WEST virginia legislature

2023 regular session

Introduced

House Bill 2551

By Delegate Foster

[Introduced January 13, 2023; Referred to the Committee on Education]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-8-1b, relating to ensuring that qualified homeschool graduates are given the same postsecondary educational and career opportunities as those in public, private, or parochial schools.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 8. compulsory school attendance.

§18-8-1b. Homeschool Credential Recognition Act.

(a) *Legislative findings. -* Qualified homeschool graduates are missing out on postsecondary educational and career opportunities because state and local government policies fail to recognize a homeschool diploma and transcript as sufficiently documenting a high school level education.

(b) *Issuance of a diploma or other appropriate credential*. - A diploma or credential issued by a person who administers a program of secondary education in a home school setting that qualifies as an exemption from compulsory requirements is legally sufficient to demonstrate that the recipient meets the requirement of having a high school diploma or its equivalent. No state or local agency or institution of higher learning in this state may reject or otherwise treat a person differently based solely on the source of such a diploma or credential.

(c) *Verification of enrollment*. - The parent or guardian shall have the authority to execute any document required by law, rule, regulation, or policy to evidence the enrollment of a child in an educational program provided in a home school setting that qualifies as an exemption from compulsory attendance requirements, the student’s full-time or part-time status, the student’s grades, or any other required educational information.

(d) *Effective date*. - The provisions of this section apply beginning after July 31, 2023.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide the same postsecondary and educational opportunities to homeschool high school graduates as those in public, private, or parochial schools.

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