WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2083

By Delegate Walker

[Introduced January 11, 2023; Referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources then Finance]

A BILL to amend and reenact §19-1-4a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the Commissioner of Agriculture to provide grant money for pollinator friendly gardening and horticulture habitats.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

§19-1-4a. Commissioner authorized to accept gifts, etc., and enter into cooperative agreements.

The Commissioner of Agriculture ~~is hereby empowered and he shall have authority to~~ may accept and receive donations, gifts, contributions, grants, and appropriations of money, services, materials, real estate or other things of value from the United States Department of Agriculture, or any of its divisions or bureaus, and ~~he shall have authority to~~ may use, utilize, develop, or expend such money, services, material, or other contributions in conformity with the conditions and provisions set forth in such grants, appropriations, or donations: *Provided,* That the commissioner shall also expend the money for grants to individuals, partnerships, associations, or corporations, or nonprofit organizations to encourage the creation of large pollinator friendly gardening and horticulture habitats to prevent extinction of "wild and wonderful" West Virginia species.

By and with the approval of the Governor, the commissioner may accept and receive donations, gifts, contributions, and grants of money, services, materials, real estate, and other things of value from individuals, partnerships, associations, or corporations, and he or she shall have authority to utilize such contributions to encourage, promote and develop the agricultural interests or industries of the state.

The commissioner ~~is hereby empowered, and he shall have authority, to~~ may enter into agreements with any department of state government for the purpose of carrying out any regulatory laws where or when any related functions or duties exist. He or she ~~shall also have authority to~~ may enter into agreements with any city council or county court of the State of West Virginia, for carrying out the provisions of the agricultural laws over which he or she has enforcement authority.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Commissioner of Agriculture to provide grant money for pollinator friendly gardening and horticulture habitats.

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