WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5617

By Delegate Linville

By Request of the Public Service Commission

[Introduced February 12, 2024; Referred to the

Committee on Technology and Infrastructure then the

Judiciary]

1   A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section

2   designated §24-2-1r relating to authorizing the Public Service Commission to promulgate

3   rules for maintenance, flushing, flow testing, and marking of fire hydrants owned by water

4   utilities.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

§24-2-1r. Authority of commission to adopt and enforce water hydrant practices.

1   The Legislature finds that it is in the public interest of the citizens of West Virginia for public

2   water utilities to follow the National Fire Protection Association's Recommended Practice for Fire

3   Flow Testing and Marking of Hydrants (Standard 291) and the American Water Works

4   Association's Fire Hydrants, Installation, Field Testing and Maintenance (Manual M17) to ensure

5   that all installed fire hydrants are working properly. Therefore, those standards are hereby adopted

6   and the Public Service Commission may promulgate rules in accordance with the provisions of

7   §29A-1-3 *et seq.* of this code on the inspection, flushing, flow testing, and marking of fire hydrants

8   owned by public water utilities as set forth in those standards.

9   All public water utilities shall comply with these standards and any rules the commission

10   may promulgate. A public water utility may use its cash working capital reserve.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to adopt standards and authorize the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules on the testing, flushing, flow testing, and marking of fire hydrants owned by water utilities.

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