

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2396

BY DELEGATE THOMPSON AND LOVEJOY

[Introduced January 14, 2019; Referred
to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural
Resources then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §1-7-1, relating to requiring all state-funded institutions to purchase a minimum
 3 of 20 percent of fresh produce from in-state producers.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 7. WEST VIRGINIA FRESH FOOD ACT.

§1-7-1. West Virginia Fresh Food Act.

1 (a) Beginning July 1, 2019, all state-funded institutions, such as schools, colleges,
 2 correctional facilities, governmental agencies and state parks, shall purchase a minimum of
 3 twenty percent of fresh produce from in-state producers.

4 (b) According to the West Virginia Farm Bureau state schools alone currently purchase
 5 \$100 million of food from out-of-state sources.

6 (c) Locally grown food is healthier and more beneficial to the environment than food
 7 imported from other states and other countries.

8 (d) This article will:

9 (1) Stimulate the agricultural economy of the state, especially in its economically
 10 depressed areas, and allow small farmers to expand operations as well as acting as an incentive
 11 to new people to begin farming;

12 (2) Encourage state-funded institutions to begin growing their own produce, thus enabling
 13 people to learn and practice agricultural techniques, as well as lowering operational costs of those
 14 institutions; and

15 (3) Spur self-sufficiency and economic independence of those who learn and engage in
 16 agricultural activities.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require all state-funded institutions to purchase a minimum of 20 percent of fresh produce from in-state producers.

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