

1 **ENROLLED**

2 **Senate Bill No. 350**

3 (BY SENATORS MILLER, STOLLINGS, SNYDER, PLYMALE, LAIRD, D. HALL, UNGER AND
4 BEACH)

5 _____
6 [Passed March 8, 2014; in effect from passage.]
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11 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
12 adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-11, relating to
13 the Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program; requiring annual
14 reporting; and authorizing rulemaking.

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 §19-1-11, to read as
18 follows:

19 **ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.**

20 **§19-1-11. Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program.**

21 (a) The Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program is an important tool
22 for the Commissioner of Agriculture to promote investment in the
23 agricultural industry in the state. Rules are needed for the loan

1 program to remain viable.

2 (b) The commissioner shall propose emergency and legislative
3 rules for approval in accordance with article three, chapter
4 twenty-nine-a of this code. The rules shall, at a minimum:

5 (1) Establish minimum requirements and qualifications for the
6 loan committee, including the addition of public members who have
7 agricultural or business loan experience;

8 (2) Prohibit department employees and loan committee members,
9 and their immediate family members, from receiving program loans;

10 (3) Establish minimum financial requirements for receiving a
11 program loan;

12 (4) Require loans to be used for agricultural or related
13 purposes;

14 (5) Require collateral sufficient to secure the loan;

15 (6) Establish policies for the application, applicable
16 interest rates, delinquencies, refinancing, collection proceedings,
17 collateral requirements and other aspects of the loan program;

18 (7) Require the department to advertise the loan program to
19 the public, including information on the department's website and
20 in the department's market bulletin; and

21 (8) Transfer the servicing of the program loans to a financial
22 institution via competitive bid or to the State Treasurer's office.

23 (c) The commissioner shall file an annual report to the Joint
24 Committee on Government and Finance regarding the loan program,

1 including information about the loans awarded, loans repaid, loans
2 outstanding, interest rates, delinquency and collections, and other
3 pertinent data.