

1 **H. B. 4267**

2
3 (By Delegate Manypenny)

4 [Introduced January 23, 2012; referred to the
5 Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]

6 **FISCAL**
7 **NOTE**

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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 §22-6A-6a, relating
12 to studying the environmental and health impacts of shale gas
13 development.

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 §22-6A-6a, to read as
17 follows:

18 **ARTICLE 6. NATURAL GAS HORIZONTAL WELL CONTROL ACT.**

19 **§22-6A-6a. Study of the human and environmental health impacts of**
20 **shale gas development.**

21 (a) The secretary shall initiate a study with the School of
22 Public Health at West Virginia University for the purpose of
23 studying the human and environmental health impacts of shale gas

1 development, if any.

2 (b) The study shall include, but not be limited to, the
3 effects of all potential pollutants from shale development on human
4 and environmental health.

5 (c) At a minimum, the potential pollutants to be evaluated as
6 a part of this study include, but are not limited to, fracking
7 fluid stored in containers, flowback mud and fluids, fracking
8 chemicals not to be limited to volatile organic compounds,
9 naturally occurring radioactive materials and total dissolved
10 solids, fugitive air pollutants from flareoffs, leaking methane and
11 its components from all possible areas of escape and frack
12 chemicals and trihalomethanes in water wells near gas wells.

13 (d) The study will broaden to include potential pollutants as
14 awareness of potential pollutants surface resulting from the study
15 required in this section or in the scientific community.

16 (e) The study required by this section shall commence by May
17 1, 2012. The researchers from West Virginia University shall
18 submit study progress reports, with preliminary findings as these
19 occur, to the secretary on a quarterly basis annually. The
20 secretary shall submit reports to the Joint Committee on Government
21 and Finance beginning December 1, 2012, and every six months
22 thereafter until the study is completed and a final report is
23 submitted.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to study the impact of shale gas development on human and environmental health.

§22-6A-6a is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.