

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 862**

By Senators Woodrum and Grady

[Introduced February 19, 2024; referred  
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §5F-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
 2 changing the designation of the Division of Culture and History as a separate independent  
 3 agency to an agency within the Executive Branch as the Department of Arts, Culture, and  
 4 History.

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

**ARTICLE 2. TRANSFER OF AGENCIES AND BOARDS.**

**§5F-2-1. Transfer and incorporation of agencies and boards; funds.**

1 (a) The following agencies and boards, including all of the allied, advisory, affiliated, or  
 2 related entities and funds associated with any agency or board, are incorporated in and  
 3 administered as a part of the Department of Administration:

- 4 (1) Public Employees Insurance Agency provided in §5-16-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- 5 (2) Governor's Mansion Advisory Committee provided in §5A-5-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- 6 (3) Commission on Uniform State Laws provided in §29-1A-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- 7 (4) West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Board provided in §6C-3-1 *et seq.* of this  
 8 code;
- 9 (5) Board of Risk and Insurance Management provided in §29-12-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- 10 (6) Boundary Commission provided in §29-23-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- 11 (7) Public Defender Services provided in §29-21-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- 12 (8) Division of Personnel provided in §29-6-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- 13 (9) West Virginia Ethics Commission provided in §6B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- 14 (10) Consolidated Public Retirement Board provided in §5-10D-1 *et seq.* of this code; and
- 15 (11) Real Estate Division provided in §5A-10-1 *et seq.* of this code.

16 (b) The following agencies and boards, including all of the allied, advisory, affiliated, or  
 17 related entities and funds associated with any agency or board, are incorporated in and  
 18 administered as a part of the Department of Commerce:

- 19 (1) Division of Labor provided in §21-1-1 *et seq.* of this code, which includes:

20 (A) Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission provided in §21-3A-1 *et seq.* of  
21 this code; and

22 (B) Board of Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety provided in §21-9-1 *et seq.* of  
23 this code.

24 (2) Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training provided in §22A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

25 The following boards are transferred to the Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training for  
26 purposes of administrative support and liaison with the Office of the Governor:

27 (A) Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety and Coal Mine Safety and Technical Review  
28 Committee provided in §22A-6-1 *et seq.* of this code;

29 (B) Board of Miner Training, Education, and Certification provided in §22A-7-1 *et seq.* of  
30 this code; and

31 (C) Mine Inspectors' Examining Board provided in §22A-9-1 *et seq.* of this code.

32 (3) Division of Natural Resources and Natural Resources Commission provided in §20-1-1  
33 *et seq.* of this code;

34 (4) Division of Forestry provided in §19-1A-1 *et seq.* of this code;

35 (5) Geological and Economic Survey provided in §29-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;

36 (6) Workforce West Virginia provided in chapter 21A of this code, which includes:

37 (A) Division of Unemployment Compensation;

38 (B) Division of Employment Service;

39 (C) Division of Workforce Development;

40 (D) Division of Research, Information and Analysis; and

41 (7) Division of Rehabilitation Services provided in §18-10A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

42 (c) The Economic Development Authority provided in §31-15-1 *et seq.* of this code is  
43 continued as an independent agency within the executive branch.

44 (d) The Water Development Authority and the Water Development Authority Board  
45 provided in §22C-1-1 *et seq.* of this code is continued as an independent agency within the

46 executive branch.

47 (e) The West Virginia Educational Broadcasting Authority provided in §10-5-1 *et seq.* of  
48 this code is continued as a separate independent agency within the Department of Arts, Culture,  
49 and History, which shall provide administrative support for the authority.

50 (f) The Division of Culture and History as established in §29-1-1 *et seq.* of this code is  
51 continued as ~~a separate independent~~ an agency within the Executive Branch as the Department of  
52 Arts, Culture, and History. All references throughout this code to the "Division of Culture and  
53 History" means the "Department of Arts, Culture, and History".

54 (g) The following agencies and boards, including all of the allied, advisory, and affiliated  
55 entities, are transferred to the Department of Environmental Protection for purposes of  
56 administrative support and liaison with the Office of the Governor:

57 (1) Air Quality Board provided in §22B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;

58 (2) Solid Waste Management Board provided in §22C-3-1 *et seq.* of this code;

59 (3) Environmental Quality Board, or its successor board, provided in §22B-3-1 *et seq.* of  
60 this code;

61 (4) Surface Mine Board provided in §22B-4-1 *et seq.* of this code;

62 (5) Oil and Gas Inspectors' Examining Board provided in §22C-7-1 *et seq.* of this code;

63 (6) Shallow Gas Well Review Board provided in §22C-8-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

64 (7) Oil and Gas Conservation Commission provided in §22C-9-1 *et seq.* of this code.

65 (h) Subject to the provisions of §5F-2-1a of this code, the following agencies and boards,  
66 including all of the allied, advisory, affiliated, or related entities and funds associated with any  
67 agency or board, are incorporated in and administered as a part of the Department of Health and  
68 Human Resources:

69 (1) Human Rights Commission provided in §5-11-1 *et seq.* of this code;

70 (2) Bureau for Public Health provided in §16-1-1 *et seq.* of this code;

71 (3) Office of Emergency Medical Services and the Emergency Medical Service Advisory

72 Council provided in §16-4C-1 *et seq.* of this code;

73 (4) Health Care Authority provided in §16-29B-1 *et seq.* of this code;

74 (5) The Developmental Disabilities Council established by Executive Order No. 6-88 and  
75 continued by Executive Order No. 15-99;

76 (6) Women's Commission provided in §29-20-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

77 (7) Bureau for Child Support Enforcement provided in §48-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

78 (i) The following agencies and boards, including all of the allied, advisory, affiliated, or  
79 related entities and funds associated with any agency or board, are incorporated in and  
80 administered as a part of the Department of Homeland Security:

81 (1) West Virginia State Police;

82 (2) Division of Emergency Management provided in §15-5-1 *et seq.* of this code and  
83 Emergency Response Commission provided in §15-5A-1 *et seq.* of this code: *Provided*, That  
84 notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, whenever in this code, or a rule  
85 promulgated thereunder, a reference is made to the Division of Homeland Security and  
86 Emergency Management, it shall be construed to mean the Division of Emergency Management;

87 (3) Division of Administrative Services;

88 (4) Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation;

89 (5) Fire Commission;

90 (6) State Fire Marshal;

91 (7) Board of Probation and Parole;

92 (8) The West Virginia Fusion Center;

93 (9) Division of Protective Services; and

94 (10) Any other agency or entity hereinafter established within the Department of Homeland  
95 Security by an act of the Legislature.

96 (j) The following agencies and boards, including all of the allied, advisory, affiliated, or  
97 related entities and funds associated with any agency or board, are incorporated in and

98 administered as a part of the Department of Revenue:

99 (1) Tax Division provided in §11-1-1 *et seq.* of this code;

100 (2) Racing Commission provided in §19-23-1 *et seq.* of this code;

101 (3) Lottery Commission and position of Lottery Director provided in §29-22-1 *et seq.* of this  
102 code;

103 (4) Insurance Commissioner provided in §33-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;

104 (5) West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner provided in §11-16-1 *et seq.* of  
105 this code and §60-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;

106 (6) Board of Banking and Financial Institutions provided in §31A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code;

107 (7) Lending and Credit Rate Board provided in §47A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code;

108 (8) Division of Financial Institutions provided in §31A-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;

109 (9) The State Budget Office provided in §11B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;

110 (10) The Municipal Bond Commission provided in §13-3-1 *et seq.* of this code;

111 (11) The Office of Tax Appeals provided in §11-10A-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

112 (12) The State Athletic Commission provided in §29-5A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

113 (k) The following agencies and boards, including all of the allied, advisory, affiliated, or  
114 related entities and funds associated with any agency or board, are incorporated in and  
115 administered as a part of the Department of Transportation:

116 (1) Division of Highways provided in §17-2A-1 *et seq.* of this code;

117 (2) Parkways Authority provided in §17-16A-1 *et seq.* of this code;

118 (3) Division of Motor Vehicles provided in §17A-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;

119 (4) Driver's Licensing Advisory Board provided in §17B-2-1 *et seq.* of this code;

120 (5) Aeronautics Commission provided in §29-2A-1 *et seq.* of this code;

121 (6) State Rail Authority provided in §29-18-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

122 (7) Public Port Authority provided in §17-16B-1 *et seq.* of this code.

123 (l) Effective July 1, 2011, the Veterans' Council provided in §9A-1-1 *et seq.* of this code,

124 including all of the allied, advisory, affiliated, or related entities and funds associated with it, is  
125 incorporated in and administered as a part of the Department of Veterans' Assistance.

126 (m) Except for powers, authority, and duties that have been delegated to the secretaries of  
127 the departments by §5F-2-2 of this code, the position of administrator and the powers, authority,  
128 and duties of each administrator and agency are not affected by the enactment of this chapter.

129 (n) Except for powers, authority, and duties that have been delegated to the secretaries of  
130 the departments by §5F-2-2 of this code, the existence, powers, authority, and duties of boards  
131 and the membership, terms, and qualifications of members of the boards are not affected by the  
132 enactment of this chapter. All boards that are appellate bodies or are independent decision makers  
133 may not have their appellate or independent decision-making status affected by the enactment of  
134 this chapter.

135 (o) Any department previously transferred to and incorporated in a department by prior  
136 enactment of this section means a division of the appropriate department. Wherever reference is  
137 made to any department transferred to and incorporated in a department created in §5F-1-2 of this  
138 code, the reference means a division of the appropriate department and any reference to a  
139 division of a department so transferred and incorporated means a section of the appropriate  
140 division of the department.

141 (p) When an agency, board, or commission is transferred under a bureau or agency other  
142 than a department headed by a secretary pursuant to this section, that transfer is solely for  
143 purposes of administrative support and liaison with the Office of the Governor, a department  
144 secretary, or a bureau. Nothing in this section extends the powers of department secretaries under  
145 §5F-2-2 of this code to any person other than a department secretary and nothing limits or  
146 abridges the statutory powers and duties of statutory commissioners or officers pursuant to this  
147 code.

148 (q) The Department of Economic Development as established in §5B-2-1 *et seq.* of this  
149 code is continued as a separate independent agency within the Executive Branch.

150 (r) The Department of Tourism as established in §5B-2I-1 *et seq.* of this code is continued  
151 as a separate independent agency within the Executive Branch.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to change the designation of the Division of Culture and History as a separate independent agency to "an agency" within the Executive Branch as the Department of Arts, Culture, and History, by deleting the words "separate independent" preceding the word "agency".

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