

1 **H. B. 2924**

2  
3 (By Delegates Ellem, T. Campbell, Perdue,  
4 Hunt, D. Poling, Snuffer, Anderson, Border,  
5 Lawrence, Marshall and Azinger)  
6

7 [Introduced January 28, 2011; referred to the  
8 Committee on Agriculture then Judiciary.]  
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10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
11 adding thereto a new section, designated §19-20-26, relating  
12 to creating "Dutch's Law" to honor fallen law enforcement  
13 canines and their law enforcement handlers.

14 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

15 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended  
16 by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-20-26, to read as  
17 follows:

18 **ARTICLE 20. DOGS AND CATS.**

19 **§19-20-26. Honoring fallen law enforcement K-9s.**

20 (a) This act shall be known as "Dutch's Law" and is intended  
21 to honor law enforcement canines for their devoted service to the  
22 state or its political subdivisions, and to help provide closure to  
23 grieving law-enforcement officers who have served as handlers for  
24 these dogs.

25 (b) Any canine working for, or retired from, a state law  
26 enforcement agency or a law-enforcement agency of a political

1 subdivision of the state shall be memorialized by the law-  
2 enforcement agency upon its death if a law-enforcement officer who  
3 acted as the canine's handler so requests. The tribute shall  
4 include:

5       (1) A memorial service, which may be a small informal service  
6 within the law-enforcement agency where the canine served, or it  
7 may be open to the public, at the discretion of the law-  
8 enforcement agency;

9       (2) A plaque and flag to be presented to the canine's most  
10 recent handler as a memorial to the canine for its distinguished  
11 service;

12       (3) A picture of the canine and its most recent handler to be  
13 placed, for an appropriate period of time, on a "wall of honor" at  
14 the law-enforcement agency which is dedicated for pictures of  
15 canines and their handlers; and

16       (4) An obituary posted in the local news paper in honor of the  
17 fallen canine.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create "Dutch's Law" to honor fallen law enforcement canines and their law enforcement handlers.

§19-20-26 is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.