

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2020 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4097**

BY DELEGATES HOWELL, CRISS, J. JEFFRIES, WAXMAN,  
CADLE, COWLES, BIBBY, SUMMERS, D. JEFFRIES, HANNA  
AND KUMP

[Introduced January 10, 2020; Referred to the  
Committee on Political Subdivisions then Government  
Organization]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
2 designated §8-12-16e, relating to requiring municipalities to maintain a program to assist  
3 homeowners who are eligible for the homestead exemption in maintaining their homes  
4 free of conditions that are unsafe, unsanitary, dangerous or detrimental to the public safety  
5 or welfare.

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

**ARTICLE 12. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC POWERS, DUTIES AND ALLIED  
RELATIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES, GOVERNING BODIES AND MUNICIPAL  
OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES; SUITS AGAINST MUNICIPALITIES.**

**§8-12-16e. Program to assist eligible homeowners maintain their homes free of conditions  
that are unsafe, unsanitary, dangerous or detrimental to the public safety or welfare.**

1 (a) (1) Each municipality shall maintain a program to assist eligible homeowners in  
2 maintaining their homes free of conditions that are unsafe, unsanitary, dangerous or detrimental  
3 to the public safety or welfare, as that phrase is used in §8-12-16 of this code. The program shall  
4 contain provisions to assist the eligible homeowner in making contact with organizations and  
5 individuals that provide help to homeowners in maintaining their homes free from conditions that  
6 are unsafe, unsanitary, dangerous or detrimental to the public safety or welfare.

7 (2) Municipalities may establish a grant program to assist eligible homeowners in  
8 maintaining their homes in free of conditions that are unsafe, unsanitary, dangerous or detrimental  
9 to the public safety or welfare. The funding for the grants may come from grants or funds received  
10 from federal agencies and from other public and private sources made available for purposes  
11 consistent with this section. The governing body of the municipality shall establish standards to  
12 determine the eligibility of persons to receive the aid.

13 (b) For this section, an eligible homeowner is an individual eligible for the homestead  
14 exemption under subsection C, section 1b, article X of the West Virginia Constitution and §11-

15 6B-3 of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require municipalities to maintain a program to assist homeowners eligible for the homestead exemption in maintaining their homes free of conditions that are unsafe, unsanitary, dangerous or detrimental to the public safety or welfare.

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