

1 **H. B. 3143**

2
3 (By Delegate Manchin)

4 [Introduced March 25, 2013; referred to the
5 Committee on Education then Finance.]

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10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11 adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-8b, relating to
12 creating an environmental awareness program in the West
13 Virginia School system to educate students regarding
14 recycling.

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

16 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
17 by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-8b, to read as
18 follows:

19 **ARTICLE 2. State Board of Education.**

20 **§18-2-8b. Recycling and environmental awareness program.**

21 (a) The Legislature finds that:

22 (1) Recycling and environmental awareness are important parts
23 of West Virginia's economy, culture and future;

1 (2) Education regarding the recycling process and an
2 opportunity to become educated regarding environmental issues
3 effecting the State of West Virginia in the West Virginia school
4 system is currently not required;

5 (3) Students should receive an education containing valuable
6 environmental information that is intended to encourage recycling
7 and preserve the state's natural resources; and

8 (4) The opportunity to participate in an environmental lesson,
9 program, or course should be offered to students in certain grades
10 to achieve the purpose of environmental awareness and encourage
11 recycling.

12 (b) The State Board of Education shall, with the advice of the
13 State Superintendent of Schools and the Director of the Division of
14 Natural Resources, promulgate rules in accordance with this
15 subsection.

16 (1) An environmental awareness program shall be offered to
17 students in any grade, first through twelfth, over a one to two-
18 week period during the school year as part of a science or
19 economics class. In the alternative, an environmental awareness
20 program shall be offered as a course in part of the general
21 curriculum offered to students or be offered as a class at the end
22 of the school day.

23 (2) An environmental awareness program shall include
24 instruction related to:

1 (A) The protection of our natural resources against improper
2 disposal of wastes including, but not limited to, plastics, paper,
3 metals, electronics and batteries; and

4 (B) The process of recycling, its impact on health and the
5 environment, and the resulting economic benefits of recycling; and

6 (C) The method of how to start and maintain a recycling
7 program at school or at home.

8 (3) An environmental awareness program may use materials
9 prepared by any national nonprofit membership organization whose
10 purpose includes the instruction of citizens about the recycling
11 process and how to protect the state's natural resources.

12 (4) An environmental awareness program shall be conducted by
13 an instructor educated on environmental issues as determined by the
14 State Board of Education.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require an environment awareness program to educate students about the benefits of recycling.

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