

# Senate Bill No. 653

(By Senators Kessler (Mr. President), Unger, Plymale,  
Snyder, Prezioso, Edgell, Palumbo, Facemire, Cann,  
Jenkins, Williams and Stollings)

---

[Introduced March 25, 2013;  
referred to the Committee on Economic Development.]

---

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §4-2B-1, relating to authorizing the establishment of job creation work groups to obtain information to assist the Legislature's efforts to take effective action to increase and attract jobs in West Virginia.

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

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated §4-2B-1, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 2B. WORK GROUPS.**

**§4-2B-1. Job creation work groups.**

1           (a) (1) The Legislature finds that an array of economic  
2 development initiatives have been taken by the Legislature,  
3 the Governor and various agencies of the Executive to  
4 promote the growth of job opportunities for residents of the  
5 state, including, but not limited to:

6           (A) An extensive reduction of business tax burdens,  
7 workers' compensation reform and significant investment in  
8 university research;

9           (B) Providing new and expanding businesses with  
10 technical and financial assistance to train, retrain and upgrade  
11 the skills of their employees;

12           (C) Providing the curricula of an expanding community  
13 and technical college system that is highly responsive to  
14 business and workforce needs; and

15           (D) Broad based nationwide and global marketing of the  
16 advantages of West Virginia as a place to do business, to  
17 work and to live.

18           (2) These efforts are promoting a positive business  
19 climate and continued business growth in the state. The

20 Legislature finds, however, that more can be done. The  
21 Legislature expects to continuously examine and consider  
22 legislative proposals for further actions that can be taken to  
23 increase jobs available in this state by encouraging the  
24 expansion of existing industries and business, both large and  
25 small, in this state, and by attracting to this state new  
26 industries and businesses that will complement the state's  
27 ongoing efforts to compete in the national and global  
28 economies. The Legislature further finds that it can promote  
29 the effectiveness of its consideration of these proposals as  
30 well as provide a source of other ideas for the same by  
31 authorizing the formation of job creation work groups to  
32 gather information in person at locations within and outside  
33 the state in order to observe first hand the best practices for  
34 job creation developed elsewhere.

35 (b) The President of the Senate may establish one or  
36 more Senate job creation work groups, composed of one or  
37 more members of the Senate. The Speaker of the House of  
38 Delegates may establish one or more House of Delegates job

39 creation work groups, composed of one or more members of  
40 the House of Delegates.

41 (c) Each job creation work group shall conduct its  
42 activities under the direction of the appointing presiding  
43 officer, independently or in cooperation with the Department  
44 of Commerce, the West Virginia Development Office or  
45 other executive office or agency of the state. The work group  
46 shall conduct meetings and visitations as it is directed by the  
47 appointing presiding officer for the purposes of obtaining  
48 information available to assist the Legislature's efforts to take  
49 effective action to increase and attract jobs in West Virginia.  
50 The primary purpose of a job creation workgroup is to  
51 become a resource for other members of its respective house  
52 of the Legislature. The work group shall also meet with  
53 existing businesses and organizations to further develop  
54 resources currently available to expand upon and grow job  
55 opportunities within the state. Each member of a job creation  
56 work group may make proposals or recommendations on this  
57 subject as an individual member of the Legislature. The

58 work group exists until terminated by the appointing  
59 presiding officer.

60 (d) The expenses of a job creation work group shall be  
61 paid from the funds of the respective house in which it is  
62 established. The members of the work group may receive no  
63 compensation for their services other than actual expenses  
64 incurred in the discharge of their duties as members of work  
65 group, subject to the limitations provided for the  
66 reimbursement of travel and other expenses incurred in the  
67 performance of duties as a member of the Legislature under  
68 article two-a of this chapter.

69 (e) The provisions of this section expire and are of no  
70 force and effect after December 31, 2014.

---

(NOTE: The purpose of the bill is to authorize the establishment of job creation work groups to obtain information available to assist the Legislature's efforts to take effective action to increase and attract jobs in West Virginia.

This article is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.)