

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4282

By Delegate Dean

[Introduced January 10, 2024; Referred to
the Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §18-2-30, relating to providing a supplemental year for West Virginia high
3 school students who have been affected by COVID-19 in order to complete their studies
4 and remain with their parents another year, so long as they satisfy other necessary
5 requirements; and providing for an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-30. Supplemental year for COVID-19.

1 (a) Due to the COVID-19 pandemic's effect on school operations and student learning,
2 notwithstanding any passing grades a student may receive during the 2023-2024 school year, any
3 student enrolled in a West Virginia public school during the 2023-2024 school year may request to
4 use the 2024-2025 school year as a supplemental school year to retake or supplement the
5 courses the student has already taken. A student enrolled in a West Virginia public school during
6 the 2023-2024 school year may request the supplemental school year notwithstanding the student
7 satisfying state and district graduation requirements. A retaken course under this section shall not
8 count as an additional credit towards graduation unless the student failed the original course.
9 Retaking a course under this section shall count towards full-time enrollment for the student. A
10 student shall submit the request to the local board of education by June 10, 2024. A local board of
11 education shall not approve or reject requests on an individual basis, but shall determine by June
12 30, 2024, whether the district shall or shall not accept all requests.

13 (b) Any West Virginia nonpublic school may allow a student enrolled during the 2023-2024
14 school year to use the 2024-2025 school year as a supplemental school year to retake or
15 supplement the courses the student has already taken.

16 (c) Notwithstanding any rule or regulation of the West Virginia Board of Education or the
17 West Virginia Secondary Schools Activities Commission, if a member school provides evidence to
18 the WVSSAC documenting a student as utilizing the 2024-2025 school year as a supplemental

19 school year under subsection (a) of this section at the member school, then the student shall have
20 eight consecutive calendar years of eligibility from the date of first entry into grade six, and retaking
21 courses pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall not otherwise disqualify the student from
22 eligibility. The WVSSAC may adopt rules, policies, and bylaws and promulgate administrative
23 regulations necessary to carry out this section.

24 (d) Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on education throughout the state has
25 resulted in a critical need to provide supplemental education to West Virginia's students, an
26 emergency is hereby declared to exist, and this act takes effect upon its passage and approval by
27 the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow for students that have been affected by COVID-19 to be allowed another year to complete high school based upon academics and remain with their parents another year, so long as they satisfy other necessary requirements, and to provide an effective date.

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