

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Enrolled

Senate Bill 143

BY SENATORS SMITH, PHILLIPS, CAPUTO, WOODRUM,

JEFFRIES, HAMILTON, TRUMP, MAYNARD, RUCKER,

TAYLOR, AND MARONEY

[Passed January 30, 2023; in effect 90 days from passage (April 30, 2023)]

FILED

2023 FEB - 6 P 4: 15

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

SB 143

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1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §22-15A-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
2 relating to the Adopt-A-Stream Program; requiring volunteers 17 years of age or younger
3 be accompanied by an adult; changing streams eligible for participation in program;
4 altering process for selecting stream participation in program; allowing department to
5 approve or deny applications at its discretion; expanding sources of funding to support
6 program; lengthening period of stream participation from one to three years; altering
7 method of collection of stream litter; and requiring one cleanup of the river prior to road
8 signs being erected.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 15A. THE A. JAMES MANCHIN REHABILITATION ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION PLAN.**

§22-15A-3a. Creation of Adopt-A-Stream Program required.

1 (a) The Adopt-A-Highway Program was established in the late 1980s to improve the
2 quality of the state's environment by encouraging public involvement in the elimination of highway
3 litter. That program is cosponsored by the Division of Highways and the Department of
4 Environmental Protection, Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan. Its objective is to save
5 taxpayer money by increasing public awareness and to serve as an educational tool by focusing
6 on the consequences of littering. The program offers volunteers the opportunity to take charge of
7 their own environment by making a positive effort to create a cleaner, more aesthetic place in
8 which to live.

9 In West Virginia there are currently 25,000 volunteers who regularly pick up litter on 4,000
10 miles of highway. They have been responsible for removing more than 40 million pounds of litter
11 since the program began.

12 (b) As with the Adopt-A-Highway Program, individuals, families, churches, businesses,
13 schools, civic organizations, government agencies, scouting groups, fraternities, and

14 communities may participate in an Adopt-A-Stream Program, which the department shall create
15 and implement. Participants 17 years of age or younger must be accompanied by an adult. Any
16 stream or river within the state of West Virginia is eligible for adoption, with the exception of
17 streams or rivers determined to be unsafe by the department. Adopted streams or river sections
18 must be at least one mile long. Applications for adoptions will be reviewed and approved or denied
19 at the department's discretion. The Litter Control Fund, or other sources of funding deemed
20 appropriate by the secretary, may be used to support the Adopt-A-Stream Program.

21 (c) Adoptions are for a period of three years, during which time at least one cleanup is
22 required per year. Collected litter will be placed at designated locations approved by the
23 department. The department may coordinate with volunteers, local authorities, and state agencies
24 for removal and disposal of collected litter. Garbage bags, safety training, and gloves are to be
25 furnished by the program.

26 (d) Adopted streams or rivers may be identified by a sign at a location along the adopted
27 section bearing the Adopt-A-Stream logo and the name of the adopter after the first cleanup has
28 been completed. Volunteers who complete one required litter pickup within the first year of the
29 three-year contract period shall be awarded a certificate of accomplishment signed by the
30 secretary.

31 (e) Any stream obstruction or other cause for concern observed by volunteers may be
32 reported to the Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Natural Resources, the State
33 Conservation Committee, or the appropriate local county emergency manager.

34 (f) The secretary may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the
35 provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

The Clerk of the Senate and the Clerk of the House of Delegates hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.


Clerk of the Senate


Clerk of the House of Delegates


OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

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FILED

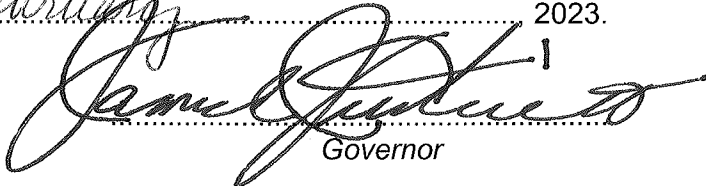
Originated in the Senate.

In effect 90 days from passage.


President of the Senate


Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is is approved this the 6th
Day of February 2023.


Governor

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

FEB 1 2023

Time 11:15 am