

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 3342**

By Delegates Gearheart, Householder, Storch,  
Howell, Clark, Maynor, Riley, Kump, Ellington, and  
Espinosa

[Introduced February 08, 2023; Referred to the  
Committee on Economic Development and Tourism  
then Finance]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §7-12-9a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 cooperation between municipal and county economic development authorities.

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

**ARTICLE 12. COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES.**

**§7-12-9a. Joint undertakings by county development authorities.**

1 (a) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that the citizens of the state would benefit  
2 from coordinated economic development efforts and that to encourage cooperation and  
3 coordination, county and municipal economic development authorities should share in the tax  
4 revenues derived from joint programs regardless of the county jurisdiction in which they are  
5 located.

6 (b) Any three or more county or municipal development authorities may contract to share  
7 expenses for and revenues derived from joint economic development projects within their  
8 respective geographic territories. Notwithstanding any other section of the code to the contrary,  
9 county and municipal development authorities may contract to distribute on a pro rata basis  
10 proceeds derived from joint economic development projects.

11 (c) Each county or municipal development authority participating in a joint economic  
12 development project contract must contribute at least \$15,000 in cash to the project.

13 (d) In the event that a county or municipal development authority desires to withdraw from  
14 participation, then the remaining participants may jointly choose a successor. No withdrawing  
15 county or municipal development authority shall be entitled to the return of any money or property  
16 advanced to the project, unless specifically provided for in the contract.

17 (e) In the event that a joint economic development project is terminated, all funds, property  
18 and other assets shall be returned to the county or municipal development authorities in the same  
19 proportion as contributions of funds, property and other assets were made by the county or  
20 municipal development authorities.

- 21 (f) A grant, which may not exceed \$100,000, may be made by the West Virginia  
22 Development Office to any county or municipal economic development authority which enters into  
23 such contracts.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow counties and municipalities the opportunity to jointly undertake economic development projects and to allow a pro-rata share in costs and revenues generated from said economic development project. This would facilitate more cooperation between economic development authorities in the areas of the state where geographic constraints may prevent a multiple-county undertaking, though municipalities are able to contribute resources to the project.

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