

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2014



ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

Senate Bill No. 469

(SENATORS MILLER, YOST, WELLS, CARMICHAEL, SNYDER,
NOHE, WILLIAMS, JENKINS, D. HALL, EDGELL, STOLLINGS,
LAIRD AND SYPOLT, *ORIGINAL SPONSORS*)

[PASSED MARCH 8, 2014; IN EFFECT NINETY DAYS FROM PASSAGE.]

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(SENATORS MILLER, YOST, WELLS, CARMICHAEL, SNYDER, NOHE,
WILLIAMS, JENKINS, D. HALL, EDGELL, STOLLINGS, LAIRD AND
SYPOLT, *original sponsors*)

[Passed March 8, 2014; in effect ninety days from passage.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-11, relating to the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program; granting the Department of Agriculture the authority to integrate veterans into the field of agriculture; creating the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture special revenue account and fund; exempting the Department of Agriculture from certain purchasing requirements; requiring state departments to work together; and permitting 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. Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program and fund.

1 (a) *Legislative findings.* –

2 West Virginians have a longstanding tradition of service
3 in the armed forces of the United States. Many veterans
4 suffer from physical and emotional afflictions and are often
5 unable to find gainful employment upon returning from
6 combat. Exploring opportunities to engage West Virginia’s
7 veterans in agriculture is beneficial to the health and welfare
8 of veterans, as well as to the future of West Virginia’s
9 agricultural economy.

10 (b) *Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program.* –

11 The Department of Agriculture shall develop a Veterans
12 and Warriors to Agriculture Program to integrate veterans
13 into the field of agriculture, and support veterans currently
14 working in agriculture. These programs may include, but are
15 not limited to, using post-mine land for agricultural
16 development, promoting high tunnel crops and production,
17 expanding the apiary industry, developing cottage industries,
18 exploring niche crops, raising more livestock, increasing the
19 aquaculture industry and helping veterans promote their
20 agricultural products through farmers markets and
21 cooperatives. The department, Department of Veterans’
22 Assistance and the state’s Adjutant General shall work
23 together to recruit and train eligible veterans, and develop
24 and support the program.

25 (c) *Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Fund.* – There
26 is hereby created in the State Treasury a special revenue
27 account, designated the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture
28 Fund. The fund shall consist of income from leasing the
29 department’s property for the program, surplus funds which

30 may be transferred from the fund created by section six-a,
31 article twelve-a of this chapter, gifts, grants and donations,
32 and legislative appropriations which may be made to support
33 the program. Expenditures from the fund shall be used
34 exclusively, in accordance with appropriations by the
35 Legislature, to pay costs, fees and expenses necessary to
36 administer the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture
37 Program: *Provided*, That for fiscal year ending June 30,
38 2015, expenditures are authorized from collections rather
39 than pursuant to an appropriation by the Legislature.

40 (d) Notwithstanding any provision in this code to the
41 contrary, should the Department of Agriculture deem it
42 necessary to provide land for activities within this program,
43 it is exempt from the purchasing requirements as they relate
44 to the competitive leasing of state property.

45 (e) The commissioner may propose emergency or
46 legislative rules for approval in accordance with the
47 provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code
48 to effectuate the provisions of this section.

The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

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Chairman Senate Committee

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Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

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Clerk of the Senate

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Clerk of the House of Delegates

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within this
the Day of, 2014.

.....
Governor