

H. B. 4577

(By Delegates Armstead, Mr. Speaker (Mr. Miley),
Skaff, Anderson, Ashley, Border, Ellington,
Hamrick, Miller, Shott and Walters)

[Introduced February 14, 2014; referred to the
Committee on Small Business, Entrepreneurship and
Economic Development then Finance.]

A BILL to amend and reenact §5B-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia,
1931, as amended, relating to providing assistance to small
businesses by the West Virginia Development office; providing
for the assignment of economic development office
representatives to serve as Small Business Allies as
facilitators to assist small business entities and individuals
desiring to establish and maintain a small business; and
duties and services to be provided.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §5B-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA DEVELOPMENT OFFICE.

§5B-2-5. Economic development representatives.

(a) The director may employ economic development
representatives to be paid a base salary within legislative

1 appropriations to the West Virginia Development Office, subject to
2 provisions set forth by the council in its reorganization plan and
3 applicable contract provisions pursuant to section four of this
4 article. Economic development representatives may receive
5 performance-based incentives and expenses paid from private funds
6 from a nonprofit corporation contracting with the West Virginia
7 Development Office pursuant to the provisions of section four of
8 this article. The director shall establish job descriptions and
9 responsibilities of economic development representatives, subject
10 to the provisions of any contract with a nonprofit corporation
11 entered into pursuant to section four of this article.

12 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the
13 contrary, economic development representatives employed within the
14 West Virginia Development Office are not subject to the procedures
15 and protections provided by articles six and six-a, chapter
16 twenty-nine of this code. Any employee of the West Virginia
17 Development Office on the effective date of this article who
18 applies for employment as an economic development representative is
19 not entitled to the protections of article six, chapter twenty-nine
20 with respect to hiring procedures and qualifications; and upon
21 accepting employment as an economic development representative, the
22 employee relinquishes the protections provided for in article two,
23 chapter six-c and article six, chapter twenty-nine of this code.

24 (c) The director shall assign one or more economic development

1 representatives to serve as Small Business Allies. Small business
2 Allies shall serve as facilitators to assist small businesses and
3 individuals desiring to create and operate a small business
4 including the following:

5 (1) Identifying and completing forms and applications required
6 for licensure by or registration with all applicable government
7 entities;

8 (2) Identifying and applying for loans, grants or other
9 funding sources available to assist and finance small business
10 entities;

11 (3) Assisting with incorporation, formation, registration and
12 filing requirements of small business entities;

13 (4) Identifying governmental registration and licensure
14 requirements applicable to the specific small business entity; and

15 (5) Addressing inquiries, requests for assistance and other
16 issues raised by other governmental agencies that have jurisdiction
17 or regulatory authority over small businesses or are assisting a
18 particular small business.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide assistance to small businesses by the West Virginia Development office. The bill provides for the assignment of economic development office representatives to serve as Small Business Allies to act as facilitators to assist small business entities and individuals desiring to establish and maintain a small business; and duties and services to be provided.

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