WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
Regular Session, 2002

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 177

(By Senator Bailey, et al)

PASSED January 29, 2002

In Effect ninety days from Passage
AN ACT to amend article two, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated section thirty-five, relating to providing a procedure for implementing a school dress code requiring student uniforms in public schools.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That article two, chapter eighteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated section thirty-five, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

§18-2-35. Dress codes requiring school uniforms for students.

  1 (a) The Legislature hereby finds that the clothing and
  2 footwear worn by students in public schools often preoc-
cupy and distract students from their major purpose for being in school, which is obtaining an education. The Legislature finds that in schools that have adopted a dress code requiring students to wear school uniforms, disparities in student socioeconomic levels are less obvious and disruptive incidents are less likely to occur.

(b) The state board shall promulgate rules in accordance with article three-b, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code that allow a county board to implement a dress code requiring students to wear a school uniform. The uniforms may be required by the county board for either a school district, or for any certain school within the district. The rules shall provide at least the following:

1. The county board may create an advisory committee comprised of parents, school employees and students for the purpose of considering whether the board should adopt a dress code requiring school uniforms for students in the district;

2. The county board may create an advisory committee comprised of parents, school employees and students for the purpose of considering whether the board should adopt a dress code requiring school uniforms for students in any certain school within the district;

3. If the advisory committee recommends to the board that a dress code requiring school uniforms for students be adopted either for the district or for any certain school within the district, the advisory committee also shall make recommendations on alternative methods of paying for the school uniforms; and

4. If the advisory committee recommends to the board that a dress code requiring school uniforms for students be adopted either for the district or for any certain school within the district and if the advisory committee reports its recommendations on alternative methods of paying for the school uniforms to the board, the board may adopt a dress code requiring school uniforms for students.
39  (c) Nothing in this section requires a county board to
40  adopt a dress code requiring school uniforms for students.
41  (d) Nothing in this section requires any level of funding
42  by the Legislature, boards of education or any other
43  agency of government.
The 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 is approved this the 7th Day of February, 2002.

Governor
PRESENTED TO THE
GOVERNOR
Date: 2/1/02
Time: 10:25 AM