

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Originating

Senate Bill 675

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[Originating in the Committee on Natural Resources;

Reported on February 25, 2019]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §22-15A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to
2 amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §22-15A-3a, all relating to
3 requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to create and implement an Adopt-
4 A-Stream Program; encouraging the removal of litter along West Virginia's rivers and
5 streams by volunteers; and allowing the Litter Control Fund to be used to fund the
6 program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

**ARTICLE 15A. THE A. JAMES MANCHIN REHABILITATION ENVIRONMENTAL
ACTION PLAN.**

1 **§22-15A-3. West Virginia litter control and recycling programs; transfer of programs and**
2 **employees; additional duties of secretary; grants to counties and municipalities;**
3 **and rules relating thereto.**

4 (a) After July 1, 2005, the litter control and recycling programs heretofore operated and
5 managed by the Division of Natural Resources shall transfer to the Department of Environmental
6 Protection.

7 With the transfer of the West Virginia Litter Control and Recycling Programs from the
8 jurisdiction of the Division of Natural Resources to the jurisdiction of the Department of
9 Environmental Protection, all records, assets, and contracts, along with rights and obligations
10 thereunder, obtained or signed on behalf of the Litter Control and Recycling Programs are hereby
11 transferred and assigned to the Department of Environmental Protection.

12 (b) The Commissioner of the Division of Natural Resources and the Secretary of the
13 Department of Environmental Protection shall determine which employees of the Division of
14 Natural Resources will be transferred to the Department of Environmental Protection. All
15 employees including administrators of the litter control and recycling programs are subject to
16 being transferred to the Department of Environmental Protection. Employees in the classified

17 service who have gained permanent status as of the effective date of this article, enacted during
18 the 2005 regular session of the Legislature, will not be subject to further qualifying examination in
19 their respective classifications by reason of the transfer required by the provisions of this section.
20 Nothing contained in this section may be construed to either abridge the rights of employees
21 within the classified service of the state to the procedures and protections set forth in §29-6-1 *et*
22 *seq.* of this code or to preclude the reclassification or reallocation of positions in accordance with
23 procedures set forth in ~~said~~ that article. The Division of Personnel shall work with the commission
24 and secretary to efficiently transfer employees from the Division of Natural Resources to the
25 Department of Environmental Protection.

26 (c) In addition to all other powers, duties, and responsibilities granted and assigned to the
27 Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection in this chapter and elsewhere by law,
28 the secretary, in the administration of the West Virginia Litter Control Program created by this
29 section, shall:

30 (1) Coordinate all industry and business organizations seeking to aid in the litter control
31 and recycling effort;

32 (2) Cooperate with all local governments to accomplish coordination of local litter control
33 and recycling efforts;

34 (3) Encourage, organize, coordinate, and increase public awareness of and participation
35 in all voluntary litter control and recycling campaigns, including citizen litter watch programs,
36 seeking to focus the attention of the public on the litter control and recycling programs of the state
37 and local governments and of private recycling centers;

38 (4) Recommend to local governing bodies that they adopt ordinances similar to the
39 provisions of §22-15A-4 of this code;

40 (5) Investigate the methods and success of techniques of litter control, removal, and
41 disposal utilized in other states, and develop, encourage, organize, and coordinate local litter

42 control programs funded by grants awarded pursuant to subsection (d) of this section utilizing
43 such successful techniques;

44 (6) Investigate the availability of, and apply for, funds available from any and all private or
45 public sources to be used in the litter control program created by this section;

46 (7) Attract to the state persons or industries that purchase, process, or use recyclable
47 materials;

48 (8) Contract for the development, production, and broadcast of radio and television
49 messages promoting the West Virginia Litter Control Program. The messages should increase
50 public awareness of and promote citizen responsibility toward the reduction of litter; and

51 (9) Encourage, organize, coordinate, and increase public awareness of, and participation
52 in, a volunteer litter reporting program statewide.

53 (d) All authority to promulgate rules pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code establishing
54 criteria for awarding direct or matching grants for the study of available research and development
55 in the fields of litter control, removal, and disposal, methods for the implementation of such
56 research and development, and the development of public educational programs concerning litter
57 control is hereby transferred from the Division of Natural Resources to the Secretary of the
58 Department of Environmental Protection as of the effective date of enactment of this section and
59 article during the 2005 session of the Legislature: *Provided*, That any rule promulgated by the
60 Division of Natural Resources relating to such grants shall remain in force and effect as though
61 promulgated by the Department of Environmental Protection until the Secretary amends the rules
62 in accordance with the provisions of article three, §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code.

63 (e) All authority to promulgate rules pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code designating
64 public areas where litter receptacles shall be placed and the minimum number of litter receptacles
65 in accordance with §22-15A-4(g) of this code is hereby transferred from the Division of Natural
66 Resources to the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection as of the effective date
67 of enactment of this section and article during the 2005 session of the Legislature. Any rule

68 promulgated by the Division of Natural Resources relating to littering receptacles shall remain in
69 effect as if promulgated by the secretary until amended by the secretary.

70 (f) Commencing on July 1, ~~2005~~ 2019, the secretary shall expend annually at least fifty 30
71 percent of the moneys credited to the Litter Control Fund in the previous fiscal year for matching
72 grants to counties and municipalities for the initiation and administration of litter control programs.
73 The secretary shall promulgate rules pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code establishing criteria
74 for the awarding of matching grants.

75 (g) The Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection in cooperation with the
76 Commissioner of Highways, the Department of Commerce, the West Virginia State Police, the
77 United States Forestry Service, and other local, state, and federal law-enforcement agencies shall
78 be responsible for the administration and enforcement of all laws and rules relating to the
79 maintenance of cleanliness and improvement of appearances on and along highways, roads,
80 streets, alleys, streams, rivers, and any other private or public areas of the state. These other
81 agencies shall make recommendations to the secretary, from time to time, concerning means and
82 methods of accomplishing litter control consistent with the provisions of this chapter. ~~Such~~ The
83 cooperation shall include, but not be limited to, contracts with the Commissioner of Highways to
84 operate a litter control program.

85 (h) All other state agencies and local governments shall cooperate with the secretary in
86 effecting the purposes of the litter control program.

§22-15A-3a. Creation of Adopt-A-Stream Program required.

1 (a) The Adopt-A-Highway Program was established in the late 1980s to improve the
2 quality of the state's environment by encouraging public involvement in the elimination of highway
3 litter. That program is cosponsored by the Division of Highways and the Department of
4 Environmental Protection, Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan. Its objective is to save
5 taxpayer money by increasing public awareness and to serve as an educational tool by focusing
6 on the consequences of littering. The program offers volunteers the opportunity to take charge of

7 their own environment by making a positive effort to create a cleaner, more aesthetic place in
8 which to live.

9 In West Virginia there are currently 25,000 volunteers who regularly pick up litter on 4,000
10 miles of highway. They have been responsible for removing more than 40 million pounds of litter
11 since the program began.

12 (b) As with the Adopt-A-Highway Program, individuals, families, churches, businesses,
13 schools, civic organizations, government agencies, scouting groups, fraternities, and
14 communities may participate in an Adopt-A-Stream Program, which the department shall create
15 and implement. Anyone who is at least 12 years old may participate. Any stream or river that is a
16 part of the West Virginia Stream Partners Program is eligible for adoption, with the exception of
17 streams or rivers considered unsafe. Volunteers may select a stream or river to adopt and then
18 have it approved by the department, or they may ask the department to suggest an adoptable
19 stream or river. Adopted streams must be at least one mile long. The Litter Control Fund may be
20 used to support the Adopt-A-Stream Program.

21 (c) Adoptions are for a period of one year, during which time three cleanups are required
22 per year. As volunteers pick up litter, bags that have been filled are placed on stream sides for
23 removal and disposal by the program. Garbage bags, safety vests, safety training, traffic warning
24 signs, and gloves are to be furnished by the program.

25 (d) Adopted streams may be identified by a sign at each end of the section bearing the
26 Adopt-A-Stream logo and the name of the adoptee. Volunteers who complete six required litter
27 pickups within the one-year contract period shall be awarded a certificate of accomplishment
28 signed by the secretary.

29 (e) The secretary shall promulgate rules to implement and manage the program pursuant
30 to §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Environmental Protection to

create and implement an Adopt-A-Stream Program, to encourage the removal of litter along West Virginia's rivers and streams by volunteers.

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