1	Senate Bill No. 529
2	(By Senators Cole, Barnes, Blair, Carmichael, M. Hall, Nohe and
3	Walters)
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5	[Introduced February 10, 2014; referred to the Committee on
6	Natural Resources; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.]
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10	A BILL to amend and reenact $\$19-25-5$ of the Code of West Virginia,
11	1931, as amended, relating to adding aircraft operations on
12	private airstrips and farms to the definition of "recreational
13	purpose".
14	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
15	That §19-25-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
16	be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
17	ARTICLE 25. LIMITING LIABILITY OF LANDOWNERS.
18	§19-25-5. Definitions.
19	Unless the context used clearly requires a different meaning,
20	as used in this article:
21	(1) "Charge" means:
22	(A) For purposes of limiting liability for recreational or
23	wildlife propagation purposes set forth in section two of this
24	article, the amount of money asked in return for an invitation to

1 enter or go upon the land, including a one-time fee for a 2 particular event, amusement, occurrence, adventure, incident, 3 experience or occasion which may not exceed \$50 a year per 4 recreational participant: *Provided*, That the monetary cap on 5 charges imposed pursuant to this article <u>does may</u> not apply to the 6 provisions of article fourteen, chapter twenty of this code 7 pertaining to the Hatfield-McCoy regional recreational authority or 8 activities sponsored on the Hatfield-McCoy recreation area;

9 (B) For purposes of limiting liability for military, 10 law-enforcement or homeland-defense training set forth in section 11 six of this article, the amount of money asked in return for an 12 invitation to enter or go upon the land;

13 (2) "Land" includes, but shall not be <u>is not</u> limited to, 14 roads, water, watercourses, private ways and buildings, structures 15 and machinery or equipment thereon when attached to the realty <u>real</u> 16 <u>property;</u>

17 (3) "Noncommercial recreational activity" shall does not 18 include any activity for which there is any charge which exceeds 19 \$50 per year per participant;

20 (4) "Owner" includes, but shall not be <u>is not</u> limited to, <u>a</u>
21 tenant, lessee, occupant or person in control of the premises;

(5) "Recreational purposes" includes, but shall not be is not
23 limited to, any one or any combination of the following
24 noncommercial recreational activities: hunting, fishing, swimming,

1 boating, camping, picnicking, hiking, pleasure driving, motorcycle
2 or all-terrain vehicle riding, bicycling, horseback riding,
3 spelunking, nature study, water skiing, winter sports and visiting,
4 viewing or enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic or
5 scientific sites, <u>aircraft or ultralight operations on private</u>
6 <u>airstrips or farms</u> or otherwise using land for purposes of the
7 user;

8 (6) "Wildlife propagation purposes" applies to and includes sediment control structures, permanent water 9 all ponds, 10 impoundments or any other similar or like structure created or 11 constructed as a result of or in connection with surface mining 12 activities as governed by article three, chapter twenty-two of this 13 code or from the use of surface in the conduct of underground coal 14 mining as governed by said that article and any legislative rules 15 promulgated thereunder implemented because of the article, which 16 ponds, structures or impoundments are hereafter designated and 17 certified in writing by the Director of the Division of 18 Environmental Protection and the owner to be necessary and vital to 19 the growth and propagation of wildlife, animals, birds and fish or 20 other forms of aquatic life and finds and determines that the 21 premises have the potential of being actually used by the wildlife 22 for those purposes and that the premises are no longer used or 23 necessary for mining reclamation purposes. The certification shall 24 be in form satisfactory to the director and shall provide that the

1 designated ponds, structures or impoundments shall <u>may</u> not be 2 removed without the joint consent of the director and the owner; 3 and

4 (7) "Military, law-enforcement or homeland-defense training" 5 includes, but is not limited to, training, encampments, 6 instruction, overflight by military aircraft, parachute drops of 7 personnel or equipment or other use of land by a member of the Army 8 National Guard or Air National Guard, a member of a reserve unit of 9 the armed forces of the United States, a person on active duty in 10 the armed forces of the United States, a state or federal 11 law-enforcement officer, a federal agency or service employee, a 12 West Virginia military authority employee or a civilian contractor 13 supporting the military and/or government employees acting in that 14 capacity.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to add noncommercial recreational aircraft operations on private airstrips or farms to the definition of recreational activities for purposes of limiting landowner liability. This bill is the same as House Bill 4216.

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