



WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

Commission on Interstate Cooperation

2021 Interim Session

Senate Members

Senator Jack Woodrum, Chair
Senator Owens Brown
Senator Robert Karnes
Senator Mark Maynard
Senator Michael Romano
Senator David Stover
Senator Charles Trump

House Members

Delegate Erikka Storch, Chair
Delegate Gary Howell, V. Chair
Delegate Nathan Brown
Delegate Wayne Clark
Delegate Barbara Fleischauer
Delegate Johnnie Wamsley

Final Report of the Commission on Interstate Cooperation

The Commission on Interstate Cooperation, established pursuant to West Virginia Code §29-1B-1 *et seq.*, met throughout the 2021 interim session. The Commission was not assigned any specific topics or resolutions for study but is charged with the function of developing and maintaining correspondence with officials and employees of the federal, state, and local governments. This Commission's goal is to advance cooperation when appropriate, by adopting compacts, enacting uniform statutes, rules, and regulations, as well as the exchange of information.

The Commission first met on September 14, 2021. After organizational motions, Dr. Vincent Cardi, Professor at the West Virginia School of Law, explained the role of the Uniform Law Commission and its intended relationship with the Commission. He briefly described Acts that the Commission considered top priority for West Virginia, including the Uniform Athlete Agents Act and the Restrictive Employment Agreement Act, among others.

The second meeting of the Commission took place on October 10, 2021. This meeting involved brainstorming of ideas between members of the Commission regarding potential interstate cooperation. Delegate Howell mentioned public utilities as a focus of cooperation with Maryland, specifically concerning water rates that are provided jointly between the two states. He also mentioned cooperating with Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia, and Maryland concerning reciprocal fishing licenses. With respect to transportation, agreements with Maryland for the Greater Cumberland Regional Airport, and a possible cooperation concerning the Heartland Intermodal Gateway were mentioned. Delegate Clark mentioned cooperating with Maryland on Mark Train funding in the eastern panhandle. Senator Maynard suggested an increased cooperation on waterways, specifically the Tug River which borders Kentucky.

The third meeting of the Commission took place on November 16, 2021. Professor Cardi returned virtually to the Commission to explain the Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act. After questions from members, Professor Cardi described another act being considered by the Commission, the Uniform Restrictive Employment Agreement Act. Next, Charlotte Lane, Chairman of the Public Service Commission, testified in front of the Commission about questions from Delegate Howell during the previous meeting concerning the authority of the Public Service Commission to regulate or oversee a utility from another state that serves West Virginia residents. Jessica Lane, General Counsel for the PSC, answered questions from Delegate Howell about the role that the PSC plays in protecting West Virginia residents from unfair utility price increases from another state that provides the utility. Cindy Dellinger, staff attorney, described the Uniform Civil Remedies for Unauthorized Disclosure of Intimate Images Act and Delegate Howell moved that the Commission report the bill to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance with the anticipation that it be introduced in the next regular session. Brian Casto, staff attorney, described the Uniform Commercial Real Estate Receivership Act and Delegate Howell moved that the Commission report the bill to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance with the anticipation that it be introduced in the next regular session. Before adjourning, Senator Maynard

mentioned a potential topic for a future Commission meeting, a proposed interstate system that runs from Detroit, MI to Myrtle Beach, SC, and suggested that members in districts within the proposed route meet to discuss this topic.

The fourth and final meeting of 2021 was held December 7, 2021. Brian Casto, staff attorney, described the Revised Uniform Athlete Agents Act and answered questions from the Commission. Delegate Howell moved that the Commission report the bill to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance with the anticipation that it be introduced in the next regular session. Lieutenant Colonel Dave Trader, Deputy Chief Law Enforcement Officer for the Division of Natural Resources, testified in front of the Commission concerning licensure requirements for hunting and fishing licenses and discussed reciprocal agreements between West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Maryland, and Virginia. Lastly, Cindy Dellinger, staff attorney, described the Uniform Restrictive Employment Agreement. She answered questions from the Commission and Delegate Storch moved that the Commission report the bill to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance with the anticipation that it be introduced in the next regular session.

The meeting on January 11, 2022, was cancelled due to conflicts with the special session.

Respectfully submitted,


Senator Jack Woodrum, Co-Chair


Delegate Erikka Storch, Co-Chair