

Senate Bill No. 144

(By Senators Nohe and Jenkins)

[Introduced February 14, 2013; referred to the Committee on the
Judiciary; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

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.