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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION, 2010

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FOR

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FOR

Senate Bill No. 496

(Senators Williams, Caruth, Stollings and Plymale, original sponsors)

[Passed March 13, 2010; in effect ninety days from passage.]

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(SENATORS WILLIAMS, CARUTH, STOLLINGS AND PLYMALE, original sponsors)

[Passed March 13, 2010; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend and reenact §22-1-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Environmental Protection Advisory Council; authorizing the council to review and make recommendations on rulemaking to the secretary; adding a member to the council; and requiring Department of Environmental Protection consider the council's recommendations.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §22-1-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1. DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

§22-1-9. Environmental Protection Advisory Council.

- 1 (a) There is created within the Department of Environ-
- 2 mental Protection the Environmental Protection Advisory
- 3 Council. The Environmental Protection Advisory Council
- 4 consists of eight members. The secretary serves as an ex
- 5 officio member of the council and as its chair. The re-
- 6 maining seven members are appointed by the Governor.
- 7 Each member serves for a term of four years and may be
- 8 reappointed. Vacancies on the council shall be filled
- 9 within sixty days after the vacancy occurs.
- 10 (b) Two members of the council shall represent indus-
- 11 tries regulated by the department or their trade associa-
- 12 tions. Two members shall represent organizations advo-
- 13 cating environmental protection. One member shall
- 14 represent organizations representing local governments.
- 15 One member shall represent public service districts. One
- 16 member shall represent the largest coal miner's labor
- 17 organization in the state. In making subsequent appoint-
- 18 ments this balance of membership shall be maintained.
- 19 (c) Appointed members shall be paid the same compen-
- 20 sation and expense reimbursement as is paid to members
- 21 of the Legislature for their interim duties as recommended
- 22 by the Citizens Legislative Compensation Commission and
- 23 authorized by law for each day or portion thereof engaged
- 24 in the discharge of official duties.
- 25 (d) The council shall meet at least once every quarter, at
- 26 the call of the chair or upon the unanimous request of its
- 27 members.
- 28 (e) The council shall:
- 29 (1) Consult with and advise the director on program and
- 30 policy development, problem solving and other appropri-
- 31 ate subjects;

- 32 (2) Identify and define problems associated with the
- 33 implementation of the policy set forth in section one of
- 34 this article;
- 35 (3) Provide and disseminate to industry and the public
- 36 early identification of major federal program and regula-
- 37 tory changes;
- 38 (4) Provide a forum for the resolution of conflicts
- 39 between constituency groups;
- 40 (5) To the extent possible, strive for consensus on the
- 41 development of overall environmental policy; and
- 42 (6) Provide an annual report to the Joint Committee on
- 43 Government and Finance on or before January 1 of each
- 44 year relating to its findings with regard to the depart-
- 45 ment's performance during the previous year. The report
- 46 will specifically address the department's performance in
- 47 accomplishing the nine purposes set forth in subsection
- 48 (b), section one of this article.
- 49 (f) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to
- 50 the contrary, upon approval by majority vote of the
- 51 Environmental Protection Advisory Council's members,
- 52 the council may submit recommendations for rulemaking
- 53 to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental
- 54 Protection. The Secretary shall consider the council's
- 55 recommendations for rulemaking when developing agency
- 56 rules to be submitted for legislative approval.

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