

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2018 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4534

BY DELEGATE HOWELL

[Introduced February 13, 2018; Referred
to the Committee on Government Organization then
Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §30-1-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to the executive secretary of the Health Professional Licensing Boards; requiring
 3 designation of staff member to act as victims advocate.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

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

**§30-1-15. Office of executive secretary of the health profession licensing boards;
 appointment of executive secretary; duties.**

1 (a) The office of the executive secretary of the health professional licensing boards is
 2 ~~hereby created~~ continued. The health profession licensing boards shall include those boards
 3 provided for in §30-2A-1 *et seq.*, §30-4-1 *et seq.*, §30-5-1 *et seq.*, §30-6-1 *et seq.*, §30-7-1 *et seq.*,
 4 §30-7a-1 *et seq.*, §30-8-1 *et seq.*, §30-10-1 *et seq.*, §30-14-1 *et seq.*, §30-16-1 *et seq.*, §30-17-1
 5 *et seq.*, §30-20-1 *et seq.*, §30-25-1 *et seq.*, and §30-26-1 *et seq.* of this code. Notwithstanding any
 6 other provision of this code to the contrary the office space personnel, records and like business
 7 affairs of the health profession licensing boards shall be within the office of the executive secretary
 8 of the health profession licensing boards. The secretaries of each of the health profession
 9 licensing boards shall coordinate purchasing, record keeping, personnel, use of reporters and like
 10 matters under the executive secretary in order to achieve the most efficient and economical
 11 fulfillment of their functions. The executive secretary shall be appointed by the director of health
 12 and shall report to the director. The executive secretary shall keep the fiscal records and accounts
 13 of each of the boards. The executive secretary shall keep the director informed as to the needs
 14 of each of the boards. The executive secretary shall coordinate the activities and efforts of the
 15 boards with the activities of the health resources advisory council and shall see that the needs for
 16 health manpower perceived by the boards are communicated to the health resources advisory
 17 council. The executive secretary shall keep any statistics and information on health professions,

18 collected by or for the boards and shall make such statistics and information available to the health
19 resources advisory council to aid it in carrying out its responsibilities.

1 (b) The executive secretary of the health professional licensing boards shall designate
2 one member of his or her staff to act in the capacity of an advocate for victims. The duties of the
3 victims advocate include maintaining liaison with complainants in cases pending before each of
4 the health professional licensing boards to provide those complainants with periodic status
5 updates on the status of cases initiated by the complainant.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the executive secretary of the health professional licensing boards to designate a victims advocate.

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