

**STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT**

**At Charleston**

**EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1-25**

**By the Governor**

**WHEREAS**, West Virginia's economy depends in large part on growing its population and attracting people, businesses, and economic development to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, various State taxes, fees, regulations, and workforce and licensing rules, have created barriers to peoples' ability to live, learn, work, and play in West Virginia, and in turn, have led to a decrease in West Virginia's population; and

**WHEREAS**, various State taxes, fees, regulations, and workforce and licensing rules have also discouraged the growth and development of business and enterprise in the State; and

**WHEREAS**, many of the State's taxes, fees, regulations, and workforce and licensing rules are more burdensome than those in our neighboring states; and

**WHEREAS**, in the past, individuals and businesses have chosen not to locate in West Virginia because of these more burdensome taxes, fees, regulations, and workforce and licensing rules and, instead, have located in neighboring states; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the citizens of West Virginia and future generations to identify those taxes, fees, regulations, and workforce and licensing rules that discourage population and economic growth; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interest of the citizens of West Virginia to reduce, simplify, and ease taxes, fees, regulations, and workforce and licensing rules burdens so that the State can better compete with neighboring states for people, jobs, businesses, and economic opportunities; and

**WHEREAS**, engaging in this Backyard Brawl with its neighboring states will allow West Virginia to flourish and improve the general welfare of its citizens.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, PATRICK MORRISEY**, by virtue of the authority vested in me as the Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby **DECLARE** and **ORDER**:

1. All departments, divisions, agencies, and boards under the authority of the Governor to engage in a Backyard Brawl with West Virginia's neighboring states with the goal of making West Virginia the most attractive state to live, work, learn, play, and run a business; and
2. As part of this Backyard Brawl, all cabinet secretaries and department heads under the authority of the Governor shall:
  - a. Perform a comprehensive review of all taxes, fees, and legal requirements imposed by any division, agency or board under their department;
  - b. Create a comparison with any tax, fee, or requirement imposed by West Virginia's neighboring states;
  - c. Report the findings of that review, comparison, and calculation to the Office of the Governor within one hundred (100) days of the issuance of this Order; and
3. All officials, departments, divisions, agencies, boards, and employees under the authority of the Governor should cooperate with the cabinet secretaries and department heads in the performance and fulfillment of this Order.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**DONE** at the Capitol in the City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this Fourteenth Day of January, in the Year of our Lord, Two Thousand Twenty-Five in the One Hundred Sixty-Second Year of the State.

*Patrick Morrisey*

**GOVERNOR**

*Krist Warner*

**SECRETARY OF STATE**

