SB 618

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE SECHETARY OF STATE REGULAR SESSION, 2012

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 618

(SENATORS SNYDER, BEACH AND BROWNING, ORIGINAL SPONSORS)

[Passed March 10, 2012; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA SECRETARY OF STATE

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(SENATORS SNYDER, BEACH AND BROWNING, original sponsors)

[Passed March 10, 2012; 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 §7-5-2a; to amend and reenact §8-10-2a and §8-10-2b of said code; to amend and reenact §8-13-15 of said code; and to amend and reenact §50-3-2a of said code, all relating to certain payments to governmental units; authorizing the use of credit or check cards for certain payments; authorizing a fee to be collected for the use of credit or check cards; requiring governmental units to obtain bids for credit card services; requiring compliance with rules of issuer of credit cards; requiring governmental units to wait ninety days after failure to pay costs, fines, forfeitures, restitutions or penalties or failure to appear before notifying the Division of Motor Vehicles; requiring costs, fines, forfeitures, restitutions or penalties imposed by magistrate courts to be paid in full; and establishing the priority of crediting payments to certain funds.

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 §7-5-2a; that 8-10-2a

and §8-10-2b of said code be amended and reenacted; that §8-13-15 of said code be amended and reenacted; and that §50-3-2a of said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 5. FISCAL AFFAIRS.

§7-5-2a. Credit cards as form of payment.

- 1 Notwithstanding any code provision to the contrary,
- 2 county officers required or authorized to collect fines, fees,
- 3 taxes or other moneys provided by law may accept credit or
- 4 check cards as a form of payment. County officers may set a
- 5 fee to be added to each transaction equal to the charge paid
- 6 by the county officers for the use of the credit or check card
- 7 by the payor: Provided, That the county officer is required to
- 8 obtain three bids and use the lowest, qualified bid received:
- 9 Provided, however, That if a county officer has obtained
- 10 credit card services, another county officer may be added to
- 11 that service without receiving bids for that service. The
- 12 county officer shall disclose the amount of the fee to the
- 13 payor prior to the transaction and no other fees for the use of
- 14 a credit or check card may be imposed upon the payor.
- 15 Acceptance of a credit or check card as a form of payment
- 16 shall be in accordance with the rules and requirements set
- 17 forth by the credit or check card provider.

CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 10. POWERS AND DUTIES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS.

§8-10-2a. Payment of fines by credit cards or payment plan; suspension of driver's license for failure to pay motor vehicle violation fines or to appear in court.

- 1 (a) A municipal court may accept credit cards in payment
- 2 of all costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties. A municipal court
- 3 may collect a substantial portion of all costs, fines, forfei-
- 4 tures or penalties at the time such amount is imposed by the
- 5 court so long as the court requires the balance to be paid
- 6 within one hundred eighty days from the date of judgment

and in accordance with a payment plan: *Provided*, That all costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties imposed by the municipal court upon a nonresident of this state by judgment entered upon a conviction for a motor vehicle violation defined in section three-a, article three, chapter seventeen-b of this code must be paid within eighty days from the date of judgment. The payment plan shall specify: (1) The number of additional payments to be made; (2) the dates on which such payments and amounts shall be made; and (3) amounts due on such dates.

17 (b) If costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties imposed by the 18 municipal court for motor vehicle violations as defined in section three-a, article three, chapter seventeen-b of this 20 code are not paid within the time limits imposed pursuant to 21 subsection (a) of this section, or if a person fails to appear or 22 otherwise respond in court when charged with a motor 23 vehicle violation as defined in section three-a, article three. 24 chapter seventeen-b of this code, the municipal court must 25 notify the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles of 26 such failure to pay or failure to appear: Provided, That 27 notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the 28 contrary, the municipal court shall wait at least ninety days 29 from the date that all costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties are 30 due in full or, for failure to appear or otherwise respond, 31 ninety days from the date of such failure before notifying the 32 Division of Motor Vehicles thereof.

§8-10-2b. Suspension of licenses for failure to pay fines and costs or failure to appear in court.

1 (a) If costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties imposed by the 2 municipal court upon conviction of a person for a criminal 3 offense as defined in section three-c, article three, chapter 4 seventeen-b of this code are not paid in full within one 5 hundred eighty days of the judgment, the municipal court 6 clerk or, upon a judgment rendered on appeal, the circuit 7 clerk shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles of the 8 failure to pay: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other 9 provision of this code to the contrary, for residents of this state, the municipal court shall wait at least ninety days from

the date that all costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties are due 12 in full before notifying the Division of Motor Vehicles 13 thereof: Provided, however, That at the time the judgment is 14 imposed, the judge shall provide the person with written 15 notice that failure to pay the same as ordered may result in the withholding of any income tax refund due the licensee and shall result in the suspension of the person's license or 17 18 privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state and that the 19 suspension could result in the cancellation of, the failure to 20 renew or the failure to issue an automobile insurance policy 21 providing coverage for the person or the person's family: 22 Provided further, That the failure of the judge to provide 23 notice does not affect the validity of any suspension of the 24 person's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this 25 state. For purposes of this section, payment shall be stayed 26 during any period an appeal from the conviction which 27 resulted in the imposition of costs, fines, forfeitures or 28 penalties is pending.

Upon notice, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend the person's driver's license or privilege to operate a motor vehicle in this state until such time that the costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties are paid.

33 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of this section to the 34 contrary, the notice of the failure to pay costs, fines, forfei-35 tures or penalties may not be given where the municipal 36 court, upon application of the person upon whom the costs, 37 fines, forfeitures or penalties were imposed filed prior to the 38 expiration of the period within which these are required to 39 be paid, enters an order finding that the person is financially 40 unable to pay all or a portion of the costs, fines, forfeitures 41 or penalties: *Provided*, That where the municipal court, upon 42 finding that the person is financially unable to pay a portion 43 of the costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties, requires the 44 person to pay the remaining portion, the municipal court 45 shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles of the person's 46 failure to pay if not paid within the period of time ordered by 47 the court.

- 48 (c) If a person charged with a criminal offense fails to appear or otherwise respond in court, the municipal court 49 50 clerk shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles of the 51 failure to appear: Provided, That notwithstanding any other 52 provision of this code to the contrary, for residents of this state, the municipal court clerk shall wait at least ninety 53 54 days from the date of the person's failure to appear or otherwise respond before notifying the Division of Motor 55 Vehicles thereof. Upon notice, the Division of Motor Vehicles 57 shall suspend the person's driver's license or privilege to 58 operate a motor vehicle in this state until such time that the 59 person appears as required.
- 60 (d) On and after July 1, 2008, if the licensee fails to 61 respond to the Division of Motor Vehicles order of suspen-62 sion within ninety days of receipt of the certified letter, the 63 municipal court of original jurisdiction shall notify the Tax 64 Commissioner that the licensee has failed to pay the costs. fines, forfeitures or penalties assessed by the court or has 65 66 failed to respond to the citation. The notice provided by the municipal court to the Tax Commissioner must include the 67 68 licensee's Social Security number. The Tax Commissioner, or his or her designee, shall withhold from any personal income 70 tax refund due and owing to a licensee the costs, fines, 71 forfeitures or penalties due to the municipality, the Tax 72 Commissioner's administration fee for the withholding and any and all fees that the municipal court would have col-74 lected had the licensee appeared: Provided, That the Tax 75 Commissioner's administration fee may not exceed \$25: 76 Provided, however, That the Tax Commissioner may change 77 this maximum amount limitation for this fee for fiscal years beginning on or after July 1, 2008, by legislative rule promulgated in accordance with the provisions of article three, 79 80 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code: Provided further, That the administrative fees deducted shall be deposited in the 81 special revolving fund hereby created in the State Treasury, which shall be designated as the Municipal Fines and Fees 84 Collection Fund, and the Tax Commissioner shall make such 85 expenditures from the fund as he or she deems appropriate 86 for the administration of this subsection. After deduction of

the Tax Commissioner's administration fee, the Tax Commissioner shall remit to the municipality all remaining amounts withheld pursuant to this section and the municipal court 90 shall distribute applicable costs, fines, forfeitures or penal-91 ties owed to the municipality, the Regional Jail Authority Fund, the Crime Victims Compensation Fund, the Commu-93 nity Corrections Fund, the Governor's subcommittee on law-94 enforcement training or any other fund or payee that may be applicable. After the costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties are 96 withheld, the Tax Commissioner shall refund any remaining balance due the licensee. If the refund is not sufficient to 97 98 cover all the costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties being 99 withheld pursuant to this section, the Tax Commissioner's 100 administration fee shall be retained by the Tax Commis-101 sioner and the remaining money withheld shall be remitted by the Tax Commissioner to the municipality. The munici-102 103 pality shall then allocate the money so remitted to the 104 municipality in the following manner: (1) Any costs, fines, 105 forfeitures or penalties due to the municipality: (2) seventy-106 five percent of the remaining balance shall be paid to the 107 appropriate Regional Jail Authority Fund; (3) fifteen percent 108 of the remaining balance shall be paid to the Crime Victims 109 Compensation Fund; (4) six percent of the remaining balance 110 shall be paid into the Community Corrections Fund; and (5) 111 the final four percent shall be paid to the Governor's sub-112 committee on law-enforcement training. When the costs, 113 fines, forfeitures or penalties exceed the licensee's income 114 tax refund, the Tax Commissioner shall withhold the 115 remaining balance in subsequent years until such time as the 116 costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties owed are paid in full. The 117 Tax Commissioner shall remit the moneys that he or she 118 collects to the appropriate municipality no later than July 1, 119 of each year. If the municipal court or the municipality 120 subsequently determines that any such costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties were erroneously imposed, the municipal-121 122 ity shall promptly notify the Tax Commissioner. If the 123 refunds have not been withheld and remitted, the Tax 124 Commissioner may not withhold and remit payment to the 125 municipality and shall so inform the municipality. If the 126 refunds have already been withheld and remitted to the

- 127 municipality, the Tax Commissioner shall so inform the
- 128 municipality. In either event, all refunds for erroneously
- 129 imposed costs, fines, forfeitures or penalties shall be made by
- 130 the municipality and not by the Tax Commissioner.
- 131 (e) Rules and effective date. — The Tax Commissioner
- 132 may promulgate such rules as may be useful or necessary to
- carry out the purpose of this section and to implement the
- 134 intent of the Legislature, to be effective on July 1, 2008.
- 135 Rules shall be promulgated in accordance with the provi-
- sions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code. 136
- 137 (f) On or before July 1, 2005, the municipal court may
- 138 elect to reissue notice as provided in subsections (a) and (c)
- of this section to the Division of Motor Vehicles for persons
- 140 who remain noncompliant: *Provided*, That the person was
- 141 convicted or failed to appear on or after January 1, 1993. If
- 142 the original notification cannot be located, the Division of
- 143 Motor Vehicles shall accept an additional or duplicate notice
- 144 from the municipal court clerk.

ARTICLE 13. TAXATION AND FINANCE.

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§8-13-15. Collection of municipal taxes, fines and assessments.

- Unless otherwise provided, it shall be the duty of the
 - 2 treasurer of the municipality or other individual who may be
 - designated by general law, by charter provisions or by the
 - governing body, to collect and promptly pay into the munici-
 - pal treasury all taxes, fines, special assessments or other
 - moneys due the municipality. All such taxes, fines, special
 - assessments (except assessments for permanent or
 - semipermanent public improvements) and other moneys due
 - the municipality are hereby declared to be debts owing to the
 - municipality, for which the debtor shall be personally liable, 10
 - 11 and the treasurer, or other individual so designated, may
 - 12 enforce this liability by appropriate civil action in any court
 - 13 of competent jurisdiction, and is hereby vested with the same
 - 14 rights to distrain for the same as is vested in the sheriff for
 - 15 the collection of taxes. Such treasurer or other individual
 - 16 shall give a bond, conditioned according to law, in such

- 17 penalty and with such security as the governing body may
- 18 require: Provided, That nothing in this article shall prohibit
- 19 the payment of taxes, fines, special assessments or other
- 20 moneys due the municipality by credit or check card. The
- 21 municipality or municipal court may set a fee to be added to
- 22 each transaction equal to the charge paid by the municipal-
- 23 ity for the use of the credit or check card by the debtor:
- 24 Provided, That the municipality is required to obtain three
- 25 bids and use the lowest, qualified bid received: Provided,
- 26 however, That if a municipality has obtained credit card
- 27 services, the municipal court may be added to that service
- 28 without receiving bids for that service. The municipality or
- 29 municipal court shall disclose the amount of the fee to the
- 29 municipal court shall disclose the amount of the fee to the
- debtor prior to the transaction and no other fees for the useof a credit or check card may be imposed upon the debtor.
- 32 Acceptance of a credit or check card as a form of payment
- 33 shall be in accordance with the rules and requirements set
- 34 forth by the credit or check card provider. Allowing for the
- 35 collection of these funds by credit or check card shall be at
- 00 41 11 41 641 11 114 11 114
- 36 the discretion of the municipality or municipal court.

CHAPTER 50. MAGISTRATE COURTS. .

ARTICLE 3. COSTS, FINES AND RECORDS.

- §50-3-2a. Payment by credit card or payment plan; suspension of licenses for failure to make payments or appear or respond; restitution; liens.
 - 1 (a) A magistrate court may accept credit cards in pay-
 - 2 ment of all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or
 - 3 penalties in accordance with rules promulgated by the
 - 4 Supreme Court of Appeals. Any charges made by the credit
 - 5 company shall be paid by the person responsible for paying
 - 6 the cost, fine, forfeiture or penalty.
 - 7 (b) Unless otherwise required by law, a magistrate court
 - 8 may collect a portion of any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures,
 - 9 restitution or penalties at the time the amount is imposed by
 - 10 the court so long as the court requires the balance to be paid
 - 11 in accordance with a payment plan which specifies: (1) The

number of payments to be made; (2) the dates on which the payments are due; and (3) the amounts due for each payment. The written agreement represents the minimum payments and the last date those payments may be made. The obligor or the obligor's agent may accelerate the payment schedule at any time by paying any additional portion of any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties.

19 (c) (1) If any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or 20 penalties imposed by the magistrate court in a criminal case are not paid within one hundred eighty days from the date of judgment and the expiration of any stay of execution, the 23 magistrate court clerk or, upon judgment rendered on 24 appeal, the circuit clerk shall notify the Commissioner of the 25 Division of Motor Vehicles of the failure to pay: Provided, 26 That in a criminal case in which a nonresident of this state 27 is convicted of a motor vehicle violation defined in section 28 three-a, article three, chapter seventeen-b of this code, the appropriate clerk shall notify the Division of Motor Vehicles 30 of the failure to pay within eighty days from the date of judgment and expiration of any stay of execution. Upon 31 notice, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend any privilege the person defaulting on payment may have to operate a motor vehicle in this state, including any driver's 35 license issued to the person by the Division of Motor Vehicles, until all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties are paid in full. The suspension shall be imposed in 38 accordance with the provisions of section six, article three, 39 chapter seventeen-b of this code: *Provided*, That any person 40 who has had his or her license to operate a motor vehicle in 41 this state suspended pursuant to this subsection and his or 42 her failure to pay is based upon inability to pay, may, if he or she is employed on a full- or part-time basis, petition to the 44 circuit court for an order authorizing him or her to operate a motor vehicle solely for employment purposes. Upon a 46 showing satisfactory to the court of inability to pay, employ-47 ment and compliance with other applicable motor vehicle 48 laws, the court shall issue an order granting relief.

- 49 (2) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this 50 subsection, if any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or 51 penalties imposed or ordered by the magistrate court for a hunting violation described in chapter twenty of this code 52 are not paid within one hundred eighty days from the date of 53 judgment and the expiration of any stay of execution, the 54 magistrate court clerk or, upon a judgment rendered on 56 appeal, the circuit clerk shall notify the Director of the 57 Division of Natural Resources of the failure to pay. Upon notice, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources 59 shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or otherwise respond may have to hunt in this state, including 60 any hunting license issued to the person by the Division of 62 Natural Resources, until all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, 63 restitution or penalties are paid in full.
- 64 (3) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this 65 subsection, if any costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties imposed or ordered by the magistrate court for a fishing violation described in chapter twenty of this code are 67 not paid within one hundred eighty days from the date of 69 judgment and the expiration of any stay of execution, the 70 magistrate court clerk or, upon a judgment rendered on appeal, the circuit clerk shall notify the Director of the 72 Division of Natural Resources of the failure to pay. Upon 73 notice, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources 74 shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or 75 otherwise respond may have to fish in this state, including any fishing license issued to the person by the Division of 76 Natural Resources, until all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties are paid in full.
- (d) (1) If a person charged with any criminal violation of this code fails to appear or otherwise respond in court, the magistrate court shall notify the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles: thereof within ninety days of the scheduled date to appear unless the person sooner appears or otherwise responds in court to the satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon notice, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or other-

wise respond may have to operate a motor vehicle in this state, including any driver's license issued to the person by the Division of Motor Vehicles, until final judgment in the case and, if a judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties imposed are paid in full. The suspension shall be imposed in accordance with the provisions of section six, article three, chapter seventeen-b of this code.

- 95 (2) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this 96 subsection, if a person charged with any hunting violation described in chapter twenty of this code fails to appear or 98 otherwise respond in court, the magistrate court shall notify the Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the failure thereof within fifteen days of the scheduled date to 100 101 appear unless the person sooner appears or otherwise 102 responds in court to the satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon 103 notice, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources 104 shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or 105 otherwise respond may have to hunt in this state, including 106 any hunting license issued to the person by the Division of 107 Natural Resources, until final judgment in the case and, if a 108 judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, 109 restitution or penalties imposed are paid in full.
- 110 (3) In addition to the provisions of subdivision (1) of this 111 subsection, if a person charged with any fishing violation 112 described in chapter twenty of this code fails to appear or 113 otherwise respond in court, the magistrate court shall notify 114 the Director of the Division of Natural Resources of the 115 failure thereof within fifteen days of the scheduled date to 116 appear unless the person sooner appears or otherwise 117 responds in court to the satisfaction of the magistrate. Upon 118 notice, the Director of the Division of Natural Resources 119 shall suspend any privilege the person failing to appear or 120 otherwise respond may have to fish in this state, including 121 any fishing license issued to the person by the Division of 122 Natural Resources, until final judgment in the case and, if a judgment of guilty, until all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, 123 124 restitution or penalties imposed are paid in full.

- 125 (e) In every criminal case which involves a misdemeanor 126 violation, a magistrate may order restitution where appropri-127 ate when rendering judgment.
- 128 (f) (1) If all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties imposed by a magistrate court and ordered to be 129 130 paid are not paid within one hundred eighty days from the 131 date of judgment and the expiration of any stay of execution, 132 the clerk of the magistrate court shall notify the prosecuting 133 attorney of the county of nonpayment and provide the 134 prosecuting attorney with an abstract of judgment. The 135 prosecuting attorney shall file the abstract of judgment in 136 the office of the clerk of the county commission in the county 137 where the defendant was convicted and in any county 138 wherein the defendant resides or owns property. The clerks 139 of the county commissions shall record and index the 140 abstracts of judgment without charge or fee to the prosecut-141 ing attorney and when so recorded, the amount stated to be 142 owing in the abstract shall constitute a lien against all 143 property of the defendant.
- 144 (2) When all the costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties described in subdivision (1) of this subsection for 145 146 which an abstract of judgment has been recorded are paid in 147 full, the clerk of the magistrate court shall notify the prose-148 cuting attorney of the county of payment and provide the prosecuting attorney with a release of judgment, prepared in 149 accordance with the provisions of section one, article twelve, 150 151 chapter thirty-eight of this code, for filing and recordation pursuant to the provisions of this subdivision. Upon receipt 152 153 from the clerk, the prosecuting attorney shall file the release 154 of judgment in the office of the clerk of the county commission in each county where an abstract of the judgment was 155 156 recorded. The clerks of the county commissions shall record and index the release of judgment without charge or fee to 157 158 the prosecuting attorney.
- 159 (g) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the 160 contrary, except as authorized by this section, payments of 161 all costs, fines, fees, forfeitures, restitution or penalties 162 imposed by the magistrate court in civil or criminal matters

- 163 shall be made in full. Partial payments of costs, fines, fees,
- 164 forfeitures, restitution or penalties made pursuant to this
- 165 section shall be credited to amounts due in the following
- 166 order:
- 167 (1) Regional Jail Fund;
- 168 (2) Worthless Check Payee;
- 169 (3) Restitution;
- 170 (4) Magistrate Court Fund;
- 171 (5) Worthless Check Fund;
- 172 (6) Per Diem Regional Jail Fee;
- 173 (7) Community Corrections Fund;
- 174 (8) Regional Jail Operational Fund;
- 175 (9) Law Enforcement Training Fund;
- 176 (10) Crime Victims Compensation Fund;
- 177 (11) Court Security Fund;
- 178 (12) Courthouse Improvement Fund;
- 179 (13) Litter Control Fund;
- 180 (14) Sheriff arrest fee;
- 181 (15) Teen Court Fund;
- 182 (16) Other costs, if any;
- 183 (17) Fine.

FILED

Enr. Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 618]

14 2012 APR -3 PM 5: 14

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that
UTFICE VIEST WAGINIA the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled. SECRETARY OF STATE Chairman \$ehate Committee Chairman House Committee Originated in the Senate. In effect ninety days from passage. Clerk of the Senate Clerk of the House of Delegates Senate Speaker of the House of Delegates The within LO Oppose Day of

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

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