COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

H. B. 4506

(By Delegates Lane, C. Miller, Savilla, Nelson, Armstead and Sobonya)

(Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary) [February 24, 2012]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §3-9-14, relating to absentee ballot fraud and providing felony criminal penalties.

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 §3-9-14, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 9. OFFENSES AND PENALTIES.

§3-9-14. Absentee ballot fraud; intimidation of voters; penalties.

- 1 Any person who, with the intent to commit fraud, obtains,
- 2 <u>removes, completes or disseminates an absentee ballot or</u>

- 2
- 3 <u>intimidates an absentee voter, is guilty of a felony and, upon</u>
- 4 conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$10,000 nor
- 5 more than \$20,000 or imprisoned in a state correctional
- 6 <u>facility not less than one nor more than five years, or both</u>
- 7 <u>fined and imprisoned.</u>
- 8 For the purposes of this section, each ballot obtained shall
- 9 <u>be considered a separate offense.</u>