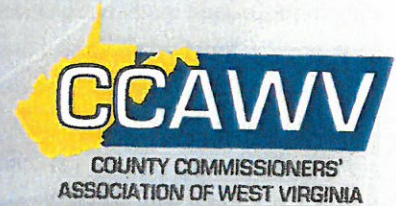


LEGISLATIVE LINEUP



YOUR LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM CCAWV

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Collective County Voices

Monday, April 20, 2015
Report from the 81st Legislature

Summary of County Legislation Passed and signed by the Governor

The first Regular Session of 2015 is over. Two Hundred sixty-two bills completed legislative action. The Governor signed 243 of these bills into law and vetoed a record 18 bills, many for technical errors. Below you will find a brief summary of 43 of these bills that have county implications or county interest. If there are other bills you'd like to know more about, just give our office a call 304-345-4639. Remember, if you are viewing this document online, you can click the bill number and review the actual language of the final bill.

~Vivian Parsons

Bill 	Title / Summary	Status 	Effective Date
SB 12	<u>Relating to payment of separated employee's outstanding wages.</u> relates to payment of wages by employers; provides for how payments may be made; requires certain payments by the next regular payday; provides for payments pursuant to certain agreements; reduces amount of liquidated damages available for violation of this section; provides instance when liquidated damages are not available; clarifies that section does not address whether overtime pay is due; authorizes payment by mail if requested by employee; and establishes date paid if payment mailed pursuant to employee request. – Completed 3/13/15	Approved by Governor 3/31/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 11, 2015)
SB 89	<u>Relating to compensation for certain public officials.</u> This bill increases the annual salary of the Executive Director of the West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute from \$70,000 (current) to \$80,000; and clarifying and restoring language accurately stating the compensation range for the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources that was omitted by inadvertent clerical error in previous legislation. – Completed 3/11/15	Approved by Governor 3/18/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 9, 2015)

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
SB 106	<p><u>Relating to work supervision of a sanitary board.</u> During the construction period of a facility, one of the members must be a registered professional engineer, except that if a registered professional engineer is under contract for the project, the membership of the board is not required to include a registered professional engineer. The engineer member of the board need not be a resident of the municipality. After the construction of the plant for which no registered professional engineer is under contract has been completed, the engineer member may be succeeded by a person not an engineer. – Completed 3/12/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/24/15	Effective from Passage - (March 12, 2015)
SB 187	<p><u>Authorizing Department of Revenue promulgate legislative rules</u> – includes rules for appointing a special Assessor. – Completed 2/28/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/5/15	Effective from passage - (February 28, 2015)
SB 234	<p><u>Relating to operation and regulation of certain water and sewer utilities owned by political subdivisions.</u></p> <p>21st Century Regulatory Reform Bill – <i>provided by Amy Swan, Rural Water Association</i> This bill, which was signed by the Governor on March 31, 2015, amends portions of Chapter 16 and Chapter 24 to revise Public Service Commission jurisdiction over certain utilities that are political subdivisions of the state. These revisions impact municipal utilities and PSDs with more than 4,500 customers and greater than \$3M annual combined revenues (“qualified utilities”). It gives local government the responsibility and authority to manage its infrastructure as it deems most appropriate and requires that the Commission provide technical support in these efforts.</p> <p>Commission regulation over political subdivision utilities is continued regarding the Water and Sewer Rules, including customer service and measurement of service delivered (metering), utility accounting, reporting/public information, subpoena and hearings, and inter-utility disputes.</p> <p>Elected and appointed leaders must be ready able to take full responsibility to inform the rate paying public of infrastructure management opportunities and challenges and to marshal local support for infrastructure funding and development.</p> <p>Key Provisions:</p> <p>24-1-1(j): Deregulates qualified utilities regarding rates, borrowing and capital projects.</p> <p>24-1-1(k): Requires that all political subdivision utilities maintain a working capital reserve of no less than 1/8 actual annual O&M expense.</p> <p>24-1-2: Defines governing body as a City Council or PSD board.</p> <p>24-2-1(b)(1-7): Lists specific and limited PSC jurisdiction over qualified utilities.</p> <p>24-2-3 and 4a: Removes PSC rate jurisdiction over qualified utilities.</p> <p>24-2-4b: Requires rates to be non-discriminatory and based on measured cost of service; Requires that rates include a reasonable plant-in-service depreciation</p>	Approved by Governor 3/31/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
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	<p>expense; Continues rate appeal provisions for non-qualified utilities; Requires PSC technical assistance upon written request of utility.</p> <p>24-2-11: Removes PSC certificate requirements for projects performed by qualified utilities; Provides process for public notice and approval of projects supported by new rates.</p> <p>16-13A-9: Provides rate enactment process for qualified PSDs; Requires County Commission approval of rates within 45 days of enactment by PSD Board.</p> <p>16-13A-25: Allows all PSDs to borrow money, enter into engineering contracts, receive grants and issue revenue bonds without PSC permission.</p> <p>-Completed 3/14/15</p>		
SB 249	<p>Prohibiting straight party voting in general election – this bill removes the provision for voting a straight party ticket by one mark or punch in a general election.</p> <p>-Completed 3/11/2015</p>	Approved by Governor 3/25/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage – (June 9, 2015)
SB 298	<p>Clarifying funds within Public Employees Retirement Fund - clarifying that members deposit fund, employers accumulation fund, retirement reserve fund, income fund and expense fund all refer to the Public Employees Retirement Fund.</p> <p>-Completed 2/20/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/3/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 21, 2015)
SB 312	<p>Relating to disqualification of general election nominees for failure to file campaign finance statements. This bill provides that candidates who fail to file campaign finance statements by the eighty-fourth day before the general election are disqualified and a disqualification under this section would create a ballot vacancy and permit the replacement of a candidate on the ballot. The bill also authorizes the Secretary of State to promulgate legislative rules concerning providing written notice to a candidate prior to his or her disqualification.</p> <p>-Completed 3/14/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/31/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)
SB 318	<p>Relating to payment of wages by employers This bill requires that every person, firm or corporation doing business in this state, except railroad companies, shall settle with its employees at least <u>twice every month</u>, rather than every two weeks, unless otherwise provided by special agreement, and pay them the wages due, less authorized deductions and authorized wage assignments, for their work or services.</p> <p>-Completed 3/14/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/26/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)
SB 322	<p>Eliminating mandatory electronic recount of ballots in recounts - The purpose of this bill is to remove the unnecessary requirement of a mandatory electronic recount of ballots in recounts.</p> <p>-Completed 3/10/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/18/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 8, 2015)
SB 323	<p>Relating to Municipal Home Rule Pilot Program - allows participation of thirty Class I, Class II and Class III municipalities; allows participation of four Class IV</p>	Approved by Governor 3/31/15	Effective Ninety Days from

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
	<p>municipalities; continues ordinances in effect; removes requirements that Municipal Home Rule Board must approve a municipality's amendment to its home rule plan and that a municipal ordinance is nullified if the municipality's amendment to its home rule plan is not approved by the Municipal Home Rule Board; removes requirement that the board approve each municipal ordinance prior to enactment; removes process for enacting ordinance; authorizes amendments to municipal ordinances, acts, resolutions, rules or regulations enacted pursuant to the municipality's approved written plan; removes provisions prohibiting municipality from enacting ordinance, act, resolution, rule or regulation after the pilot program terminates in 2019; and prohibits municipalities from seeking refunds of moneys collected from taxpayers or moneys distributed to municipalities by the Tax Division under the pilot program</p> <p>-Completed 3/14/15</p>		<p>Passage - (June 12, 2015)</p>
<p>SB 332</p>	<p><u>Relating to administrative fees for Tax Division, Department of Revenue -</u></p> <p>The purpose of this bill is to: (1) Authorize a 1% fee for the Tax Department on collections of specified taxes, for collection, distribution and administration of special revenue fees by the Tax Department and for collection of money for another state or local agency or entity, and to authorize limited changes to fees by legislative rule; (2) Authorize reimbursement to the Tax Department for OASIS fees imposed on transactions; (3) Authorize fee changes, subject to limitations, by legislative rule; and (4) Authorize a Tax Department revolving fund for deposits of such fees, limited to a \$3 Million carryover.</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/18/15</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 8, 2015)</p>
<p>SB 342</p>	<p><u>Clarifying scope, application and requirements for error corrections by CPRB</u> – This bill is relating to correction of errors under the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System, the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System, the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System, the State Teachers Retirement System, the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System, the West Virginia State Police Death, Disability and Retirement System, the West Virginia State Police Retirement System and the Judges' Retirement System; and clarifying scope, application and requirements for error correction by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board.</p> <p>-Completed 3/12/15</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/24/15</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 10, 2015)</p>
<p>SB 347</p>	<p><u>Creating Firearms Act of 2015</u></p> <p>This was the bill that would have eliminated the requirement for a concealed weapons' permit in WV.</p>	<p>Vetoed by Governor 3/20/15</p>	<p>Vetoed</p>
<p>SB 361</p>	<p><u>Eliminating prevailing hourly wage requirement for construction of public improvements</u></p> <p>This bill provides for a new determination and methodology of determining fair minimum rate of wages by at certain intervals by Workforce West Virginia, working with WVU and Marshall University. Rates shall be established and filed on January 1, of each year. The bill also eliminates required prevailing hourly</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/12/15</p>	<p>Effect April 13, 2015</p>

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
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	<p>wage for construction of public projects costing a total of \$500,000 or less and the time of bid. The bill requires the contractor and each subcontractor or the officer of the public authority in charge of the construction of a public improvement to keep accurate wage records. It shall not be necessary to preserve such record for a period longer than three years after the termination of the contract. Workforce West Virginia is required to propose both emergency and legislative rules. – CCAWV supported passage of this bill.</p> <p>-Completed 3/4/15</p>		
<p>SB 370</p>	<p><u>Codifying and reorganizing Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Correction and certain subcommittees.</u> Also allows for adjustment of fees to be made by legislative rules.</p> <p>-Completed 3/13/15</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/26/15</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 11, 2015)</p>
<p>SB 409</p>	<p><u>Establishing Fair and Open Competition in Governmental Construction Act</u></p> <p>To prevent discrimination against governmental bidders, offerors, contractors or subcontractors based upon labor affiliation or the lack thereof, the Legislature, in this bill declares that project labor agreements should not be part of the competitive bid process or be a condition for a grant, tax abatement or tax credit.</p> <p>-Completed 3/13/15</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/26/15</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 11, 2015)</p>
<p>SB 415</p>	<p><u>Relating to circuit judges</u> This bill adds one circuit judge to each of the following judicial circuits: The Fifth Circuit (Mason, Jackson, Roane and Calhoun counties); the Tenth Circuit (Raleigh County); the Twenty-third Circuit (Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson Counties); and the Twenty-sixth Circuit (Lewis and Upshur Counties). These additional judges are allocated based upon the West Virginia Circuit Judge Workload Study conducted by the State Justice Institute of the National Center for State Courts. The bill further updates the provisions for the commencement and completion of terms of office for circuit judges currently serving as well as those elected in the year 2016.</p> <p>-Completed 3/13/15</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/24/15</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 11, 2015)</p>
<p>SB 435</p>	<p><u>Creating WV Sheriffs' Bureau of Professional Standards</u> This bill creates the WV Sheriffs' Bureau of Professional Standards for the purpose of providing better law enforcement for the counties of our state and for providing standardization and uniformity of services and operation of the sheriff offices throughout the state. The bureau shall be comprised of nine members, including the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, or his or her designee, the Executive Director of the West Virginia Sheriffs' Association, five sheriffs of the counties of West Virginia, to be selected by the West Virginia Sheriffs' Association, and two citizen members representing the general public who shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety, with the consent of the Senate, and whose service shall be conditioned upon signing all necessary nondisclosure agreements relating to confidential law-enforcement information. The Bureau will promote training; standards for</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/31/15</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)</p>

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
	vehicles, badges and uniforms; and standards for interagency cooperation. The first attempt at this bill was vetoed by the Governor because of technical errors, corrected and passed again. -Completed 3/14/15		
<u>SB 445</u>	<u>Relating to investment of RJCFA funds</u> Whenever the Regional Jail and Correctional Facilities Authority determines that the balance in the RJCFA funds is in excess of the immediate requirements of the Authority, it may request that the excess be invested in the West Virginia Board of Treasury Investments or the West Virginia Investment Management Board until needed. Earnings on any investments pursuant to this section shall be credited to these funds. CCAWV supported passage of this legislation in order to maximize the return on investments of RJA funds. -Completed 3/10/15 http://www.governor.wv.gov/Documents/SB445veto.pdf	VETOED by Governor 3/31/15	
<u>SB 479</u>	<u>Adding additional family court judges.</u> The purpose of the bill is to add two family court judges to the family courts of the state; one in the sixth family court circuit (Cabell County) and one in the twenty-third family court circuit (Mineral, Hampshire and Morgan counties). These additional judges are allocated based upon the West Virginia Family Court Judge Workload Study conducted by the State Justice Institute of the National Center for State Courts. The bill further strikes language which is no longer necessary, provides that the additional family court judges will be elected in the regularly scheduled elections taking place in the year 2016, and updates the provisions for the commencement and length of terms of office for family court judges currently serving as well as those elected in the year 2016. -Completed 3/13/15	Approved by Governor 3/24/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 11, 2015)
<u>SB 488</u>	Creating Broadband Enhancement Council. This bill re-creates the Broadband Enhancement Council; it establishes 13 voting members; outlines powers and duties; establishes the Broadband Enhancement Fund and puts it under the control of the Department of Commerce to administer. The bill transfers funds from Broadband Deployment Fund to Department of Commerce; modifies requirements for retention of outside expert consultants; and grants legislative rule-making authority. -Completed 3/13/15	Approved by Governor 3/24/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 10, 2015)
<u>SB 489</u>	Imposing statute of limitations on civil actions derived from surveying of real property. This bill imposes a statute of limitations for bringing a civil action derived from actual surveying of real property more than ten years after the performance or furnishing of services. -Completed 3/10/15	Approved by Governor 3/24/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 8, 2015)

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
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SB 518	<p><u>Permitting county and municipal economic development authorities invest certain funds.</u> This bill grants county and municipal economic development authorities the authority to invest funds received from the sale, lease or other disposition of real or personal property owned by such authority in a manner determined by the authority's board of directors to be in the best interest of the authority under an investment policy adopted and maintained by the board that is consistent with the standards of the Uniform Prudent Investor Act. It requires that for short-term investments the board of directors shall consult with the State Treasurer prior to investing funds; and for long-term investments, the board shall consult with the Investment Management Board and compare the rate of return on investment for the previous three years and compare the expense loads for the past three years, and if the comparison for the Investment Management Board is more favorable, the board must invest the funds with the Investment Management Board.</p> <p>-Completed 3/14/15</p>	Approved by Governor 4/2/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)
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SB 529	<p><u>Relating to PERS, SPRS and TRS benefits and costs.</u> This bill creates new rules for public employees hired July 1, 2015 and after.</p> <p>--It authorizes purchase of military service for "new" members of the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System and Teachers Retirement System of up to 60 months, based on a sliding scale and they have 48 months to pay.</p> <p>--The bill increases the contribution rate for new members to 6% (rather than the current member amount of 4.5%) and increases the number of years of contributing service required to be vested from to 10 for new hires (current participants are vested at 5 years).</p> <p>--It eliminates using accrued annual and sick leave for additional retirement service credit for new hires participating in the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System, the State Police Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System.</p> <p>--The bill, for a limited time, permits certain members of the Teachers Retirement System who transferred from the Teachers' Defined Contribution System to buy, with interest, their full service credit in the Teachers Retirement System.</p> <p>--It also revises the reciprocal retirement provisions for members of the teachers and the public employees system hired July 1, 2015, and thereafter.</p> <p>-This bill passed and was vetoed because of technical errors, then passed again in extended session on 3/18 and signed by the Governor on 4/3</p>	Approved by Governor 4/3/15	Effective from Passage - (March 18, 2015)
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SB 549	<p><u>Establishing classifications and salary schedules for State Police forensic lab civilian employees.</u> This bill was vetoed by the Governor. In his veto message (link below) he indicated that the same folks received a 20% increase last year, while other state employees still aren't getting raises. CCAWV supported this legislation because of the impact to our regional jail costs. Due to staff resources and trouble keeping professional positions filled, there is a back log of forensic work that contributes to longer jail stays.</p> <p>http://www.governor.wv.gov/Documents/SB549veto.pdf</p>	VETOED by Governor 4/2/15	
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Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
HB 2002	<p><u>Predicating actions for damages upon principles of comparative fault.</u> Establishing the comparative fault standard; abolishing joint liability and implementing several liability; establishing how to consider the fault of parties and nonparties to a civil action; establishing how to consider the fault of, and the amounts paid by, settling parties; establishing how to reallocate any portion of a judgment a plaintiff is unable to collect; providing for the use of special interrogatories; establishing certain exceptions to several liability; clarifying fault may be imputed to another person who was acting as an agent or servant of another; establishing limits on liability where a plaintiff is involved in a felony criminal act; providing for the burden of proof and limitations; and defining terms. The reason I report this bill, is that it provides limited tort reform that is mostly an improvement over the current circumstances and could be positive for our insurance pool.</p> <p>-Completed 2/24/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/5/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 25, 2015)
HB 2010	<p><u>Requiring the elections of justices of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit court judges, family court judges and magistrates be nonpartisan and by division.</u> It requires that elections to these offices be on a division basis when more than one justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit judge, family court judge or magistrate is to be elected and provides for the timing and frequency of elections. The bill requires that elections for justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit judge, family court judge or magistrate are to be held on the same date as the primary election and requires nonpartisan ballots be used. It provides that unsuccessful nonpartisan candidates can be selected to fill ballot vacancies in a general election and provides for the continuing applicability of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Program, modifying the amount of public campaign financing available to qualifying candidates in a contested election and removing public campaign financing from qualifying candidates in an uncontested election.</p> <p>-Completed 3/10/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/25/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 8, 2015)
HB 2099	<p><u>Extending the time of meetings of local levying bodies when meetings are delayed.</u> This bill allows for extending the time of meetings of local levying bodies when meetings are delayed due to circumstances beyond the control of a local levying body. It provides the State Auditor with authority to extend the time of meetings of local levying bodies, rather than requiring legislative approval. The bill requires the State Auditor to propose rules to implement this section and requires that the meeting be held in compliance with open meetings laws.</p> <p>-Completed 2/28/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/11/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 29, 2015)
HB 2128	<p><u>Permitting those individuals who have been issued concealed weapons permits to keep loaded firearms in their motor vehicles on the State Capitol Complex grounds.</u> This bill permits those individuals who hold a valid current concealed weapons permit to keep firearms in their motor vehicles on the State Capitol Complex grounds if the vehicle is locked and the weapon is out of normal view. -Completed 2/11/15</p>	Approved by Governor 2/18/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 12, 2015)

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
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<u>HB 2157</u>	<p>Relating to absentee ballot fraud. This bill establishes that fraud associated with absent voters' ballots is a felony. Any person who, with the intent to commit fraud, obtains, removes, or disseminates an absent voters' ballot, intimidates an absent voter, or completes or alters an absent voters' ballot, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$10,000 nor more than \$20,000, imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than one nor more than five years, or both fined and imprisoned.</p> <p>-Completed 3/3/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/11/15 - House Journal	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 1, 2015)
<u>HB 2187</u>	<p>Encouraging public officials to display the national motto on all public property and public buildings.</p> <p>This bill was VETOED by the Governor because it required the State Building Commission to develop guidelines for the display of the national motto and POW-MIA flag on state buildings and properties and the State Building Commission ceased to exist as of July 1, 2000. (see veto message link below)</p> <p>http://www.governor.wv.gov/Documents/HB2187veto.pdf</p>	VETOED by Governor 3/26/15	
<u>HB 2213</u>	<p><u>Reducing the distributions to the West Virginia Infrastructure Fund.</u> This bill reduces the distributions to the West Virginia Infrastructure Fund from the State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund to \$30 million for fiscal year 2016 (normally \$40 million); and allows for 50% of funds available annually for grants from the West Virginia Infrastructure Fund. This is up from last year's cut to \$20 million.</p> <p>-Completed 3/11/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/25/15	Effective from Passage - (March 11, 2015)
<u>HB 2233</u>	<p>Allowing that legislative rules be reviewed. This bill authorizes the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee, with the assistance of the Legislative Auditor's Office, to review any interpretive, procedural and current legislative rule to determine if it is achieving its purpose; and requires the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee to make recommendations to the applicable agency or board and the Joint Committee on Government and Finance for amendment or repeal of the rule.</p> <p>-Completed 3/14/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/31/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)
<u>HB 2266</u>	<p><u>Relating to the publication requirements of the administration of estates.</u></p> <p>The bill repeals a provision requiring fiduciary commissioner to publish notice of time for receiving claims against decedents' estates;</p> <p>--changes requirements for publication by county clerk (within 30 days of filing of the appraisement or with 120 days of the date of qualification of the personal representative, clerk shall publish once a week for 2 successive weeks, in a newspaper of general circulation in the county of the administration of the estate. The bill specifies what is to be included in publication);</p> <p>--requires legal residences to be included on certificates of death;</p> <p>--reduces creditors claim period from ninety to sixty days;</p> <p>--increases value of estates for which a fiduciary commissioner need not be</p>	Approved by Governor 3/31/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
	<p>appointed (value \$200,000 or less, exclusive of real estate specifically devised and nonprobate asset, or if there appears to be only one beneficiary); --and authorizes clerk of the county commission to require a certified copy of a decedent's certificate of death or other proof of death and residence. -Completed 3/14/15</p>		
<p>HB 2457</p>	<p><u>Limitations on the use of the name or likeness of elected or appointed officials.</u> -- prohibits the use of the name or likeness of a public official on publicly-owned vehicles; --prohibits a public official from placing his or her name or likeness on trinkets paid for with public funds; --prohibits a public official from using public funds to distribute certain advertising materials bearing his or her name or likeness; --prohibits a public official from using public funds or public employees for entertainment purposes within forty-five days of a primary, general, or special election in which the public official is a candidate; --makes exceptions; (does not prohibit public officials from using their names or likenesses on any official record or report, letterhead, document or certificate, or instructional material issued in the course of their duties as public officials, or on promotional materials used for tourism promotion. Shall not be interpreted as prohibiting public officials from using public funds to communicate with constituents in the normal course of their duties as public officials so long as such communications do not include any reference to voting in favor of the public official in an election.) --permits the Ethics Commission to promulgate rules. -Completed 2/27/15</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/14/15 - House Journal</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 28, 2015)</p>
<p>HB 2505</p>	<p><u>Relating to retirement system participation and "concurrent employment" provisions</u> The purpose of this bill is to clarify that members of DSRS, MPFRS and EMSRS first employed in covered employment shall participate in only one retirement system administered by CPRB in which the member has the earliest hire date; and to specify that members of PERS, State Police (Plan B) and TRS employed in an additional job in DSRS, MPFRS or EMSRS shall participate in and abide by the concurrent employment provisions of said system administered by CPRB. -Completed 3/09/15</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/25/15</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 7, 2015)</p>
<p>HB 2549</p>	<p><u>Relating to the preparation and publication of county financial statements.</u> This bill changes the deadline of disclosure and publication as a Class I-0 legal advertisement of the county financial statements to October 15th each year. -Completed 3/14/15</p>	<p>Approved by Governor 3/31/15</p>	<p>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)</p>

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
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HB 2562	<p>Relating to sales tax increment financing. This bill allows recalculation of the base tax revenue amount, subject to specified limitations, for sales tax increment financing districts, and to specifies that, if sales tax increment financing district monthly revenue is insufficient to recover the base tax revenue amount attributable to that month, the deficit carries forward to subsequent months until paid, but that any unpaid deficit carried forward shall be discharged and set at zero on the first day of each fiscal year. Passage of this bill was needed to address issues with the Monongalia County Sales Tax Increment Financing project.</p> <p>-Completed 3/10/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/25/15	Effective from Passage - (March 10, 2015)
HB 2636	<p>Exempting information contained in a concealed weapon permit application from the Freedom of Information Act</p> <p>Under the Freedom of Information Act, this bill redefines the term "public record" (includes any writing containing information prepared or received by a public body, the content or context of which, judged either by content or context, relates to the conduct of the public's business.);</p> <p>--defines and exempts certain fees and costs for reproduction of records (The public body may establish fees reasonably calculated to reimburse it for its actual cost in making reproductions of records. A public body may not charge a search or retrieval fee or otherwise seek reimbursement based on a man-hour basis as part of costs associated with making reproduction of records.);</p> <p>--directs the Secretary of State to establish a database of Freedom of Information requests and publication on the Secretary of State's website;</p> <p>--directs public bodies to report Freedom of Information request information to the Secretary of State;</p> <p>authorizes emergency and legislative rulemaking authority to the Secretary of State;</p> <p>establishes a presumption of public accessibility to public records;</p> <p>exempts information contained in a concealed weapon permit application from the Freedom of Information Act;</p> <p>authorizes disclosure of exempt information to law enforcement agency; protects the confidentiality of information collected in an application for a concealed weapon permit;</p> <p>and provides criminal penalties.</p> <p>-Completed 3/14/15</p>	Approved by Governor 4/1/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)
HB 2778	<p>State Infrastructure Fund Program. This bill authorizes the West Virginia Division of Highways to enter into cooperative agreements with United States Secretary of Transportation to establish infrastructure revolving funds; it creates the State Transportation Infrastructure Fund Program; and permits Commissioner of the Division of Highways to propose rules for legislative approval.</p> <p>-Completed 3/9/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/25/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 7, 2015)

Bill	Title / Summary	Status	Effective Date
HB <u>2810</u>	<p><u>Implementing the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative to reduce the number of properties posing a threat to public health and safety.</u> The purpose of this bill is to direct the West Virginia Housing Development Fund to implement a statewide property rescue initiative, to allocate \$1 million per year for five years to a revolving loan program, to provide for removal or rehabilitation of dilapidated housing throughout the state by counties and municipalities through training, technical services, and consultation, and with annual reports to the Legislature for the next 5 years with a final report on the effectiveness of the WV Property Rescue Initiative.</p> <p>-Completed March 14,2015</p>	Approved by Governor 4/1/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 12, 2015)
HB <u>2968</u>	<p><u>Exempting from property tax certain properties in this state owned by nonprofit youth organizations.</u> The purpose of this bill is to enact enabling legislation for the "Nonprofit Youth Organization Tax Exemption Support Amendment" to Article X of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia passed by the voters of the state at the general election of November 4, 2014. The bill exempts from property tax certain properties in this state owned by nonprofit youth organizations and built at cost of at least \$100 million. The bill sets forth the restrictions that affect the property and sets forth the permitted activities. The bill requires the property owner to pay 1 ¼ percent of gross revenues. The bill establishes how that 1 ¼ % is to be allocated. The bill requires reports and defines terms. – Completed 3/12/15</p>	Approved by Governor 3/27/15	Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (June 10, 2015)