

# WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §8A-12-8

## **§8A-12-8. West Virginia agricultural land protection authority -- board of trustees.**

(a) Composition; chairman; quorum; qualifications. -- The authority established on July 1, 2002, shall be governed and administered by a board of trustees composed of the state Treasurer, the Auditor and the commissioner of agriculture, who shall serve as ex officio members, and nine members to be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, at least five of whom shall be representative of farmers from different areas of the state. The State Treasurer, Auditor and the commissioner of agriculture may appoint designees to serve on the board of trustees. One of the appointed members who is not a representative of farmers shall be a representative of the Division of Natural Resources; one of the appointed members who is not a representative of farmers shall be a representative of the conservation district; and one of the appointed members who is not a representative of farmers shall be a representative of an I.R.C. 501(c)(3) qualified land trust. Three of the five representatives of farmers shall be appointed as follows:

(1) Two from a list of five nominees submitted by the West Virginia Department of Agriculture; and

(2) One from a list of three nominees submitted by the West Virginia farm bureau.

The Governor shall appoint the chairman of the board from among the nine appointed members. A majority of the members of the board serving at any one time constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, a person may be appointed to and serve on the board as an appointed member even if prior to the appointment the person conveyed an easement on the person's land to the authority.

(b) Terms. -- (1) The Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint the nine members for the following terms:

(A) Three for a term of four years;

(B) Three for a term of three years; and

(C) Three for a term of two years.

(2) Successors to appointed members whose terms expire shall be appointed for terms of four years. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term. An appointed member may not serve more than two successive terms. Appointment to fill a vacancy may not be considered as one of two terms.

(c) Oath. -- Appointed members shall take the oath of office as prescribed by law.

(d) Compensation and expenses. -- Members shall not receive compensation. Each member of the board shall receive expense reimbursement for actual expenses incurred while engaged in the discharge of official duties, the actual expenses not to exceed the amount paid to members of the Legislature.