WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §15-5-20b

§15-5-20b. Continuation of the State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program; transfer to the Division of Emergency Management; funding; responsibilities.

(a) The Legislature, finding that the National Flood Insurance Program is a voluntary federal program under which federal flood insurance is made available to participating communities and is of vital importance to the citizens of West Virginia, does hereby continue the State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program. Effective July 1, 2022, the State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program shall transfer from the Offices of the Insurance Commissioner to the Division of Emergency Management established pursuant to §15-5-3 of this code. The Division of Emergency Management shall provide office space, equipment, and supplies for the State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program, which shall be funded, in part, from the special revenue fund established in §33-3-14(c) of this code.

(b) The State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program shall issue guidance and instructions as necessary to administer the program effectively. The State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program shall offer and conduct training as required by §15-5-20a of this code and adopt adequate land use and development criteria that are consistent with the minimum standards established by the National Flood Insurance Program. The State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program shall be under the supervision of the Director of the Division of Emergency Management who shall employ staff as needed to operate the program.

(c) The Director of the Division of Emergency Management may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq*. of this code as necessary to administer the State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program and any of the program's responsibilities. Any state-owned property located in a non-participating local community shall be governed by rules proposed by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management.

(d) The State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program, in consultation with the Director of the Division of Emergency Management, and with the assistance of floodplain managers around the state, shall develop and publish a strategic plan to establish shared goals, define a path to meet those goals, and shall invite other governmental units to adopt these goals and objectives. The strategic plan shall be initially presented by the Director of the Division of Emergency Management to the State Resiliency Officer and to the State Resiliency Office Board who shall review and approve the strategic plan, and that plan shall be so presented and approved no less than biannually thereafter. The strategic plan shall be made available to the public.

(e) The State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program shall establish floodplain management guidelines for any state property in special hazard areas which, at a minimum,

satisfy the criteria set forth in 44 CFR §§60.3, 60.4, and 60.5 (2022).

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, the State Office of the National Flood Insurance Program shall cooperate with the State Resiliency Office to the fullest extent practicable to assist that office in fulfilling its duties.

WV Legislature