

1 **ENGROSSED**

2 **H. B. 2224**

3
4 (By Delegates Howell, Manchin, Rowan, Storch, Canterbury,
5 Stansbury, Zatezalo, Butler, D. Evans, Ambler and Cooper)

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7 [Introduced January 22, 2015; referred to the

8 Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland Security then the Judiciary.]

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11 A BILL to amend and reenact §15-1F-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
12 to unlawful military organizations; and providing that historical reenactors are not violating
13 the provision prohibiting unlawful military organizations.

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

15 That §15-1F-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted
16 to read as follows:

17 **ARTICLE 1F. PRIVILEGES AND PROHIBITIONS.**

18 **§15-1F-7. Unlawful military organizations.**

19 (a) It ~~shall be~~ is unlawful for any body of ~~men whatever~~ individuals other than the regularly
20 organized National Guard or the troops of the United States, to associate themselves together as a
21 military company or organization in this state. ~~Provided, That~~

22 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, the Governor may grant permission to
23 public or private schools of the state to organize themselves into companies of cadets, and may

1 furnish ~~such~~ the cadets, under proper restrictions, ~~such~~ obsolete ordnance stores and equipment
2 owned by the state ~~as~~ that are not in use by the National Guard. ~~Whosoever offends against the~~
3 ~~provisions of~~

4 (c) It is not a violation of this section for a group of individuals to associate as a military
5 company or organization for historical, artistic or fictional performances; or, for an individual or
6 group of individuals to drill, perform or parade at public ceremonies, including funerals.

7 (d) A person who violates subsection (a) of this section, or belongs to or parades with any
8 ~~such unauthorized~~ a body of ~~men~~ individuals with arms ~~shall be punished with a fine of not~~
9 ~~exceeding~~ violating subsection (a) of this section, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction,
10 shall be fined not more than \$100 or imprisoned for a term not exceeding confined in jail for not
11 more than six months.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide that historical reenactors are not violating the prohibition against unlawful military organizations.

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