WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
Regular Session, 2003

ENROLLED

SENATE BILL NO. 493

(By Senator Edgehill)

PASSED March 8, 2003

In Effect 90 days from Passage
AN ACT to amend and reenact section four, article one, chapter nineteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to duties of the commissioner of agriculture; and eliminating administrative duties on state rural development council.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section four, article one, chapter nineteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

§19-1-4. Duties of commissioner.

1 The commissioner of agriculture shall perform the following duties:

2 (a) Devise means of advancing the agricultural interests of the state and, in the performance of such duty, he or she
shall have authority to call upon any state department, or 
officer of the state or county, to cooperate in promoting 
the agricultural interests of the state. It shall be the duty 
of any such department, or officer, upon request of the 
commissioner to render the assistance desired;

(b) Promote and encourage the organization of such 
societies and associations as have for their object the 
improvement and development of the state's agricultural, 
horticultural and kindred interests, especially in produc-
tion, processing for market and distribution;

c) Conduct cooperative work with the United States 
department of agriculture in inspecting and determining 
the grade and condition of farm produce at collecting 
centers, receiving centers and shipping points;

d) Induce the investment of capital in, and immigration 
into, this state by the dissemination of information relative 
to the soil, climate, health, natural resources, market 
opportunities and advantages of the state;

e) Investigate and report upon the kinds, conditions and 
extent of the mineral products of the state and their value;

(f) Take charge of the museum of the department of 
agriculture, collect, preserve and exhibit therein specimens 
of agricultural, horticultural and kindred products, 
products of the forests, minerals, flora and fauna of the 
state;

g) Publish and distribute, from time to time, such 
reports and bulletins concerning agriculture, horticulture 
and kindred subjects as may be of value to the farmers of 
the state and, as conditions may demand, publish a 
handbook giving the resources of the several counties of 
the state, the varieties of soil and products, both mineral 
and vegetable, and the adaptability of the different 
sections of the state to the different branches of agricul-
ture, horticulture and kindred interests;
(h) Submit a biennial report to the governor and Legislature containing such information as to the operations of the department as may be helpful to the agricultural interests of the state, together with an itemized statement of all receipts and disbursements during the biennial period covered thereby and giving the name of every person employed during such period, the time employed and the amount paid each employee;

(i) Perform such other duties and exercise such other powers as are provided in this chapter and by general law;

and

(j) Propose rules, including regulatory standards, for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine of this code for the purpose of carrying out the requirements of this chapter.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 1st Day of April, 2003.

Governor