WEST virginia legislature

2024 regular session

Engrossed

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 4620

By Delegate Foster

[Originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources; Reported on January 16, 2024]

A BILL to amend and reenact §16-2-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to food handler permit; removing the expiration date of a food handler permit; requiring local health departments to adopt the minimum guidelines adopted by the bureau; and permitting continuing education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

Article 2. Local Boards of Health.

§16-2-16. Food handler examinations and cards.

A food handler permit or card issued pursuant to the procedures put in place by a local ~~county~~ board of health ~~department shall be valid for at least one year but not longer than three years.~~ does not expire. The permit or card shall be valid in all counties of this state, if the applicant pays an additional fee not to exceed $10. ~~If required,~~ A permit or card shall be obtained within thirty days of a person being hired in a restaurant or other applicable food establishment: *Provided*, That this requirement does not apply to individuals that serve at a nonprofit food preparation and/or distribution site twelve times or less in one calendar year if an individual with a food handler’s card is present when the individual is volunteering. The Bureau for Public Health shall ~~develop~~ adopt minimum guidelines for training programs for individuals seeking a food handler permit or card that ~~may~~ shall be adopted by local ~~county~~ health departments. A local board of health may require continuing education, if food handling guidelines change, but may not charge a fee. ~~In lieu of state guidelines a local health department may use training courses developed by the American National Standards Institute or other nationally recognized entities for food safety training.~~

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to remove the expiration date of a food handler permit, and make all trainings uniform.

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