

1 ENGROSSED

2 **Senate Bill No. 350**

3 (By Senators Miller, Stollings, Snyder, Plymale, Laird, D. Hall,
4 Unger and Beach)

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6 [Introduced January 14, 2014; referred to the Committee on
7 Agriculture and Rural Development.]

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12 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
13 adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-11, relating to
14 the Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program; requiring annual
15 reporting; and authorizing rulemaking.

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

17 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
18 by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-11, to read as
19 follows:

20 **ARTICLE 1. Department of Agriculture.**

21 **§19-1-11. Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program.**

22 (a) The Rural Rehabilitation Loan Program is an important tool
23 for the Commissioner of Agriculture to promote investment in the

1 agricultural industry in the state. Rules are needed for the loan
2 program to remain viable.

3 (b) The commissioner shall propose emergency and legislative
4 rules for approval in accordance with article three, chapter
5 twenty-nine-a of this code. The rules shall, at a minimum:

6 (1) Establish minimum requirements and qualifications for the
7 loan committee, including the addition of public members who have
8 agricultural or business loan experience;

9 (2) Prohibit department employees and loan committee members,
10 and their immediate family members, from receiving program loans;

11 (3) Establish minimum financial requirements for receiving a
12 program loan;

13 (4) Require loans to be used for agricultural or related
14 purposes;

15 (5) Require collateral sufficient to secure the loan;

16 (6) Establish policies for the application, applicable
17 interest rates, delinquencies, refinancing, collection proceedings,
18 collateral requirements and other aspects of the loan program;

19 (7) Require the department to advertise the loan program to
20 the public, including information on the department's website and
21 in the department's market bulletin; and

22 (8) Consider transferring the servicing of program loans to
23 the State Treasurer's Office.

24 (c) The commissioner shall file an annual report to the Joint

1 Committee on Government and Finance regarding the loan program,
2 including information about the loans awarded, loans repaid, loans
3 outstanding, interest rates, delinquency and collections, and other
4 pertinent data.