## ENROLLED BILL

House Bill No. 70

(By Mr. Cummins)

Passed march 3, 1931

In Effect From Passage

CORRECTLY ENROLLED

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(H. B. No. 70)

[Passed March 3, 1931; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and re-enact section seventeen, article three, chapter twenty-nine, official code of West Virginia, nineteen hundred thirty-one, relating to exit doors of public buildings and buildings to which the general public has access; to regulate unsafe conditions in buildings, and to provide for a review by the state fire marshal of the orders of certain officers.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section seventeen, article three, chapter twenty-nine of the official code of West Virginia, nineteen hundred thirty-one, be amended and re-enacted to read as follows:

Section 17. All the exit doors of all school houses, churches

- 2 and theatres, excepting one and two-room school houses and
- 3 country churches, and all other buildings used for public as-
- 4 semblages, shall swing outward; all the exit doors, of all other 5 buildings which are open to the general public and to which
- 6 the general public have access may, in the discretion of the fire

Chairman House Committee

7 marshal, be required to swing outward, if, in the judgment of 8 said fire marshal, the public welfare and safety, may require: 9 Provided, however, That the provisions of this section shall not 10 apply to exit doors of rooms used for mercantile stores and shops. 11 Any owner of such property, his agent, lessee, or trustee, or 12 any other person who shall violate any of the provisions of this 13 paragraph, or any order of the said fire marshal shall be guilty 14 of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, before any 15 justice of the peace or other court of competent jurisdiction, 16 shall be fined not less than ten or more than fifty dollars, and 17 every day such violation continues, after notice from said fire

19 If any officer named in the preceding section shall find any 20 building or other structure, which, for want of repairs, or by 21 reason of age, or dilapidated condition, or for any other cause, 22 is especially liable to fire, and which is so situated as to en-23 danger other buildings or property, or if any such officer shall 24 find in any building or upon any premises any combustible or 25 explosive material or inflammable conditions dangerous to the 26 safety of such building or premises, he shall have power to make 27 reasonable orders for the repair or removal of the same, and

18 marshal, shall constitute a separate offense.

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28 such orders shall forthwith be complied with by the owner or 29 occupant of such building or premises.

30 If any person deems himself aggrieved by an order of any 31 subordinate officer named in the preceding section, he may, 32 within twenty-four hours, apply to the state fire marshal for a 33 review of such order, and the cause of the complaint shall at 34 once be investigated by the direction of the state fire marshal; 35 and if such order is found to be necessary by the state fire 36 marshal for the reasonable protection of any property, it shall 37 remain in full force and shall be forthwith complied with by 38 such owner or occupant.

Clerk of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.

Clerk of the Senate.

The within is.

day of.

Governor.

Piled in the office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia MAR GEORGE W. SRARP.

Secretary of State.

Chairman House Committee.

Chairman Senate Committee.