WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2014

ENROLLED
COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR
Senate Bill No. 469

(Senators Miller, Yost, Wells, Carmichael, Snyder,
Nohe, Williams, Jenkins, D. Hall, Edgell, Stollings,
Laird and Sypolt, original sponsors)

[Passed March 8, 2014; in effect ninety days from passage.]
AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-11, relating to the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program; granting the Department of Agriculture the authority to integrate veterans into the field of agriculture; creating the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture special revenue account and fund; exempting the Department of Agriculture from certain purchasing requirements; requiring state departments to work together; and permitting rulemaking.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §19-1-11, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
§19-1-11. Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program and

(a) Legislative findings. —

West Virginians have a longstanding tradition of service
in the armed forces of the United States. Many veterans
suffer from physical and emotional afflictions and are often
unable to find gainful employment upon returning from
combat. Exploring opportunities to engage West Virginia’s
veterans in agriculture is beneficial to the health and welfare
of veterans, as well as to the future of West Virginia’s
agricultural economy.

(b) Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program. —

The Department of Agriculture shall develop a Veterans
and Warriors to Agriculture Program to integrate veterans
into the field of agriculture, and support veterans currently
working in agriculture. These programs may include, but are
not limited to, using post-mine land for agricultural
development, promoting high tunnel crops and production,
expanding the apiary industry, developing cottage industries,
exploring niche crops, raising more livestock, increasing the
aquaculture industry and helping veterans promote their
agricultural products through farmers markets and
cooperatives. The department, Department of Veterans’
Assistance and the state’s Adjutant General shall work
together to recruit and train eligible veterans, and develop
and support the program.

(c) Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Fund. — There
is hereby created in the State Treasury a special revenue
account, designated the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture
Fund. The fund shall consist of income from leasing the
department’s property for the program, surplus funds which
may be transferred from the fund created by section six-a, article twelve-a of this chapter, gifts, grants and donations, and legislative appropriations which may be made to support the program. Expenditures from the fund shall be used exclusively, in accordance with appropriations by the Legislature, to pay costs, fees and expenses necessary to administer the Veterans and Warriors to Agriculture Program: Provided, That for fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, expenditures are authorized from collections rather than pursuant to an appropriation by the Legislature.

(d) Notwithstanding any provision in this code to the contrary, should the Department of Agriculture deem it necessary to provide land for activities within this program, it is exempt from the purchasing requirements as they relate to the competitive leasing of state property.

(e) The commissioner may propose emergency or legislative rules for approval in accordance with the provisions of article three, chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to effectuate the provisions of this section.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Member
Chairman Senate Committee

Enr. Com. Sub. for S. B. No. 469

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within bill was approved this 27th Day of march, 2014.

Governor
PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 27 2014

Time 3:00pm