

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

ENGROSSED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2631

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[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-1-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to time standards for disposition of complaint proceedings and tolling the time periods for
3 delays attributable to the accused.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §30-1-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted
2 to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO ALL STATE BOARDS OF
EXAMINATION OR REGISTRATION REFERRED TO IN CHAPTER.**

§30-1-5. Meetings; quorum; investigatory powers; duties.

1 (a) Every board referred to in this chapter shall hold at least one meeting each year, at
2 such time and place as it may prescribe by rule, for the examination of applicants who desire to
3 practice their respective professions or occupations in this state and to transact any other
4 business which may legally come before it. The board may hold additional meetings as may be
5 necessary, which shall be called by the secretary at the direction of the president or upon the
6 written request of any three members. A majority of the members of the board constitutes a
7 quorum for the transaction of its business.

8 (b) The board may compel the attendance of witnesses, to issue subpoenas, to conduct
9 investigations and hire an investigator and to take testimony and other evidence concerning any
10 matter within its jurisdiction. The president and secretary of the board may administer oaths for
11 these purposes.

12 (c) Every board referred to in this chapter shall investigate and resolve complaints which
13 it receives and shall, within six months of the complaint being filed, send a status report to the
14 party filing the complaint and the Respondent by certified mail with a signed return receipt and
15 within one year of the status report's return receipt date issue a final ruling, unless the party filing
16 the complaint and the board agree in writing to extend the time for the final ruling.

17 (d) If the board is unable to issue a final ruling within the time prescribed in subsection (c)
18 and such inability is due to delays or continuances caused or requested by the Respondent, the
19 board shall issue a status report detailing the reasons for its inability to meet the time for the final
20 ruling and the new date for issuance of a final ruling. In no event shall the new date be in excess
21 of six (6) months from the date the final ruling was due. The board shall send a copy of the status
22 report to the party filing the complaint and the Respondent by certified mail with a signed return
23 receipt.

24 ~~(d)~~ (e) Every board shall provide public access to the record of the disposition of the
25 complaints which it receives in accordance with the provisions of chapter twenty-nine-b of this
26 code, and shall provide public access on a website to all completed disciplinary actions in which
27 discipline was ordered. If a board is unable to provide access, the Attorney General shall provide
28 a link to this information on the consumer protection division website, together with a link to the
29 website of all other boards subject to this chapter. Every board shall report violations of individual
30 practice acts contained in this chapter to the board by which the individual may be licensed and
31 shall do so in a timely manner upon receiving notice of the violations. Every person licensed or
32 registered by a board shall report to the board which licenses or registers him or her a known or
33 observed violation of the practice act or the board's rules by any other person licensed or
34 registered by the same board and shall do so in a timely manner. Law-enforcement agencies or
35 their personnel and courts shall report in a timely manner to the appropriate board any violations
36 of individual practice acts by any individual.

37 ~~(e)~~ (f) Whenever a board referred to in this chapter obtains information that a person
38 subject to its authority has engaged in, is engaging in or is about to engage in any act which
39 constitutes or will constitute a violation of the provisions of this chapter which are administered
40 and enforced by that board, it may apply to the circuit court for an order enjoining the act. Upon a
41 showing that the person has engaged, is engaging or is about to engage in any such act, the
42 court shall order an injunction, restraining order or other order as the court may deem appropriate.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to prevent dismissal of complaints that exceed time standards for disposition when the accused causes delay that results in the time overage.

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