

Senate Bill No. 350

(By Senators Miller, Stollings, Snyder, Plymale, Laird, D. Hall,
Unger and Beach)

[Introduced January 14, 2014; referred to the Committee on
Agriculture and Rural Development.]

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 Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program; requiring annual
reporting; and authorizing rulemaking.

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. Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program.

- 1 (a) The Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program is an
- 2 important tool for the Commissioner of Agriculture to

3 promote investment in the agricultural industry in the state.

4 Rules are needed for the loan program to remain viable.

5 (b) The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative
6 approval in accordance with article three, chapter
7 twenty-nine-a of this code. The rules shall, at a minimum:

8 (1) Establish minimum requirements and qualifications
9 for the loan committee, including the addition of public
10 members who have agricultural or business loan experience;

11 (2) Prohibit department employees and loan committee
12 members, and their immediate family members, from
13 receiving program loans;

14 (3) Establish minimum financial requirements for
15 receiving a program loan;

16 (4) Require loans to be used for agricultural purposes;

17 (5) Require collateral sufficient to secure the loan;

18 (6) Establish policies for the application, applicable
19 interest rates, delinquencies, refinancing, collection
20 proceedings, collateral requirements and other aspects of the
21 loan program;

22 (7) Require the department to advertise the loan program
23 to the public, including information on the department's
24 website and in the department's market bulletin; and

25 (8) Consider transferring the servicing of program loans
26 to the State Treasurer's Office.

27 (c) The commissioner shall file an annual report to the
28 Joint Committee on Government and Finance regarding the
29 loan program, including information about the loans
30 awarded, loans repaid, loans outstanding, interest rates,
31 delinquency and collections, and other pertinent data.

(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Commissioner of Agriculture to propose rules for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program.

This section is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring has been omitted.)

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

On page two, section eleven, line eleven, after the word "agricultural" by inserting the words "or related".