AN ACT to amend and reenact section fifteen, article ten, chapter sixty-one of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to and prohibiting pecuniary interest of certain county officers and employees in certain contracts and services and providing penalties therefor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section fifteen, article ten, chapter sixty-one of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 15. Pecuniary Interest of County and District Officers, Teachers and School Officials in Contracts; Exception; Offering or Giving Compensation; Penalties.—It shall be unlawful for any member of a county court, overseer of the poor, district school officer, secretary of a
board of education, supervisor or superintendent, principal or teacher of public schools, or any member of any other county or district board, or for any county or district officer to be or become directly or indirectly, pecuniarily interested in the proceeds of any contract or service, or in furnishing any supplies in the contract for, or the awarding or letting of, which as such member, officer, secretary, supervisor, superintendent, principal, or teacher, he may have any voice, influence or control: Provided, however, That nothing herein shall be construed to prevent or make unlawful the employment of the spouse of any such member, officer, secretary, supervisor, superintendent, principal or teacher as principal or teacher in the public schools of any county. Any person or officer named who shall violate any of the foregoing provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, be fined not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars, and may, in the discretion of the court, be imprisoned for a period not to exceed one year. In addition to the foregoing penalties, any such officer shall be removed from his office and the certificate
or certificates of any teacher, principal, supervisor or superintendent who violates any provision of this section shall upon conviction thereof, be revoked immediately.

Any person, firm or corporation that offers or gives any compensation whatever to any of the officers or persons hereinbefore named or to any other person with the intent to secure the influence, support or vote of such officer or person for any contract, service, award or other matter as to which any county or school district shall become the paymaster, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, be fined not less than five hundred, nor more than twenty-five hundred dollars, and, at the discretion of the court, such person or any member of such firm, or, if it be a corporation, any agent or officer thereof, so offering or giving such compensation, may, in addition to such fine, be imprisoned for a period not to exceed one year.

The provisions of this section shall not apply to publications in newspapers required to be made by law.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House.

Takes effect from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 17th day of March, 1961.

Governor

Filed in Office of the Secretary of State of West Virginia

JOE F. BURDETT
SECRETARY OF STATE