H. B. 4135

(By Delegates P. Smith, Perry, Pino, Walker, Young, Lynch, Hamilton, Hartman and Kinsey)

[Introduced January 14, 2014; referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §2-2-1a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to designating the first Thursday in May the West Virginia Day of Prayer.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §2-2-1a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. LEGAL HOLIDAYS; SPECIAL MEMORIAL DAYS; CONSTRUCTION OF STATUTES; DEFINITIONS.

§2-2-1a. Special memorial days.

(a) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare the week beginning with the Sunday before Thanksgiving as a special memorial week to be known as Native American Indian Heritage Week.

(b) The first Tuesday after the first Monday of November is designated Susan B. Anthony Day and shall only be a legal holiday in all years ending in an even number. The Governor shall annually
issue a proclamation calling on all schools, civic organizations, government departments and citizens to undertake activities on the designated day and surrounding days to pay tribute to the accomplishments of Susan B. Anthony in securing the civil and political rights of all Americans, including securing equal voting rights for women.

(c) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare the week during which December 7 falls to be a special memorial week, to be known as Pearl Harbor and Military Appreciation week, honoring all West Virginians who fought in World War II and all other military conflicts and shall encourage all municipalities in the state to do the same. The State Department of Education is directed to implement a program involving activities in which students shall participate which shall recognize the contributions West Virginians have made to their country through service in the United States Military.

(d) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare March 30 as a special memorial day to be known as Vietnam Veteran Recognition Day honoring all West Virginians who served in the United States Armed Forces in the Republic of Vietnam during the period beginning February 28, 1961 and ending May 7, 1975, and shall encourage all counties and municipalities in the state to do the same.

(e) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare August 7 as a special memorial day, to be known as Purple Heart Recognition
1 Day, honoring all West Virginians who, while serving in the United
2 States Armed Forces, have been wounded or killed in action and
3 shall encourage all municipalities and counties in the state to do
4 the same.
5 (f) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare July 27 as a
6 special memorial day to be known as Korean War Veteran Recognition
7 Day honoring all West Virginians who served in the United States
8 Armed Forces in the Korean War, and shall encourage all counties
9 and municipalities in the state to do the same.
10 (g) The Governor shall, by proclamation, declare the first
11 Thursday in May as the West Virginia Day of Prayer. The West
12 Virginia Day of Prayer corresponds with the National Day of Prayer,
13 36 U.S.C. §119, on which the people of West Virginia may turn to
14 God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups, and as
15 individuals.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make the first Thursday
of May the West Virginia Day of Prayer.

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