

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4704**

By Delegate Linville

[Introduced January 15, 2024; Referred  
to the Committee on Political Subdivisions then Technology  
and Infrastructure ]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,  
 2 designated §5B-2P-1 §5B-2P-2, and §5B-2P-3, relating to establishing Infrastructure  
 3 Ready Jurisdictions; establishing the requirement for this designation; establishing  
 4 rulemaking for these Infrastructure Ready Jurisdictions for the Department of Economic  
 5 Development; awarding an additional five percent preferential scoring for entities on  
 6 projects within these jurisdictions on all permissible grants; and providing that this is not  
 7 available within an uncertified municipality even if the surrounding county or counties are  
 8 certified.

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

**ARTICLE 2P. INFRASTRUCTURE READY JURISDICTIONS.**

**§5B-2P-1. Process.**

1 (a) Any political subdivision of this state which refrains from enacting any permitting  
 2 requirements other than those contained in this Code may apply to the Department of Economic  
 3 Development for a designation as an Infrastructure Ready Jurisdiction.

4 (b) The Department of Economic Development is hereby authorized to promulgate  
 5 rules governing the process for certification as an Infrastructure Ready Jurisdiction.

**§5B-2P-2. Benefits.**

1 Any grant application for an infrastructure project, whether public or private, which is made  
 2 by any entity within the corporate boundaries of a political subdivision of this state which is certified  
 3 as an Infrastructure Ready Jurisdiction, shall receive five percent preferential scoring on all grants  
 4 permitted by or mandated by any provision of this Code, or by any portion of the Code of State  
 5 Regulations, unless such preferential scoring is explicitly forbidden by Federal laws or regulations,  
 6 or by any provision of this Code.

**§5B-2P-3. Multiple Subdivisions.**

1 The provisions of this article may not be utilized by applicants for projects situated within a  
 2 municipality which has not been certified as an Infrastructure Ready Jurisdiction, even if a  
 3 surrounding county or counties are so certified.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish Infrastructure Ready Jurisdictions; establish rulemaking; and award an additional five percent preferential scoring for projects within these jurisdictions on all permissible grants.

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