

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5355

By Delegates Statler, Rohrbach, Mallow, Toney,
Ellington, Sheedy, Summers, Riley, Williams,
Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), and Jennings

[Introduced January 30, 2024; Referred to the
Committee on Fire Departments and Emergency
Medical Services then Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §15A-11-12, relating to allowing volunteer fire departments to use Fire
 3 Protection Fund monies to fund expenses associated with the implementation of the State
 4 Auditor's West Virginia Checkbook fiscal reporting system.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 11. FIRE COMMISSION.

§15A-11-12. Certain expenses to be paid by Fire Protection Fund.

1 (a) Legislative findings. – A new provision in §33-3-33 of this code requires volunteer fire
 2 departments in this state to utilize the State Auditor's West Virginia Checkbook fiscal reporting
 3 system on or before January 1, 2026, in order to remain eligible to receive any funds. Because
 4 volunteer fire departments have expenses associated with the transition to this online system,
 5 such departments should be able to utilize funds from the Fire Protection Fund to cover such
 6 expenses.

7 (b) Definition. – "Expenses" include, but are not limited to, those items that are required or
 8 helpful for the implementation of the State Auditor's West Virginia Checkbook fiscal reporting
 9 system for volunteer fire departments, including but not limited to computers, programming, the
 10 use of a Certified Public Account ("CPA"), and other technology and associated expenses.

11 (c) Enactment. – Volunteer fire departments may utilize Fire Protection Fund monies to pay
 12 for expenses associated with the transition to the State Auditor's West Virginia Checkbook fiscal
 13 reporting system.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow volunteer fire departments to use fire protection funding for certain purchases associated with the State Auditor's West Virginia Checkbook fiscal reporting system.

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