

1 **H. B. 2417**

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3 (By Delegates Guthrie and Boggs)

4 [Introduced February 13, 2013; referred to the

5 Committee on Energy, Industry and Labor, Economic Development and

6 Small Business then Finance.]

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11 A BILL to amend and reenact §5B-2-3 of the Code of West Virginia,  
12 1931, as amended, relating to creating a catalyst to assist  
13 communities with strategic and feasibility plans, marketing  
14 analysis, environment impact statements and architectural and  
15 engineering costs.

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

17 That §5B-2-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
18 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

19 **ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.**

20 **§5B-2-3. Powers and duties of council for community and economic**  
21 **development.**

22 (a) The council for community and economic development shall  
23 enhance economic growth and development through the development of  
24 a comprehensive economic development strategy for West Virginia.

1 "Comprehensive economic development strategy" means a plan that  
2 outlines strategies and activities designed to continue, diversify  
3 or expand the economic base of the state as a whole; create jobs;  
4 develop a highly skilled workforce; facilitate business access to  
5 capital, including venture capital; advertise and market the  
6 resources offered by the state with respect to the needs of  
7 business and industry; facilitate cooperation among local, regional  
8 and private economic development enterprises; improve  
9 infrastructure on a state, regional and community level; improve  
10 the business climate generally; and leverage funding from sources  
11 other than the state, including federal and private sources.

12 (b) The council for community and economic development shall  
13 create a fund with the specific purpose of providing funds to  
14 assist communities with payments that are beyond its funding  
15 levels, including, but not limited to, strategic and feasibility  
16 plans, marketing analysis, environmental impact statements and  
17 architectural and engineering cost. The West Virginia Development  
18 Office shall establish a competitive bid process by promulgating  
19 legislative rules in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-  
20 nine-a of this code. The moneys expended from this fund shall be  
21 paid back once other funds have been received by the community.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a fund within the council for community and economic development to assist communities with strategic and feasibility plans, marketing

analysis, environment impact statements and architectural and engineering costs.

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