WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §62-1C-14

§62-1C-14. Bailpiece; issuance to surety; taking accused into custody.

(a) A bailpiece is a certificate stating that the bail became such for the accused in a particular case and the amount thereof. Upon demand therefor, the court, magistrate, or clerk shall issue to the bail bondsperson a bailpiece. Any officer having authority to execute a warrant of arrest shall assist the bail bondsperson holding such bailpiece to take the accused into custody and produce him or her before the court or magistrate. The bail bondsperson may take the accused into custody and surrender him or her to the court or magistrate without such bailpiece.

(b) If bailpiece is inaccessible due to unavailability of the court's circuit clerk or magistrate, the bail bondsperson, or his or her designee, can take an offender to a regional jail without bailpiece, and the jail must accept the offender, provided:

(1) The bail bondsperson, or his or her designee, delivering an offender to a jail without a bailpiece issued by the court's circuit clerk or magistrate appears on the registered list maintained at the jails and approved by the court of original jurisdiction;

(2) The bail bondsperson signs an agreement provided by the jail indicating that the offender has been booked in lieu of bailpiece. Such agreement shall contain a clause indicating the incarceration of such offender is lawful and that the jail accepting the offender shall be held harmless from any claims of illegal incarceration or other relative charges; thereby, such bail bondsperson assumes the risk and liability of such incarceration; and

(3) Bailpiece must be applied for by the bail bondsperson or his or her designee from the court's circuit clerk or magistrate and hand-delivered by the bail bondsperson or his or her designee to the jail housing such offender on the next judicial day following the initial intake.

(c) Any bail bondsperson who willfully fails to attempt to obtain the appropriate bailpiece within the allotted time period provided in subsection (b) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be prohibited from continuing to conduct business in this state and shall be fined not more than $1,000 and confined in the regional jail not more than one year.

(d) No officer, jailer, or other person having authority to accept offenders in a regional jail is required to accept such offenders being housed in lieu of bailpiece except as set forth in §15A-5-9 of this code.

(e) The Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation, the county sheriff, county commission, or any of their agents or employees, shall be immune from liability for any claims of illegal incarceration or other relative charges for any offender accepted into a facility under this section.

WV Legislature