

H. B. 2094

(By Delegate Manchin)

[Introduced January 19, 2015; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2-8b, relating to creating an environmental awareness program in the West Virginia School system to educate students regarding recycling.

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 §18-2-8b, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. State Board of Education.

§18-2-8b. Recycling and environmental awareness program.

(a) The Legislature finds that:

(1) Recycling and environmental awareness are important parts of West Virginia's economy, culture and future;

(2) Education regarding the recycling process and an opportunity to become educated regarding environmental issues affecting the State of West Virginia in the West Virginia school

1 system is currently not required;

2 (3) Students should receive an education containing valuable environmental information that
3 is intended to encourage recycling and preserve the state's natural resources; and

4 (4) The opportunity to participate in an environmental lesson, program, or course should be
5 offered to students in certain grades to achieve the purpose of environmental awareness and
6 encourage recycling.

7 (b) The State Board of Education shall, with the advice of the State Superintendent of
8 Schools and the Director of the Division of Natural Resources, promulgate rules in accordance with
9 this subsection.

10 (1) An environmental awareness program shall be offered to students in any grade, first
11 through twelfth, over a one to two- week period during the school year as part of a science or
12 economics class. In the alternative, an environmental awareness program shall be offered as a course
13 in part of the general curriculum offered to students or be offered as a class at the end of the school
14 day.

15 (2) An environmental awareness program shall include instruction related to:

16 (A) The protection of our natural resources against improper disposal of wastes including,
17 but not limited to, plastics, paper, metals, electronics and batteries;

18 (B) The process of recycling, its impact on health and the environment, and the resulting
19 economic benefits of recycling; and

20 (C) The method of how to start and maintain a recycling program at school or at home.

21 (3) An environmental awareness program may use materials prepared by any national
22 nonprofit membership organization whose purpose includes the instruction of citizens about the

- 1 recycling process and how to protect the state's natural resources.
- 2 (4) An environmental awareness program shall be conducted by an instructor educated on
- 3 environmental issues as determined by the State Board of Education.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require an environment awareness program to educate students about the benefits of recycling.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.