

**Senate Bill No. 144**

(By Senators Nohe and Jenkins)

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[Introduced February 14, 2013; referred to the Committee on the  
Judiciary; and then to the Committee on Finance.]  
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A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
adding thereto a new section, designated §19-20-26, relating  
to creating Haas' Law to honor fallen law-enforcement canines  
and other canines in the service of state or local  
governmental agencies.

*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 §19-20-26, to read as  
follows:

**ARTICLE 20. DOGS AND CATS.**

**§19-20-26. Honoring fallen K-9s in the service of state or local  
government agencies.**

(a) This section shall be known as "Haas' Law" and is intended

1 to honor law-enforcement canines and other canines in the service  
2 of state or local governmental agencies, and to help provide  
3 closure to grieving law-enforcement officers or other governmental  
4 employees who have served as handlers for these dogs.

5 (b) Any canine working for, or retired from, a state or local  
6 law-enforcement agency or other governmental agency shall be  
7 memorialized by that agency upon its death if the law-enforcement  
8 officer or other agency employee who acted as the canine's handler  
9 so requests. The tribute shall include:

10 (1) A memorial service, which may be a small informal service  
11 within the law-enforcement agency or other governmental agency  
12 where the canine served, or it may be open to the public, at the  
13 discretion of that agency;

14 (2) A plaque and flag to be presented to the canine's most  
15 recent handler as a memorial to the canine for its distinguished  
16 service;

17 (3) A picture of the canine and its most recent handler to be  
18 placed, for an appropriate period of time, on a "wall of honor" at  
19 the law-enforcement agency or other agency which is dedicated for  
20 pictures of canines and their handlers; and

21 (4) An obituary posted in the local newspaper in honor of the  
22 fallen canine.

23 (c) The Superintendent of State Police or other appropriate

1 director of a state agency which utilizes canines in its service,  
2 a county commission or a municipal government may set aside funding  
3 to provide for canine memorial services for those law-enforcement  
4 agencies or other governmental agencies under their direction.  
5 Such funding may be dedicated from moneys realized from the seizure  
6 of contraband by law-enforcement agencies or as otherwise  
7 determined by the state agency, county commission or municipal  
8 government.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create "Haas' Law" to honor fallen law-enforcement canines and other canines in service of state and local government agencies, and to honor their handlers.

§19-20-26 is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.