

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 304

BY SENATORS MAYNARD AND LINDSAY

[Introduced February 17, 2021; referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §5-2-5, relating to requiring the Secretary of State to create and maintain an
 3 online database of religious organizations; providing effective date; requiring database
 4 contain certain information; and providing for annual update of database.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. SECRETARY OF STATE.

§5-2-5. Online database of religious organizations.

1 (a) Effective July 1, 2021, the Secretary of State shall create and maintain a database of
 2 religious organizations within the state.

3 (b) The database must be searchable and contain certain information regarding the
 4 religious organization, including the:

5 (1) Name; and

6 (2) Location or locations;

7 (3) Denomination; and

8 (4) Times of regular meetings or services that are open to the public.

9 (c) The secretary shall modify its forms to seek the information described in subsection (b)
 10 of this section, and shall update the database on an annual basis, at minimum.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the secretary of state to create and maintain a database of public information regarding religious organizations.

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