

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### House Bill 4577

FISCAL  
NOTE

BY DELEGATES HAMRICK, PAYNTER, DEAN, ZUKOFF,

GRIFFITH, THOMPSON, AND PUSHKIN

Introduced February 08, 2022; Referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
then the Judiciary then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
2 designated §19-20-6b, relating to creating the Compassion for Community Cats Fund; and  
3 providing that the fund is administered by the Commissioner of Agriculture; providing  
4 definitions; the source of funds; and how the funds are to be used.

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

## **ARTICLE 20. DOGS AND CATS.**

### **§19-20-6b. Compassion for Community Cats Fund.**

1 (a) There is established in the Department of Agriculture a special fund to be known as  
2 the “Compassion for Community Cats Fund.” The fund shall be administered by the  
3 Commissioner of Agriculture and shall be credited with:

4 (1) All fees collected pursuant to §19-20B-1 et seq. of this code;

5 (2) All criminal penalties collected pursuant to §19-20-12, §19-20-17, §19-20-19, and §19-  
6 20-24 of this code as they may apply to cats;

7 (3) Moneys as may be appropriated by the Legislature; and

8 (4) Any return on investment of moneys deposited in the fund.

9 (b) Moneys in the fund shall be used by the department solely for grants to municipalities  
10 and counties to establish programs to humanely trap community cats, sterilize, ear-tip, vaccinate  
11 against rabies, defray costs incurred by a qualified nonprofit community cat caregiver, and return  
12 each community cat to the location where the community cat was trapped.

13 (c) The department may not use any moneys in the fund for administrative costs of the  
14 department.

15 (d) As used in this section:

16 (1) “Community cat” means a cat, whether or not fearful of, or socialized to, humans, that  
17 has no known owner, lives and freely roams in the outdoors, and that may or may not be cared  
18 for by a person, including, but not limited to, a person who provides food, water, veterinary care,  
19 or indoor or outdoor protection from the weather;

20           (2) “Qualified nonprofit community cat caregiver” means a person, or organization, who  
21 provides care to a community cat, including, but not limited to, a person, or organization, who  
22 provides food, water, veterinary care, or indoor or outdoor protection from the weather, and who  
23 is registered as a 501(c) (3) organization with the Internal Revenue and the state of West Virginia.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Compassion for Community Cats Fund.

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