

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 5178**

By Delegate W. Hall

[Originating in the Committee on Government  
Organization; Reported on February 21, 2024]



1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17D-2A-6a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
2 relating to requiring new and used motor vehicle dealerships in this state to utilize a search  
3 engine to determine if prospective buyers of vehicles have valid motor vehicle insurance.

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

**ARTICLE 2A. SECURITY UPON MOTOR VEHICLES.**

**§17D-2A-6a. Determining if required security is in effect.**

1 (a) The commissioner may make a determination that the required security on a motor  
2 vehicle is not in effect based upon crash reports required under the provisions of article four,  
3 chapter seventeen-c of this code, reports or citations from law-enforcement agencies, citations or  
4 abstracts of conviction from courts or from information from an on-line electronic insurance  
5 verification program.

6 (b) The commissioner is authorized to develop and implement an electronic insurance  
7 verification program based upon a model established by the Insurance Industry Committee on  
8 Motor Vehicle Administration to electronically verify evidence of insurance coverage with  
9 insurance companies.

10 (c) The commissioner may contract with a third party vendor to act as his or her agent to  
11 develop the program, conduct the electronic verification process with insurance companies and to  
12 operate the program.

13 (d) If developed and implemented by the commissioner, the on-line insurance verification  
14 program shall:

15 (1) Be able to verify, on an on-demand basis minus reasonable down time for system  
16 maintenance as agreed upon by the division or its agent and the insurance carrier, the liability  
17 insurance status as of the time of the inquiry or at other times not exceeding six months prior  
18 unless otherwise agreed upon by the division or its agent and the insurance carrier or via other  
19 similar electronic system that is consistent with insurance industry and Insurance Industry

20 Committee on Motor Vehicle Administration (IICMVA) recommendations and the specifications  
21 and standards of the IICMVA model;

22 (2) Be able to make insurance verification inquiries to insurers by using multiple data  
23 elements for greater matching accuracy including: National Association of Insurance  
24 Commissioner's (NAIC) code specific to each licensed insurance company, vehicle identification  
25 numbers and policy number or other data elements as otherwise agreed to by the division or its  
26 agent and the insurer.

27 (3) Provide sufficient measures for the security and integrity of data including a  
28 requirement that the information obtained through the operation of the program be only used for  
29 the sole use of the Division of Motor Vehicles or its agent, law enforcement, new and used motor  
30 vehicle dealerships, and the judiciary to effectuate the provisions of this article; and

31 (4) Utilize open and agreed upon data and data transmission standards and standard SML  
32 extensible markup language schema.

33 (e) If the commissioner develops and implements an on-line insurance verification  
34 program, each insurer shall:

35 (1) Cooperate with the Division of Motor Vehicles, or its agent in establishing and operating  
36 the program;

37 (2) Maintain the data necessary to verify the existence of mandatory liability insurance  
38 coverage provided to its customers pursuant to the required time period established for the on-line  
39 insurance verification program;

40 (3) Maintain the internet web service, pursuant to the requirements established under the  
41 online insurance verification program, through which online insurance verification can take place  
42 that includes the ability to respond to authorized inquiries on whether the vehicle is insured or the  
43 policy in effect on the requested date through the insurer's national insurance commissioners  
44 association code, vehicle identification number, insurance policy number or other data key or keys  
45 as otherwise agreed to by the division or its agent and the insurer;

46 (4) Provide security consistent with accepted insurance industry and United States motor  
47 vehicle agency standards pertinent to the transmission of personal data;

48 (5) Be immune from civil and administrative liability for good faith efforts to comply with the  
49 terms of the verification program; and

50 (6) As a condition of writing motor vehicle liability insurance in this state, insurance carriers  
51 shall cooperate with the division or its agent and the insurance commission in establishing and  
52 maintaining an insurance verification system. Nothing prohibits an insurer from using the services  
53 of a third party vendor for facilitating the insurance verification program required by this section.

54 (f) If the commissioner develops and implements an on-line insurance verification  
55 program, the Division of Motor Vehicles or its agent as applicable shall:

56 (1) Consult and cooperate with insurers in establishing and operating the on-line insurance  
57 verification system;

58 (2) Designate and maintain a contact person for insurers during the establishment and  
59 implementation of the on-line insurance verification system;

60 (3) Conduct a pilot project to test the insurance verification system no less than eighteen  
61 months prior to final implementation;

62 (4) Establish and maintain the systems necessary to make verification requests to insurers  
63 using the data elements that the Division of Motor Vehicles or its agent and the insurer have  
64 agreed upon and are necessary to receive accurate responses from insurers;

65 (5) For all information transmitted and received, implement and maintain strict system and  
66 data security measures consistent with applicable standards. Data secured via the reporting  
67 system by either the division or its agent may not be shared by any person who accesses the  
68 reporting system with any party other than those permitted by state or federal privacy laws;

69 (6) Be responsible for keeping all interested state agencies informed on the  
70 implementation status, functionality, and planned or unplanned service interruptions; and

71 (7) Provide alternative methods of reporting for small insurers writing less than 500 non-  
72 commercial motor vehicle policies in the state as determined by the Division of Motor Vehicles or  
73 its agent;

74 (g) Any information obtained by the division or its agent under the provisions of an  
75 electronic insurance system is for the sole use of the Division of Motor Vehicles or its agent, law  
76 enforcement and the judiciary to effectuate the provisions of this article and is exempt from  
77 disclosure under the provisions of article one, chapter twenty-nine-b and may not be considered a  
78 public record as defined in section two, article one, chapter twenty-nine-b of this code.

79 (h) Not more than two years after the establishment of an on-line insurance verification  
80 program, the Division of Motor Vehicles, after consultation with insurers, shall report to the  
81 Legislature as to the costs of the program incurred by the division, insurers and the public and the  
82 effectiveness of the program in reducing the number of uninsured motor vehicles.

83 (i) The insurance database set forth in this section may be utilized by new and used motor  
84 vehicle dealerships in this state to determine if a prospective purchaser has valid motor vehicle  
85 insurance.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to permit new and used motor vehicle dealerships in this state to utilize a search engine to determine if buyers of vehicles have valid motor vehicle insurance.

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