

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4199

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HOWELL

[Introduced January 21, 2016; Referred
to the Committee on Political Subdivisions then
Government Organization.]

1 A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §5-2-4; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated
 3 §7-1-3pp, all relating to accessible county records; requiring county clerks to report certain
 4 county official information to the Secretary of State annually; requiring county
 5 commissions to maintain a website; and requiring the Secretary of State to annually
 6 update a website of county information.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
 2 section, designated §5-2-4; and that said code be amended by adding thereto a new section,
 3 designated §7-1-3pp, all to read as follows:

**CHAPTER 5. GENERAL POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE
 GOVERNOR, SECRETARY OF STATE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL;
 BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS; MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES,
 COMMISSIONS, OFFICES, PROGRAMS, ETC.**

ARTICLE 2. SECRETARY OF STATE.

§5-2-4. Accessible County Records; Required Information.

1 (a) The Secretary of State shall maintain a website with certain county information. The
 2 website shall be updated annually.

3 (b) On or before January 31, 2018, the county officer information website shall be updated
 4 by the Secretary of State.

5 (c) The website shall contain the following minimum information regarding county officials:

6 (1) The official title and name of each county office holder;

7 (2) The contact information for each county office holder, including telephone number,
 8 facsimile number, office location and mailing address;

9 (3) The electronic mail address of each elected county office holder; and

10 (4) The website of each county commission.

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 1. COUNTY COMMISSIONS GENERALLY.

§7-1-3pp. Accessible County Records; Required Information.

1 (a) Beginning on or before July 1, 2017, each county commission shall maintain a website
2 that provides the following information:

3 (1) The title and name of each elected county office holder;

4 (2) The contact information of each elected county office holder, including office telephone
5 number, facsimile number, office location and mailing address;

6 (3) The electronic mail address of each elected county office holder;

7 (4) A copy of each resolution, ordinance or regulation as adopted;

8 (5) A copy of the meeting minutes; and

9 (6) A schedule of meetings for each calendar year.

10 (b) Beginning on or before December 31, 2017, and each year thereafter, each county
11 commission, shall provide to the Secretary of State, the following information:

12 (1) A list of each elected county official by title, with the name of the elected official;

13 (2) The office contact information for each county office holder; and

14 (3) The website address of the county commission website.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide access to county government information to the public by requiring each county to maintain a website and by requiring each county clerk to provide information to the Secretary of State, who shall also maintain and update county contact information on the Internet.

This bill is recommended by the Joint Standing Committee on Government Organization and the Joint Committee on Government Operations for introduction and passage during the 2016 Regular Session.

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