

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4899**

By Delegates Pinson and Burkhammer

[Introduced January 18, 2024; Referred to the  
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18B-20-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
 2 to the freedom of association and nondiscrimination against students and student  
 3 organizations on campus.

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

**ARTICLE 20. FREE EXPRESSION ON CAMPUS.**

**§18B-20-5. Freedom of association and nondiscrimination against students and student organizations.**

1 A state institution of higher education may not deny a religious, political, or ideological  
 2 student organization which is open to all students any benefit or privilege made available to any  
 3 other student organization by the state institution of higher education, or otherwise discriminate  
 4 against an organization, based on: (i) the expression of the organization; (ii) a requirement by the  
 5 organization that the organization’s leaders or members (A) affirm and adhere to the  
 6 organization’s sincerely held beliefs; or (B) comply with the organization’s standards of conduct; or  
 7 (C) further the organization’s mission or purpose.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide stronger language for the freedom of association and nondiscrimination against students and student organizations on campus.

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