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**WEST VIRGINIA CODE CHAPTER 31A**  
**ARTICLE 3**

WV Legislature

**§31A-3-1. Board continued; appointment, qualifications, terms, oath, etc., of members; quorum; meetings; when members disqualified from participation; compensation; records; office space; personnel; continuation.**

(a) The West Virginia Board of Banking and Financial Institutions is continued and shall consist of six members and the commissioner, who shall be chairman. The six members shall be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. Three of the members shall be executive officers of state banking institutions. When a vacancy occurs among the executive officers of state banking institutions, the commissioner shall list all state banking institutions according to each bank's asset size and then divide the list into three groups so that there is an equal number of banking institutions in each group. The vacancy shall then be filled from the appropriate group to ensure that each group has a representative on the board. One member shall be an executive officer of a financial institution other than a banking institution. Two members shall represent the public, neither of whom shall be an employee, officer, trustee, director or owner of five percent or more of the outstanding shares of any financial institution. A member shall not hold any other office, employment or position with the United States, any state, county, municipality or other governmental entity or any of their instrumentalities or agencies or with any political party.

(b) The members of the board shall be appointed for overlapping terms of six years and in every instance shall serve until their respective successors have been appointed and qualified. Any member appointed for a full six-year term may not be reappointed until two years after the expiration of that term. Any member appointed for less than a full six-year term is eligible for reappointment for a full term. Before entering upon the performance of his or her duties, each member shall take and subscribe to the oath required by section five, article IV of the Constitution of this state. The Governor shall, within sixty days following the occurrence of a vacancy on the board, fill the vacancy by appointing a person for the unexpired term of, and meeting the same requirements for membership as, the person vacating the office. The Governor may remove any member in case of incompetency, neglect of duty, gross immorality or malfeasance in office.

(c) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum. The board shall meet at least once in each calendar quarter on a date fixed by the board. The commissioner may, upon his or her own motion, or shall upon the written request of three members of the board, call additional meetings of the board upon at least twenty-four hours' notice. A member shall not participate in a proceeding before the board to which a corporation, partnership or unincorporated association is a party and of which he or she is, or was at any time in the preceding twelve months, a director, officer, owner, partner, employee, member or stockholder. A member may disqualify himself or herself from participation in a proceeding for any other cause determined by him or her to be sufficient. Each member shall receive compensation in an amount equal to that authorized by section five, article two-a, chapter four of this code for members of the Legislature for interim duties for each day or portion of a day spent in attending meetings of the board and shall be reimbursed for all reasonable and necessary actual expenses incurred incident to his or her duties as a member

of the board as determined in accordance with regulations and policies issued by the travel management unit of the state Purchasing Division.

(d) The board shall keep an accurate record of all its proceedings and make certificates thereupon as may be required by law. The commissioner shall make available necessary office space and secretarial and other assistance required by the board.

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**§31A-3-2. General powers and duties.**

(a) In addition to other powers conferred by this chapter, the board has the power to:

- (1) Regulate its own procedure and practice;
- (2) Promulgate reasonable rules to implement any provision of this article in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code;
- (3) Advise the Commissioner in all matters within his or her jurisdiction;
- (4) Study the organization, programs and services of financial institutions and the laws relating thereto in this state and in other jurisdictions and to report and recommend to the Governor and the Legislature all such changes and amendments in laws, policies and procedures relating thereto as it considers proper;
- (5) Grant permission and authority to a financial institution:

(A) To participate in a public agency hereafter created under the laws of this state or of the United States, the purpose of which is to afford advantages or safeguards to financial institutions or to depositors therein and to comply with all lawful requirements and conditions imposed upon those participants; and

(B) To pay interest on demand deposits of the United States or any agency thereof, if the payment of interest is permitted under any applicable federal law, rule or regulation; and

(6) Seek judicial enforcement to compel compliance with any of its orders and to seek and obtain civil penalties as set forth under this chapter.

(b) The Board also has the power, by entering appropriate orders, to:

(1) Restrict the withdrawal of deposits from any financial institution when, in the judgment of the board, extraordinary circumstances make the restrictions necessary for the protection of creditors of and depositors in the affected institution;

(2) Compel the holder of shares in any corporate financial institution to refrain from voting the shares on any matter when, in the judgment of the board, the order is necessary to protect the institution against reckless, incompetent or careless management, to safeguard funds of depositors in the institution or to prevent willful violation of any applicable law or of any rule and regulation or order issued thereunder. In such a case the shares of the holder may not be counted in determining the existence of a quorum or a percentage of the outstanding shares necessary to take any corporate action;

(3) Approve or disapprove applications to incorporate and organize state banking institutions in accordance with the provisions of sections six and seven, article four of this chapter;

(4) Approve or disapprove applications to incorporate and organize state-chartered bankers' banks in accordance with the provisions of sections six and seven, article four of this chapter;

(5) Exempt a bankers' bank from any provision of this chapter if the board finds that the provision is inconsistent with the purpose for which a bankers' bank is incorporated and organized and that the welfare of the public or any banking institution or other financial institution would not be jeopardized thereby;

(6) Revoke the certificate of authority, permit, certificate or license of any state banking institution to engage in business in this state if that institution fails or refuses to comply with any order of the Commissioner entered pursuant to the provisions of paragraph (A) or (B), subdivision (15), subsection (c), section four, article two of this chapter, or at the board's election to direct the Commissioner to apply to any court having jurisdiction for a prohibitory or mandatory injunction or other appropriate remedy to compel obedience to such order;

(7) Suspend or remove a director, officer or employee of any financial institution who is or becomes ineligible to hold that position under any provision of law or rule and regulation or order, or who willfully disregards or fails to comply with any order of the board or Commissioner made and entered in accordance with the provisions of this chapter or who is dishonest or grossly incompetent in the conduct of financial institution business and prohibit that director, officer or employee from participating in the affairs of any other financial institution until further order of the board;

(8) To receive from state banking institutions applications to establish branch banks by the purchase of the business and assets and assumption of the liabilities of, or merger or consolidation with, another banking institution or by the construction, lease or acquisition of branch bank facilities in an unbanked area; examine and investigate such applications, to hold hearings thereon and to approve or disapprove such applications, all in accordance with section twelve, article eight of this chapter;

(9) Approve or disapprove the application of any state bank to purchase the business and assets and assume the liabilities of, or merge or consolidate with, another state banking institution in accordance with the provisions of section seven, article seven of this chapter;

(10) Approve or disapprove the application of any state bank to purchase the business and assets and assume the liabilities of a national banking association, or merge or consolidate with a national banking association to form a resulting state bank in accordance with the provisions of section seven, article seven of this chapter; and

(11) In addition to any authority granted pursuant to section twelve, article eight of this chapter, incident to the approval of an application pursuant to subdivisions (7) or (8) of this subsection, permit the bank the application of which is so approved to operate its banking business under its name from the premises of the bank the business and assets of which

have been purchased and the liabilities of which have been assumed by such applicant bank or with which the applicant bank has merged or consolidated: Provided, That this permission may be granted only if the board has made the findings required by subsection (f), section three of this article and such applicant bank has no common directors or officers nor common ownership of stock exceeding ten percent of total outstanding voting stock with the bank whose business and assets are being purchased and liabilities assumed, or with whom the applicant bank is being merged; and

(12) To receive an appeal from any party who is adversely affected by an order of the Commissioner issued pursuant to section twelve-d, article eight of this chapter and hold hearings in accordance with the provisions of article five, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code.

(c) A provision of this section may not be construed to alter, reduce or modify the rights of shareholders, or obligations of a banking institution in regard to its shareholders, as set forth in section one hundred seventeen, article one, chapter thirty-one of this code and section seven, article seven of this chapter, and other applicable provisions of this code.

(d) Any order entered by the West Virginia Board of Banking and Financial Institutions pursuant to this section is a matter of public record.

**§31A-3-3. Hearings and orders; entry of order without notice and hearing.**

(a) Subject to the provisions of subsections (e), (f), (g) and (h) of this section and to the provisions of subsection (j), section twelve, article eight of this chapter, notice and hearing shall be provided in advance of the entry of any order by the board.

(1) Such notice shall be given to the financial institution or person with respect to whom the hearing is to be conducted in accordance with the provisions of section two, article seven, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code, and such hearing and the administrative procedures in connection therewith shall be governed by all of the provisions of article five, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code, and shall be held at a time and place set by the board, but shall not be held less than ten or more than thirty days after such notice is given. A hearing may be continued by the board on its own motion or for good cause shown.

(2) At any such hearing a party may represent himself or be represented by an attorney at law admitted to practice before any circuit court of this state.

(b) After any such hearing and consideration of all of the testimony and evidence, the board shall make and enter an order deciding the matters with respect to which such hearing was conducted, which order shall be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law as specified in section three, article five, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code, and a copy of such order and accompanying findings and conclusions shall be served upon all parties to such hearing, and their attorneys of record, if any.

(c) In the case of an application for the board's approval to incorporate and organize a banking institution in this state, as provided in subdivision (3), subsection (b), section two of this article, the board shall, upon receipt of any such application, provide notice to all banking institutions, which in the manner hereinafter provided, have requested notice of any such action. The request by any such banking institution to receive such notice shall be in writing and shall request the board to notify it of the receipt by the board of any application to incorporate and organize a banking institution in this state. A banking institution may, within ten days after receipt of such notice, file a petition to intervene and shall, if it so files such petition, thereupon become a party to any hearing relating thereto before the board.

(d) The board shall have the power and authority to issue subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum, administer oaths and examine any person under oath in connection with any subject relating to duties imposed upon or powers vested in the board.

(e) Whenever the board shall find that extraordinary circumstances exist which require immediate action, it may forthwith without notice or hearing enter an order taking any action permitted by subdivisions (1), (2), (4) and (5), subsection (b), section two of this article. Immediately upon the entry of such order, certified copies thereof shall be served upon all persons affected thereby and upon demand such persons shall be entitled to a hearing thereon at the earliest practicable time.

(f) Whenever the board shall find that the financial condition of a state banking institution or a national banking association constitutes an imminent peril to its depositors, savings account holders, other customers or creditors, it may forthwith without notice or hearing enter an order taking any action permitted by subdivisions (7) and (8), subsection (b), section two of this article. Immediately upon entry of such order, certified copies thereof shall be served upon all persons affected thereby and upon demand such persons shall be entitled to a hearing thereon at the earliest practicable time.

(g) Whenever the board shall find that the financial condition of a state banking institution or national banking association constitutes an imminent peril to its depositors, savings account holders, other customers or creditors, it may forthwith without compliance with the provisions of section six or seven, article four of this chapter and without notice or hearing enter an order approving or disapproving an application to incorporate a state banking institution which is being formed to purchase the business and assets or assume the liabilities of, or both, or merge or consolidate with, such state banking institution or national banking institution the financial condition of which constitutes an imminent peril to its depositors, savings account holders, other customers or creditors. Immediately upon the entry of such order, certified copies thereof shall be served upon all persons affected thereby and upon demand such persons shall be entitled to a hearing thereon at the earliest practicable time.

(h) Whenever the board shall find that the financial condition of a state banking institution, national association or bank holding company constitutes an imminent peril to its depositors, savings account holders, other customers or creditors, it may forthwith without compliance with the provisions of section five or six, article eight-a of this chapter and without notice of hearing enter an order approving or disapproving an application by an existing bank holding company or by an organizing bank holding company to acquire in whole or in part, directly or indirectly, such state banking institution, national association or bank holding company. Immediately upon the entry of such order, certified copies thereof shall be served upon all persons affected thereby at the earliest practicable time.

(i) Definitions:

(1) The term "imminent peril" means that, because the banking institution or bank holding company is insolvent or about to be insolvent, or there is a probability that the banking institution will not be able to pay its debts when they become due.

(2) A banking institution or bank holding company is "about to be insolvent" when it would be unable to meet the demands of its depositors or is clearly unable, without impairment of capital, by sale of assets or lawful borrowings or otherwise, to realize sufficient liquid assets to pay such debts for which payment is likely, in the immediate future, to be due and demanded in the ordinary course of business.

(3) A banking institution or bank holding company is "insolvent" when it is unable to pay its debts to its depositors and other creditors in the ordinary and usual course of business.

**§31A-3-4. Judicial review; appeals to Supreme Court of Appeals.**

(a) Any party to a hearing before the board adversely affected by any order of the board made and entered after a hearing as provided in section three, article three of this chapter shall be entitled to judicial review thereof in the manner provided in section four, article five, chapter twenty- nine-a of this code.

(b) Any such party adversely affected by a final judgment of a circuit court following judicial review as provided in subsection (a) of this section may seek review thereof by appeal to the Supreme Court of Appeals in the manner provided in article six, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code.

**§31A-3-5.**

Repealed.

Acts, 2010 Reg. Sess., Ch. 32.

WV Legislature