

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 503

By Senators Grady, Taylor, Maynard, Roberts, Deeds,

Azinger, and Rucker

[Introduced January 22, 2024; referred

to the Committee on Education; and then to the

Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §18B-20-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to protection of belief-based student organizations by expanding student organizations
 3 that are protected against certain types of discrimination by a state institution of higher
 4 education; and expanding the types of discrimination the student organizations are
 5 protected from.

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 generally available
 3 to ~~any other student organization~~ organizations by the state institution of higher education, or
 4 otherwise discriminate against such an organization, based on:

- 5 (1) the The expression of the organization; or
- 6 (2) A requirement by the organization that the organization’s leaders or members:
 - 7 (A) Affirm and adhere to the organization’s sincerely held beliefs;
 - 8 (B) Comply with the organization’s standards of conduct; or
 - 9 (C) Further the organization’s mission or purpose.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to protect belief-based student organizations by expanding student organizations that are protected against certain types of discrimination by a state institution of higher education and expanding the types of discrimination the student organizations are protected from.

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