

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Originating

Senate Bill 839

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[Originating in the Committee on the Workforce;
reported on February 20, 2020]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18B-1D-11, relating to creating the State Advisory Council on Postsecondary
3 Attainment Goals; designating members of the council; providing for the powers and duties
4 of the council; requiring certain state agencies to cooperate with the council; and
5 establishing a sunset date for the council.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1D. HIGHER EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY.

§18B-1D-11. State Advisory Council on Postsecondary Attainment Goals.

1 (a) There is hereby created the State Advisory Council on Postsecondary Attainment
2 Goals. The council's purpose is to collaborate with the Higher Education Policy Commission and
3 the Council for Community and Technical College Education to identify high-value and in-demand
4 postsecondary credentials, and to develop a plan to assist the state in achieving its postsecondary
5 attainment goal of having 60 percent of West Virginians between the ages of 25 and 64 hold a
6 degree, certificate, or other postsecondary workforce credential of value in the workplace by 2030.

7 (b) The State Advisory Council on Postsecondary Attainment Goals shall consist of the
8 following members:

9 (1) The Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission, or his or her designee;

10 (2) The State Superintendent of Schools, or his or her designee;

11 (3) The Secretary of the Department of Commerce, or his or her designee;

12 (4) The Director of WorkForce West Virginia, or his or her designee;

13 (5) Two presidents representing the state's four-year institutions of higher education, at
14 least one of which shall be the president of a regional institution, appointed jointly by the President
15 of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

16 (6) Two presidents representing the state's community and technical colleges appointed
17 jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House;

18 (7) The chair of the Senate Committee on Education;

19 (8) The chair of the House Committee on Education; and

20 (9) Any other individuals deemed appropriate and appointed jointly by the President of the
21 Senate and the Speaker of the House.

22 (c) The council shall be chaired by the Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy
23 Commission. The council shall meet at least quarterly and at the call of the chair. Quorum shall
24 be a simple majority of the council. The administrative functions of the council are the
25 responsibility of the joint staff of the Higher Education Policy Commission and the Council for
26 Community and Technical Education.

27 (d) The council shall consult with and advise the Legislature on matters related to the
28 progress toward achieving the state's postsecondary attainment goal as established in subsection
29 (a) of this section, including identifying high-value and in-demand postsecondary credentials. The
30 council may:

31 (1) Make recommendations to the Legislature as required by this section;

32 (2) Provide guidance to the Legislature on potential statutory solutions relative to
33 achievement of the state's postsecondary attainment goal;

34 (3) Establish workgroups or subcommittees as the council considers necessary to address
35 pertinent issues related to achievement of the state's postsecondary attainment goal, and to
36 provide consistency in the development of further regulation, if further regulation is determined to
37 be necessary by the council;

38 (4) Consult with entities and persons with expertise in the areas being studied by the
39 council as the council considers necessary in the fulfillment of its duties, including public and
40 private sector partnerships; and

41 (5) Provide a forum for a full and fair discussion of issues relating to achievement of the
42 state's postsecondary attainment goal.

43 (e) The council shall report its findings to the Legislative Oversight Commission on
44 Education Accountability and the Joint Committee on Government and Finance by December 31,

45 2020, and annually thereafter until the council terminates, pursuant to the provisions of this
46 section. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following:

47 (1) Conclusions and recommendations about the means to achieve the state's
48 postsecondary attainment goal;

49 (2) Recommendations for statutory and regulatory modifications, if the council determines
50 that such modifications are necessary;

51 (3) Identification of any action that the Legislature may take to better foster awareness of
52 the actions being taken to achieve the state's postsecondary attainment goal; and

53 (4) Any other ancillary issues relative to achievement of the state's postsecondary
54 attainment goal.

55 (f) The State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Schools, the Department of
56 Commerce, WorkForce West Virginia, the presidents of the state's public institutions of higher
57 education, and all other entities of state government shall cooperate with the council in the
58 exchange of data, information, and expertise, if so requested by the council, including, but not
59 limited to:

60 (1) Providing the entity's plans to assist in achievement of the state's postsecondary
61 attainment goal;

62 (2) Identifying equity gaps among certain high-risk populations, including, but not limited
63 to, returning adults, academically underprepared students, the economically disadvantaged, and
64 underrepresented racial or ethnic minorities;

65 (3) Sharing information on the economic impact of achievement of the state's
66 postsecondary goal on the State of West Virginia;

67 (4) Providing an assessment of the benefits of implemented programs and activities aimed
68 at achieving the state's postsecondary attainment goal;

69 (5) Assisting in the development or revision of detailed action plans to achieve the state's
70 postsecondary attainment goal; and

- 71 (6) Providing resources required to implement the plan to achieve the state's
72 postsecondary attainment goal.
- 73 (g) The council and all provisions of this section shall terminate and no longer be in effect
74 on December 31, 2023.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a state advisory council to study and report to the Legislature on post-secondary credentials and achievement of the state's postsecondary attainment goal.

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