

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**ENROLLED**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 3303**

BY DELEGATES REYNOLDS, BRIDGES, SHEEDY, CROUSE,  
HOTT, ZATEZALO, WILLIS, PHILLIPS, WARD AND BROOKS

[Passed March 11, 2023; in effect ninety days from  
passage.]



1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §5B-2A-4 and §5B-2A-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as  
2 amended, and by adding thereto a new section, §5B-2A-14, all relating to the Office of  
3 Coalfield Community Development; continuing the Office of Coalfield Community  
4 Development under the Department of Economic Development; providing that the  
5 Governor appoint and set the salary of the director of the office by July 1, 2026; providing  
6 that funding for position to carry out the duties of the office shall be as provided by  
7 appropriation of the Legislature; clarifying and providing additional duties, powers, and  
8 responsibilities for the Office of Coalfield Community Development; and providing a sunset  
9 date.

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

**ARTICLE 2A. OFFICE OF COALFIELD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.**

**§5B-2A-4. Office of Coalfield Community Development.**

1 (a) The Office of Coalfield Community Development is continued within the Department of  
2 Economic Development.

3 (b) The Governor shall appoint and set the salary of the director of the office who shall be  
4 responsible for hiring such assistants and clerical staff as may be necessary to carry out the  
5 responsibilities of the office. The initial appointment for the director shall be made by July 1, 2026.  
6 Funding for this position and to carry out the duties of the office shall be as provided by  
7 appropriation of the Legislature.

8 (c) The director shall report quarterly to the energy and finance committees of the  
9 legislature on projects funded by the office. The report shall include the amount, the recipient and  
10 a description of each project funded.

**§5B-2A-5. Powers and duties.**

1 The office has and may exercise the following duties, powers, and responsibilities:

2 (1) To establish a procedure for determining the assets that could be developed in and  
3 maintained by the community to foster its long-term viability as provided in §5B-2A-8 of this code  
4 and to administer the procedure so established;

5 (2) To establish a procedure for determining the land and infrastructure needs in the  
6 general area of the surface mining operations as provided in §5B-2A-9 of this code and to  
7 administer the procedure so established;

8 (3) To establish a procedure to develop action reports and quarterly updates as provided  
9 in §5B-2A-10 of this code and to administer the procedure so established;

10 (4) To determine the need for meetings to be held among the various interested parties in  
11 the communities impacted by surface mining operations and, when appropriate, to facilitate the  
12 meetings;

13 (5) To establish a procedure to assist property owners in the sale of their property as  
14 provided in §5B-2A-11 of this code and to administer the procedure so established;

15 (6) In conjunction with the department, to maintain and operate a system to receive and  
16 address questions, concerns, and complaints relating to surface mining;

17 (7) To coordinate the expenditure of grants issued by the United States Department of  
18 Energy and the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration for  
19 coalfield economic development or coalfield revitalization projects;

20 (8) To identify coal assets, including, but not limited to, coal mine operations, coal-fired  
21 electric utilities, and coal-based manufacturing or steelmaking facilities, within West Virginia or in  
22 states that provide markets for, and consume, West Virginia steam or metallurgical coal and offer  
23 assistance and to sustain, protect, and expand their continued operation and reliance on West  
24 Virginia coal;

25 (9) On its own initiative or at the request of a community or a mining operation, offer  
26 assistance to facilitate the development of economic or community assets. Such assistance may

27 include the preparation of a master land use plan pursuant to the provisions of §5B-2A-9 of this  
28 code;

29 (10) To develop an educational program and policy materials in support of West Virginia's  
30 coal industry, to be incorporated into a program designed to educate the public on the economic  
31 and societal benefits provided by the coal industry, including the provision of reliable baseload  
32 electric generation by coal-fired power plants; and

33 (11) To coordinate a program of recruitment and training of industrial workers in  
34 conjunction with the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health Safety and Training and Workforce  
35 West Virginia to respond to West Virginia's growing manpower needs generally and coal mining  
36 particularly. The state-of-art training facility in Julian (Boone County) will serve as host to the  
37 "West Virginia Mine Safety and Training Academy" to attract, train new and experience miners  
38 and other industrial workers.

**§5B-2A-14. Sunset**

1 Unless acted upon by the Legislature, this article will sunset on June 30, 2032, at which  
2 time the Office of Coalfield Community Development shall terminate.



The Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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*Clerk of the House of Delegates*

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*Clerk of the Senate*

Originated in the House of Delegates.

In effect ninety days from passage.

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*Speaker of the House of Delegates*

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*President of the Senate*

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The within is ..... this the.....  
Day of ....., 2023.

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*Governor*