

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 154

BY SENATORS JEFFRIES, BALDWIN, STOLLINGS, LINDSAY,

PLYMALE, HAMILTON, AND BOSO

[Introduced January 10, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-5-13d, relating to the use of school facilities for memorial services;
3 recognizing schools are integral parts of communities and the death of certain community
4 members can have a significant impact on communities; allowing school facilities to be
5 used for funeral and memorial services of certain community members; permitting county
6 boards of education to establish a process for requesting the use of school facilities for
7 funeral and memorial services; providing that county boards of education are not
8 responsible for additional costs associated with such funeral and memorial services that
9 are held at school facilities; and clarifying that such funeral and memorial services that are
10 held at school facilities are not to disrupt or interfere with classroom instruction or other
11 scheduled school event or activity.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 5. COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-5-13d. Use of School Facilities for Funeral and Memorial Services.

1 (a) Public schools in this state serve as an integral part of the community, and the death
2 of a community member of distinction who was a military service member or veteran who served
3 under honorable conditions or who served as a first responder, can have a significant impact on
4 students and the surrounding community.

5 (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code or any policy currently in place, county
6 boards of education shall allow school facilities in the county to be used for the funeral or memorial
7 service, or both funeral and memorial services, of a community member of distinction who was a
8 military service member or veteran who served under honorable conditions or who served as a
9 first responder, consistent with this section. County boards may set up a process by which
10 requests to use school facilities for such purposes may be made. County boards may not be
11 responsible for additional costs incurred as a result of holding the funeral or memorial service at
12 the school facility.

13 (c) Any funeral or memorial service held at a school facility may not disrupt or interfere
14 with classroom instruction, other scheduled school event or activity, or other official governmental
15 use such as when a school serves as a polling place for an election.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure that certain community members of distinction who served in the military or as first responders may have a memorial service at a school.

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