

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 551**

By Senator Weld

[Introduced February 20, 2025; referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

- 1 A BILL to amend and reenact §61-2-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 increasing the penalty for second degree murder.

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

**ARTICLE 2. CRIMES AGAINST THE PERSON.**

**§61-2-3. Penalty for murder of second degree.**

- 1 Murder of the second degree shall be ~~punished~~ punishable by a definite term of  
2 imprisonment in the penitentiary ~~which is of~~ not less than ~~ten nor more than forty years~~ 15 years to  
3 life imprisonment. A person imprisoned pursuant to the provisions of this section is not eligible for  
4 parole prior to having served a minimum of ~~ten~~ 15 years of his or her sentence or the minimum  
5 period required by the provisions of §62-12-13 of this ~~Code~~ code, whichever is greater.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the penalty for second degree murder.

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