

2020 West Virginia Legislative Session Bill Summaries

Bills Completed Legislative Action

[Senate Bill 120](#)

Establishing priorities for expenditures for plugging abandoned gas or oil wells

- Senate Bill 120 requires the director to promulgate legislative rules establishing a priority system by which available funds from the Oil and Gas Reclamation Fund will be expended to plug abandoned wells. The bill further requires that any bond posted for the well shall first be used to plug the well and mitigate environmental issues related to oil and gas development on the land where the well is located if: (1) the bond is forfeited as a result of failure to plug the abandoned well, repair the well that is causing immediate threat to the environment, or which hinders or impedes the development of mineral resources of this state; or (2) the well operator was cited for and then failed to correct an immediate threat to the environment or hinderance or impediment to the development of mineral resources; or (3) the operator failed to reclaim the surface disturbance causing immediate threat to the environment or which hinders or impedes the development of mineral resources.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[Senate Bill 130](#)

Relating to procedure for driver's license suspension and revocation for DUI

- Senate Bill 130 relates generally to the procedures for revocation or suspension of a person's license to operate a motor vehicle for offenses involving driving under the influence of alcohol, controlled substances, or drugs. This bill transfers authority for hearing certain matters related to revocations or suspensions of licenses from the Office of Administrative Hearings to the courts. SB 130 sets forth mandatory license revocation and suspension periods and authorizes alternate revocation or suspension periods conditioned upon participation in the motor vehicle alcohol test and lock programs. SB 130 requires an arresting officer to submit a sworn statement containing certain information to the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles and the court when an intoxicated driver refuses a secondary chemical test. The intoxicated driver who refuses a secondary chemical test shall have their license revoked. SB 130 further eliminates all statutory provisions requiring the Commission of the Division of Motor Vehicles to take administrative action upon an individual's license on the basis of driving under the influence or refusal to submit to a secondary test absent direction from the court. SB 130 further provides that a plea of no contest constitutes a conviction. SB 130 additionally requires the Office of Administrative Hearings to dispose of all matters pending before it by July 1, 2020 and transfer said matters to the courts as the Office of Administrative Hearings is to be terminated no later than July 1, 2021.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/4/20).

[Senate Bill 136](#)

Prohibiting certain misleading lawsuit advertising practices

- SB 136 prohibits certain deceptive legal advertising practices; sets forth prohibited legal advertising practices; requires disclosures and warnings pertaining to prescription drugs and

medical devices; provides that engaging in prohibited legal advertising practices or failure to provide required disclosures and warnings constitute unfair and deceptive acts under the West Virginia Consumer Credit Protection Act; prohibits the use or disclosure of protected health information for solicitation of legal services; provides that the use or disclosure of protected health information constitutes a violation of West Virginia health privacy laws or the West Virginia Consumer Credit Protection Act; provides criminal penalties for unauthorized use or disclosure of protected health information; and clarifies that the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals retains authority to regulate the practice of law.

- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

Senate Bill 208

Protecting consumers from unfair pricing practices during state of emergency

- Senate Bill 208 protects consumers from price gouging and unfair pricing practices during, and shortly after, a state of emergency. The bill further authorizes the Governor to periodically review the scope and time period for which prices for certain goods may not be changed following a state of emergency.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/1/2020).

Senate Bill 209

Relating to annexation by minor boundary adjustment

- SB 209 provides that a county commission may develop a form application for annexation for minor boundary adjustments within designated urban growth boundaries, which shall now include, but not be limited to: an affidavit from each business located in, each person residing in, and each freeholder of the additional territory stating that he, she, or it, has consented to be included in the annexation, in such form as the county commission deems sufficient. In the event the municipality cannot obtain an affidavit from a business, resident or freeholder within 90 days after sending the affidavit form and a letter explaining the purpose of the affidavit via certified mail, such business, resident, or freeholder shall be deemed to have consented to the annexation. SB 209 further provides that if the county commission determines that the annexation could be cost effectively and efficiently accomplished under another section of code, that the application lacks sufficient evidence that all affected parties of the additional territory consent to the annexation, or that the application otherwise fails to meet the threshold requirements for consideration as a minor boundary adjustment, it shall enter an order denying the application setting forth the reasons for said denial therein. SB 209 also prohibits a municipality from applying for annexation by minor boundary adjustment for two years after the denial of application.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/5/2020. Effective from passage (2/20/20).

Senate Bill 291

Requiring PEIA and health insurance providers provide mental health parity

- SB 291 requires the Public Employees Insurance Agency and other health insurance providers to provide mental health parity between behavioral health, mental health, substance use disorders, and medical and surgery procedures. SB 291 further requires PEIA to complete annual reports of its comprehensive parity compliance and to file the same with the Joint

Committee on Government and Finance and the Public Employees Insurance Agency Finance Board.

- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/2020. Effective ninety days from passage (6/5/20).

Senate Bill 547

Relating to employer testing, notice, termination, and forfeiture of unemployment compensation

- Senate Bill 547 provides that if an employee is terminated because alcohol or a drug is found in the employee's system at a level proscribed by the employer's policy, the employee, if injured at the time of the intoxication forfeits indemnity benefits under the Workers' Compensation laws provided that the employer notified the employee of its drug and alcohol-free policy. The bill further provides that violation of an employer's drug-free workplace program, or violation of an employee's alcohol-free workplace program, can still be grounds for a finding of gross misconduct.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

Senate Bill 551

Relating to water and wastewater investment and infrastructure improvement act

- SB 551 enacts the Water and Wastewater Investment Facilitation Act to encourage investment in water and wastewater activities. This act (i) expands the uses to which a municipality that sells or leases a municipal gas, electric, water, wastewater, or other public utility may apply the proceeds of any such sale or lease; (ii) establishes a process to reorganize the appropriate value of a selling utility's assets to be included in the calculation of acquiring utility's post-acquisition rate base for rate-making purposes; and (iii) authorizes water and wastewater utilities owned by a single entity to combine water and wastewater revenue requirements to allocate a portion of the wastewater revenue requirement to water customers.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

Senate Bill 554

Relating to termination, expiration or cancellation of oil or natural gas leases

- SB 554 relates to the termination, expiration, or cancellation of oil or natural gas leases. SB 554 specifically provides that unless a different time is required by the lease, within 60 days after the termination, expiration, or cancellation of an oil or natural gas lease, the lessee shall deliver to the lessor, without cost to the lessor, or his or her successors or assigns, a properly executed and notarized release of such lease in recordable form. If the lessee fails to provide a timely release as required, the lessor, or his or her successors or assigns, may serve notice of lessee's failure to provide such release.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (5/31/20).

Senate Bill 560

Permitting nursing home use trained individuals administer medication

- SB 560 permits a nursing home to use medication assistance personnel who have been trained and retrained every two years to administer medication under the direction of a registered professional nurse. The registered professional nurse who supervises an approved medication assistant personnel may withdraw authorization if the nurse determines the approved

medication assistant personnel is not performing the function in accordance with the training and written instructions.

- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/5/20. Effective 90 days from passage (5/18/20).

[Senate Bill 578](#)

Recalculating tax on generating, producing, or selling electricity from solar energy facilities

- SB 578 relates to the adjusting of calculation of business and occupation tax on the business of generating, producing, or selling electricity from solar energy facilities. SB 578 further clarifies the taxable generating capacity for generating units utilizing solar photovoltaic methods shall equal eight percent of official capacity of the unit for the taxable period beginning on January 1, 2020.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/7/20. Effective July 1, 2020.

[Senate Bill 583](#)

Creating program to further development of renewable energy resources

- SB 583 relates to creating a program to further the development of renewable energy resources and renewable energy facilities for solar energy by modifying the powers and duties of the Public Service Commission. SB 583 provides for an application process and program for multiyear comprehensive renewable energy facilities for electric utilities to plan, design, construct, purchase, own and operate renewable energy-generating facilities, energy-storage resources, or both. SB 583 allows the commission to review and approve said programs. SB 583 further provides upon commission approval, electric utilities shall be authorized to implement renewable electric facilities programs and to concurrently recover their costs, including a return on capital investments, operation and maintenance, depreciation, and tax expenses directly attributable to the renewable electric facilities program capital investment, if any.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/3/20).

[Senate Bill 597](#)

Relating to judicial branch members' salaries and pensions

- Senate Bill 597 provides a 10% salary increase to certain judicial officers.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective July 1, 2020.

[Senate Bill 651](#)

Relating to the definition of "mortgage loan originator"

- SB 651 clarifies the definition of "mortgage loan originator" by providing it does not apply to a retailer of manufactured or modular homes or an employee of the retailer if certain circumstances are met.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/2/20).

[Senate Bill 657](#)

Allowing designation of tourism development districts

- SB 657 authorizes the Department of Commerce to assist qualifying tourism development projects and tourism development expansion projects in the creation of tourism development

districts by approved companies. The proposed district shall be entirely or partially within the corporate limits of a municipality which has a population of 2,000 or less as of the effective date of the most recent census.

- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/5/20. Effective 90 days from passage (5/25/20).

Senate Bill 670

Amending service of process on nonresident persons or corporate entities

- SB 670 relates to amending the manner of service of process on nonresident persons or corporate entities. SB 670 specifically provides that if the certified mail was returned by the United States Postal Service as unclaimed, unable to forward, or with any other notation other than “accepted” or “refused”, notice may be served in any manner accepted as service within the domiciled state of the nonresident, or in any manner otherwise permitted by sections 4(d)(7) or (8) of the W.Va. R. Civ. P. for corporations and any way permitted by section 4(c) of the W.Va. R. Civ. P. for individuals or noncorporate entities.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/24/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/4/20).

Senate Bill 686

Exempting contract and common carrier laws for certain vehicles

- SB 686 authorizes the use of an emergency substitute motor carrier when a certificate of convenience and necessity or contract carrier permit is suspended so that service to the customer may continue during the period of the emergency.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (5/29/20).

Senate Bill 703

Increasing earning limit for employees who accept separation incentive

- SB 703 relates to an increase in the earning limit from \$5,000.00 to \$25,000.00 to employees who accept a separation incentive under this article and subsequently return to employment. SB 703 also amends and removes obsolete, duplicative, or unnecessary language from state code.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective from passage (2/28/20).

Senate Bill 767

Relating to Licensures of Hospitals

- SB 767 allows hospitals to use other accrediting organizations, which have been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. SB 767 further repeals outdated Code requirements mandating non-profit hospital board composition.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/3/20).

Senate Bill 793

Relating to business and occupation taxes imposed on certain coal-fired electric generating units

- SB 793 clarifies the definition for coal-fired merchant power tenants, and provides an election for recomputation of the taxable generating capacity of a coal-fired electric power generating units placed in service prior to January 1, 1995. SB 793 allows owners or operators of those generating units to make irrevocable elections to reduce the taxable generating capacity of

those units to 45 percent of the official capability of the generating unit, for taxable periods beginning or after July 1, 2021, provided that the owner agrees to keep the generating units in operation until at least January 1, 2025. A recapture tax is imposed in the event the generating unit ceases to be operational during the required time period.

- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective July 1, 2020.

[Senate Bill 797](#)

Authorizing governing board of public and private hospitals employ hospital police officers

- SB 797 authorizes governing boards of public and private hospitals to appoint and employ hospital police officers. SB 797 further provides the necessary qualifications, training, authority, compensation and removal of hospital police officers. SB 797 further provides for the assistance of local law-enforcement agencies upon request by the hospitals.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[Senate Bill 846](#)

Requiring hospital publish notification prior to facility closure regarding patient medical records

- SB 846 requires a hospital to publish a notice in the newspaper of general circulation informing the public where medical records can be retrieved. SB 846 further requires publication to take place upon change in location of patient medical records. This notice is also to be published on the hospital's and/or facility's website.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective from passage (3/5/20).

[House Bill 2478](#)

Modifying the Fair Trade Practices Act

- HB 2478 modifies the Fair Trade Practices Act regarding costs and damages. HB 2478 further provides that applicable taxes are now included in the definition “cost” when referring to the business invoice of a retailer. HB 2478 further provides that upon a finding of bad faith on part of the violator, the court may award plaintiff treble damages, courts costs, litigation costs, and attorneys’ fees.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[House Bill 2497](#)

Relating to the whistle-blower law

- HB 2497 provides that no employer may deny a whistle-blower covered by the civil service system a promotion or other increase in compensation that the whistle-blower otherwise would have received. Additionally, any employee covered by the civil services system who feels he or she has suffered retaliatory action as a result of being a whistle-blower may pursue a grievance under the West Virginia Public Employees Grievance Procedure. The bill further provides that employees are free to engage in political activity or be a member of an organization of employees while employed.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 2/28/20. Effective ninety days from passage (5/18/20).

[House Bill 2646](#)

Providing a safe harbor for employers to correct underpayment or nonpayment of wages and benefits due to separated employees

- HB 2646 amends the West Virginia Wage Payment and Collection Act and provides a “safe harbor” to employers, allowing them an opportunity to collect underpayment or nonpayment of wages and fringe benefits due to separated employees before liquidated damages and attorneys’ fees can be imposed upon them.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective ninety days from passage (6/4/20)

House Bill 2961

Permitting the commissioner to require a water supply system be equipped with a backflow prevention assembly

- HB 2961 permits the commissioner of the Bureau of Public Health to require a water supply system be equipped with a backflow prevention assembly to protect the health and sanitation of water, whether publicly or privately owned. HB 2961 further provides that any customer deemed required to install a backflow prevention assembly may appeal the determination and a seek a waiver by the water utility, and if not satisfied, may appeal further to the Public Service Commission.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/24/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

House Bill 4001

Creating West Virginia Impact Fund

- HB 4001 creates the West Virginia Impact Fund, Investment Committee and Mountaineer Impact Office to invest funds in certain projects with the goal of furthering economic development, infrastructure development and job creation in the State of West Virginia.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/12/20. Effective from passage (3/5/20).

House Bill 4003

Relating to telehealth insurance requirements

- HB 4003 provides for reimbursement for telehealth services at a rate negotiated between the provider and the insurance company. HB 4003 applies to PEIA, Medicaid and commercial insurers. HB 4003 further expands the definition of “originating site” to include a person’s home; requires health plans to provide coverage for telehealth services if those same services are covered for in person services; and allows for reimbursement rates to be negotiated between the provider and the insurer, rather than requiring payment parity for equivalent services offered through telehealth technologies, among other provisions.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

House Bill 4009

Relating to the process for involuntary hospitalization

- HB 4009 authorizes a staff physician, after examination, to order the involuntary hospitalization of an individual whom the physician believes is addicted or mentally ill and likely to cause serious harm to himself or herself or other individuals and permits a 72 hour hold on said patient. HB 4009 further requires the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals to generate a statement for the attesting physician to be provided to the patient. The West Virginia

Supreme Court of Appeals are also required to produce information to hospitals regarding contact information for mental hygiene commissioners, designated county magistrates, and circuit judges. HB 4009 further provides that if a mental hygiene commissioner, designated county magistrate, or circuit judge does not respond to the request within twenty-four hours a report shall be filed to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[House Bill 4015](#)

Relating to Broadband Enhancement Expansion

- HB 4015 provides a timetable for Division of Highways to approve or deny applications for right-of-way access. It provides that telecommunications carriers may satisfy an obligation to provide the notice to other telecommunications carriers by requesting the assistance and coordination of the Broadband Enhancement Council. HB 4015 further provides that the division may receive in-kind compensation to be used for state purposes only. HB 4015 further provides that the Division of Highways may enter into an agreement and issue a permit to allow any carrier to use excess telecommunications facilities owned or controlled by the division. HB 4015 further gives the Governor authority to name the chair of the Broadband Enhancement Council. HB 4015 also enacts the Vertical Real Estate Management and Availability Act requiring the Department of Administration to manage the same.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[House Bill 4019](#)

Downstream Natural Gas Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit Act 2020

- HB 4019 provides that eligible taxpayers are allowed a credit against the portion of taxes imposed by the state that are attributable to and the consequence of the taxpayer's qualified investment in a new or expanded downstream natural gas manufacturing facility in this state, which results in the creation of new jobs.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/3/20).

[House Bill 4088](#)

Disposition of funds from certain oil and natural gas wells due to unknown or unlocatable interest owners

- HB 4088 provides that proceeds from certain real property interests that are due to persons whose names or addresses are unknown or unlocatable which are being kept in special funds throughout the state, if unclaimed for seven years or more, shall be transferred to the Oil and Gas Reclamation Fund and used to plug orphaned and abandoned oil and natural gas wells.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/3/20).

[House Bill 4090](#)

Creating the Oil and Gas Abandoned Well Plugging Fund

- HB 4090 creates and funds the Oil and Gas Abandoned Well Plugging Fund for use by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection to plug abandoned oil and gas wells without responsible operators. HB 4090 reduces the severance tax on marginal oil and natural gas wells, excluding wells utilizing horizontal drilling techniques targeting shale formations,

to 2.5% from 5% and provides that the 2.5% tax paid on such well is to be used by the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection to plug abandoned oil and gas wells without a responsible operator through the use of a new fund called the Oil and Gas Abandoned Well Plugging Fund.

- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/23/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/1/20).

[House Bill 4092](#)

Relating to Foster Care

- HB 4092 increases the number of children allowed in a foster care family from 5 to 6. HB 4092 further provides that no later than December 1, 2020, the DHHR shall enter into performance-based contracts with child placing agencies requiring the child-placing agency to report data on performance and service outcomes of placement of older children, placement of children with special needs and recruitment and retention of foster parents. The Department is also required to pay child-placing agencies a minimum of \$1,000.00 per child for each adoption finalized, at least \$75.00 a day for services provided to each child in placement, reimburse foster parents at least 40% of the minimum daily rate for services provided to each child placed in the foster family home, and provide foster families at least \$900 per month for each child placed in their home. HB 4092 further creates the Foster Parents' and Kinship Bill of Rights and further provides section defining reasonable prudent parents. HB 4092 further provides that DHHR shall establish minimum standards for transitional living services, scattered-site living arrangements and supervised group settings to which all child placing agencies or child welfare agencies who provide this service must conform by legislative rule. HB 4092 further provides that a Guardian *ad litem* shall conduct an independent investigation of the facts of an abuse and/or neglect case, meet the child face-to-face, draft and submit a written report to the court and thereafter appear for a hearing on the same.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[House Bill 4108](#)

Relating generally to certificates of need for health care services

- HB 4108 relates to the process for certificate of need exemptions for health care services. HB 4108 requires providers to submit a statement detailing which exemption applies to justify the exemption. HB 4108 further removes the 45-day review of the exemption request.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/24/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/4/20).

[House Bill 4360](#)

Prohibiting certain provisions from heating, ventilating, and cooling system licensing elements

- HB 4360 exempts persons only performing electrical, fire protection, or plumbing work on a heating, ventilating, and cooling system from abiding by the heating, ventilating, and cooling system licensing requirements. HB4360 also allows the Commissioner of Labor to credit verified military service, training or education, toward the HVAC licensing requirements.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/3/20).

[House Bill 4411](#)

Relating to the West Virginia Residential Mortgage Lender, Broker and Servicer Act

- HB 4411 relates to the West Virginia Residential Mortgage Lender, Broker and Servicer Act and adjusts the allowable final installment payment on mortgage loans to exceed by a de minimis amount, not to exceed five dollars more than any previous mortgage installment payment.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (5/27/20).

[House Bill 4421](#)

Natural Gas Liquids Economic Development Act

- HB 4421 creates the Natural Gas Liquids Economic Development Act to encourage development, transportation, and use of natural gas liquids in the state by providing certain tax credits related to the transportation and storage of natural gas liquids.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/3/20).

[House Bill 4438](#)

Relating to the licensing of advance deposit wagering

- HB 4438 creates a new section of code providing a mechanism to allow licensing of advance deposit wagering on horse and dog racing.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/23/20. Effective July 1, 2020.

[House Bill 4524](#)

Maximizing the entire state “wet” or permitting the sale of alcoholic liquors for off-premises consumption

- HB 4524 makes the entire state “wet”—*i.e.* permits the sale of alcoholic liquor for off-premises consumption and provides a county the option to vote to go “dry”—*i.e.* prohibit the sale of alcoholic liquors for off-premises consumption.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[House Bill 4559](#)

Modifying the limitations on civil actions against the perpetrator of sexual assault or sexual abuse upon a minor

- HB 4559 allows victims to initiate actions for sexual assault or sexual abuse against perpetrators only within four years of discovery regardless of age. A personal action for damages resulting from sexual assault or sexual abuse of a person who was an infant at the time of the act or acts alleged shall be brought against a person or entity which aided, abetted, or concealed the sexual assault or sexual abuse within 18 years after reaching the age of majority.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/1/20).

[House Bill 4585](#)

Providing immunity from civil or criminal liability for making good faith reports or suspected or known instances of child abuse or neglect

- HB 4584 grants civil or criminal immunity for individuals providing information or assistance to a good faith report of child abuse or neglect.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[House Bill 4587](#)

Modernizing the Public Service Commission's regulation of solid waste motor carriers and solid waste facilities

- HB 4587 relates to the regulation of the collection, hauling and disposal of solid waste by motor carriers. HB 4587 also authorizes an indexed automatic rate increase for solid waste collection and hauling, multi-year contracts, solid waste carriers to request pooling, and the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules on the same. HB 4587 also sets forth procedures for the approval of rates.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/25/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).

[House Bill 4621](#)

West Virginia FinTech Regulatory Sandbox Act

- HB 4621 creates the West Virginia FinTech Regulatory Sandbox, which enables a participant to obtain limited access to West Virginia's financial services market to test innovative financial products or services prior to obtaining state licensure or other authorization that otherwise may be required. HB 4621 requires the West Virginia Division of Financial Institutions to be responsible for the admission process and operation of the Sandbox Program, in partnership with the West Virginia of Financial Institutions and other appropriate agencies.
- **Status**—Signed by the Governor on 3/24/20. Effective 90 days from passage (6/5/20).