

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5610

By Delegate Hansen

[Introduced February 12, 2024; Referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §3-1-17A, relating to requiring certain candidates for county offices to disclose
 3 criminal history when filing for office.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS.

§3-1-17A. Candidates for sheriff and prosecutor to disclose criminal histories.

1 To assure that the public when electing county officers that have law enforcement or
 2 prosecutorial duties are informed of their character, each candidate for the office of sheriff or
 3 prosecuting attorney shall when filing as a candidate for that office provide a statement with the
 4 Secretary of State disclosing any prior criminal history record, including a statement regarding any
 5 arrest, prosecution or conviction of any felony in this or any other jurisdiction. The statement shall
 6 include a description of the crime and disposition of any case brought against the candidate. The
 7 purpose of this statement is not to prevent persons with criminal histories from being prevented
 8 from holding office, but to provide notice to the public of this information.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require candidates for sheriff or prosecutor to file a notice with the Secretary of State of prior criminal history when filing for office.

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