

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2023 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 691**

By Senator Maynard

[Introduced February 20, 2023; referred  
to the Committee on Education; and then to the  
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §15-1B-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to using Department of Health and Human Resources group home funds to assist cadets  
 3 enrollment at the Mountaineer Challenge Academy.

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

**ARTICLE 1B. NATIONAL GUARD.**

**§15-1B-24. Mountaineer Challenge Academy; expansion; cooperation of state executive agencies.**

1 (a) Subject to the agreement entered into between the United States Secretary of Defense  
 2 and the Governor to establish, organize, and administer the Mountaineer Challenge Academy  
 3 pursuant to 32 U.S.C. § 509, the Governor shall:

4 (1) Expand the capacity of the Mountaineer Challenge Academy location in Preston  
 5 County to accept cadets up to its maximum capacity;

6 (2) Expand the Mountaineer Challenge Academy to a second location in Fayette County;  
 7 and

8 (3) To the extent necessary to accomplish the requirements set forth in this subsection and  
 9 to maximize the use of federal funds, pursue an amendment to the agreement entered into with  
 10 the United States Secretary of Defense pursuant to 32 U.S.C. § 509.

11 (b) The Mountaineer Challenge Academy, operated by the Adjutant General at Camp  
 12 Dawson, is hereby acknowledged to be a program of great value in meeting the educational needs  
 13 of at-risk youth throughout the state. Further, the Mountaineer Challenge Academy is hereby  
 14 designated as a special alternative education program as is further provided pursuant to section  
 15 §18-2-6 of this code. It is, therefore, the intent of the Legislature that the Mountaineer Challenge  
 16 Academy should enjoy the full cooperation of the executive agencies of state government in  
 17 carrying out its program.

18 To this end, the State Board of Education shall, notwithstanding any other provision in this  
 19 code to the contrary:

- 20 (1) Include the Mountaineer Challenge Academy in the child nutrition program;
- 21 (2) Provide the names and mailing addresses of all high school dropouts in the state to the
- 22 director of the Mountaineer Challenge Academy annually; and
- 23 (3) Provide for Mountaineer Challenge Academy graduates to participate in the adult basic
- 24 education program.
- 25 (c) Further cooperation with the Mountaineer Challenge Academy is encouraged by the
- 26 Legislature for the purpose of assisting the Mountaineer Challenge Academy to achieve its
- 27 mission and help prepare young people for productive adulthood.
- 28 (d) The Mountaineer Challenge Academy and the Department of Health and Human
- 29 Resources shall cooperate to implement a plan that permits the use of group home funds for
- 30 cadets enrollment costs at the Mountaineer Challenge Academy.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to use Department of Health and Human Resources group home funds to assist cadets enrollment at the Mountaineer Challenge Academy.

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