1	Senate Bill No. 203
2	(By Senators Williams, Beach, Sypolt, Plymale and Nohe)
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4	[Introduced February 18, 2013; referred to the Committee on
5	Natural Resources; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.]
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10	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$20-2-8$ of the Code of West Virginia,
11	1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact $61-3B-1$ of said
12	code, all relating to posting of property to prohibit hunting
13	or trespassing; and allowing posting by clearly visible paint
14	markings.
15	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
16	That $\$20-2-8$ of the Code of West Virginia, 1931 as amended, be
17	amended and reenacted; and that $\$61-3B-1$ of said code be amended
18	and reenacted, all to read as follows:
19	CHAPTER 20. NATURAL RESOURCES.
20	ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.
21	§20-2-8. Posting unenclosed lands; hunting, etc., on posted land.
22	The owner, lessee or other person entitled to possession of

1 unenclosed lands may have erected and maintained signs or placards 2 legibly printed, easily discernible, conspicuously posted and 3 reasonably spaced, <u>or, alternatively, may mark the lands as set</u> 4 <u>forth in section one, article three-b, chapter sixty-one of this</u> 5 <u>code,</u> so as to indicate the territory in which hunting, trapping or 6 fishing is prohibited.

7 Any person who enters upon the unenclosed lands of another 8 which have been lawfully posted, for the purpose of hunting, 9 trapping or fishing, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. The 10 officers charged with the enforcement of the provisions of this 11 chapter shall have the duty to enforce the provisions of this 12 section if requested to do so by such owner, lessee, person or 13 agent, but not otherwise.

14 CHAPTER 61. CRIMES AND THEIR PUNISHMENTS.

15 ARTICLE 3B. TRESPASS.

16 §61-3B-1. Definitions.

17 As used in this article:

18 (1) "Structure" means any building of any kind, either 19 temporary or permanent, which has a roof over it, together with the 20 curtilage thereof.

21 (2) "Conveyance" means any motor vehicle, vessel, railroad 22 car, railroad engine, trailer, aircraft or sleeping car, and "to

1 enter a conveyance" includes taking apart any portion of the 2 conveyance.

3 (3) An act is committed "in the course of committing" if it 4 occurs in an attempt to commit the offense or in flight after the 5 attempt or commission.

6 (4) "Posted land" is that:

7 (a) Land, upon which reasonably maintained signs are placed not 8 more than five hundred feet apart, along and at each corner of the 9 boundaries of the land, upon which signs there appears, prominently 10 in letters of not less than two inches in height, the words "no 11 trespassing" and in addition thereto the name of the owner, lessee 12 or occupant of the land <u>or the boundaries shall be marked with a</u> 13 <u>clearly visible painted marking consisting of two parallel lines</u> 14 <u>each no less than two inches in width affixed to immovable,</u> 15 <u>permanent objects which are not more than one hundred feet apart.</u> 16 <u>The paint shall be red, orange or bright yellow in color. Signs</u> 17 <u>adhering to the standards prescribed in this definition shall be</u> 18 <u>posted at boundary gates. The These</u> signs shall be placed along the 19 boundary line of posted land in a manner and in a position as to be 20 clearly noticeable from outside of the boundary line; <u>and</u>

21 (b) Land upon which the boundaries are marked with clearly 22 visible painted markings, consisting of two parallel lines, each no

1 less than two inches in width, affixed to immovable, permanent 2 objects and which are not more than one hundred feet apart. The 3 paint shall be orange or bright yellow in color and shall be 4 maintained so that the markings are reasonably visible from a 5 distance of one hundred feet. Where boundaries are clearly marked 6 with painted markings, signs, adhering to the standards prescribed 7 in this definition for posted signs, shall also be posted at all 8 roads, driveways or gates of entry onto the posted land.

9 It shall not be <u>is not</u> necessary to give notice by posting on 10 any enclosed land or place not exceeding five acres in area on which 11 there is a dwelling house or property that by its nature and use is 12 obviously private in order to obtain the benefits of this article 13 pertaining to trespass on enclosed lands.

14 (5) "Cultivated land" is that land which has been cleared of 15 its natural vegetation and is presently planted with a crop, 16 orchard, grove, pasture or trees or is fallow land as part of a crop 17 rotation.

18 (6) "Fenced land" is that land which has been enclosed by a 19 fence of substantial construction, whether with rails, logs, post 20 and railing, iron, steel, barbed wire, other wire or other material, 21 which stands at least three feet in height. For the purpose of 22 this article, it shall not be necessary to fence any boundary or

1 part of a boundary of any land which is formed by water and is 2 posted with signs pursuant to the provisions of this article.

3 (7) Where lands are posted, cultivated or fenced as described 4 herein, then such lands, for the purpose of this article, shall be 5 considered as enclosed and posted.

6 (8) "Trespass" under this article is the willful unauthorized 7 entry upon, in or under the property of another, but shall not 8 include the following:

9 (a) Entry by the state, its political subdivisions or by the 10 officers, agencies or instrumentalities thereof as authorized and 11 provided by law.

12 (b) The exercise of rights in, under or upon property by virtue 13 of rights-of-way or easements by a public utility or other person 14 owning such right-of-way or easement whether by written or 15 prescriptive right.

16 (c) Permissive entry, whether written or oral, and entry from 17 a public road by the established private ways to reach a residence 18 for the purpose of seeking permission shall not be trespass unless 19 signs are posted prohibiting such entry.

20 (d) Entry performed in the exercise of a property right under21 ownership of an interest in, under or upon such property.

22 (e) Entry where no physical damage is done to property in the

1 performance of surveying to ascertain property boundaries, and in 2 the performance of necessary work of construction, maintenance and 3 repair of a common property line fence, or buildings or 4 appurtenances which are immediately adjacent to the property line 5 and maintenance of which necessitates entry upon the adjoining 6 owner's property.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow posting of real property by clearly visible paint markings in order to prohibit hunting or trespassing.

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