

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 699

BY SENATORS CLINE, BEACH, AND STOLLINGS

[Introduced February 5, 2020; referred
to the Committee on Natural Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §5B-9-1, relating to recognizing and adopting the Outdoor Recreation Industry
 3 Confluence Accords.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 9. RECOGNITION OF THE OUTDOOR RECREATION INDUSTRY
CONFLUENCE ACCORDS.

§5B-9-1. Outdoor Recreation Industry Confluence Accords.

1 (a) The Outdoor Recreation Industry Confluence Accords are hereby recognized and
 2 enacted into law on behalf of the State of West Virginia. The full text of the Outdoor Recreation
 3 Industry Confluence Accords is as follows.

4 (b) Preamble. —

5 (1) We, a growing confluence of states with a shared passion for the outdoors and a
 6 commitment to cultivating a strong outdoor recreation economy, believe that outdoor recreation
 7 is core to the very character and quality of life we should all enjoy.

8 (2) The outdoor industry is a powerhouse of meaningful job creation, and a driving force
 9 of our nation’s economy. Our industry is an economic multiplier, creating a unique quality of life
 10 in rural and urban areas, attracting new businesses and professional talent to our communities.

11 (3) While each of our states is unique, our shared commitment to facilitating everyone’s
 12 love of place through inclusion and diverse outdoor experiences has the power to unify
 13 communities, to bridge societal divides, and to improve the mental and physical health of all
 14 people.

15 (c) Common Principles. — The outdoors is the wellspring of adventure, camaraderie, and
 16 solace, inspiring us to both explore new places and set down roots. Whereas nature is the
 17 backbone of the recreation economy, we are committed to fostering conservation and stewardship
 18 values, ensuring environmental quality, and restoring sustainable access to the outdoors for

19 current and future generations.

20 Therefore, the West Virginia Legislature does hereby adopt and commit our state to the
21 following common principles:

22 (1) CONSERVATION & STEWARDSHIP:

23 (A) Work with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to advocate for conservation and
24 stewardship of land, air, water, and wildlife, and for public access to them;

25 (B) Facilitate public-private partnerships to enhance public outdoor recreational access,
26 infrastructure improvements and conservation efforts; and

27 (C) Educate and empower the public on the importance and interrelatedness of a healthy
28 environment, outdoor recreation and a vibrant economy.

29 (2) EDUCATION & WORKFORCE TRAINING:

30 (A) Engage with educators to support environmental and outdoor learning opportunities
31 for early and life-long outdoor activity, career development, and advocacy for outdoor recreation;

32 (B) Promote workforce training programs for technical training, skill mastery, and business
33 opportunities across the spectrum of outdoor industry careers; and

34 (C) Promote interest, participation, and diversity in the outdoors for all, supporting
35 opportunities for early and life-long outdoor learning.

36 (3) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:

37 (A) Collaborate with all stakeholders to establish and improve sustainable outdoor
38 recreation infrastructure and funding;

39 (B) Engage federal, tribal, state, and local governments, as well as local and regional
40 economic development organizations to attract, retain, and expand business and market the
41 outdoor recreation economy; and

42 (C) Address barriers to businesses' success in the outdoor recreation economy.

43 (4) PUBLIC HEALTH & WELLNESS:

44 (A) Address social determinants of health by increasing outdoor recreation opportunities

45 for people of all backgrounds and abilities;

46 (B) Partner with health and wellness stakeholders to determine shared values and

47 common goals, build relationships, and generate innovative partnerships to fulfill shared visions;

48 and

49 (C) Assist in quantifying impacts of access to outdoor recreation and related social

50 determinants on healthcare outcomes and costs.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to give state recognition to the Outdoor Recreation Industry Confluence Accords.

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