

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Enrolled

Senate Bill 750

BY SENATORS RUCKER AND CLINE

[Passed March 6, 2020; in effect 90 days from
passage]

1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-2-7e, relating to establishing alternative educational opportunities for
3 elective course credit; setting forth legislative findings; requiring the state board to
4 promulgate a rule requiring county boards to develop alternative educational opportunities
5 policies; requiring county boards to adopt alternative educational opportunities policies
6 and setting forth parameters therefore; authorizing county boards to approve or deny
7 alternative educational programs and to audit the same; and requiring the Department of
8 Education to report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability
9 after three years of implementation.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-7e. Alternative educational opportunities for elective course credit.

1 (a) The Legislature finds and declares that:

2 (1) Programs outside of the traditional classroom have educational value;

3 (2) Many entities, including, but not limited to, nonprofit organizations, afterschool
4 programs, businesses, and trade associations, may have an interest in offering programs outside
5 of the traditional classroom that are attractive to students and contain educational value;

6 (3) Learning opportunities that are designed to address the interests and aptitudes of the
7 individual student will enable students to discover, develop, and apply their individual talents to
8 realize their full potential;

9 (4) Policies that allow for educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom
10 exist in other states;

11 (5) Providing credit for alternative educational opportunities will enrich the learning
12 environment of students and develop well-rounded individuals ready for a life of learning,
13 productive work, and community involvement.

14 (b) The State Board of Education shall promulgate a rule requiring county boards of
15 education to develop an alternative educational opportunities policy that provides students
16 involved in educational opportunities outside of the traditional classroom to receive elective
17 course credit.

18 (c) The county boards of education shall adopt an alternative educational opportunities
19 policy that recognizes learning opportunities outside of the traditional classroom and grants
20 elective course credit. The policy shall:

21 (1) Provide for an application process for entities to submit proposals for alternative
22 educational programs that will qualify for elective course credit;

23 (2) Define which entities are eligible to submit applications for alternative educational
24 programs: *Provided*, That entities which are deemed eligible shall be broadly defined and shall
25 include, but not be limited to:

26 (A) Nonprofit organizations;

27 (B) Businesses with established locations in the state;

28 (C) Trade associations;

29 (D) Parents of students involved in programs that may otherwise qualify as an alternative
30 educational program;

31 (E) Teachers involved in programs outside of the traditional classroom; and

32 (F) School personnel involved in programs outside of the traditional classroom;

33 (3) Provide for the criteria to be used to evaluate the alternative educational program;

34 (4) Describe any communication and collaboration needed between the local school,
35 county board, or State Board of Education to implement alternative educational opportunities;

36 (5) Place requirements on the entity, such as background checks for key personnel, and
37 minimum accountability standards; and

38 (6) Provide a process for student credit transfer.

39 (d) The county boards of education shall have the authority to approve or deny an
40 application for an alternative educational program: *Provided*, That if the application is denied, the
41 county board shall provide a detailed explanation of the reasons for its denial and suggest ways
42 to improve the application that will assist its more favorable view by the county board.

43 (e) The county boards of education shall have the authority to audit approved alternative
44 educational programs at any time. If the audit results in findings that an approved program is not
45 meeting the provisions of this section or the policy outlined in subsection (c) of this section, then
46 the county board may disqualify the program immediately.

47 (f) The Department of Education shall prepare a report of data analysis and an overview
48 of the alternative learning opportunities to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education
49 Accountability after three years of implementation.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Chairman, Senate Committee

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Chairman, House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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Clerk of the Senate

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

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Day of, 2020.

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Governor