

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2661

BY DELEGATES ELDRIDGE, MAYNARD, DISERIO, AMBLER,

WESTFALL, DEAN, MARCUM AND PHILLIPS

[Introduced February 22, 2017; Referred

to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural

Resources then the Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §20-8-5, relating to permitting recreational gold mining.

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 §20-8-5, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 8. GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

§20-8-5. Recreational gold mining.

1 Recreational gold mining in the state’s waters is allowed without a permit provided that:

2 (1) A power sluice, a sluice box, or a portable suction dredge no larger than four inches in
3 diameter is used;

4 (2) Rights of riparian property owners and mineral owners, if applicable, are not affected;
5 and

6 (3) The activity is conducted without adverse impacts to instream beneficial uses.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit recreational gold mining.

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