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OFFICE WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION, 2009



# ENROLLED

## House Bill No. 2950

(By Delegates Webster, Moore, Marshall, Hutchins, Morgan,  
White, Caputo, Hatfield, Brown, Frazier and Mahan)



Passed April 9, 2009

In Effect from Passage

**ENROLLED**

**FILED**

**H. B. 2950**

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SECRETARY OF STATE

(BY DELEGATES WEBSTER, MOORE, MARSHALL, HUTCHINS,  
MORGAN, WHITE, CAPUTO, HATFIELD, BROWN, FRAZIER AND  
MAHAN)

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[Passed April 9, 2009; in effect from passage.]

AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §31-15-6c, relating to the Neighborhood Housing and Economic Stabilization Program for low-income minority neighborhoods; creating the Neighborhood Housing and Economic Stabilization Program; authorizing the Economic Development Authority to contract with the Housing Development Fund to administer the program and distribute funding to program participants; establishing general guidelines and priorities for funding; establishing funding for the program; and legislative findings.

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

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §31-15-6c, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 15. WEST VIRGINIA ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

**§31-15-6c. Neighborhood Housing and Economic Development Stabilization Program; authority to contract with Housing Development Fund; funding.**

1 (a) It is hereby determined and declared, as a matter of  
2 legislative finding:

3 (1) Local housing initiatives offer a unique opportunity  
4 to revitalize and stimulate economic development in low  
5 income neighborhoods with high minority populations, which  
6 typically have high levels of unemployment and include a  
7 large number of distressed properties.

8 (2) Local housing initiatives may include, but are not  
9 limited to, demolition, rehabilitation, new construction, land  
10 purchases for development, affordable mortgage initiatives  
11 and related job training and community service activities.

12 (3) In order to promote a positive long-term economic  
13 impact on the community, an effective local housing  
14 initiative should include a job training component that is  
15 designed to provide additional educational and vocational job  
16 opportunities and foster the development of marketable skills  
17 among the people living within the targeted neighborhoods  
18 served by the program.

19 (4) If done as a part of a focused and coordinated effort,  
20 the rehabilitation or replacement of deteriorating residential  
21 properties or structures would enhance the value of other  
22 properties in the community and improve the overall quality  
23 of their neighborhood.

24 (5) A successful neighborhood revitalization and  
25 recovery program can attract new businesses and spur  
26 additional investment in the community.

27       (6) Using locally based or community based  
28 not-for-profit entities to spearhead local housing initiatives  
29 encourages the development of additional resources,  
30 leadership and administrative skills at a local level which,  
31 once in place, would continue to focus on the needs and  
32 revitalization of the targeted community, after the initial  
33 project is complete.

34       (7) It is reasonable and appropriate to establish a funding  
35 mechanism for selected qualifying entities to implement  
36 projects that are designed to revitalize and stimulate  
37 economic development in low income neighborhoods with  
38 relatively high minority populations.

39       (8) The effectiveness of the initial programs can best be  
40 assessed if significant funding is awarded to a limited number  
41 of qualifying programs serving targeted communities.

42       (9) The state would benefit from the development of a  
43 working model for stimulating economic development and  
44 neighborhood revitalization through local housing initiatives,  
45 so that it may be replicated in other parts of the state which  
46 have similar demographic and economic conditions.

47       (10) Substantial federal funds have been earmarked for  
48 housing stabilization and stimulating economic recovery,  
49 including but not limited to, housing rehabilitation,  
50 construction, upgrades and weatherization programs.

51       (b) There is hereby established within the Economic  
52 Development Authority the Neighborhood Housing and  
53 Economic Development Stabilization Program. The purpose  
54 of the program is to provide loans, grants and forgivable  
55 loans to support and carry out local economic development  
56 initiatives and locally designed housing initiatives in minority  
57 neighborhoods with low-income demographics in this state.

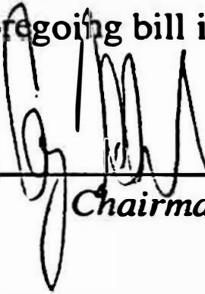
58 Housing initiatives funded by this program may include, but  
59 are not limited to, demolition, rehabilitation, new  
60 construction, land purchases for development, affordable  
61 mortgage initiatives and related job training and community  
62 service activities.

63 (c) To accomplish these objectives and to administer and  
64 distribute the funds provided by the Legislature for this  
65 purpose, the Economic Development Authority is authorized  
66 to contract with the Housing Development Fund to  
67 administer the Neighborhood Housing and Economic  
68 Stabilization Program.

69 (d) Upon the effective date of this section, the Economic  
70 Development Authority shall, upon appropriation by the  
71 Legislature, transfer \$2.4 million from the Economic  
72 Development Project Bridge Loan Fund established in  
73 section eighteen-a, article twenty-two, chapter twenty-nine of  
74 this code to the Housing Development Fund. The fund will  
75 administer the program and distribute the funds to locally  
76 based West Virginia not-for-profit entities to operate local  
77 economic development initiatives and locally designed  
78 housing initiatives as described in this section. The project's  
79 funds shall be awarded through a statewide request for  
80 proposal solicitation issued by the Housing Development  
81 Fund, after requests for proposals have been reviewed and  
82 accepted by the authority.

83 (e) In awarding the funds, the Housing Development  
84 Fund shall give priority to proposals received from local  
85 not-for-profit organizations for low-income housing  
86 initiatives which include a job training component and  
87 promote the employment or utilization of people and  
88 businesses who reside within the targeted neighborhoods. A  
89 recipient organization must have written established  
90 guidelines to promote investment from within and outside the  
91 community where the neighborhood is located.

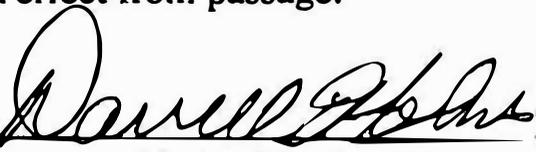
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

  
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Chairman Senate Committee

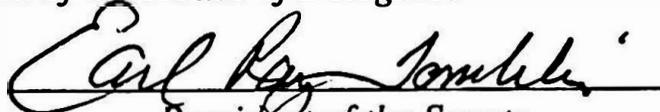
  
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Chairman House Committee

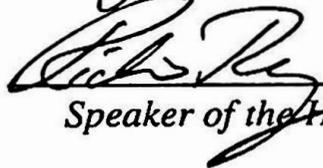
Originating in the House.

In effect from passage.

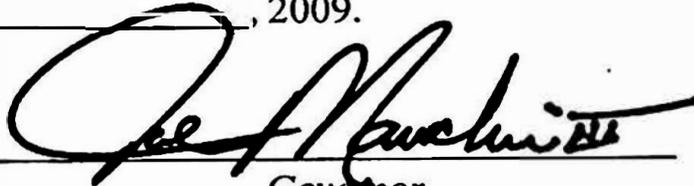
  
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Clerk of the Senate

  
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Clerk of the House of Delegates

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Senate

  
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Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 30<sup>th</sup>  
day of April, 2009.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor

PRESENTED TO THE  
GOVERNOR

APR 28 2009

Time 2:15 p