ARTICLE 1. STATE DEPOSITORIES.

§12-1-15. Financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies.

- 1 (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section:
- 2 (1) "Banking contract" means a contract entered into by the Treasurer and a financial
- 3 <u>institution pursuant to this chapter, to provide banking goods or services to a spending unit.</u>
- 4 (2) "Boycott of energy companies" means, without an reasonable ordinary-business
- 5 purpose, the issuance of a public statement by a financial institution of its policy of refusal to
- 6 transact new business with, or continue to provide financial services to all companies whose
- 7 primary business operations involve the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale,

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10	or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy, or the issuance of a public statement of its intent	<u></u>	Deleted: deal with a company, termination of business activities with a company
11	to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with all companies because		Deleted: another action that is intended
		***************************************	Deleted: a company
12	the_companies:		Deleted: company
13	(A) Engage in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or		Deleted: Engages
 14	manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy;		Deleted:
15	(B) Engage in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or		Deleted: Engages
16	manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and do not commit or pledge to meet environmental		Deleted: does
	standarda hayandan disabla fadaral and stata layya		
17	standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or		
18	(C) Do business with companies that engage in the exploration, production, utilization,		Deleted: Does
10	(c) bo basiness with companies that engage in the exploration, production, attrization,	\leq	Deleted: a company
19	transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy.		Deleted: engages
20	(3) "Company" means any sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation,		
21	partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability		
22	company, or other entity or business association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries,		
23	majority-owned subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or business		
24	associations, that exist for the purpose of making profit.		
25	(4) "Financial institution" means a bank, national banking association, non-bank financial		
26	institution, a bank and trust company, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building		
27	and loan accepiation a mutual covings bonk a goodit union as a covings bonk		
27	and loan association, a mutual savings bank, a credit union, or a savings bank.		
28	(5) "Reasonable Ordinary business purpose" includes any purpose directly related to (i)	***************************************	Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough
29			
23	promoting the financial success or stability of a financial institution, the purpose of (ii) mitigating		Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough

42	risk to a financial institution, (iii) complying with legal or regulatory requirements or (iv) the	Formatted: Font color: Red, Strikethrough
43	purpose of limiting the liability of a financial institution.	Deleted:
44 45	(6) "Restricted financial institution" means a financial institution included in the most recently updated Restricted Financial Institution List.	Formatted: Font color: Red
46 47	(7) "Restricted Financial Institution List" means the list that the Treasurer is authorized to prepare, maintain, and publish pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.	
48	(8) "Treasurer" refers to the West Virginia State Treasurer.	
49	(b) Restricted Financial Institutions List. —	
50	(1) The Treasurer is authorized to prepare and maintain a list of financial institutions that	
51	are engaged in a boycott of energy companies. A list prepared pursuant to this subsection shall	
52	be known and cited as the "Restricted Financial Institution List."	
53	(2) In preparing the Restricted Financial Institution List, the Treasurer may review and rely	
54	on the financial institution's certification that it does not and has no future intent to boycott	
55	companies engaged in the fossil fuels energy market, as well as publicly available information	
56	regarding financial institutions, including public statements by financial institutions, publicly	Deleted: a company,
57	available data and information provided by independent, third-party nonprofit organizations,	Deleted: published or
58	market data research firms, reputable international government organizations, and other state	
59	or federal governmental entities. The Treasurer may consider but may not take any adverse	
60	action against a financial institution based solely on statements or complaints by a company that	
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is engaged in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of 64 65 fossil fuel-based energy. (3) Upon preparation of the Restricted Financial Institution List, the Treasurer must 66 comply with the following requirements: 67 68 (A) The Treasurer must publicly post the Restricted Financial Institution List on the Treasurer's website along with a statement that placement on the list is not an indication of the 69 70 safety or soundness or of the operating condition of any institution identified on the list and submit a copy of the list to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the 71 Deleted: publicly post the Restricted Financial Institution List on the Treasurer's website and 72 House of Delegates. (B) The Treasurer must update the Restricted Financial Institution List annually, or more 73 often as the Treasurer considers necessary. 74 75 (C) For each newly identified restricted financial institution, the Treasurer must, within 10 76 days of said identification, send a written notice informing the institution of its restricted financial 77 institution status and that it may be ineligible to enter into, or remain in, banking contracts with the State of West Virginia. The Treasurer shall not publish the name of any financial institution 78 79 on the Restricted Financial Institution List until after thirty days from the date said notice was mailed. Within 30 days of receipt of the written notice, a financial institution may appeal its 80 81 identification as a restricted financial institution by certifying in writing to the Treasurer that it is

not engaged in a boycott of energy companies or that it has ceased all activities constituting a

boycott of energy companies. Immediately upon receipt of such certification, the Treasurer must

remove the financial institution from the Restricted Financial Institution List. A financial

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Deleted: If, following the receipt of the written notice, the

<u>restricted financial institution provides information</u> <u>demonstrating, to the Treasurer's satisfaction, that it is not</u>

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engaged in a boycott of energy companies or that it has ceased all activity that boycotts energy companies,

94	institution shall not be required to produce or disclose any data or information deemed private,
95	confidential, privileged or otherwise protected by any state or federal law or legal precedent.
96	(c) Treasurer authority with regard to restricted financial institutions. –
97	(1) In selecting a financial institution to enter into a banking contract, the Treasurer is
98	authorized to disqualify restricted financial institutions from the competitive bidding process or
99	from any other official selection process.
100	(2) The Treasurer is authorized to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a restricted
101	financial institution based on its restricted financial institution status.
102	(3) The Treasurer is authorized to require, as a term of any banking contract, an
103	agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies for the
104	duration of the contract.
105	(d) Limitation on liability. – With respect to actions taken in compliance with this section,
106	a public agency, public official, public employee, or member or employee of a financial institution
107	is immune from liability.
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109	NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the Treasurer to restrict state banking
110	contracts with financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies.



February 7, 2022

The Honorable Riley Moore, Treasurer The West Virginia State Treasurers Office 1900 Kanawha Boulevard Capitol Complex Building #1, Room E-145 Charleston, West Virginia 25305

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

RE: SB 262 Relating generally to financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies

Dear Treasurer Moore.

I write to advise that after much deliberation and debate, a significant majority of the 22 members of the West Virginia Bankers Association's Board of Directors has voted to oppose SB 262. We respect your efforts to protect our vital partners in the fossil fuel sector. Our members are hopeful that you also respect our concerns with the significant government intrusion this legislation presents into the day-to-day operations and private business affairs of West Virginia's banks and the dangerous legislative precedent this bill will establish. The abandonment of long proven principles of minimal government interference in private industry for the purpose of achieving a short-term policy initiative is bad policy. Passage of this bill is not in the best interests of our vital industries, our customers, our communities, or our state.

We recognize and appreciate the concessions you have made on SB 262. We regret that we were unable to reach an agreement on the language of this bill particularly with regard to the definition of "boycott of energy companies."

There is no question that the banking industry in West Virginia has always and will continue to support our highly valued customers and clients in the fossil fuel industry. We likewise welcome the opportunity and stand ready to serve any and all new industries that might come to call West Virginia home.

This has been a difficult conversation and decision for our members who range from the very smallest, most vital community banks up to some of our nation's largest financial institutions. Many different opinions and perspectives have been expressed. One key point upon which all banks agree is that the logic of this type of legislation is inherently and deeply flawed. Our banks must not be used as pawns to impose political strictures upon the free market regardless of the ideology behind it.

Our members have no interest in a high profile, public difference of opinion with the Office of the Treasurer or any of our hard-working legislators on this bill. Nor do we seek to alienate or offend our valued friends, families, clients, and customers in the fossil fuel industry. Our decision is neither personal nor political. It was made on principle.

We are prepared to move forward as necessary to communicate our concern and opposition to this legislation with leadership in the House and Senate and to members of the House Committee on Finance. As always, we are also happy to answer any questions regarding our opposition to the bill.

Once SB 262 has been resolved, we look forward to getting back to work with you and your staff on accomplishing our shared purpose of moving West Virginia forward with HB 4271.





On behalf of our entire industry, thank you for your time and attention, your cooperation now and in the future and for your passionate and dedicated service to our state.

Sally Cline, President and CEO West Virginia Bankers Association 3601 MacCorkle Avenue SE, Suite 100

Charleston, WV 25304

Cc: Roger Hanshaw, Eric Householder, Vernon Criss, Brent Boggs, Larry Rowe, Bill Anderson, Jason Barrett, Joe Ellington, Paul Espinosa, Marty Gearhart, Dianna Graves, John Hardy, Sean Hornbuckle, John Hott, Gary Howell, Dean Jeffries, Daniel Linville, Zach Maynard, Dave Pethtel, Clay Riley, Matthew Rohrbach, Ruth Rowan, Joe Statler, Erica Storch, Chris Toney, John Williams

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE 2022 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 262

BY SENATORS PHILLIPS, GRADY, MARTIN, MAYNARD,

KARNES, HAMILTON, AND WOODRUM

[Originating in the Committee on Finance; reported on

January 24, 2022]

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A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §12-1-15, relating generally to financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies; defining terms; authorizing the State Treasurer to prepare, maintain, and publish a list of financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies; requiring the Treasurer to post the list on his or her website and submit the list to certain public officials; setting forth sources of information on which the Treasurer may rely on preparing the list; requiring the Treasurer to send written notice to a financial institution within a specified timeframe prior to its inclusion on the list; establishing required content of said notice; requiring the Treasurer to refrain from publishing the financial institution on the list upon receipt of certain information within a specified timeframe; requiring the Treasurer to remove a financial institution from the list if it presents information demonstrating that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies; preventing financial institutions from being compelled to produce certain information; authorizing the Treasurer to exclude financial institutions on the list from the selection process for state banking contracts; authorizing the Treasurer to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a financial institution on the list; authorizing the Treasurer to require, as a term of a banking contract, an agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies; and limiting liability of public officials, public employees, members or employees of financial institutions for actions taken in compliance with the new code section and exempting the Investment Management Board.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. STATE DEPOSITORIES.

§12-1-15. Financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies.

- (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section:
- 2 (1) "Banking contract" means a contract entered into by the Treasurer and a financial
- 3 institution pursuant to this chapter, to provide banking goods or services to a spending unit.

4	(2) "Boycott of energy companies" means without a reasonable business purpose, refusal		Commented [CS1]: Comment 1: The WVSTO has
5	to transact new business with, or continue to provide financial services to, or to take any other		concerns over changing the singular to "all companies or to significantly altering this definition. The WVSTO finds it prudent to keep the definition as close to the
6	action intended to penalize or inflict economic harm on energy companies. 🛫		definition being used in other states (i.e. Texas). The language flagged in Comment 8 should address concerns that complaints by a single company would
7	(3) "Energy companies" means all companies that:	\	be adequate to demonstrate a boycott.
8	(A) Engage in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or		Commented [LA2R1]: This definition remains extreme problematic for our banks. The fact that another state has used a definition does not itself make the definition
9	manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy;		valid and is not a good reason to impose a nonsensic definition upon the vital banking industry in West Virginia.
10	(B) Does business with a company that engages in the exploration, production, utilization,		A single adverse decision against a single entity
11	transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy.		engaged in the stream of fossil fuel energy production is simply unacceptable to the banking industry. If this
12	(4) "Company" means any sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation,		definition remains unchanged, every single such decision could trigger scrutiny by WVSTO and this law's costly and time-consuming notice/appeal
13	partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company,		process. Banks are being put in the onerous position having to justify every decision they make in this rega to WVSTO.
14	or other entity or business association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries, majority-owned		The current definition also creates exposure and
15	subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or business associations, that exist		increases litigation risks for subjective and disparate enforcement. Whereas an actual boycott of ALL fossi
16	for the purpose of making profit.		fuel energy production companies as that word in understood in common parlance is much easier to prove and much harder to deny and therefore much
17	(5) "Financial institution" means a bank, national banking association, non-bank financial		less likely to require judicial intervention.
18	institution, a bank and trust company, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building		Commented [LA3]: This change reflects the industries ongoing objection to triggering adverse action by the WVSTO based upon a single adverse decision agains a single energy company. WVSTO cannot know find
19	and loan association, a mutual savings bank, a credit union, or a savings bank.		Deleted: deal with a company, termination of business
20	(6) "Reasonable business purpose" includes any purpose directly related to:		activities with a company, or another action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or
21	(A) Promoting the financial success or stability of a financial institution;		Deleted: s
22	(B) Mitigating risk to a financial institution;		Deleted: (B) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or g'
23	(C) Complying with legal or regulatory requirements, or		Deleted: C
24	(D) Limiting liability of a financial institution.		Deleted: 3
24	(D) Elimiting liability of a linancial institution.	11	Deleted: 4
25	(7) "Restricted financial institution" means a financial institution included in the most	1	Commented [CS4]: Comment 2: Per Loren draft Commented [LA5R4]: Agreed.
l 26	recently updated restricted financial institution list.	$\backslash \backslash \backslash$	Deleted: 5
	Tooling appared Tooling a mandal mortalion not.		Commented [CS6]: Comment 3: Per Loren draft
27	(8) "Restricted financial institution list" means the list that the Treasurer is authorized to		Commented [LA7R6]: Agreed.
l 28	prepare, maintain, and publish pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.	//	Deleted: 6
_		1	Deleted: 7
29	(<u>a</u>) "Treasurer" refers to the West Virginia State Treasurer.		Deleted: 8
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54	(b) Restricted financial institutions list. –		Commented [CS8]: Comment 4: Reordered for clarity
55	(1) The Treasurer is authorized to prepare and maintain a list of financial institutions that		Commented [LA9R8]: Agreed.
56	are engaged in a boycott of energy companies. A list prepared pursuant to this subsection shall	$/\!/ I$	Commented [LA10]: I think this is self-explanatory based on my prior comments but I am amenable to discussing the specific language here if WVSTO is no satisfied with what I have proposed.
57	be known and cited as the restricted financial institution list.		Commented [CS11]: Comment 5: Per Loren draft.
58 59	(2) The Treasurer must publicly post the restricted financial institution list on the Treasurer's website and submit a copy of the list to the Governor, the President of the Senate,		Commented [LA12R11]: It is critical that with this publication, WVSTO reassure consumers that inclusion this list does not mean that deposits are at risk or that the listed institutions are operating in an unsafe cunsound condition.
60	and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. A citation to this section of the Code and a brief	// (Deleted: <u>B</u>
C4		I/(Commented [CS13]: Comment 6: Per Loren draft
61	summary of the purpose of the list must appear at the top of the list along with a disclaimer that		Commented [LA14R13]: Agreed.
62	inclusion on the list is not an indication of unsafe or unsound operating conditions of any bank nor		Deleted: company
00			Deleted:
63	(3) The Treasurer must update the restricted financial institution list annually, or more often		Commented [CS16]: Comment 7: The WVSTO decline requested changes limiting the resources that the WVSTO can rely upon in making this determination. The Treasurer needs to exercise discretion and revier all credible information available to him.
65	as the Treasurer considers necessary.		Commented [LA17R16]: We concur that WVSTO
66 67	(4) In preparing the restricted financial institution list, the Treasurer may review and rely on the financial institution's certification that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies		should rely only upon credible information. This provision does nothing to eliminate the inclusion false or misleading information and provides no parameters for WVSTO to assess or evaluate the
68	and on reliable, accurate, publicly available information regarding financial institutions, including		credibility of any given information.
69	public statements by a financial institution and information published or provided by nonprofit		There is also no provision within this bill that grants the listed financial institution the right to know what evidence the WVSTO has of a boycott, leaving the adversely affected bank defending against unknown,
70	organizations, research firms, international organizations, or state or federal governmental		unsubstantiated information provided by unknown sources.
71	entities: Provided, That the Treasurer may consider but may not rely solely upon statements or		The use of the term "company" at the end of line 56
72	complaints by a single energy company.		and "energy company" at the end of line 59 is problematic. In our proposed amendments we changed the "company" in line 56 to "financial institution" because we assumed perhaps incorrect that WVSTO intends to use public statements by the financial institutions themselves against them. But the
73	(5) Forty-five days prior to including a financial institution on the restricted financial		
74	institution list, the Treasurer must send a written notice to the institution containing the following		using the word "company" there, it seems we cou
75	information:		Commented [CS18]: Comment 8: Per Loren draft
. 0	inomedon.		Commented [LA19R18]: Agreed.
76	(A) That the Treasurer has determined that the financial institution is a restricted financial		Commented [CS20]: Comment 9: Period of notice and appeal prior to placement on restricted list, per
77	institution;		Commented [LA21R20]: Agreed. Commented [CS22]: Comment 10: See Comment 7
78	(B) That the financial institution will be placed on the restricted financial institution list in		Commented [LA23R22]: What exactly is the standard proof contemplated here for an institution to
79	45 days unless, within 30 days following the receipt of the written notice, the restricted financial		Commented [LA24R22]:

institution demonstrates that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies;

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84	(C) That the restricted financial institution list is published on the Treasurer's website; and	Deleted:
85	(D) That the institution's placement on the list may render the institution ineligible to enter	
86	into, or remain in, banking contracts with the State of West Virginia.	
87	(6) Following a restricted financial institution's inclusion on the restricted financial	
88	institution list, the Treasurer will remove the institution from the list if the institution demonstrates,	Deleted: provides information Treasurer's satisfaction,
89	that it has ceased all activity that boycotts energy companies.	Treasurer's Sausiaction,
90	(7) A financial institution may not be compelled to produce or disclose any data or	
91	information deemed confidential, privileged, or otherwise protected from disclosure by state or	
92	federal law.	Commented [CS26]: Commen
93	(c) Treasurer authority with regard to restricted financial institutions. –	Commented [LA27R26]: Agree
94	(1) In selecting a financial institution to enter into a banking contract, the Treasurer is	
95	authorized to disqualify restricted financial institutions from the competitive bidding process or	
96	from any other official selection process.	
97	(2) The Treasurer is authorized to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a restricted	
98	financial institution based on its restricted financial institution status.	
99	(3) The Treasurer is authorized to require, as a term of any banking contract, an	
100	agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies for the	
101	duration of the contract.	
102	(d) Limitation on liability. – With respect to actions taken in compliance with this section, a	
103	public agency, public official, public employee, or member or employee of a financial institution is	
104	immune from liability.	
105	(e) Applicability to the West Virginia Investment Management Board The provisions of	
106	this section do not apply to the duties, actions, and transactions of the West Virginia Investment	Commented [CS28]: Commen
107	Management Board as set forth in §12-6-1 et seq. of this code.	Commented [LA29R28]: Agree

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This change reflects the industries ongoing objection to triggering adverse action by the WVSTO based upon a single adverse decision against a single energy company. WVSTO cannot know the reasonable business purpose behind that decision until the notice has already been sent and the bank already placed on the defensive. To insist upon this definition merely because the Texas state legislature failed to see the absurdity in it doesn't reflect WVSTO's understanding of or relationship with the banking industry in West Virginia.

By defining and using the term "energy companies" we eliminate some of the confusion that we identified later in the bill and more accurately align the bill with its purpose of allowing the government to intervene into actual boycotts of the fossil fuel sector.

I also deleted the provision relating to a "pledge to meet environmental standards' because it is unclear what that means exactly and banks must not be made responsible to ascertain whether or not any given energy company has met any such new requirement of the government. If WVSTO wants energy companies to take a pledge than WVSTO must be responsible for the implementation and enforcement of that program with the energy companies and not superimpose that policing requirement on the banks.

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Page 2: [3] Deleted Loren Allen 2/3/22 11:44:00 AM

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We concur that WVSTO should rely only upon credible information.

This provision does nothing to eliminate the inclusion of false or misleading information and provides no parameters for WVSTO to assess or evaluate the credibility of any given information.

There is also no provision within this bill that grants the listed financial institution the right to know what evidence the WVSTO has of a boycott, leaving the adversely affected bank defending against unknown, unsubstantiated information provided by unknown sources.

The use of the term "company" at the end of line 56 and "energy company" at the end of line 59 is problematic. In our proposed amendments we changed the "company" in line 56 to "financial institution" because we assumed perhaps incorrectly that WVSTO intends to use public statements by the financial institutions themselves against them. But by using the word "company" there, it seems we could be back to relying upon a public statement by an adversely affected fossil fuel company which is in direct contravention of the inserted proviso beginning on line 58.

This bill also doesn't define "energy company" as that term is used in line 59. It is unclear to our banks whether or not an entity engaged in ancillary goods or services, ie. A trucking company that hauls gravel to a gas well pad would be considered an "energy company" for purposes of this law.

Page 3: [5] Commented [CS20] Canterbury, Sarah 2/1/22 1:06:00 PM

Comment 9: Period of notice and appeal prior to placement on restricted list, per conversation with bankers. Suggesting a longer time period and tweaks to the language.

Page 3: [6] Commented [LA23R22] Loren Allen 2/1/22 3:11:00 PM

What exactly is the standard of proof contemplated here for an institution to demonstrate that it is either not engaged in or has ceased all activity that "boycotts" energy companies? Use of the phrase "the Treasurer's satisfaction" is vague, ambiguous and inherently subjective. It also invites challenges based upon inequitable enforcement and disparate treatment of subject institutions?

What "information" does WVSTO expect to receive from a bank in defense of its decisions giving rise to these punitive measures in light of the definition "boycott?" Given the insistence upon the ability to

intervene in any single occurrence, banks will be forced to throw open their books to WVSTO and explain the often very complicated but no less reasonable business purposes behind every decision or in other instances, risk disclosure of private and protected financial information of the adversely affected customer. Since we all agree on the inserted provision of section (7) on line 77, a bank who makes an adverse decision based upon a customer's creditworthiness has no defense to the charge of a boycott because the bank cannot disclose that the customer is not creditworthy.

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 262

By Senators Phillips, Grady, Martin, Maynard,

KARNES, HAMILTON, AND WOODRUM

[Originating in the Committee on Finance; reported on

January 24, 2022]

Style Definition: Normal, Default Style Definition: Article Heading Style Definition: Bill Number Style Definition: Enacting Clause Style Definition: References Style Definition: Section Body Style Definition: Title Page: Bill Prefix Style Definition: Title Page: Origin Style Definition: Title Page: Session Style Definition: Title Section Style Definition: No Spacing Style Definition: Section Heading Old Style Definition: Article Heading Old Style Definition: Chapter Heading Old Style Definition: Bill Number Old Style Definition: Sponsors Old Style Definition: References Old Style Definition: Section Body Old Style Definition: Title Section Old Style Definition: Enacting Section Old Style Definition: Part Heading Old Style Definition: List Paragraph Style Definition: Title Page: Origin Old **Style Definition:** Enacting Clause Old **Style Definition:** Salutation Style Definition: Title Page: Session Old Style Definition: Title Page: Bill Prefix Old Style Definition: Comment Reference Style Definition: Comment Text Style Definition: Comment Subject Style Definition: Revision Formatted: Section start: New page

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A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new sectionarticle, designated §12-1C-1-15, §12-1C-2, §12-1C-3, §12-1C-4, §12-1C-5, §12-1C-6, and §12-1C-7, all relating generally to financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies; defining terms; authorizing the State Treasurer to prepare, maintain, and publish a list of financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies; requiring the Treasurer to publicly post the list on his or her website and submit the list to certain public officials; requiring the list to contain certain information; setting forth sources of information on which the Treasurer may rely on preparing the list; requiring the Treasurer to send written notice to a financial institution within a specified timeframe prior to its inclusion on the list; establishing required content of said notice; requiring the Treasurer to refrain from publishing the financial institution on the list upon receipt of certain information within a specified timeframewritten notice; requiring the Treasurer to remove a financial institution from the list if it presents information demonstrating that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies; preventing financial institutions from being compelled to produce certain information; setting forth sources of information on which the Treasurer may rely in preparing the list; authorizing the Treasurer to exclude financial institutions on the list from the selection process for state banking contracts; authorizing the Treasurer to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a financial institution on the list; authorizing the Treasurer to require, as a term of a banking contract, an agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies; and limiting liability of public officials, public employees, members or employees of financial institutions for actions taken in compliance with the new code sectionarticle; and exempting the Investment Management Board from the new article.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. STATE DEPOSITORIES.

Commented [CS1]: Added new sections to title. Cut language for brevity and reordered to reflect amended body of bill.

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§12-1-151C. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ENGAGED IN BOYCOTTS OF ENERGY

COMPANIES.

§12-1C-1.

(a) Definitions. –

For the purposes of this section:article, the following terms shall have the following

meanings:

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(1) "Banking contract" means a contract entered into by the Treasurer and a financial institution pursuant to this chapter, to provide banking goods or services to a spending unit.

(2) "Boycott of energy companies" means without a reasonable business purpose, refusal to deal with a company, termination of business activities with a company, or another action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company because the company:

- (A) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel—based energy;
- (B) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel—based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or
- (C) Does business with a company that engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel—based energy.

(3)-"Company" means any sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company, or other entity or business association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries, majority—owned subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or business associations, that exist for the purpose of making profit.

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to consumer deposits.

21	(4) "Financial institution" means a bank, national banking association, non-bank financial
22	institution, a bank and trust company, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building
23	and loan association, a mutual savings bank, a credit union, or a savings bank.
24	(5) "Reasonable business purpose" includes any purpose directly related to:
25	(A) Promoting the financial success or stability of a financial institution;
26	(B) Mitigating risk to a financial institution;
27	(C) Complying with legal or regulatory requirements; or
28	(D) Limiting liability of a financial institution.
29	(6)-"Restricted financial institution" means a financial institution included in the most
30	recently updated restricted financial institution list.
31	(7) "Restricted financial institution list" means the list that the Treasurer is authorized to
32	prepare, maintain of financial institutions prepared, maintained, and published pursuant to
33	subsection (b) of this sectionarticle.
34	(8) "Treasurer" refers to the West Virginia State Treasurer.
	(b)§12-1C-2, Restricted financial institutions list.—
35	4
1	(a) The Treasurer is authorized to prepare and maintain a list of financial institutions that
2	are engaged in a boycott of energy companies. A list prepared pursuant to this subsection shall
3	be known and cited as the restricted financial institution list.
4	(2b) The Treasurer must publicly post the restricted financial institution list on the
5	<u>Treasurer's website and submit a copy of the list to the Governor, the President of the Senate,</u>
6	and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.
7	(c) A citation to this section of the Codearticle and a brief summary of the purpose of the

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Commented [CS2]: Not necessary, because of the definition of restricted financial institution list.

list must appear at the top of the list, including a statement that -inclusion on the list is not an

indication of unsafe or unsound operating conditions of any bankfinancial institution nor any risk

11	(3d) The Treasurer must update the restricted financial institution list annually, or more
12	often as the Treasurer considers necessary.
13	(4) In preparing the restricted financial institution list, the Treasurer may review and rely
14	on the financial institution's certification that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies
15	and on reliable, accurate, publicly available information regarding financial institutions, including
16	public statements by a financial institution and information published or provided by nonprofit
17	organizations, research firms, international organizations, or state or federal governmental
18	entities: Provided, That the Treasurer may consider but may not rely solely upon statements or
19	complaints by a single energy company.
	(5§12-1C-3. Notice to financial institutions.
1	(a) Forty-five days prior to including a financial institution on the restricted financial
2	institution list, the Treasurer must send a written notice to the institution containing the following
3	information:
4	(A1) That the Treasurer has determined that the financial institution is a restricted financial
5	institution;
6	(B2) That the financial institution will be placed on the restricted financial institution list in
7	45 days unless, within 30 days following the receipt of the written notice, the restricted financial
8	institution demonstrates that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies;
9	(C3) That the restricted financial institution list is published on the Treasurer's website;
10	<u>and</u>
11	(D4) That the institution's placement on the list may render the institution ineligible to enter
12	into, or remain in, banking contracts with the State of West Virginia.
13	(6b) Following a restricted financial institution's inclusion on the restricted financial
14	institution list, the Treasurer will remove the institution from the list if the institution demonstrates
15	that it has ceased all activity that boycotts energy companies.
	§12-1C-4. Sources of Information.

Commented [CS3]: Addressed in section 4.

1 (a)(7 In determining whether to include a financial institution on the restricted financial Formatted: Font color: Dark Red 2 institution list, the Treasurer shall consider and may rely upon the following information: 3 (1) A financial institution's certification that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy 4 companies; 5 (2) Publicly available statements or information made by the financial institution, including 6 statements by a member of a financial institution's governing body, an executive director of a 7 financial institution, or any other officer or employee of the financial institution with the authority 8 to issue policy statements on behalf of the financial institution; or 9 (3) Information published by a state or federal government entity. 10 (b) In determining whether to include a financial institution on the restricted financial 11 institution list, the Treasurer may not rely solely on the following information: 12 (1) Statements or complaints by an energy company; or 13 (2) Media reports of a financial institution's boycott of energy companies. 14 (c) A financial institution may not be compelled to produce or disclose any data or Formatted: Font color: Dark Red 15 information deemed confidential, privileged, or otherwise protected from disclosure by state or 16 federal law. 17 (c) Treasurer authority with regard to restricted §12-1C-5. Restricted financial institutions.— Formatted: Font: Bold, Not Italic Formatted: Font: Not Italic 1 (4a) In selecting a financial institution to enter into a banking contract, the Treasurer is Formatted: Suppress line numbers 2 authorized to disqualify restricted financial institutions from the competitive bidding process or 3 from any other official selection process. (2b) The Treasurer is authorized to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a restricted 4 5 financial institution based on its restricted financial institution status. 6 (3c) The Treasurer is authorized to require, as a term of any banking contract, an 7 agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies for the 8 duration of the contract.

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(d)§12-1C-6, Limitation on liability. Liability.

With respect to actions taken in compliance with this sectionarticle, a public agency, public official, public employee, or member or employee of a financial institution is immune from liability.

(e) Applicability to the West Virginia Investment Management Board. §12-1C-7. Exemptions.

The provisions of this section do not apply to the duties, actions, and transactions of the

West Virginia Investment Management Board as set forth in §12-6-1 et seq. of this code.

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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 262

By Senators Phillips, Grady, Martin, Maynard,

Karnes, Hamilton, and Woodrum

[Originating in the Committee on Finance; reported on

January 24, 2022]

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A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §12-1C-1, §12-1C-2, §12-1C-3, §12-1C-4, §12-1C-5, §12-1C-6, and §12-1C-7, all relating generally to financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies; defining terms; authorizing the State Treasurer to publish a list of financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies; requiring the Treasurer to publicly post the list and submit the list to certain public officials; requiring the list to contain certain information; requiring the Treasurer to send written notice to a financial institution prior to its inclusion on the list; establishing required content of said written notice; requiring the Treasurer to remove a financial institution from the list if it presents information demonstrating that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies; preventing financial institutions from being compelled to produce certain information; setting forth sources of information on which the Treasurer may rely in preparing the list; authorizing the Treasurer to exclude financial institutions on the list from the selection process for state banking contracts; authorizing the Treasurer to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a financial institution on the list; authorizing the Treasurer to require, as a term of a banking contract, an agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies; limiting liability for actions taken in compliance with the new article; and exempting the Investment Management Board from the new article.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1C. FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ENGAGED IN BOYCOTTS OF ENERGY COMPANIES.

§12-1C-1. Definitions.

- 1 For the purposes of this article, the following terms shall have the following meanings:
- 2 "Banking contract" means a contract entered into by the Treasurer and a financial
 - institution pursuant to this chapter, to provide banking goods or services to a spending unit.

4	"Boycott of energy companies" means without a reasonable business purpose, refusal to
5	deal with a company, termination of business activities with a company, or another action that is
6	intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company
7	because the company:
8	(A) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or
9	manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy;
10	(B) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or
11	manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental
12	standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or
13	(C) Does business with a company that engages in the exploration, production, utilization,
14	transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy.
15	"Company" means any sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation,
16	partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company,
17	or other entity or business association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries, majority-owned
18	subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or business associations, that exist
19	for the purpose of making profit.
20	"Financial institution" means a bank, national banking association, non-bank financial
21	institution, a bank and trust company, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building
22	and loan association, a mutual savings bank, a credit union, or a savings bank.
23	"Reasonable business purpose" includes any purpose directly related to:
24	(A) Promoting the financial success or stability of a financial institution;
25	(B) Mitigating risk to a financial institution;
26	(C) Complying with legal or regulatory requirements; or
27	(D) Limiting liability of a financial institution.
28	"Restricted financial institution" means a financial institution included in the most recently
29	updated restricted financial institution list.

30	"Restricted financial institution list" means the list of financial institutions prepared,
31	maintained, and published pursuant to this article.
32	"Treasurer" refers to the West Virginia State Treasurer.
	§12-1C-2. Restricted financial institutions list.
1	(a) The Treasurer is authorized to prepare and maintain a list of financial institutions that
2	are engaged in a boycott of energy companies.
3	(b) The Treasurer must publicly post the restricted financial institution list on the
4	Treasurer's website and submit a copy of the list to the Governor, the President of the Senate,
5	and the Speaker of the House of Delegates.
6	(c) A citation to this article and a brief summary of the purpose of the list must appear at
7	the top of the list, including a statement that inclusion on the list is not an indication of unsafe or
8	unsound operating conditions of any financial institution nor any risk to consumer deposits.
9	(d) The Treasurer must update the restricted financial institution list annually, or more often
10	as the Treasurer considers necessary.
	§12-1C-3. Notice to financial institutions.
1	(a) Forty-five days prior to including a financial institution on the restricted financial
2	institution list, the Treasurer must send a written notice to the institution containing the following
3	information:
4	(1) That the Treasurer has determined that the financial institution is a restricted financial
5	<u>institution;</u>
6	(2) That the financial institution will be placed on the restricted financial institution list in 45
7	days unless, within 30 days following the receipt of the written notice, the restricted financial
8	institution demonstrates that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies;
9	(3) That the restricted financial institution list is published on the Treasurer's website; and
10	(4) That the institution's placement on the list may render the institution ineligible to enter
11	into or remain in hanking contracts with the State of West Virginia

12	(b) Following a restricted financial institution's inclusion on the restricted financial
13	institution list, the Treasurer will remove the institution from the list if the institution demonstrates
14	that it has ceased all activity that boycotts energy companies.
	§12-1C-4. Sources of Information.
1	(a) In determining whether to include a financial institution on the restricted financial
2	institution list, the Treasurer shall consider and may rely upon the following information:
3	(1) A financial institution's certification that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy
4	companies;
5	(2) Publicly available statements or information made by the financial institution, including
6	statements by a member of a financial institution's governing body, an executive director of a
7	financial institution, or any other officer or employee of the financial institution with the authority
8	to issue policy statements on behalf of the financial institution; or
9	(3) Information published by a state or federal government entity.
10	(b) In determining whether to include a financial institution on the restricted financial
11	institution list, the Treasurer may not rely solely on the following information:
12	(1) Statements or complaints by an energy company; or
13	(2) Media reports of a financial institution's boycott of energy companies.
14	(c) A financial institution may not be compelled to produce or disclose any data or
15	information deemed confidential, privileged, or otherwise protected from disclosure by state or
16	federal law.
	§12-1C-5. Restricted financial institutions.
1	(a) In selecting a financial institution to enter into a banking contract, the Treasurer is
2	authorized to disqualify restricted financial institutions from the competitive bidding process or
3	from any other official selection process.
4	(b) The Treasurer is authorized to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a restricted
5	financial institution based on its restricted financial institution status.

- 6 (c) The Treasurer is authorized to require, as a term of any banking contract, an agreement
- 7 by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies for the duration of the
- 8 contract.

§12-1C-6. Limitation on Liability.

- 1 With respect to actions taken in compliance with this article, a public agency, public official,
- 2 <u>public employee, or member or employee of a financial institution is immune from liability.</u>

§12-1C-7. Exemptions.

- The provisions of this section do not apply to the duties, actions, and transactions of the
- West Virginia Investment Management Board as set forth in §12-6-1 et seq. of this code.

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE 2022 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 262

BY SENATORS PHILLIPS, GRADY, MARTIN, MAYNARD,

KARNES, HAMILTON, AND WOODRUM

[Originating in the Committee on Finance; reported on

January 24, 2022]

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A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §12-1-15, relating generally to financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies; defining terms; authorizing the State Treasurer to prepare, maintain, and publish a list of financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies; requiring the Treasurer to post the list on his or her website and submit the list to certain public officials; setting forth sources of information on which the Treasurer may rely on preparing the list; requiring the Treasurer to send written notice to a financial institution within a specified timeframe prior to its inclusion on the list; establishing required content of said notice; requiring the Treasurer to refrain from publishing the financial institution on the list upon receipt of certain information within a specified timeframe; requiring the Treasurer to remove a financial institution from the list if it presents information demonstrating that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies; preventing financial institutions from being compelled to produce certain information; authorizing the Treasurer to exclude financial institutions on the list from the selection process for state banking contracts; authorizing the Treasurer to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a financial institution on the list; authorizing the Treasurer to require, as a term of a banking contract, an agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies; and limiting liability of public officials, public employees, members or employees of financial institutions for actions taken in compliance with the new code

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Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. STATE DEPOSITORIES.

§12-1-15. Financial institutions engaged in boycotts of energy companies.

section and exempting the Investment Management Board.

- (a) Definitions. For the purposes of this section:
- 2 (1) "Banking contract" means a contract entered into by the Treasurer and a financial
 - institution pursuant to this chapter, to provide banking goods or services to a spending unit.

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5	(2) "Boycott of energy companies" means without a reasonable business purpose, refusal		Commented [CS1]: Comment 1: The WVSTO has concerns over changing the singular to "all companie or to significantly altering this definition. The WVSTO finds it prudent to keep the definition as close to the definition being used in other states (i.e. Texas). The language flagged in Comment 8 should address concerns that complaints by a single company would be adequate to demonstrate a boycott. Deleted: an ordinary
6	to deal with a company, termination of business activities with a company, or another action that		
7	is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company		
8	because the company:	Delet Delet Delet	
9	(A) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or		
10	manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy;		
11	(B) Engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or		
12	manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental		
13	standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or		
14	(C) Does business with a company that engages in the exploration, production, utilization,		
15	transportation, sale, or manufacturing of fossil fuel-based energy.		
16	(3) "Company" means any sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation,		
17	partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, limited liability company,		
18	or other entity or business association, including all wholly owned subsidiaries, majority-owned		
19	subsidiaries, parent companies, or affiliates of those entities or business associations, that exist		
20	for the purpose of making profit.		
21	(4) "Financial institution" means a bank, national banking association, non-bank financial		
22	institution, a bank and trust company, a trust company, a savings and loan association, a building		
23	and loan association, a mutual savings bank, a credit union, or a savings bank.		
24	(5) "Reasonable business purpose" includes any purpose directly related to:		Commented [CS2]: Comment 2: Per Loren draft
25	(A) Promoting the financial success or stability of a financial institution:		Deleted: Ordinary
26			Deleted: promoting Deleted: , the purpose of mitigating
26	(B) Mitigating risk to a financial institution:		Deleted:
27	(C) Complying with legal or regulatory requirements; or		Commented [CS3]: Comment 3: Per Loren draft
28	(D) Limiting liability of a financial institution.		Deleted: the purpose of limiting
29	(6) "Restricted financial institution" means a financial institution included in the most		

recently updated restricted financial institution list.

(6) "Restricted financial institution" means a financial institution included in the most

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39	(8) "Treasurer" refers to the West Virginia State Treasurer.		
40	(b) Restricted financial institutions list. –		
41	(1) The Treasurer is authorized to prepare and maintain a list of financial institutions that		
42	are engaged in a boycott of energy companies. A list prepared pursuant to this subsection shall		
43	be known and cited as the restricted financial institution list.		
44	(2) The Treasurer must publicly post the restricted financial institution list on the		Deleted: (2) In preparing the restricted financial institution list, the Treasurer may review and rely on
45	Treasurer's website and submit a copy of the list to the Governor, the President of the Senate,		Deleted: publicly available information regarding
46	and the Speaker of the House of Delegates. A citation to this section of the Code and a brief		financial institutions, including public statements by a company, information published or provided by nonprofit organizations, research firms, international
47	summary of the purpose of the list must appear at the top of the list.		organizations, and other state or federal governmental entities. ¶
48	(3) The Treasurer must update the restricted financial institution list annually, or more often		(3) Upon preparation of the restricted financial institution list, the Treasurer must comply with the following requirements:
49	as the Treasurer considers necessary.		(A Commented [CS5]: Comment 5: Per Loren draft.
50	(4) In preparing the restricted financial institution list, the Treasurer may review and rely	/	
50	(4) In preparing the restricted linancial institution list, the Treasurer may review and rely		Deleted: B
51	on the financial institution's certification that it is not engaged in a boycott of energy companies	*****	Deleted: (C) For each newly identified restricted financial institution, the Treasurer must send a written notice informing the institution of its restricted financial
52	and on publicly available information regarding financial institutions, including public statements		institution status and that it may be ineligible to enter into, or remain in, banking contracts with the State of
53	by a company and information published or provided by nonprofit organizations, research firms,	/	West Virginia. If. Commented [CS6]: Comment 6: Per Loren draft
54	international organizations, or state or federal governmental entities: Provided, That the Treasurer		Commented [CS7]: Comment 7: The WVSTO declines
55	may consider but may not rely solely upon statements or complaints by a single energy company.		requested changes limiting the resources that the WVSTO can rely upon in making this determination. The Treasurer needs to exercise discretion and review
56	(5) Forty-five days prior to including a financial institution on the restricted financial		all credible information available to him.
		The same of the sa	Commented [CS8]: Comment 8: Per Loren draft
57	institution list, the Treasurer must send a written notice to the institution containing the following		Commented [CS9]: Comment 9: Period of notice and appeal prior to placement on restricted list, per conversation with bankers. Suggesting a longer time
58	information:		period and tweaks to the language.
59	(A) That the Treasurer has determined that the financial institution is a restricted financial		
60	institution;		

(7) "Restricted financial institution list" means the list that the Treasurer is authorized to

prepare, maintain, and publish pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

45 days unless, within 30 days following the receipt of the written notice, the restricted financial

(B) That the financial institution will be placed on the restricted financial institution list in

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83	engaged in a boycott of energy companies	Deleted: or that it has ceased all activity that boycotts
84	(C) That the restricted financial institution list is published on the Treasurer's website; and	energy companies, the Treasurer must remove the company from the restricted financial institution list.
85	(D) That the institution's placement on the list may render the institution ineligible to enter	
86	into, or remain in, banking contracts with the State of West Virginia.	
87	(6) Following a restricted financial institution's inclusion on the restricted financial	
88	institution list, the Treasurer will remove the institution from the list if the institution provides	
89	information demonstrating, to the Treasurer's satisfaction, that it has ceased all activity that	
90	boycotts energy companies.	
91	(7) A financial institution may not be compelled to produce or disclose any data or	
92	information deemed confidential, privileged, or otherwise protected from disclosure by state or	
93	federal law.	Commented [CS11]: Comment 11: Per Loren draft
94	(c) Treasurer authority with regard to restricted financial institutions. –	
95	(1) In selecting a financial institution to enter into a banking contract, the Treasurer is	
96	authorized to disqualify restricted financial institutions from the competitive bidding process or	
97	from any other official selection process.	
98	(2) The Treasurer is authorized to refuse to enter into a banking contract with a restricted	
99	financial institution based on its restricted financial institution status.	
100	(3) The Treasurer is authorized to require, as a term of any banking contract, an	
101	agreement by the financial institution not to engage in a boycott of energy companies for the	
102	duration of the contract.	
103	(d) Limitation on liability With respect to actions taken in compliance with this section, a	
104	public agency, public official, public employee, or member or employee of a financial institution is	
105	immune from liability.	
106	(e) Applicability to the West Virginia Investment Management Board. – The provisions of	(a) 110000 a 110 5000
107	this section do not apply to the duties, actions, and transactions of the West Virginia Investment	Commented [CS12]: Comment 12: Fixed a few typos Deleted: transaction

institution provides information demonstrating, to the Treasurer's satisfaction, that it is not

Management Board as set forth in §12-6-1 et seq. of this code.

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