

1                                   **Senate Bill No. 350**

2 (By Senators Miller, Stollings, Snyder, Plymale, Laird, D. Hall,  
3                                   Unger and Beach)

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5 [Introduced January 14, 2014; referred to the Committee on  
6                                   Agriculture and Rural Development.]

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11 A BILL 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 rules for legislative  
3 approval in accordance with article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of  
4 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 purposes;

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

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

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

20 (8) Consider transferring the servicing of program loans to  
21 the State Treasurer's Office.

22 (c) The commissioner shall file an annual report to the Joint  
23 Committee on Government and Finance regarding the loan program,  
24 including information about the loans awarded, loans repaid, loans

1 outstanding, interest rates, delinquency and collections, and other  
2 pertinent data.

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(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Commissioner of Agriculture to propose rules for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program.

This section is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring has been omitted.)

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AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

On page two, section eleven, line eleven, after the word "agricultural" by inserting the words "or related".