

H. B. 2444

(BY DELEGATE(S) MR. SPEAKER (MR. ARMSTEAD),
MILLER, WAXMAN, AZINGER, UPSON, KESSINGER, SUMMERS,
HANSHAW, KURCABA, HILL, AND E. NELSON)

[Introduced January 28, 2015; referred to the
Committee on Small Business, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §5B-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing assistance to small businesses by the West Virginia Development Office; providing for the assignment of economic development office representatives to serve as Small Business Allies as facilitators to assist small business entities and individuals desiring to establish and maintain a small business; and duties and services to be provided.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §5B-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.**§5B-2-5. Economic development representatives.**

1 (a) The director may employ economic development
2 representatives to be paid a base salary within legislative
3 appropriations to the West Virginia Development Office, subject
4 to provisions set forth by the council in its reorganization plan
5 and applicable contract provisions pursuant to section four of
6 this article. Economic development representatives may receive
7 performance-based incentives and expenses paid from private
8 funds from a nonprofit corporation contracting with the West
9 Virginia Development Office pursuant to the provisions of
10 section four of this article. The director shall establish job
11 descriptions and responsibilities of economic development
12 representatives, subject to the provisions of any contract with a
13 nonprofit corporation entered into pursuant to section four of this
14 article.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the
16 contrary, economic development representatives employed
17 within the West Virginia Development Office are not subject to
18 the procedures and protections provided by articles six and six-a,

19 chapter twenty-nine of this code. Any employee of the West
20 Virginia Development Office on the effective date of this article
21 who applies for employment as an economic development
22 representative is not entitled to the protections of article six,
23 chapter twenty-nine with respect to hiring procedures and
24 qualifications; and upon accepting employment as an economic
25 development representative, the employee relinquishes the
26 protections provided for in article two, chapter six-c and article
27 six, chapter twenty-nine of this code.

28 (c) The director shall assign one or more economic develop-
29 ment representatives to serve as Small Business Allies. Small
30 Business Allies shall serve as facilitators to assist small busi-
31 nesses and individuals desiring to create and operate a small
32 business including the following:

33 (1) Identifying and completing forms and applications
34 required for licensure by or registration with all applicable
35 government entities;

36 (2) Identifying and applying for loans, grants or other
37 funding sources available to assist and finance small business
38 entities;

- 39 (3) Assisting with incorporation, formation, registration and
40 filing requirements of small business entities;
- 41 (4) Identifying governmental registration and licensure
42 requirements applicable to the specific small business entity; and
- 43 (5) Addressing inquiries, requests for assistance and other
44 issues raised by other governmental agencies that have jurisdic-
45 tion or regulatory authority over small businesses or are assisting
46 a particular small business.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide assistance to small businesses by the West Virginia Development office. The bill provides for the assignment of economic development office representatives to serve as Small Business Allies to act as facilitators to assist small business entities and individuals desiring to establish and maintain a small business; and duties and services to be provided.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.