# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §5-31-1

**§5-31-1. Legislative findings.**

(a) The citizens of West Virginia, its local governments, and its communities have entered into a memorandum of understanding. The memorandum of understanding known as the West Virginia First Memorandum of Understanding was filed in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, calling for, inter alia, the creation of the West Virginia First Foundation.

(b) The citizens of West Virginia, its local governments, its communities, and the Legislature are committed to ensure that all opioid funds received in settlement of litigation in the cases which are the subject of the memorandum of understanding are used in a manner consistent with evidence-based strategies, programming, and services used to expand the availability of treatment for individuals affected by substance use disorders and addiction; to develop, promote, and provide evidence-based substance use prevention strategies; to provide substance use avoidance and awareness education; to engage in enforcement to curtail the sale, distribution, and promotion or use of opioids and other drugs; to decrease the oversupply of illicit opioids; and to support recovery from addiction performed by qualified providers.

(c) The creation of a private foundation will advance the goal of abating the opioid epidemic by providing a long-term steady stream of money to fund the efforts by both private and governmental entities.

(d) All 55 counties and virtually all participating municipalities, representing 99.6 percent of the population of West Virginia, have executed the memorandum of understanding.

(e) The circuit court of Kanawha County in Civil Action No. 19-C-9000, has adopted and approved the memorandum of understanding and the abatement structure created in the memorandum of understanding, including, but not limited to, the creation of a private foundation for the purposes set forth in the memorandum of understanding.

WV Legislature