

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 236

BY SENATORS LINDSAY, JEFFRIES, AND BALDWIN

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

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §62-12-30, relating to notification of the renewed right to vote for a person
 3 previously under conviction of treason, felony, or bribery in an election; requiring such
 4 persons to be notified within one week of completing their full punishment or receiving a
 5 pardon; and detailing which agencies are responsible for providing the notice.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 12. PROBATION AND PAROLE.

§62-12-30. Notification of right to vote.

1 Pursuant to section one, article IV of the West Virginia Constitution, “[t]he citizens of the
 2 state shall be entitled to vote at all elections held within the counties in which they respectively
 3 reside; but no person . . . who is under conviction of treason, felony or bribery in an election . . .
 4 shall be permitted to vote while such disability continues[.]” Consistent with this right to vote, the
 5 Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation and the Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia’s
 6 Division of Probation Services, working in partnership with the Secretary of State, shall ensure
 7 that every person convicted of treason, felony or bribery in an election who loses their voting rights
 8 while under conviction is provided with a voter registration form and notification of their restored
 9 right to vote within one week of completing their full punishment or receiving a pardon from the
 10 Governor, whichever occurs first.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide notice and an opportunity to persons convicted of certain crimes that they are eligible to vote after completion of their punishment.

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