

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### House Bill 4294

FISCAL  
NOTE

By Delegate Kirby

[Introduced January 10, 2024; Referred  
to the Committee on Technology and Infrastructure  
then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §11-14C-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to reducing the state gasoline tax.

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

<b>ARTICLE</b>	<b>14C.</b>	<b>MOTOR</b>	<b>FUEL</b>	<b>EXCISE</b>	<b>TAX.</b>
<b>§11-14C-5.</b>		<b>Taxes</b>		<b>levied;</b>	<b>rate.</b>

1 (a) There is hereby levied on all motor fuel an excise tax composed of a flat rate equal to  
2 \$.205 \$.20 per invoiced gallon and, on alternative fuel, on each gallon equivalent. ~~plus a variable~~  
3 ~~component comprised of:~~

4 ~~(1) On motor fuel other than alternative fuel, either the tax imposed by section eighteen b,~~  
5 ~~article fifteen of this chapter or the tax imposed under section thirteen a, article fifteen a of this~~  
6 ~~chapter, as applicable. The variable component shall be equal to five percent of the average~~  
7 ~~wholesale price of the motor fuel: *Provided*, That on and after January 1, 2010, the average~~  
8 ~~wholesale price shall be no less than \$2.34 per invoiced gallon and is computed as hereinafter~~  
9 ~~prescribed in this section: *Provided, however*, That on and after July 1, 2017, the average~~  
10 ~~wholesale price of motor fuel may not be determined to be less than \$3.04 per invoiced gallon for~~  
11 ~~all gallons of motor fuel sold during the reporting period notwithstanding any provision of this code~~  
12 ~~to the contrary and on and after July 1, 2017, the tax per gallon may not be less than 15.2 cents per~~  
13 ~~gallon of motor fuel; and~~

14 ~~(2) On alternative fuel, either the tax imposed by section eighteen b, article fifteen of this~~  
15 ~~chapter or the tax imposed under section thirteen a, article fifteen a of this chapter, as applicable.~~  
16 ~~The variable component of the tax on alternative fuel shall be equal to five percent of the average~~  
17 ~~wholesale price of the alternative fuel~~

18 (b) *Determination of average wholesale price.* —

19 (1) To simplify determining the average wholesale price of all motor fuel, the Tax  
20 Commissioner shall, effective with the period beginning the first day of the month of the effective  
21 date of the tax and each January 1 thereafter, determine the average wholesale price of motor fuel

22 for each annual period on the basis of sales data gathered for the preceding period of July 1  
23 through October 31. Notification of the average wholesale price of motor fuel shall be given by the  
24 Tax Commissioner at least thirty days in advance of each January 1 by filing notice of the average  
25 wholesale price in the State Register and by other means as the Tax Commissioner considers  
26 reasonable.

27 (2) The "average wholesale price" means the single, statewide average per gallon  
28 wholesale price, rounded to the third decimal (thousandth of a cent), exclusive of state and federal  
29 excise taxes on each gallon of motor fuel or on each gallon equivalent of alternative fuel as  
30 determined by the Tax Commissioner from information furnished by suppliers, importers and  
31 distributors of motor fuel and alternative-fuel providers, alternative-fuel bulk end users and  
32 retailers of alternative fuel in this state, or other information regarding wholesale selling prices as  
33 the Tax Commissioner may gather or a combination of information. On and after January 1, 2010,  
34 in no event shall the average wholesale price be determined to be less than \$2.34 per gallon of  
35 motor fuel: *Provided*, That on and after July 1, 2017, the average wholesale price may not be  
36 determined to be less than \$3.04 per gallon of motor fuel. On and after January 1, 2011, the  
37 average wholesale price shall not vary by more than ten percent from the average wholesale price  
38 of motor fuel as determined by the Tax Commissioner for the previous calendar year: *Provided*,  
39 *however*, That in no case shall the average wholesale price of motor fuel be determined to be less  
40 than \$3.04 per invoiced gallon. Any limitation on the average wholesale price of motor fuel  
41 contained in this subsection shall not be applicable to alternative fuel.

42 (3) All actions of the Tax Commissioner in acquiring data necessary to establish and  
43 determine the average wholesale price of motor fuel, in providing notification of his or her  
44 determination prior to the effective date of a change in rate, and in establishing and determining  
45 the average wholesale price of motor fuel may be made by the Tax Commissioner without  
46 compliance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 of this code.

47 (4) In an administrative or court proceeding brought to challenge the average wholesale

48 price of motor fuel as determined by the Tax Commissioner, his or her determination is presumed  
49 to be correct and shall not be set aside unless it is clearly erroneous.

50 (c) Every licensee who, on the effective date of any rate change, has in inventory any  
51 motor fuel upon which the tax or any portion thereof has been previously paid shall take a physical  
52 inventory and file a report thereof with the commissioner, in the format as required by the  
53 commissioner, within thirty days after the effective date of the rate change, and shall pay to the  
54 commissioner at the time of filing the report any additional tax due under the increased rate.

55 (d) The Tax Commissioner shall determine by January 1, 2014, the gasoline gallon  
56 equivalent for each alternative fuel by filing a notice of the gasoline gallon equivalent in the State  
57 Register and by other means that the Tax Commissioner considers reasonable. The Tax  
58 Commissioner may redetermine the gasoline gallon equivalent for each alternative fuel by filing a  
59 notice of the gasoline gallon equivalent in the State Register at least thirty days in advance of  
60 January 1 for the next succeeding tax year. For purposes of this notice, the Tax Commissioner  
61 may adopt or incorporate by reference provisions of the National Institute of Standards and  
62 Technology, United States Department of Commerce, the Internal Revenue Code, United States  
63 Treasury Regulations, the Internal Revenue Service publications or guidelines or other  
64 publications or guidelines which may be useful in determining, setting, or describing the gasoline  
65 gallon equivalent for each alternative fuel used as motor fuel.

66 (e) *Effective date.* — The amendments to this section enacted during the ~~first extraordinary~~  
67 regular session of ~~2017~~ 2024 shall take effect on ~~July~~ June 1, ~~2017~~ 2024.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to reduce the fuel tax.

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