

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 225

SENATORS MAYNARD AND CLINE, *original sponsors*

[Originating in the Committee on Government

Organization; reported on January 15, 2020]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §8-12-20, relating to empowering municipalities to enact Adopt-A-Street
3 programs; and establishing eligibility criteria.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 12. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC POWERS, DUTIES, AND ALLIED
RELATIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES, GOVERNING BODIES AND MUNICIPAL
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; SUITS AGAINST MUNICIPALITIES.**

§8-12-20. Authorizing municipalities to enact Adopt-A-Street programs.

1 (a) In addition to all other powers and duties conferred by law upon municipalities,
2 municipalities are empowered to enact municipality Adopt-A-Street programs.

3 (b) The state Adopt-A-Highway Program was established in the late 1980s to improve the
4 quality of the state's environment by encouraging public involvement in the elimination of highway
5 litter. That program is cosponsored by the Division of Highways and the Department of
6 Environmental Protection, REAP Program. Its objective is to save taxpayer money by increasing
7 public awareness and to serve as an educational tool by focusing on the consequences of littering.
8 The program offers volunteers the opportunity to take charge of their own environment by making
9 a positive effort to create a cleaner, more aesthetic place in which to live.

10 In West Virginia, there are currently 25,000 volunteers who regularly pick up litter on 4,000
11 miles of highway. They have been responsible for removing more than 40 million pounds of litter
12 since the program began.

13 (c) As with the state program, individuals, families, churches, businesses, schools, civic
14 organizations, government agencies, scouting groups, fraternities, and communities may
15 participate in a municipality's Adopt-A-Street program. Anyone who is at least 12 years old may
16 participate. Any street that is maintained by that municipality is eligible for adoption, with the
17 exception of interstates and streets deemed unsafe. Volunteers may select a street to adopt and

18 then have it approved by the municipality, or they may ask the municipality to suggest an
19 adoptable street. Alleys, dirt roads, and streets off the beaten path, as well as major streets, may
20 be adopted. Adopted streets must be at least six blocks long.

21 (d) Adoptions are for a period of two years, during which time three cleanups are required
22 per year. As volunteers pick up litter, bags that have been filled are placed on street sides for
23 removal and disposal by the municipality. Garbage bags, safety vests, safety training, traffic
24 warning signs, and gloves shall be furnished by the municipality.

25 (e) Adopted streets may be identified by a sign at each end of the section bearing the
26 Adopt-A-Street logo and the name of the adopting entity. Volunteers who complete six required
27 litter pickups within the two-year contract period are awarded a certificate of accomplishment
28 signed by the mayor of the municipality.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to empower municipalities to enact Adopt-A-Street programs. The bill establishes eligibility criteria.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.