

1 **Senate Bill No. 121**

2 (By Senators Snyder, Miller, Williams, Facemire and Romano)

3 _____
4 [Introduced January 14, 2015; referred to the Committee on Natural Resources; and then to the
5 Committee on Government Organization.]
6 _____

7
8
9
10 A BILL to amend and reenact §19-21A-4a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
11 to administration of the West Virginia Conservation Agency programs; providing that
12 conservation district supervisors have their applications to participate in West Virginia
13 Conservation Agency financial assistance programs evaluated and approved or rejected by
14 the West Virginia Conservation Agency; prohibiting conservation district supervisor from
15 voting for authorization, approval or ratification of a contract in which he or she or an
16 immediate family member is beneficially interested; and requiring the State Conservation
17 Committee to propose rules for legislative approval.

18 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

19 That §19-21A-4a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted
20 to read as follows:

21 **ARTICLE 21A. CONSERVATION DISTRICTS.**

22 **§19-21A-4a. Administration of West Virginia Conservation Agency programs; legislative**

1 **rules.**

2 (a) If ~~an elected~~ a conservation district supervisor applies ~~or intends to apply~~ to participate
3 in a West Virginia Conservation Agency financial assistance program, then ~~all applications~~ his or
4 her application for that particular program ~~in that particular district~~ shall be evaluated ~~and approved~~
5 ~~by a conservation district other than the one being supervised by the elected conservation district~~
6 supervisor for approval or denial by the West Virginia Conservation Agency.

7 **(b) A conservation district supervisor may not vote for the authorization, approval or**
8 **ratification of a contract in which he or she or an immediate family member is beneficially interested.**

9 **(c)** The State Conservation Committee shall propose rules for legislative approval, pursuant
10 to article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code, to establish:

11 (1) The criteria, ranking and standards required for an applicant to qualify to participate in
12 West Virginia Conservation Agency programs;

13 (2) A process to disclose the recipients of the award; and

14 (3) The process for an unsuccessful qualified applicant to appeal an award.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide that conservation district supervisors have their applications to participate in West Virginia Conservation Agency financial assistance programs evaluated and approved or rejected by the West Virginia Conservation Agency. It also prohibits a conservation district supervisor from voting for the authorization, approval or ratification of a contract in which he or she or an immediate family member is beneficially interested.

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