

E N G R O S S E D

## Senate Bill No. 350

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

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

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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 emergency and  
6 legislative rules for approval in accordance with article three,  
7 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code. The rules shall, at a  
8 minimum:

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

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

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

17 (4) Require loans to be used for agricultural or related  
18 purposes;

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

20 (6) Establish policies for the application, applicable  
21 interest rates, delinquencies, refinancing, collection

22 proceedings, collateral requirements and other aspects of the  
23 loan program;

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

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

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