

APPROVED AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

Date 3 - 23 - 82

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1982

— ● —

# ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 2035

(By Mr. Knight & Mr. Stephens)

— ● —

Passed March 12 1982

In Effect Ninety days from Passage



ENROLLED

## H. B. 2035

(By MR. KNIGHT and MR. STEPTOE)

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[Passed March 12, 1982; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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AN ACT to amend chapter sixteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated article five-g, relating to requiring the proceedings of the governing bodies of nonprofit and local governmental hospitals to be open to the public.

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

That chapter sixteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated article five-g, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 5G. OPEN HOSPITAL PROCEEDINGS:**

**§16-5G-1. Declaration of legislative policy.**

1 The Legislature hereby finds and declares that hospitals  
2 owned or operated by nonprofit corporations, nonprofit asso-  
3 ciations or local governmental units are relied on by the  
4 citizens of this state for services essential to their health and  
5 well-being. The Legislature further finds and declares that  
6 public funds from various sources and by various means con-  
7 tribute significantly to the revenues and operations of such  
8 institutions. Therefore, it is in the best interest of the people  
9 of this state for all proceedings of the boards of directors or  
10 other governing bodies of such hospitals to be conducted in  
11 an open and public manner so that the people can remain  
12 informed of the decisions and decision making processes af-

13   fecting the health services on which they so vitally depend and  
14   which they help support through tax exemptions, public fund-  
15   ing and other means.

**§16-5G-2. Open proceedings.**

1    Every board of directors or other governing body of any  
2    hospital owned or operated by a nonprofit corporation, non-  
3    profit association or local governmental unit shall be open to  
4    the public in the same manner and to the same extent as re-  
5    quired of public bodies in article nine-a, chapter six of this  
6    code.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

*R. P. Bayle*  
 Chairman Senate Committee

*Long E. Whellow*  
 Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes effect ninety days from passage.

*Todd C. Hicks*  
 Clerk of the Senate

*C. Blankenship*  
 Clerk of the House of Delegates  
*Warren R. McSaw*  
 President of the Senate

*Walter M. Lee, Jr.*  
 Speaker House of Delegates

The within is opposed this the 23  
 day of March, 1982.

*John A. Rayner*  
 Governor

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SECY. OF STATE