

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

for

**H. B. 2878**

---

(BY DELEGATE(S) MILLER, MANCHIN, ESPINOSA,  
SKINNER, HORNBUCKLE, LANE, HILL,  
STANSBURY, ROWE, WILLIAMS AND UPSON)

---

[Originating in the Committee on Government Organization.]  
[February 27, 2015]

---

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

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

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

1        (a) The Secretary of State shall establish a web-based  
2 business portal to facilitate interaction among businesses and  
3 governmental agencies in West Virginia. The web-based  
4 business portal shall provide a single point-of-entry to state  
5 government for businesses based in the state and for businesses  
6 looking to establish a presence in the state. The web-based  
7 business portal shall:

8        (1) Provide guidance to users who want to start, operate or  
9 expand a business in the state;

10       (2) Permit e-payments and provide businesses information  
11 about transaction statuses in a paperless environment;

12       (3) Provide business owners with the option to  
13 electronically:

14       (A) Make application, including the payment of fees, for  
15 permits and licenses;

16       (B) Make application, including the payment of fees, for the  
17 renewal of permits and licenses;

18       (C) File annual reports;

- 19 (D) Pay unemployment taxes;  
20 (E) Pay workers' compensation premiums;  
21 (F) Pay sales and use taxes; and  
22 (G) Pay any other fees or remittances that the business  
23 owners are subject to under state law.

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

- 27 (A) West Virginia State Tax Department;  
28 (B) Workforce West Virginia;  
29 (C) West Virginia Insurance Commissioner;  
30 (D) West Virginia Division of Labor; and  
31 (E) West Virginia Secretary of State.

32 (5) Provide for the electronic filing of documents by city,  
33 county and local governments.

34 (b) The Secretary of State shall establish a consolidated call  
35 center to be staffed by trained and knowledgeable persons who  
36 are able to assist businesses obtain information and services  
37 relating to compliance with state law.

38 (c) The Secretary of State shall:

39       (1) Develop the requirements of the web-based business  
40 portal by August 31, 2015, including but not limited to:

41       (A) Establishing, through cooperative efforts, the standards  
42 and requirements necessary to design, build, implement and  
43 maintain the business portal; and

44       (B) Establishing the standards and requirements necessary  
45 for a state or local agency to participate in the business portal;

46       (2) Coordinate and cooperate with the appropriate entities to  
47 facilitate the payment by businesses of any payments or  
48 remittances made pursuant to this section, via the web-based  
49 business portal; and

50       (3) Propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with  
51 the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code,  
52 to implement the provisions of this article.