses for failure to pay fines and**  
18 **costs or failure to appear in court.**

19 (a) If costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties imposed by the  
20 municipal court upon conviction of a person for a criminal offense  
21 as defined in section three-c, article three, chapter seventeen-b  
22 of this code are not paid in full within one hundred eighty days of  
23 the judgment, the municipal court clerk or, upon a judgment  
24 rendered on appeal, the circuit clerk shall notify the Division of

1 Motor Vehicles of the failure to pay: *Provided*, That  
2 notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary,  
3 for residents of this state, the municipal court shall wait at  
4 least ninety days from the date that all costs, fines, forfeitures  
5 or penalties are due in full before notifying the Division of Motor  
6 Vehicles thereof: *Provided, however*, That at the time the judgment  
7 is imposed, the judge shall provide the person with written notice  
8 that failure to pay the same as ordered may result in the  
9 withholding of any income tax refund due the licensee and shall  
10 result in the suspension of the person's license or privilege to  
11 operate a motor vehicle in this state and that the suspension could  
12 result in the cancellation of, the failure to renew or the failure  
13 to issue an automobile insurance policy providing coverage for the  
14 person or the person's family: *Provided further*, That the failure  
15 of the judge to provide notice does not affect the validity of any  
16 suspension of the person's license or privilege to operate a motor  
17 vehicle in this state. For purposes of this section, payment shall  
18 be stayed during any period an appeal from the conviction which  
19 resulted in the imposition of costs, fines, forfeitures or  
20 penalties is pending.

21       Upon notice, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the  
22 person's driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle  
23 in this state until such time that the costs, fines, forfeitures or  
24 penalties are paid.

1 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the  
2 contrary, the notice of the failure to pay costs, fines,  
3 forfeitures or penalties may not be given where the municipal  
4 court, upon application of the person upon whom the costs, fines,  
5 forfeitures or penalties were imposed filed prior to the expiration  
6 of the period within which these are required to be paid, enters an  
7 order finding that the person is financially unable to pay all or  
8 a portion of the costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties: *Provided,*  
9 That where the municipal court, upon finding that the person is  
10 financially unable to pay a portion of the costs, fines,  
11 forfeitures or penalties, requires the person to pay the remaining  
12 portion, the municipal court shall notify the Division of Motor  
13 Vehicles of the person's failure to pay if not paid within the  
14 period of time ordered by the court.

15 (c) If a person charged with a criminal offense fails to  
16 appear or otherwise respond in court, the municipal court clerk  
17 shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles of the failure to  
18 appear: *Provided,* That notwithstanding any other provision of this  
19 code to the contrary, for residents of this state, the municipal  
20 court clerk shall wait at least ninety days from the date of the  
21 person's failure to appear or otherwise respond before notifying  
22 the Division of Motor Vehicles thereof. Upon notice, the Division  
23 of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the person's driver's license or  
24 privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state until such time

1 that the person appears as required.

2 (d) On and after July 1, 2008, if the licensee fails to  
3 respond to the Division of Motor Vehicles order of suspension  
4 within ninety days of receipt of the certified letter, the  
5 municipal court of original jurisdiction shall notify the Tax  
6 Commissioner that the licensee has failed to pay the costs, fines,  
7 forfeitures or penalties assessed by the court or has failed to  
8 respond to the citation. The notice provided by the municipal  
9 court to the Tax Commissioner must include the licensee's Social  
10 Security number. The Tax Commissioner, or his or her designee,  
11 shall withhold from any personal income tax refund due and owing to  
12 a licensee the costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties due to the  
13 municipality, the Tax Commissioner's administration fee for the  
14 withholding and any and all fees that the municipal court would  
15 have collected had the licensee appeared: *Provided*, That the Tax  
16 Commissioner's administration fee may not exceed \$25: *Provided*,  
17 *however*, That the Tax Commissioner may change this maximum amount  
18 limitation for this fee for fiscal years beginning on or after July  
19 1, 2008, by legislative rule promulgated in accordance with the  
20 provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code:  
21 *Provided further*, That the administrative fees deducted shall be  
22 deposited in the special revolving fund hereby created in the State  
23 Treasury, which shall be designated as the Municipal Fines and Fees  
24 Collection Fund, and the Tax Commissioner shall make such

1 expenditures from the fund as he or she deems appropriate for the  
2 administration of this subsection. After deduction of the Tax  
3 Commissioner's administration fee, the Tax Commissioner shall remit  
4 to the municipality all remaining amounts withheld pursuant to this  
5 section and the municipal court shall distribute applicable costs,  
6 fines, forfeitures or penalties owed to the municipality, the  
7 Regional Jail Authority Fund, the Crime Victims Compensation Fund,  
8 the Community Corrections Fund, the Governor's subcommittee on law-  
9 enforcement training or any other fund or payee that may be  
10 applicable. After the costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties are  
11 withheld, the Tax Commissioner shall refund any remaining balance  
12 due the licensee. If the refund is not sufficient to cover all the  
13 costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties being withheld pursuant to  
14 this section, the Tax Commissioner's administration fee shall be  
15 retained by the Tax Commissioner and the remaining money withheld  
16 shall be remitted by the Tax Commissioner to the municipality. The  
17 municipality shall then allocate the money so remitted to the  
18 municipality in the following manner: (1) Any costs, fines,  
19 forfeitures or penalties due to the municipality; (2) seventy-five  
20 percent of the remaining balance shall be paid to the appropriate  
21 Regional Jail Authority Fund; (3) fifteen percent of the remaining  
22 balance shall be paid to the Crime Victims Compensation Fund; (4)  
23 six percent of the remaining balance shall be paid into the  
24 Community Corrections Fund; and (5) the final four percent shall be

1 paid to the Governor's subcommittee on law-enforcement training.  
2 When the costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties exceed the  
3 licensee's income tax refund, the Tax Commissioner shall withhold  
4 the remaining balance in subsequent years until such time as the  
5 costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties owed are paid in full. The  
6 Tax Commissioner shall remit the moneys that he or she collects to  
7 the appropriate municipality no later than July 1, of each year.  
8 If the municipal court or the municipality subsequently determines  
9 that any such costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties were  
10 erroneously imposed, the municipality shall promptly notify the Tax  
11 Commissioner. If the refunds have not been withheld and remitted,  
12 the Tax Commissioner may not withhold and remit payment to the  
13 municipality and shall so inform the municipality. If the refunds  
14 have already been withheld and remitted to the municipality, the  
15 Tax Commissioner shall so inform the municipality. In either  
16 event, all refunds for erroneously imposed costs, fines,  
17 forfeitures or penalties shall be made by the municipality and not  
18 by the Tax Commissioner.

19       (e) *Rules and effective date.* -- The Tax Commissioner may  
20 promulgate such rules as may be useful or necessary to carry out  
21 the purpose of this section and to implement the intent of the  
22 Legislature, to be effective on July 1, 2008. Rules shall be  
23 promulgated in accordance with the provisions of article three,  
24 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code.

1 (f) On or before July 1, 2005, the municipal court may elect  
2 to reissue notice as provided in subsections (a) and (c) of this  
3 section to the Division of Motor Vehicles for persons who remain  
4 noncompliant: *Provided*, That the person was convicted or failed to  
5 appear on or after January 1, 1993. If the original notification  
6 cannot be located, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall accept an  
7 additional or duplicate notice from the municipal court clerk.

8 **ARTICLE 13. TAXATION AND FINANCE.**

9 PART V. COLLECTION OF MUNICIPAL TAXES, FINES AND ASSESSMENTS.

10 **§8-13-15. Collection of municipal taxes, fines and assessments.**

11 Unless otherwise provided, it shall be the duty of the  
12 treasurer of the municipality or other individual who may be  
13 designated by general law, by charter provisions or by the  
14 governing body, to collect and promptly pay into the municipal  
15 treasury all taxes, fines, special assessments or other moneys due  
16 the municipality. All such taxes, fines, special assessments  
17 (except assessments for permanent or semipermanent public  
18 improvements) and other moneys due the municipality are hereby  
19 declared to be debts owing to the municipality, for which the  
20 debtor shall be personally liable, and the treasurer, or other  
21 individual so designated, may enforce this liability by appropriate  
22 civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction, and is hereby  
23 vested with the same rights to distrain for the same as is vested  
24 in the sheriff for the collection of taxes. Such treasurer or

1 other individual shall give a bond, conditioned according to law,  
2 in such penalty and with such security as the governing body may  
3 require: *Provided*, That nothing in this article shall prohibit the  
4 payment of taxes, fines, special assessments or other moneys due  
5 the municipality by credit or check card. The municipality or  
6 municipal court may set a fee to be added to each transaction equal  
7 to the charge paid by the municipality for the use of the credit or  
8 check card by the debtor: *Provided*, That the municipality is  
9 required to obtain three bids and use the lowest qualified bid  
10 received. *Provided, however*, That if a municipality has obtained  
11 credit card services, the municipal court may be added to that  
12 service without receiving bids for that service. The municipality  
13 or municipal court shall disclose the amount of the fee to the  
14 debtor prior to the transaction and no other fees for the use of a  
15 credit or check card may be imposed upon the debtor. Acceptance of  
16 a credit or check card as a form of payment shall be in accordance  
17 with the rules and requirements set forth by the credit or check  
18 card provider. Allowing for the collection of these funds by  
19 credit or check card shall be at the discretion of the municipality  
20 or municipal court.

21 **CHAPTER 50. MAGISTRATE COURTS.**

22 **ARTICLE 3. COSTS, FINES AND RECORDS.**

23 **§50-3-2a. Payment by credit card or payment plan; suspension of**  
24 **licenses for failure to make payments or appear or respond;**

1           **restitution; liens.**

2           (a) A magistrate court may accept credit cards in payment of  
3 all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties in  
4 accordance with rules promulgated by the Supreme Court of Appeals.  
5 Any charges made by the credit company shall be paid by the person  
6 responsible for paying the cost, fine, forfeiture or penalty.

7           (b) Unless otherwise required by law, a magistrate court may  
8 collect a portion of any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures,  
9 restitution or penalties at the time the amount is imposed by the  
10 court so long as the court requires the balance to be paid in  
11 accordance with a payment plan which specifies: (1) The number of  
12 payments to be made; (2) the dates on which the payments are due;  
13 and (3) the amounts due for each payment. The written agreement  
14 represents the minimum payments and the last date those payments  
15 may be made. The obligor or the obligor's agent may accelerate the  
16 payment schedule at any time by paying any additional portion of  
17 any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties.

18           (c) (1) If any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or  
19 penalties imposed by the magistrate court in a criminal case are  
20 not paid within one hundred eighty days from the date of judgment  
21 and the expiration of any stay of execution, the magistrate court  
22 clerk or, upon judgment rendered on appeal, the circuit clerk shall  
23 notify the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles of the  
24 failure to pay: *Provided*, That in a criminal case in which a

1 nonresident of this state is convicted of a motor vehicle violation  
2 defined in section three-a, article three, chapter seventeen-b of  
3 this code, the appropriate clerk shall notify the Division of Motor  
4 Vehicles of the failure to pay within eighty days from the date of  
5 judgment and expiration of any stay of execution. Upon notice, the  
6 Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend any privilege the person  
7 defaulting on payment may have to operate a motor vehicle in this  
8 state, including any driver's license issued to the person by the  
9 Division of Motor Vehicles, until all costs, fines, fees,  
10 forfeitures, restitution or penalties are paid in full. The  
11 suspension shall be imposed in accordance with the provisions of  
12 section six, article three, chapter seventeen-b of this code:  
13 *Provided*, That any person who has had his or her license to operate  
14 a motor vehicle in this state suspended pursuant to this subsection  
15 and his or her failure to pay is based upon inability to pay, may,  
16 if he or she is employed on a full- or part-time basis, petition to  
17 the circuit court for an order authorizing him or her to operate a  
18 motor vehicle solely for employment purposes. Upon a showing  
19 satisfactory to the court of inability to pay, employment and  
20 compliance with other applicable motor vehicle laws, the court  
21 shall issue an order granting relief.

22       (2) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
23 subsection, if any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or  
24 penalties imposed or ordered by the magistrate court for a hunting

1 violation described in chapter twenty of this code are not paid  
2 within one hundred eighty days from the date of judgment and the  
3 expiration of any stay of execution, the magistrate court clerk or,  
4 upon a judgment rendered on appeal, the circuit clerk shall notify  
5 the Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure to  
6 pay. Upon notice, the Director of the Division of Natural  
7 Resources shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear  
8 or otherwise respond may have to hunt in this state, including any  
9 hunting license issued to the person by the Division of Natural  
10 Resources, until all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures,  
11 restitution or penalties are paid in full.

12 (3) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
13 subsection, if any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or  
14 penalties imposed or ordered by the magistrate court for a fishing  
15 violation described in chapter twenty of this code are not paid  
16 within one hundred eighty days from the date of judgment and the  
17 expiration of any stay of execution, the magistrate court clerk or,  
18 upon a judgment rendered on appeal, the circuit clerk shall notify  
19 the Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure to  
20 pay. Upon notice, the Director of the Division of Natural  
21 Resources shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear  
22 or otherwise respond may have to fish in this state, including any  
23 fishing license issued to the person by the Division of Natural  
24 Resources, until all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures,

1 restitution or penalties are paid in full.

2       (d) (1) If a person charged with any criminal violation of  
3 this code fails to appear or otherwise respond in court, the  
4 magistrate court shall notify the Commissioner of the Division of  
5 Motor Vehicles thereof within ninety days of the scheduled date to  
6 appear unless the person sooner appears or otherwise responds in  
7 court to the satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon notice, the  
8 Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend any privilege the person  
9 failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to operate a motor  
10 vehicle in this state, including any driver's license issued to the  
11 person by the Division of Motor Vehicles, until final judgment in  
12 the case and, if a judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines,  
13 fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties imposed are paid in  
14 full. The suspension shall be imposed in accordance with the  
15 provisions of section six, article three, chapter seventeen-b of  
16 this code.

17       (2) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
18 subsection, if a person charged with any hunting violation  
19 described in chapter twenty of this code fails to appear or  
20 otherwise respond in court, the magistrate court shall notify the  
21 Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure  
22 thereof within fifteen days of the scheduled date to appear unless  
23 the person sooner appears or otherwise responds in court to the  
24 satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon notice, the Director of the

1 Division of Natural Resources shall suspend any privilege the  
2 person failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to hunt in  
3 this state, including any hunting license issued to the person by  
4 the Division of Natural Resources, until final judgment in the case  
5 and, if a judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines, fees,  
6 forfeitures, restitution or penalties imposed are paid in full.

7 (3) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this  
8 subsection, if a person charged with any fishing violation  
9 described in chapter twenty of this code fails to appear or  
10 otherwise respond in court, the magistrate court shall notify the  
11 Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure  
12 thereof within fifteen days of the scheduled date to appear unless  
13 the person sooner appears or otherwise responds in court to the  
14 satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon notice, the Director of the  
15 Division of Natural Resources shall suspend any privilege the  
16 person failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to fish in  
17 this state, including any fishing license issued to the person by  
18 the Division of Natural Resources, until final judgment in the case  
19 and, if a judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines, fees,  
20 forfeitures, restitution or penalties imposed are paid in full.

21 (e) In every criminal case which involves a misdemeanor  
22 violation, a magistrate may order restitution where appropriate  
23 when rendering judgment.

24 (f) (1) If all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or

1 penalties imposed by a magistrate court and ordered to be paid are  
2 not paid within one hundred eighty days from the date of judgment  
3 and the expiration of any stay of execution, the clerk of the  
4 magistrate court shall notify the prosecuting attorney of the  
5 county of nonpayment and provide the prosecuting attorney with an  
6 abstract of judgment. The prosecuting attorney shall file the  
7 abstract of judgment in the office of the clerk of the county  
8 commission in the county where the defendant was convicted and in  
9 any county wherein the defendant resides or owns property. The  
10 clerks of the county commissions shall record and index the  
11 abstracts of judgment without charge or fee to the prosecuting  
12 attorney and when so recorded, the amount stated to be owing in the  
13 abstract shall constitute a lien against all property of the  
14 defendant.

15 (2) When all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution  
16 or penalties described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for  
17 which an abstract of judgment has been recorded are paid in full,  
18 the clerk of the magistrate court shall notify the prosecuting  
19 attorney of the county of payment and provide the prosecuting  
20 attorney with a release of judgment, prepared in accordance with  
21 the provisions of section one, article twelve, chapter thirty-eight  
22 of this code, for filing and recordation pursuant to the provisions  
23 of this subdivision. Upon receipt from the clerk, the prosecuting  
24 attorney shall file the release of judgment in the office of the

1 clerk of the county commission in each county where an abstract of  
2 the judgment was recorded. The clerks of the county commissions  
3 shall record and index the release of judgment without charge or  
4 fee to the prosecuting attorney.

5 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the  
6 contrary, except as authorized by this section, payments of all  
7 costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties imposed  
8 by the magistrate court in civil or criminal matters shall be made  
9 in full. Partial payments of costs, fines, fees, forfeitures,  
10 restitution or penalties made pursuant to this section shall be  
11 credited to amounts due in the following order:

- 12 (1) Regional Jail Fund;
- 13 (2) Worthless Check Payee;
- 14 (3) Restitution;
- 15 (4) Magistrate Court Fund;
- 16 (5) Worthless Check Fund;
- 17 (6) Per Diem Regional Jail Fee;
- 18 (7) Community Corrections Fund;
- 19 (8) Regional Jail Operational Fund;
- 20 (9) Law Enforcement Training Fund;
- 21 (10) Crime Victims Compensation Fund;
- 22 (11) Court Security Fund;
- 23 (12) Courthouse Improvement Fund;
- 24 (13) Litter Control Fund;

- 1 (14) Sheriff arrest fee;
- 2 (15) Teen Court Fund;
- 3 (16) Other costs, if any;
- 4 (17) Fine.