

1 **H. B. 3203**

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3 (By Delegates Guthrie and Boggs)  
4 [Introduced February 21, 2011; referred to the  
5 Committee on Finance.]  
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10 A BILL to amend and reenact §5B-2-3 of the Code of West Virginia,  
11 1931, as amended, relating to creating a catalyst to assist  
12 communities with strategic and feasibility plans, marketing  
13 analysis, environment impact statements and architectural and  
14 engineering costs.

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

16 That §5B-2-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
17 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

18 **ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.**

19 **§5B-2-3. Powers and duties of council for community and economic**  
20 **development.**

21 (a) The council for community and economic development shall  
22 enhance economic growth and development through the development of  
23 a comprehensive economic development strategy for West Virginia.  
24 "Comprehensive economic development strategy" means a plan that  
25 outlines strategies and activities designed to continue, diversify  
26 or expand the economic base of the state as a whole; create jobs;

1 develop a highly skilled workforce; facilitate business access to  
2 capital, including venture capital; advertise and market the  
3 resources offered by the state with respect to the needs of  
4 business and industry; facilitate cooperation among local, regional  
5 and private economic development enterprises; improve  
6 infrastructure on a state, regional and community level; improve  
7 the business climate generally; and leverage funding from sources  
8 other than the state, including federal and private sources.

9 (b) The council for community and economic development shall  
10 create a fund with the specific purpose of providing funds to  
11 assist communities with payments that beyond its funding levels,  
12 including, but not limited to, strategic and feasibility plans,  
13 marketing analysis, environmental impact statements and  
14 architectural and engineering cost. The West Virginia Development  
15 Office shall establish a competitive bid process by promulgating  
16 legislative rules in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-  
17 nine-a of this code. The moneys expended from this fund shall be  
18 paid back once other funds have been received by the community.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a fund within the council for community and economic development to assist communities with strategic and feasibility plans, marketing analysis, environment impact statements and architectural and engineering costs.

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