

**WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**  
**2019 FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION**

**Introduced**

**House Bill 186**

BY DELEGATES CAMPBELL, STAGGERS AND LAVENDER-

BOWE

[Introduced June 17, 2019; Referred  
to the Select Committee on Education Reform C ]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §15-1B-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to requiring Governor to expand Mountaineer Challenge Academy at its existing location  
 3 and to a new location subject to agreement required under federal law.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 1B. NATIONAL GUARD.**

**§15-1B-24. Mountaineer Challenge Academy; expansion; cooperation of state executive agencies.**

1 (a) Subject to the agreement entered into between the United States Secretary of Defense  
 2 and the Governor to establish, organize, and administer the Mountaineer Challenge Academy  
 3 pursuant to 32 U.S.C. § 509, the Governor shall:

4 (1) Expand the capacity of the Mountaineer Challenge Academy location in Preston  
 5 County to allow for a total of 600 cadets per year;

6 (2) Expand the Mountaineer Challenge Academy to a second location in Fayette County;  
 7 and

8 (3) To the extent necessary to accomplish the requirements set forth in this subsection  
 9 and to maximize the use of federal funds, pursue an amendment to the agreement entered into  
 10 with the United States Secretary of Defense pursuant to 32 U.S.C. § 509.

11 (b) The Mountaineer Challenge Academy, operated by the Adjutant General at Camp  
 12 Dawson, is hereby acknowledged to be a program of great value in meeting the educational needs  
 13 of at-risk youth throughout the state. Further, the Mountaineer Challenge Academy is hereby  
 14 designated as a special alternative education program as is further provided pursuant to section  
 15 §18-2-6 of this code. It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature that the Mountaineer Challenge  
 16 Academy should enjoy the full cooperation of the executive agencies of state government in  
 17 carrying out its program.

18 To this end, the State Board of Education shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this  
 19 code to the contrary:

- 20 (1) Include the Mountaineer Challenge Academy in the child nutrition program;
- 21 (2) Provide the names and mailing addresses of all high school dropouts in the state to
- 22 the director of the Mountaineer Challenge Academy annually; and
- 23 (3) Provide for Mountaineer Challenge Academy graduates to participate in the adult basic
- 24 education program.
- 25 (c) Further cooperation with the Mountaineer Challenge Academy is encouraged by the
- 26 Legislature for the purpose of assisting the Mountaineer Challenge Academy to achieve its
- 27 mission and help prepare young people for productive adulthood.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Governor to expand Mountaineer Challenge Academy at its existing location and to a new location subject to agreement required under federal law.

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