1	H. B. 4377
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3 4 5	(By Delegates D. Poling, Longstreth, Butcher, Guthrie, Martin, Brown and Hatfield)
6	[Introduced February 1, 2012; referred to the
7	Committee on Agriculture then the 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 "Nitro's Law" to honor fallen law-enforcement
13	canines and other canines in the service of state or local
14	governmental agencies.
15	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
16	That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
17	by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-20-26, to read as
18	follows:
19	ARTICLE 20. DOGS AND CATS.
20	§19-20-26. Honoring fallen K-9s in the service of state or local
21	government agencies.
22	(a) This act shall be known as "Nitro's Law" and is intended
23	to honor law-enforcement canines and other canines in the service
24	of state or local governmental agencies, and to help provide
25	closure to grieving law-enforcement officers or other governmental

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1 employees who have served as handlers for these dogs.

(b) Any canine working for, or retired from, a state or local
<u>law-enforcement agency or other governmental agency shall be</u>
<u>memorialized by that agency upon its death if the law-enforcement</u>
<u>officer or other agency employee who acted as the canine's handler</u>
<u>so requests. The tribute shall include:</u>

7 (1) A memorial service, which may be a small informal service 8 within the law-enforcement agency or other governmental agency 9 where the canine served, or it may be open to the public, at the 10 discretion of that agency;

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

14 <u>(3) A picture of the canine and its most recent handler to be</u> 15 placed, for an appropriate period of time, on a "wall of honor" at 16 the law-enforcement agency or other agency which is dedicated for 17 pictures of canines and their handlers; and

18 (4) An obituary posted in the local news paper in honor of the 19 fallen canine.

20 (c) The Superintendent of State Police or other appropriate
21 director of a state agency which utilizes canines in its service,
22 a county commission or a municipal government may set aside funding
23 to provide for canine memorial services for those law-enforcement
24 agencies or other governmental agencies under their direction.

- 1 Such funding may be dedicated from moneys realized from the seizure
- 2 of contraband by law-enforcement agencies or as otherwise
- 3 determined by the state agency, county commission or municipal
- 4 government.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create "Nitro's Law" to honor fallen law-enforcement canines and other canines in service of state and local government agencies, and to honor their handlers.

 $\$19\mathchar`-20\mathchar`-26$ is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.