

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2881

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[Introduced March 9, 2017;

Referred to Industry and Labor then Government

Organization.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §15-14-1, §15-14-2 and §15-14-3, relating to robotic technology; making
 3 findings; defining terms; and establishing minimum safety standards for the design of any
 4 robot operated in the state.

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 article, designated §15-14-1, §15-14-2 and §15-14-3, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 14. SAFETY STANDARDS FOR ROBOTIC TECHNOLOGY.

§15-14-1. Findings.

1 The Legislature makes the following findings:

2 (1) A growing number of technologies employ robotics to perform tasks traditionally
 3 performed by human beings;

4 (2) In a number of states, autonomous self-driving vehicles are already operated on public
 5 roadways;

6 (3) It is inevitable that robotic technology will play an increasing role in our daily lives in
 7 the near future; and

8 (4) To ensure that robots remain in the service of humans, all robotic technology operated
 9 in the State of West Virginia must be designed to comply with certain minimum safety standards.

§15-14-2. Definitions.

1 For the purposes of this article:

2 (1) “Autonomous vehicle” means a vehicle that is technologically enabled to be operated
 3 without the active physical control or monitoring of a human being.

4 (2) “Robot” means a reprogrammable, multifunctional manipulator designed to move
 5 material, parts, tools, or specialized devices through various programmed motions for the
 6 performance of a variety of tasks. The term “robot” includes, but is not limited to, autonomous
 7 vehicles.

§15-14-3. Minimum safety standards for robotic technology.

- 1 (a) A robot may not be enabled, by design or human command, to injure a human being.
- 2 (b) A robot shall be designed to obey the orders given to it by human beings except where
- 3 such orders would conflict with subsection (a).
- 4 (c) A robot shall be designed to protect its own existence so long as such protection does
- 5 not conflict with subsection (a) or subsection (b).

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish minimum safety principles for robotic technology.

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