ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

House Bill No. 2652

(By Delegate(s) Ellington, Householder, Ashley, Boggs, Folk, Hamilton, Howell, McGeehan, Storch and Zatezalo)

Passed March 12, 2015

In effect from passage.
AN ACT to amend and reenact §16-29B-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to annual assessments on hospitals by the West Virginia Health Care Authority; and changing the basis for the annual assessment.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §16-29B-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
ARTICLE 29B. HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY.

§16-29B-8. Powers generally; budget expenses of the board.

(a) In addition to the powers granted to the board elsewhere in this article, the board may:

(1) Adopt, amend and repeal necessary, appropriate and lawful policy guidelines and rules in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code: Provided, That subsequent amendments and modifications to any rule promulgated pursuant to this article and not exempt from the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code may be implemented by emergency rule;

(2) Hold public hearings, conduct investigations and require the filing of information relating to matters affecting the costs of health care services subject to the provisions of this article and may subpoena witnesses, papers, records, documents and all other data in connection therewith. The board may administer oaths or affirmations in any hearing or investigation;

(3) Apply for, receive and accept gifts, payments and other funds and advances from the United States, the state or any other governmental body, agency or agencies or from any other private or public corporation or person (with the exception of hospitals subject to the provisions of this article, or associations representing them, doing business in the state of West Virginia, except in accordance with subsection (c) of this section), and enter into agreements with respect thereto, including the undertaking of studies, plans, demonstrations or projects. Any such gifts or payments that may be received or any such agreements that may be entered into shall be used or formulated only so as to pursue legitimate, lawful purposes of the board, and shall in no respect inure to the private benefit of a board member, staff member, donor or contracting party;
(4) Lease, rent, acquire, purchase, own, hold, construct, equip, maintain, operate, sell, encumber and assign rights or dispose of any property, real or personal, consistent with the objectives of the board as set forth in this article: Provided, That such acquisition or purchase of real property or construction of facilities shall be consistent with planning by the state building commissioner and subject to the approval of the Legislature;

(5) Contract and be contracted with and execute all instruments necessary or convenient in carrying out the board’s functions and duties; and

(6) Exercise, subject to limitations or restrictions herein imposed, all other powers which are reasonably necessary or essential to effect the express objectives and purposes of this article.

(b) The board shall annually prepare a budget for the next fiscal year for submission to the governor and the Legislature which shall include all sums necessary to support the activities of the board and its staff.

(c) Each hospital subject to the provisions of this article shall be assessed by the board on a pro rata basis using the net patient revenue, as defined under generally accepted accounting principles, of each hospital as reported under the authority of section eighteen of this article as the measure of the hospital’s obligation. The amount of such fee shall be determined by the board except that in no case shall the hospital’s obligation exceed one tenth of one percent of its net patient revenue. Such fees shall be paid on or before the first day of July in each year and shall be paid into the state treasury and kept as a special revolving fund designated “health care cost review fund”, with the moneys in such fund being expendable after appropriation by the Legislature for purposes consistent with this article. Any balance remaining in said fund at the end of any fiscal year shall
not revert to the treasury, but shall remain in said fund and such moneys shall be expendable after appropriation by the Legislature in ensuing fiscal years.

(d) Each hospital’s assessment shall be treated as an allowable expense by the board.

(e) The board is empowered to withhold rate approvals, certificates of need and rural health system loans and grants if any such fees remain unpaid, unless exempted under subsection (g), section four, article two-d of this chapter.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman, House Committee

Chairman, Senate Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect from passage.

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Clerk of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

The within is approved this the 27th day of March, 2015.

Governor
PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 18 2015

Time 5:30 pm