

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 **H. B. 2187**

4 (By Delegates Overington, Hanshaw, Gearheart, Frich, Sobonya,  
5 Householder, Moffatt, Kelly, Rowan, Butler and Cadle)  
6

7 (Originating in the House Committee on Finance)

8 [February 18, 2015]  
9

10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
11 designated §5-6-17, relating to patriotic displays at public buildings; allowing for the national  
12 motto, “In God We Trust”, to be displayed on public buildings; allowing for the display of  
13 the POW-MIA flag at public buildings; and requiring the State Building Commission to  
14 develop guidelines for appropriate display of the motto and flag.

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

16 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new  
17 section, designated §5-6-17, to read as follows:

18 **ARTICLE 6. STATE BUILDINGS.**

19 **§5-6-17. Display of the national motto and POW-MIA flag.**

20 (a) The Legislature finds and declares that the national motto of “In God We Trust,” is an  
21 important part of our country’s history and heritage. Additionally, the POW-MIA flag is a symbol  
22 of citizen concern for U.S. military personnel taken as prisoners of war (POW) or listed as missing  
23 in action (MIA). These patriotic displays enhance our national pride and awareness, both of the

1 sacrifices made by service members and our heritage as Americans.

2 (b) The governing authority of any public property, public buildings and any building,  
3 designed, constructed and maintained with public funds from the state, a county or a municipality  
4 may prominently display on such property or building, the American national motto, "In God We  
5 Trust." Costs associated with the display of the motto may be paid for with any private donations,  
6 gifts, grants and bequests received by the governing authority.

7 (c) The governing authority of any public property, public buildings and any building,  
8 designed, constructed and maintained with public funds from the state, a county or a municipality  
9 may prominently display on such property or building, the POW-MIA flag in the same manner as  
10 prescribed by this code for the required display of national and state flags. Costs associated with the  
11 display of the POW-MIA flag may be paid for with any private donations, gifts, grants and bequests  
12 received by the governing authority.

13 (d) The State Building Commission shall develop guidelines for the display of the motto and  
14 POW-MIA flag.