

# **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]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §19-1-4a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
 2 requiring the Commissioner of Agriculture to provide grant money for pollinator friendly  
 3 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.**

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

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

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

20 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.