WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION, 1997

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 454

(By Senators Tomblin, President, and Buckheller, By Request of the Executive)

PASSED April 10, 1997

In Effect NINETY DAYS FROM Passage
ENROLLED

Senate Bill No. 454

(BY SENATORS TOMBLIN, MR. PRESIDENT, AND BUCKALEW,
BY REQUEST OF THE EXECUTIVE)

[Passed April 10, 1997; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact sections three-a and twenty-one, article two-c, chapter thirteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, all relating to allowing the executive director of the development office to designate a representative to the industrial revenue bond allocation review committee; and permitting uncommitted bonds as of the fifteenth day of November of each year or forfeited bonds to go to applicants in any industrial classification.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That sections three-a and twenty-one, article two-c, chapter thirteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:
ARTICLE 2C. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT BOND ACT.

13-2C-3a. Creation of industrial revenue bond allocation review committee; appointment, term, etc., of private members; voting; expenses; duties.

(a) There is hereby created the West Virginia industrial revenue bond allocation review committee consisting of five members, as follows: The secretary of tax and revenue, who shall serve as chair of the committee, and the executive director of the development office or his or her designee, and three members chosen from the general public as private members.

(b) The three private members shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate: Provided, That one private member shall be appointed from each congressional district of the state, in such a manner as to provide a broad geographical distribution of members of the committee: Provided, however, That at least one private member appointed pursuant to this subdivision shall have significant experience in economic development. No more than two private members shall be from the same political party.

(c) Appointment of the three members shall be for staggered terms of three years. Any member whose term has expired shall serve until a successor has been duly appointed and qualified. Any member shall be eligible for reappointment. In case of any vacancy in the office of a private member, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment by the governor for the unexpired term. The governor may remove any private member in case of incompetency, neglect of duty, gross immorality or malfeasance in office; and he may declare the office vacant and may appoint a person for such vacancy as provided in other cases of vacancy.

(d) Members shall not be entitled to compensation for services performed as members, but shall be entitled to reimbursement for all reasonable and necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties.

(e) A majority of the members of the committee shall
35 constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting busi-
36 ness. The affirmative vote of at least the majority of the
37 members present is necessary for any action taken by vote
38 of the committee. No vacancy in the membership of the
39 committee shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise
40 all the rights and perform all the duties of the committee.
41
42 (f) The committee shall review and evaluate all applica-
43 tions for reservation of funds submitted to the develop-
44 ment office by a governmental body pursuant to the
45 provisions of subsections (d) and (e), section twenty-one of
46 this article, and shall make reservations of the state
47 allocation (as defined in subdivision (2), subsection (b) of
48 said section) pursuant to subdivision (3), subsection (b)
49 and subsection (c) of said section.

§13-2C-21. Ceiling on issuance of private activity bonds;
establishing procedure for allocation and disbursements;
reservation of funds; limitations; unused allocation;
expiration and carryovers.

1 (a) Private activity bonds (as defined in Section 141(a) of
2 the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, other
3 than those described in Section 146(g) of the Internal
4 Revenue Code) issued pursuant to this article, including
5 bonds issued by the West Virginia public energy authority
6 pursuant to subsection (11), section five, article one,
7 chapter five-d of this code, or under article eighteen,
8 chapter thirty-one of this code, during any calendar year
9 shall not exceed the ceiling established by Section 146(d)
10 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. It is hereby
determined and declared as a matter of legislative finding:
12 (i) That, in an attempt to promote economic revitalization
13 of distressed urban and rural areas, certain special tax
14 incentives will be provided for empowerment zones and
15 enterprise communities to be designated from qualifying
16 areas nominated by state and local governments, all as set
17 forth by Section 1391 et seq. of the United States Internal
18 Revenue Code; (ii) that qualified businesses operating in
19 enterprise communities and empowerment zones will be
20 eligible to finance property and provide other forms of
21 financial assistance as provided for in Section 1394 of the
22 United States Internal Revenue Code; (iii) that it is in the
best interest of this state and the citizens thereof to facilitate the acquisition, construction and equipping of projects within designated empowerment zones and enterprise communities by providing an orderly mechanism for the commitment of the annual ceiling for private activity bonds for such projects. It is hereby further determined and declared as a matter of legislative finding:

(iv) that the production of bituminous coal in this state has resulted in coal waste, which coal waste is stored in areas generally referred to as gob piles; (v) that such gob piles are unsightly and have the potential to pollute the environment in this state; (vi) that the utilization of the materials in such gob piles to produce alternative forms of energy needs to be encouraged; (vii) that Section 142(a)(6) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, permits the financing of solid waste disposal facilities through the issuance of such private activity bonds; and (viii) that it is in the best interest of this state and the citizens thereof to facilitate the construction of facilities for the generation of power through the utilization of coal waste by providing an orderly mechanism for the commitment of the annual ceiling for private activity bonds for such projects.

(b) On or before the first day of each calendar year, the executive director of the development office shall determine the state ceiling for such year based on the criteria of the United States Internal Revenue Code, which annual ceiling shall be allocated among the several issuers of bonds under this article or under article eighteen, chapter thirty-one of this code, as follows:

(1) Fifty million dollars shall be allocated to the West Virginia housing development fund for the purpose of issuing qualified mortgage bonds, qualified mortgage certificates or bonds for qualified residential rental projects;

(2) The amount remaining after the allocation to the West Virginia housing development fund described in subdivision (1) of this subsection shall be retained by the West Virginia development office and shall be referred to in this section as the “state allocation”;
(3) For calendar year one thousand nine hundred ninety-five, twenty-five and one-half percent of the state allocation and for all subsequent calendar years, thirty-five percent of the state allocation shall be set aside by the development office to be made available for lessees, purchasers or owners of proposed projects, hereafter in this section referred to as "nonexempt projects", which do not qualify as exempt facilities as defined by United States Internal Revenue Code. All reservations of private activity bonds for nonexempt projects shall be approved and awarded by the committee based upon an evaluation of general economic benefit and any rule or regulation that the council for community and economic development may promulgate pursuant to section three, article two, chapter five-b of this code: Provided, That all requests for reservations of funds from projects described in this subsection shall be submitted to the development office on or before the first day of November of each calendar year: Provided, however, That on the fifteenth day of November of each calendar year, the uncommitted portion of this part of the state allocation, shall revert to and become part of the state allocation portion described in subsection (g) of this section; and

(4) For calendar year one thousand nine hundred ninety-five, four and one-half percent of the state allocation and for all subsequent calendar years, ten percent of the state allocation shall be made available for lessees, purchasers or owners of proposed commercial or industrial projects which qualify as exempt facilities under Section 1394 of the United States Internal Revenue Code. All reservations of private activity bonds for the projects shall be approved and awarded by the committee based upon an evaluation of general economic benefit and any rule or regulation that the council for community and economic development may promulgate pursuant to section three, article two, chapter five-b of this code: Provided, That all requests for reservations of funds from projects described in this subsection shall be submitted to the development office on or before the first day of November of each calendar year: Provided, however, That on the fifteenth day of November of each calendar year, the uncommitted
portion of this part of the state allocation shall revert to
and become part of the state allocation portion described
in subsection (g) of this section.

(c) For calendar year one thousand nine hundred ninety-
five, the remaining seventy percent and for all subsequent
calendar years, the remaining fifty-five percent of the
state allocation shall be made available for lessees,
purchasers or owners of proposed commercial or indus-
trial projects which qualify as exempt facilities as defined
by Section 142(a) of the United States Internal Revenue
Code. All reservations of private activity bonds for
exempt facilities shall be approved and awarded by the
committee based upon an evaluation of general economic
benefit and any rule or regulation that the council for
community and economic development may promulgate
pursuant to section three, article two, chapter five-b of
this code: Provided, That no reservation shall be in an
amount in excess of fifty percent of this portion of the
state allocation: Provided, however, That all requests for
reservations of funds from projects described in this
subsection shall be submitted to the development office on
or before the first day of November of each calendar year:
Provided further, That on the fifteenth day of November
of each calendar year, the uncommitted portion of this
part of the state allocation shall revert to and become part
of the state allocation portion described in subsection (g)
of this section.

(d) No reservation shall be made for any project until the
governmental body seeking the same shall submit a notice
of reservation of funds as provided in subsection (e) of this
section. The governmental body must first adopt an
inducement resolution approving the prospective issuance
of bonds and setting forth the maximum amount of bonds
to be issued. Each governmental body seeking a reserva-
tion of funds following the adoption of such inducement
resolution shall submit a notice of inducement signed by
its clerk, secretary or recorder or other appropriate
official to the development office. Such notice shall
include information as may be required by the develop-
ment office pursuant to any rule or regulation of the
council for community and economic development. Notwithstanding the foregoing, when a governmental body proposes to issue bonds for the purpose of: (i) Constructing, acquiring or equipping a project described in subdivision (3) or (4), subsection (b) of this section; or (ii) constructing an energy producing project which relies, in whole or in part, upon coal waste as fuel, to the extent such project qualifies as a solid waste facility under Section 142(a)(6) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the project may be awarded a reservation of funds from the state allocation available for three years subsequent to the year in which the notice of reservation of funds is submitted, at the discretion of the executive director of the development office: Provided, That no discretionary reservation may be made for any single project described in this subsection in an amount in excess of thirty-five percent of the state allocation available for the year subsequent to the year in which the request is made. A discretionary reservation of the state allocation for a project described in this subsection shall not be granted by the executive director of the development office unless the project for which the request is made has received a certification from the federal energy regulatory commission as a qualifying facility or a cogeneration project.

(e) Currently with or following the submission of its notice of inducement, the governmental body at any time deemed expedient by it may submit its notice of reservation of funds which shall include the following information:

(1) The date of the notice of reservation of funds;
(2) The identity of the governmental body issuing the bonds;
(3) The date of inducement and the prospective date of issuance;
(4) The name of the entity for which the bonds are to be issued;
(5) The amount of the bond issue or, if the amount of the
bond issue for which a reservation of funds has been made
has been increased, the amount of the increase;

(6) The type of issue; and

(7) A description of the project for which the bonds are
to be issued.

(f) The development office shall accept the notice of
reservation of funds no earlier than the first calendar
workday of the year for which a reservation of funds is
sought: Provided, That a notice of reservation of funds
with respect to a project described in subdivision (4),
subsection (b) of this section or an energy producing
project that is eligible for a reservation of funds for a year
subsequent to the year in which the notice of reservation
of funds is submitted may contain an application for funds
from a subsequent year's state allocation. Upon receipt of
the notice of reservation of funds, the development office
shall immediately note upon the face of the notice the date
and time of reception.

(g) If the bond issue for which a reservation has been
made has not been finally closed within one hundred
twenty days of the date of the reservation to be made by
the committee, or the thirty-first day of December follow-
ing such date of reservation if sooner and a statement of
bond closure which has been executed by the clerk,
secretary, recorder or other appropriate official of the
governmental body reserving the same has not been
received by the development office within that time, then
the reservation shall expire and be deemed to have been
fefeted and the funds so reserved shall be released and
revert to the portion of the state allocation from which the
funds were originally reserved and shall then be made
available for other qualified issues in accordance with this
section and the Internal Revenue Code: Provided, That as
to any reservation for a nonexempt project or any reserva-
tion for a project described in subdivision (4), subsection
(b) of this section that is forfeited on or after the first day
of November in any calendar year, such reservation shall
revert to the state allocation for allocation by the indus-
trial revenue bond allocation review committee: Provided,
however, That as to any notice of reservation of funds received by the development office during the month of December in any calendar year with respect to any project qualifying as an elective carry forward pursuant to Section 146(f)(5) of the Internal Revenue Code, the notice of reservation of funds and the reservation to which the same relates shall not expire or be subject to forfeiture: Provided further, That any unused state ceiling as of the thirty-first day of December in any year not otherwise subject to a carry forward pursuant to Section 146(f) of the Internal Revenue Code shall be allocated to the West Virginia housing development fund, which shall be deemed to have elected to carry forward the unused state ceiling for the purpose of issuing qualified mortgage bonds, qualified mortgage credit certificates or bonds for qualified residential rental projects, each as defined in the Internal Revenue Code. All requests for subsequent reservation of funds upon loss of a reservation pursuant to this section shall be treated in the same manner as a new notice of reservation of funds in accordance with subsections (d) and (e) of this section.

(h) Once a reservation of funds has been made for a project described in subdivision (4), subsection (b) of this section or for an energy producing project which relies, in whole or in part, upon coal waste as fuel and otherwise qualifies as a solid waste facility under Section 142(a)(6) of the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, notwithstanding the language of subsection (g) of this section, the reservation shall remain fully available with respect to such project until the first day of October in the year from which the reservation was made at which time, if the bond issue has not been finally closed, the reservation shall expire and be deemed forfeited and the funds so reserved shall be released as provided in subsection (g) of this section.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within................................................................... this the.................................................................

The within................................................................... this the 28th

day of........................................................................, 1997.

Governor
PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR
Date 4/21/97
Time 11:18 a.m.