

1 **H. B. 2878**

2  
3 (By Delegates Miller, Manchin, Espinosa, Skinner, Hornbuckle, Lane, Hill,  
4 Stansbury, Rowe, Williams and Upson)

5  
6 (Originating in the House Committee on Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Economic  
7 Development then Government Organization)

8 [February 19, 2015]

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13 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
14 designated §31D-1-131, relating to creating a one-stop electronic business portal in West  
15 Virginia.

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

17 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new  
18 section, designated §31D-1-131, to read as follows:

19 **ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

20 **§31D-1-131. One-stop electronic state business portal.**

21 (a) The Secretary of State shall establish a one-stop electronic business portal to facilitate  
22 interaction among businesses and governmental agencies in West Virginia. The business portal shall  
23 be an electronic, single point-of-entry to state government for businesses based in the state and for  
24 businesses looking to establish a presence in the state. The business portal shall be an on-line service

1 to:

2 (1) Guide users who want to start, operate or expand a business in the state;

3 (2) Permit business owners to apply for, pay for or renew permits and licenses, file annual  
4 reports and pay unemployment taxes, workers' compensation premiums, sales and use taxes or any  
5 other fees or remittances that they are subject to under state law;

6 (3) Permit e-payments and provide businesses information about transaction statuses in a  
7 paperless environment; and

8 (4) Provide businesses with downloadable access to all editable forms that are necessary for  
9 compliance with all reporting and filing requirements with the following agencies:

10 (a) West Virginia State Tax Department;

11 (b) Workforce West Virginia;

12 (c) West Virginia Insurance Commissioner;

13 (d) West Virginia Division of Labor; and

14 (e) West Virginia Secretary of State.

15 (5) Permit electronic filing of documents by city, county and local governments.

16 (b) The Secretary of State shall establish a consolidated call center staffed with trained and  
17 knowledgeable persons who are able to offer comprehensive answers to questions and to help  
18 businesses obtain information and services related to compliance with state law.

19 (c) The Secretary of State shall:

20 (1) Develop the requirements of the business portal by August 31, 2015, including but not  
21 limited to:

22 (A) Establishing, through cooperative efforts, the standards and requirements necessary to

- 1 design, build, implement and maintain the business portal; and
- 2       (B) Establishing the standards and requirements necessary for a state or local agency to
- 3 participate in the business portal;
- 4       (2) Coordinate and cooperate with the appropriate entities to facilitate the payment by
- 5 businesses of any payments or remittances made pursuant to this section, via the business portal; and
- 6       (3) Promulgate rules to carry out the provisions of this section.

(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Secretary of State to create a single electronic business portal that individuals and businesses can use to complete and file forms, pay taxes and fees and learn about the requirements for doing business in West Virginia. It also requires the Secretary of State to develop a call center to answer questions.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.)