

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4538

BY DELEGATES A. EVANS ROWAN, ROMINE AND

HAMILTON

[Introduced February 15, 2016; Referred
to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural
Resources then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §19-8-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to cooperative extension workers.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §19-8-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted
2 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 8. COOPERATIVE EXTENSION WORKERS.

§19-8-1. County extension service committee; composition; organization; duties and responsibilities; employment and compensation of extension workers.

1 The county extension service committee shall be composed of: (a) The president of the
2 county farm bureau, (b) the president of the county extension homemakers council, (c) the
3 president of the county Four-H leaders' association, (d) a county commissioner designated by the
4 president of the county commission, (e) a member of the county board of education designated
5 by the president of the county board of education, (f) a county representative of the Grange, and
6 (g) two members who are residents of the county to be appointed by the board of advisors of
7 West Virginia University for staggered terms of three years each beginning on July 1, and in
8 making these appointments the board of advisors shall appoint one member designated by any
9 other active farm organization in the county not already represented by virtue of this section. If
10 any of the above-named organizations do not exist in the county, the board of advisors of West
11 Virginia University may appoint an additional member for each such vacancy. The committee shall
12 annually elect from its membership a chairperson and a secretary.

13 It shall each year be the duty and responsibility of the county extension service committee:

14 ~~(1) To enter into a memorandum of agreement with the cooperative extension service of~~
15 ~~West Virginia University for the employment of county cooperative extension workers~~

16 ~~(2)~~ (1) To prepare a memorandum of agreement with the county commission and with the
17 county board of education for their financial support of extension work; and

18 ~~(3)~~ (2) To give guidance and assistance in the development of the county cooperative

19 extension service program and in the preparation of the annual plan of work for the county.

20 ~~Such county cooperative extension service committee may on or before July 1, of each~~
21 ~~year file with the county commission a written memorandum of agreement with the cooperative~~
22 ~~extension service of West Virginia University for the employment for the next fiscal year of county~~
23 ~~extension agents, extension homemaker agents, associate or assistant agents, and clerical~~
24 ~~workers.~~

25 ~~The county cooperative extension service committee may also file on or before July 1, of~~
26 ~~each year with the county board of education a written memorandum of agreement with the~~
27 ~~cooperative extension service of West Virginia University for the employment for the next fiscal~~
28 ~~year of Four-H club or youth development agents, associate or assistant agents, and clerical~~
29 ~~workers.~~

30 ~~If such agreement or agreements are so filed, the county commission and the county~~
31 ~~board of education of such county, or either of them, may annually enter into such agreement or~~
32 ~~agreements for the employment for the next fiscal year of such county extension agents,~~
33 ~~extension homemaker agents, Four-H club or youth development agents, associate or assistant~~
34 ~~agents, and clerical workers, or any of them, as may be nominated by the cooperative extension~~
35 ~~service of West Virginia University, and approved in writing by at least five members of the county~~
36 ~~extension service committee.~~

37 Salaries and expenses of all ~~such~~ county extension workers shall be paid by the
38 cooperative extension service, the county commission, and the board of education, or jointly out
39 of ~~such~~ appropriations ~~as are~~ made by the Legislature, the county commission and the board of
40 education, separately or in conjunction with ~~such~~ federal acts ~~as do now, or may hereafter~~ that
41 provide funds for such purpose. That part of salaries, travel and general office expense to be
42 provided by the county commission according to the approved memorandum shall be paid from
43 general county funds.

44 Whenever the cooperative extension service is required by law or legislative intent to grant

45 a salary increase to its employees, the state budget shall include ~~such~~ additional funds ~~as may~~
46 ~~be~~ necessary to fully fund ~~such~~ the salary increase. It is the intent of this section that the
47 cooperative extension service ~~shall~~ not be dependent upon county or federal funds or upon ~~the~~
48 other funds of the institution or the governing board to meet the costs of ~~such a~~ the salary increase
49 required by law or legislative intent regardless of the source of the employee's base salary:
50 *Provided*, That any decrease by the county of base salary levels of county extension employees,
51 as exists on June 30 of the year preceding the year the salary increase is authorized, shall not be
52 funded by the state.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to strike language eliminating a requirement that a county cooperative extension committee enter into an agreement relating to the hiring of county cooperative extension workers and to eliminate outdated code provisions.

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