

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### House Bill 2203

FISCAL  
NOTE

BY DELEGATES JEFFRIES, J. AND PAYNTER

[Introduced February 10, 2021; Referred to the  
Committee on Technology and Infrastructure then  
Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17-16A-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
2 relating to ending tolls on the West Virginia Turnpike effective July 1, 2021.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 16A. WEST VIRGINIA PARKWAYS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND  
TOURISM AUTHORITY.**

**§17-16A-13. Tolls, rents, fees, charges, and revenues; competitive bidding on contracts.**

1 (a) The Parkways Authority ~~is hereby authorized to~~ may ~~fix, revise, charge and collect tolls~~  
2 ~~and fees for the use of each parkway project and the different parts or sections thereof and to fix,~~  
3 ~~revise, charge and collect rents, fees, charges and other revenues, of whatever kind or character,~~  
4 ~~for the use of each economic development project or tourism project, or any part or section~~  
5 ~~thereof, and to contract with any person, partnership, association or corporation desiring the use~~  
6 ~~of any part thereof, including the right-of-way adjoining the paved portion, for placing thereon~~  
7 ~~telephone, fiber optic or other data transmission lines or devices, electric light, power or other~~  
8 ~~utility lines, gas stations, garages, stores, hotels, restaurants and advertising signs, or for any~~  
9 ~~other purpose except for tracks for railroad or railway use, and to fix the terms, conditions, rents~~  
10 ~~and rates of charges for such use: *Provided*, That the Parkways Authority may not charge tolls or~~  
11 ~~fees for transit over an existing road without express legislative authorization for the charging of~~  
12 ~~such tolls or fees: *Provided, however*, That an existing road does not include ~~the West Virginia~~~~  
13 ~~Turnpike new lanes or new sections of an existing road, the replacement or construction of any~~  
14 ~~bridge or tunnel, or related facilities. Such tolls, rents, fees and charges shall be so fixed and~~  
15 ~~adjusted in respect of the aggregate of tolls, or in respect of the aggregate rents, fees and~~  
16 ~~charges, from the project or projects in connection with which the bonds of any issue shall have~~  
17 ~~been issued as to provide a fund sufficient with other revenues, if any: (1) To pay the cost of~~  
18 ~~acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, maintaining, repairing, improving and operating such~~  
19 ~~project or projects and to create reserves therefor; (2) to pay the principal of and the interest on~~

20 such bonds and related costs and expenses as the same shall become due and payable, and to  
21 create reserves for such purposes; and (3) to comply with any covenants under any trust  
22 agreement securing any bonds issued by the Parkways Authority, or any predecessor thereof, or  
23 to maintain bond credit ratings. Such tolls, rents, fees, and other charges shall not be subject to  
24 supervision or regulation by any other commission, board, bureau, department or agency of the  
25 state. The tolls, rents, fees, charges and all other revenues derived from the project or projects in  
26 connection with which the bonds of any issue shall have been issued, except such part thereof  
27 as may be necessary to pay the cost of acquiring, constructing, reconstructing, maintaining,  
28 improving, repairing and operating such project or projects and to provide such reserves therefor  
29 as may be provided in the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds or in the trust  
30 agreement securing the same, shall be set aside at regular intervals as may be provided in the  
31 resolution or the trust agreement in a sinking fund which is hereby pledged to, and charged with,  
32 the payment of: (i) The interest upon the bonds as such interest shall fall due; (ii) the principal of  
33 the bonds as the same shall fall due; (iii) the necessary charges of paying agents and trustees for  
34 paying principal and interest; and (iv) the redemption price or the purchase price of bonds retired  
35 by call or purchase as therein provided. The use and disposition of moneys to the credit of such  
36 sinking fund shall be subject to the provisions of the resolution authorizing the issuance of the  
37 bonds or of the trust agreement. Except as may otherwise be provided in the resolution or the  
38 trust agreement, such sinking fund shall be a fund for all bonds without distinction or priority of  
39 one over another. The moneys in the sinking fund, less such reserve as may be provided in the  
40 resolution or trust agreement, if not used within a reasonable time for the purchase of bonds for  
41 cancellation as above provided, shall be applied to the redemption of bonds at the redemption  
42 price then applicable.

43 (b) The Parkways Authority shall cause, as soon as it is legally able to do so, all contracts  
44 to which it is a party and which relate to the operation, maintenance or use of any restaurant,  
45 motel or other lodging facility, truck and automobile service facility, food vending facility or any

46 other service facility located along the West Virginia Turnpike, to be renewed on a competitive bid  
47 basis. All contracts relating to any facility or services entered into by the Parkways Authority with  
48 a private party with respect to any project constructed after the effective date of this legislation  
49 shall be let on a competitive bid basis only. If the Parkways Authority receives a proposal for the  
50 development of a project, except for a parkway project, such proposal shall be made available to  
51 the public in a convenient location in the county wherein the proposed facility may be located.  
52 The Parkways Authority shall publish a notice of the proposal by a Class I legal advertisement in  
53 accordance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. The publication area shall be the  
54 county in which the proposed facility would be located. Any citizen may communicate by writing  
55 to the Parkways Authority his or her opposition to or approval to such proposal within a period of  
56 time not less than 45 days from the publication of the notice. No contract for the development of  
57 an economic development project or a tourism project may be entered into by the Parkways  
58 Authority until a public hearing is held in the vicinity of the location of the proposed economic  
59 development project or tourism project with at least 20 days' notice of such hearing by a Class I  
60 publication pursuant to §59-3-2 of this code. The Parkways Authority shall make written findings  
61 of fact prior to rendering a decision on any such proposed project. All studies, records, documents,  
62 and other materials which are considered by the Parkways Authority in making such findings shall  
63 be made available for public inspection at the time of the publication of the notice of public hearing  
64 and at a convenient location in the county where the proposed economic development project or  
65 tourism project may be located. The Parkways Authority shall promulgate rules in accordance  
66 with chapter 29A of this code for the conduct of any hearing required by this section. Persons  
67 attending any such hearing shall be afforded a reasonable opportunity to speak and be heard on  
68 the proposed economic development project or tourism project.

69 (c) Notwithstanding any provision of this code, law or rule to the contrary, all tolls on the  
70 West Virginia Turnpike shall cease effective July 1, 2021.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to end tolls on the West Virginia Turnpike effective July 1, 2021.

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