

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2367

FISCAL
NOTE

BY DELEGATES MILEY AND CAPUTO

[Introduced January 14, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Education then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-2-42, relating to creating a state program allowing high school students
3 advance to getting a college degree or technical training while in high school; authorizing
4 the board of education to enter into agreements with colleges, career and technical
5 schools; and providing scholarship and financial support for eligible students.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-42. Advancing Students Towards Technical and College Education Initiative.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that innovative initiatives to prepare our children to compete in
2 our rapidly changing economy require new approaches to education and the use of our limited
3 state dollars to prepare our students in an efficient manner that uses existing resources. The
4 Legislature recognizes a need to look for innovative ways that provide opportunity for all our
5 children graduating from our public school system to compete in our economy, and further
6 recognizes a need to provide for struggling students the ability to tailor their education toward a
7 rewarding career. The purpose of this section is to provide an alternative approach to high school
8 and post high school education that allows for flexibility and an innovative education opportunity,
9 through a collaborative approach by and between the West Virginia Community and Technical
10 College System (CTCS) and the State Career and Technical Education Centers (CTE), to best
11 prepare students for success in a cost efficient and focused manner.

12 (b) The state board shall establish and administer an early college education program for
13 students who wish to accelerate completion of their high school program and better prepare our
14 students for success in the 21st century economy.

15 (c) The program is to provide for a course of study that enables a participating student to
16 combine high school courses and college-level courses during grade levels nine through twelve
17 and allow a participating student to complete high school and receive a high school diploma and
18 up to 60 semester credit hours toward an associates or two-year degree or certification from a

19 community and technical college or a career and technical education center.

20 (d) The state board shall create articulation agreements with CTCS and the CTEs to
21 provide a participating student access to post-secondary educational and training opportunities
22 at a community and technical college, in collaboration with career and technical education
23 centers, and may authorize county school boards to enter into agreements with these institutions
24 for this alternative education initiative.

25 (e) The state board shall provide guidelines for participating students to have flexibility in
26 class scheduling and academic mentoring.

27 (f) Any articulation agreement entered into pursuant to §18-2-42(d) of this code shall
28 include at a minimum:

29 (1) Curriculum alignment;

30 (2) Instructional materials;

31 (3) The instructional calendar;

32 (4) Courses of study;

33 (5) Eligibility of students for higher education financial assistance;

34 (6) Student enrollment and attendance;

35 (7) Grading periods and policies; and

36 (8) Administration of statewide assessment instruments.

37 (g) A student participating in the program is entitled to the benefits of the PROMISE
38 Scholarship Foundation pursuant to §18C-7-1 et seq. of this code, in proportion to the amount of
39 time spent by the student on advanced education or training, in accordance with rules adopted
40 by the state board, while completing the course of study established by the applicable articulation
41 agreement as provided in this section. The state board may promulgate rules establishing
42 eligibility and performance requirements for students to participate by use of the PROMISE
43 Scholarship Program. Further, the state board shall redirect as is appropriate and lawful, other
44 funding for technical and secondary education to this program to facilitate its implementation. The

45 state board shall collaborate with CTCD and the CTEs to develop this program.

46 (h) The state board may accept gifts, grants, and donations for the purposes expressed in
47 this section from any source, including private and nonprofit organizations. Further, the state
48 board shall implement a strategic plan to enhance private industry participation under this section,
49 which includes facilitating recruitment and developing specialized training for private industry job
50 and development of incentives for businesses and nonprofit organizations that choose to make
51 donations and work with high schools that participate in a program under this section, to maximize
52 job placement opportunities for program graduates.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a new state program that allows high school students to enter into early specialized training to prepare them for careers while attending high school. The bill allows the State Board of Education to create agreements with colleges and community and technical schools to allow high school students to complete a one-year or two-year program while in high school. The bill gives discretion to the state board on implementing and funding this program.

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