

HB 4561 (veto)

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

FILED
2016 APR -1 P 3:07
OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 4561

(BY DELEGATES KURCABA, STATLER, UPSON,
HOUSEHOLDER, MCGEEHAN, AZINGER, OVERINGTON,
ELLINGTON, FAST, FOSTER AND GEARHEART)
[Passed March 12, 2016; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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[Passed March 12, 2016; in effect ninety days from passage.]

1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §29-6-4a, relating to requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Highways
3 and the Director of the Division of Personnel to collaborate to develop a special hiring
4 procedure for personnel positions in the Division of Highways; establishing requirements
5 for the special hiring procedure; exempting the Division of Highways and the Division of
6 Personnel from classified service hiring procedures upon implementation of the special
7 hiring process; exceptions; establishing reporting requirements; and requiring emergency
8 and legislative rulemaking.

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 §29-6-4a, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 6. CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM.

§29-6-4a. Special Appointment Procedures for Division of Highways Personnel.

1 (a) *Legislative Intent.* —

2 (1) The purpose of this section is to allow the Division of Highways to appoint qualified
3 applicants to vacant personnel positions in the division in a timely manner, in order to ensure that
4 the Division of Highways maintains an adequate workforce to maintain safe roadways for the
5 citizens of West Virginia.

6 (b) *Definitions.* — As used in this section:

7 (1) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Division of Highways or his or her
8 designee;

9 (2) "Director" means the Director of the Division of Personnel or his or her designee; and

10 (3) "Division" means the Division of Highways.

11 (c) *Development of Special Hiring Procedure; Requirements.* —

12 (1) The commissioner and the director shall collaborate to develop a special merit based
13 application and appointment procedure for the employment of individuals to fill personnel
14 positions in the division.

15 **(2) The special application and appointment procedure required by this section shall go**
16 **into effect on July 1, 2017, and shall meet the following requirements:**

17 **(A) The procedure may not require the division to post a position to be filled internally for**
18 **more than one week before selecting an applicant for a position; and for those positions to be**
19 **filled with a candidate from outside of the division, for not more than fourteen calendar days.**

20 **(B) The procedure will require the division to begin the process to fill the position in a timely**
21 **manner to allow a new employee of the division to begin working for the division no later than four**
22 **weeks after the division's decision to offer a position to the new employee based upon its**
23 **determination that the applicant meets minimum qualifications and is otherwise eligible for the**
24 **position.**

25 **(C) The procedure shall provide that the Division of Personnel may not change the pay**
26 **grades or pay grade equivalents, of any employee classification utilized by the Division of**
27 **Highways without written approval of the Commissioner of the Division of Highways;**

28 **(D) The procedure shall authorize the Division of Highways to create and implement**
29 **programs for its employees to advance within the established pay ranges of their employment**
30 **classifications, including, but not limited to, approval authority and administration of the**
31 **Transportation Worker Apprenticeship Program;**

32 **(E) The procedure shall provide that the Division of Highways has sole approval authority**
33 **regarding employment transactions and that the Division of Personnel shall review employment**
34 **transactions to ensure that the transactions comply with applicable state and federal law and**
35 **regulation;**

36 **(F) The procedure shall provide that the Division of Highways is authorized to process**
37 **multiple leaves of absence simultaneously, within the confines of the Oasis system; and**

38 **(G) The procedure shall provide the Division of Highways the flexibility to utilize any and**
39 **all vacant position numbers when posting to fill a vacancy and to post vacant positions utilizing**

40 multiple classifications when the Commissioner determines it to be necessary and in the best
41 interest of the agency.

42 (H) The procedure shall provide that a vacancy created when an employee goes on
43 terminal leave shall be posted upon receipt of the notice that the employee has begun such leave.

44 (d) *Exemption from Regular Application and Appointment Requirements.—*

45 (1) Effective July 1, 2017, the division and the director shall follow the special procedure
46 developed pursuant to subsection (c) of this section when seeking applications and making
47 appointments to hourly personnel positions within the division.

48 (2) When seeking applications and making appointments pursuant to the special
49 procedure required by subsection (c) of this section, neither the division nor the director is required
50 to comply with division of personnel procedures for seeking applications and making
51 appointments to classified service positions as provided in this article or in any other provision of
52 this code, including those procedures promulgated by legislative rules, subject however to the
53 following exceptions:

54 (A) This section does not exempt the director or the division from the requirements of
55 sections twenty and twenty-one of this article, including the prohibition against favoritism,
56 discrimination or otherwise unethical practices related to appointment; and

57 (B) The provisions of this section may not be applied to hiring procedures applicable to
58 any division classified service position or employee in any manner that disqualifies the division
59 for eligibility for any federal highway funds or assistance.

60 (e) On or before October 1, 2016, the commissioner shall report to the Joint Committee
61 on Government and Finance regarding the division's progress toward compliance with the
62 requirements of this section.

63 (f) The commissioner and the director shall jointly propose emergency rules pursuant to
64 the provisions of section fifteen, article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code and shall also

65 propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of
66 this code as may be necessary to implement and comply with the provisions of this section.

67 (g) The provisions of this section shall apply notwithstanding any other provision of this
68 article to the contrary.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.


.....
Chairman, House Committee


.....
Chairman, Senate Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.


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Clerk of the House of Delegates


.....
Clerk of the Senate


.....
Speaker of the House of Delegates


.....
President of the Senate

The within *is dissolved* this the *18th*.....
day of *April*....., 2016.


.....
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

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