

H. B. 4450

(By Delegates Moye, Stephens, Morgan, Perdue,
Reynolds and Craig)

[Introduced February 7, 2012; referred to the
Committee on Agriculture then Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-11, relating to
the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program; making
legislative findings and intent; and creating the Senior
Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Fund.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-11, to read as
follows:

ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

§19-1-11. Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Fund.

(a) The Legislature finds and declares that:

(1) The West Virginia Department of Agriculture has
participated in the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program since
the program's inception in 2001 and competes with other states for

1 federal grant funding. The Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition
2 Program currently provides vouchers to eligible seniors to purchase
3 produce at farmers markets around the state.

4 (2) The voucher is beneficial to both the seniors who receive
5 the health benefits of additional produce in their diets and local
6 farmers benefit from the additional moneys being used to purchase
7 produce at local farmers' markets.

8 (3) According to the Center for Disease Control, healthy diets
9 rich in fruits and vegetables may reduce the risk of cancer and
10 other chronic diseases. Fruits and vegetables also provide
11 essential vitamins and minerals, fiber, and other substances that
12 are important for good health.

13 (4) In 2010, twenty-three thousand seven hundred fifty
14 eligible seniors received \$20 in vouchers.

15 (5) The state should consider adding \$30 to the amount of the
16 current voucher.

17 (b) There is created a "Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition
18 Program Fund" with the specific purpose of supplementing the
19 federal funds received for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition
20 Program.

21 (c) Moneys in the "Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
22 Fund" at the close of the fiscal year remains in the "Seniors
23 Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Fund" and do not lapse to the
24 general revenue.

1 (d) It is the intent of the Legislature in enacting this
2 section to create a fund subject to general revenue appropriation
3 to provide for additional moneys to be used for the Senior Farmers'
4 Market Nutrition Program.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to develop a Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program Fund within the Department of Agriculture.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.