

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 4799

BY DELEGATES PINSON, BROOKS, FLANIGAN, MARPLE,

AND MASTERS

[Passed March 13, 2026; in effect 90 days from  
passage (June 11, 2026)]

FILED

2025 APR - 1 P 10:48

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

HB 4799



# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2026 REGULAR SESSION

**ENROLLED**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**House Bill 4799**

BY DELEGATES PINSON, BROOKS, FLANIGAN, MARPLE,

AND MASTERS

[Passed March 13, 2026; in effect 90 days from  
passage (June 11, 2026)]

FILED  
2025 APR -1 P 10:40  
OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE



1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §15-10-8, relating to the establishment of the cold case task force within the  
3 West Virginia State Police; establishing the executive board; clarifying that meetings of  
4 the board are not subject to open meetings laws; requiring the executive board to provide  
5 recommendations on procedures; creating the Task Force Director; providing the State  
6 Superintendent the power to select the Task Force Director and other officers on the task  
7 force, including retired police officer; establishing duties of the Task Force Director;  
8 authorizing interagency cooperation; establishing the Cold Case Task Force Fund;  
9 specifying uses of the fund; and requiring data sharing from the fusion center.

10 *PREAMBLE: THIS LAW IS DESIGNATED AND MAY BE REFERRED TO AS THE LEAH*  
11 *HICKMAN MEMORIAL ACT.*

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 10. COOPERATION BETWEEN LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.**

**§15-10-8. Statewide cold case task force.**

1 (a) This section establishes a statewide multi-jurisdictional cold case task force within the  
2 State Police. The executive board of the cold case task force shall consist of the Superintendent  
3 of the State Police, the President of the West Virginia Chiefs of Police Association, and the  
4 President of the West Virginia Sheriffs' Association. Meetings of the executive board are not  
5 subject to the provisions of §6-9A-1 *et seq.* of this code.

6 (b) The purpose of the cold case task force is the investigation and prosecution of  
7 offenders in cold cases, as that term is defined in §15A-12-9 of this code: *Provided*, That nothing  
8 in this section shall be construed as authorizing the cold case task force to supersede the ongoing  
9 investigations of any other law-enforcement agency.

10 (c) The executive board shall provide recommendations on procedures to effectuate the  
11 purposes of this section, including, but not limited to, the number of law-enforcement officers  
12 assigned to the cold case task force.

(d) Subject to available funds, the Task Force Director shall be the head of the cold case task force and shall be selected by the Superintendent of the State of Police from the membership of the State Police. The remaining membership of the cold case task force shall be designated by the Superintendent of the State Police, subject to available funds, and may include retired state police as volunteers or part-time employees, subject to available funds.

(e) The Task Force Director shall:

(1) Supervise the members of the State Police assigned to the cold case task force;

(2) Request assistance and cooperation of any West Virginia law-enforcement agency pursuant to the provisions of §15-10-4 of this code to assist the cold case task force's establishment or operation if necessary: *Provided*, That the Task Force Director may provide the opportunity to participate in the cold case task force to any law-enforcement officer from the agency originally investigating the cold case, as directed by the administrator from the agency originally investigating the cold case;

(3) Coordinate and cooperate with any other federal or state law-enforcement agencies;

(4) Establish policies and procedures for the operation of the cold case task force and ensure compliance;

(5) Manage and coordinate the day-to-day operations of the cold case task force established under the provisions of this section; and

(6) Perform other duties as may be required to effectuate the purposes of this section.

(f) The Cold Case Task Force Fund is created within the Treasury. The fund shall be administered by the Superintendent of the State Police and shall consist of all moneys made available for the operations of the cold case task force from any source, including, but not limited to, all fees, gifts, grants, bequests, or transfers from any source, any moneys that may be appropriated and designated for the cold case task force by the Legislature and all interest or other return earned from investment of the fund. Expenditures from the fund shall be for the operations of the cold case task force and are not authorized from collections but are to be made

39 only in accordance with appropriation by the Legislature and in accordance with the provisions of  
40 §12-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and upon the fulfillment of the provisions set forth in §11B-2-1 *et seq.*  
41 of this code: *Provided*, That for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, expenditures are authorized  
42 from collections rather than pursuant to an explicit appropriation by the Legislature.

43 (g) The Director of the West Virginia Fusion Center shall cooperate with the executive  
44 board to the fullest extent practicable to provide information necessary to accomplish the mission  
45 of the cold case task force and shall make available any information contained in the cold case  
46 database established in §15A-12-9 of this code.





Enr CS for HB 4799

The Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

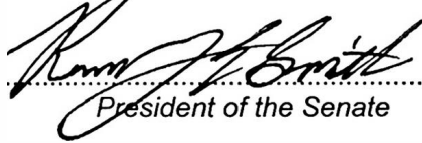
  
Clerk of the House of Delegates

  
Clerk of the Senate

Originated in the House of Delegates.

In effect 90 days from passage.

  
Speaker of the House of Delegates

  
President of the Senate

FILED  
2025 APR - 1 P 10:48  
OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

The within is approved this the 1<sup>st</sup>  
Day of April, 2026.

  
Governor



PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 25 2023

Time 3:30 pm