WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
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REGULAR SESSION, 2011

ENROLLED

Senate Bill No. 612

(BY SENATORS PLYMALE, BROWNING, EDEGELL, LAIRD, STOLLINGS, TUCKER AND WILLS)

[PASSED MARCH 11, 2011; IN EFFECT NINETY DAYS FROM PASSAGE.]
AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-5A-3a; and to amend and reenact §18-5B-10 of said code, all relating to exempting certain schools and school districts from certain statutory provisions pursuant to certain statutory approval and recommendation processes.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-5A-3a; and that §18-5B-10 of said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

ARTICLE 5A. LOCAL SCHOOL INVOLVEMENT.

§18-5A-3a. Waivers of statutes granted to public schools pursuant to recommendations submitted by local school improvement councils; limitations.

1 (a) The Legislature hereby grants a waiver from the statute or statutes indicated for the following school or schools pursuant to and for the purposes enumerated in the written statement recommending the waiver, with supporting
reasons, approved by the local school improvement council of the respective schools and recommended by the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in accordance with the provisions of section three of this article. The grant of a waiver to a statute means that the school or schools granted the waiver may implement the actions as specifically described in their written statement notwithstanding the provisions of this code from which they are specifically waived. These waivers are limited to the purposes as specifically described in the statement upon which the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability made its recommendation for a waiver to the Legislature and are expressly repealed for any modification or implementation of the described actions which changes those purposes. However, nothing in this section prohibits a local school improvement council school that has been granted a waiver from submitting a request to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability for modifications, subject to approval in accordance with section three of this article.

(b) The following waivers are granted:

Section two-b, article three, chapter eighteen-a of this code is waived for the schools of Cabell County for the purpose of implementing a comprehensive new teacher induction program, which purposes are as more specifically described in the schools' written statement approved by the county board and submitted to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on February 24, 2011.

ARTICLE 5B. SCHOOL INNOVATION ZONES ACT.

§18-5B-10. Exceptions to statutes granted to innovation zones; limitations.

(a) The Legislature hereby grants an exception to the statute or statutes indicated for the following schools pursuant to and for the purposes enumerated in their innovation zone plans approved by the state board at its
meeting on the date specified. The grant of an exception to a statute means that the school or schools granted the exception may implement the actions as specifically described in their approved innovation zone plan notwithstanding the provisions of this code from which they are specifically excepted. These exceptions are limited to the purposes as specifically described in the plan approved on the date indicated and are expressly repealed for any plan modification or plan implementation which changes those purposes. However, nothing in this section prohibits a school or schools with an approved innovation zone plan from requesting plan modifications, subject to approval of the state board, and if the modifications change the purposes for which an exception to a statute was granted, the state board shall request an exception to achieve the new purposes in the manner provided in section five of this article for requesting exceptions to a statute. If the approved innovation zone plan of a school or schools is withdrawn by the state board, or the innovation zone designation of a school or schools is revoked by the state board, the exception granted to that school or those schools is expressly repealed.

(b) The following exceptions are granted:

(1) Piedmont Elementary School, Kanawha County, is excepted from subsection (3), section fourteen, article four, chapter eighteen-a of this code for the purpose of allowing specialist teachers to take their planning period before and after school totaling one hour, three days per week, and from section eighteen-a, article five of this chapter for the purpose of permitting a number of students in music and physical education classes in excess of the class size limits to provide the time and structure for teams to meet in professional learning communities, which purposes are as more specifically described in the school’s innovation zone plan approved by the state board on January 13, 2010;

(2) Putnam County High Schools Consortium comprised of Buffalo High School, Hurricane High School, Poca High School, Winfield High School and Putnam Career and Technical Center, Putnam County, is excepted from section
forty-five, article five of this chapter only to the extent necessary for the purpose of establishing a structured transition program for freshman only one day prior to the beginning of the regular instructional term, and for the purpose of permitting the creation of not more than three hours each month during the school term of structured, regularly scheduled time for all teachers to work in professional learning communities, which purposes are as more specifically described in the schools’ innovation zone plan approved by the state board on January 13, 2010;

(3) Nellis Elementary School, Boone County, is excepted from subsection (a), section two, article five-a of this chapter, for the purpose of expanding the membership of its local school improvement council, which purpose is as more specifically described in the school’s innovation zone plan approved by the state board on January 13, 2010;

(4) Cabell County Secondary School Consortium comprised of Cabell County Career Technical Center, Cabell Midland High School and Huntington High School, Cabell County, is excepted from sections one and one-a, article eight of this chapter for the purpose of raising the compulsory school attendance age to eighteen years old, and from section two-b, article three, chapter eighteen-a of this code for the purpose of providing a customized high quality beginning teacher induction program developed at the county level, which purposes are as more specifically described in the schools’ innovation zone plan approved by the state board on January 13, 2010; and

(5) Clay County Schools is excepted from section fifteen, article five of this chapter for the purpose of allowing persons over the age of twenty-one years to enroll without charge of fees in the Clay County Schools “iREAD” program and upon, successful completion, be awarded a Clay County High School Diploma, which purposes are more specifically described in the Clay County School’s innovation zone plan approved by the state board on January 12, 2011. The grant of this exception does not abrogate the authority of the state board to determine the minimum standards for granting
diplomas pursuant to section six, article two of this chapter and does not permit persons over the age of twenty-one who re-enter the public schools to be included in net enrollment for the purposes of funding pursuant to article nine-a of this chapter, except as otherwise provided by law.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that
the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Signatures]

Chairman Senate Committee

Vice Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

[Signature]

Clerk of the Senate

[Signature]

Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Signature]

Acting President of the Senate

[Signature]

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 30th Day of March, 2011.

[Signature]

Governor