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## WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 1999

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## ENROLLED

## House Bill No. 2791

(By Delegates Michael, Mezzatesta, Martin and Proudfoot)

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Passed March 13, 1999

In Effect Ninety Days from Passage

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## ENROLLED H. B. 2791

(BY DELEGATES MICHAEL, MEZZATESTA, MARTIN AND PROUDFOOT)

[Passed March 13, 1999; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact section four, article eighteen, chapter twenty-nine of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the authority and organization of the state rail authority.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

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

ARTICLE 18. WEST VIRGINIA STATE RAIL AUTHORITY.

- §29-18-4. West Virginia state rail authority continued; organization of authority; appointment of members; term of office, compensation and expenses; director of authority; termination date.
  - 1 The West Virginia railroad maintenance authority, hereto-2 fore created, is hereby continued and redesignated the West 3 Virginia state rail authority. References in this code to the West 4 Virginia railroad maintenance authority shall be understood and 5 taken to mean the West Virginia state rail authority. Nothing in 6 this article is intended to invalidate any action or obligation of

7 the West Virginia railroad maintenance authority undertaken 8 prior to the effective date of this article. The authority is a 9 governmental instrumentality of the state and a body corporate. 10 The exercise by the authority of the powers conferred by this 11 article and the carrying out of its purposes and duties shall be 12 deemed and held to be, and are hereby determined to be, 13 essential governmental functions and for a public purpose.

14 The authority shall consist of seven members. The secretary 15 of the department of transportation shall be chairman: Provided, 16 That the secretary may appoint a designee to act in his or her 17 stead at meetings of the authority. The other six members shall 18 be appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and 19 consent of the Senate, for a term of six years. Of the members 20 of the authority first appointed, two shall be appointed for a 21 term ending on the thirtieth day of June, one thousand nine 22 hundred seventy-seven, two shall be appointed for a term 23 ending two years thereafter and two shall be appointed for a 24 term ending four years thereafter. A person appointed to fill a 25 vacancy occurring prior to the expiration of the term for which 26 his predecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for the 27 remainder of such term. Each authority member shall serve 28 until the appointment and qualification of his successor. No 29 more than three of the appointed authority members shall at any 30 one time belong to the same political party. Appointed authority 31 members may be reappointed to serve additional terms.

32 All members of the authority shall be citizens of the state. 33 Each appointed member of the board, before entering upon his 34 duties, shall comply with the requirements of article one, 35 chapter six of this code and give bond in the sum of twenty-five 36 thousand dollars in the manner provided in article two, chapter 37 six of this code. The governor may remove any authority 38 member as provided in section four, article six, chapter six of 39 this code.

40 Annually the authority shall elect one of its members as 41 vice chairman, and shall appoint a secretary-treasurer, who need 42 not be a member of the authority. Four members of the author-43 ity shall constitute a quorum and the affirmative vote of four 44 members shall be necessary for any action taken by vote of the 45 authority. No vacancy in the membership of the authority shall 46 impair the rights of a quorum by such vote to exercise all the 47 rights and perform all the duties of the authority. The person 48 appointed as secretary-treasurer, including an authority member if he is so appointed, shall give bond in the sum of fifty 49 thousand dollars in the manner provided in article two, chapter 50 51 six of this code.

52 The secretary of the department of transportation shall not 53 receive any compensation for serving as the authority chairman. 54 Each of the six appointed members of the authority shall 55 receive the same compensation and expense reimbursement as is paid to members of the Legislature for their interim duties as 56 57 recommended by the citizens legislative compensation commis-58 sion and authorized by law for each day or substantial portion 59 thereof engaged in the discharge of official duties. All such 60 compensation and expenses incurred shall be payable solely 61 from funds of the authority or from funds appropriated for such 62 purpose by the Legislature and no liability or obligation shall be incurred by the authority beyond the extent to which moneys 63 64 are available from funds of the authority or from such appropri-65 ations.

66 There shall also be a director of the authority appointed by 67 the authority, with the consent of the secretary.

68 Pursuant to the provisions of article ten, chapter four of this 69 code, the West Virginia state rail authority shall continue to 70 exist until the first day of July, two thousand. Enr. H. B. 2791]

That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

NTON Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originating in the House.

Takes affect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates President of the Senate,

7 L Speaker of the House of Delegates

this the The within \_ day of 1999. Governor

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GOVERNOR/ Date\_ Time\_