ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

House Bill No. 2810

(By Delegate(s) Guthrie, Pushkin, Byrd, Rowe, McCuskey, B. White, Stansbury and Walters)

Passed March 14, 2015

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 §31-18-28, generally relating to implementing the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative; providing legislative findings relating to the need of such program; requiring the West Virginia Housing Development Fund to facilitate the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative; providing that the West Virginia Housing Development Fund provide technical assistance to counties and municipalities for identification, purchase, removal and rehabilitation of dilapidated
properties; requiring that the West Virginia Housing Development Fund establish and fund a revolving loan fund; directing the West Virginia Housing Development Fund to deposit monies into the revolving loan fund over a five year period; providing that no obligation of the state shall be created by the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative; and requiring annual reports over five years; and requiring a final report on the effectiveness of the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative.

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 §31-18-28, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 18. WEST VIRGINIA HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND.

§31-18-28. West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative: findings; technical assistance and revolving loan program for removal of dilapidated housing; reporting required.

(a) The program set forth in this section shall be known as the "West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative".

(b) The Legislature finds that a great number of dilapidated housing structures exist throughout the state and that county and municipal officials often lack the training and resources to identify, purchase, remove, or rehabilitate these structures and return the property to a condition beneficial to their communities. The Legislature further finds that these structures contribute to increased crime in neighborhoods, including illicit drug use and sales; pose threats to health and safety; decrease the values of surrounding properties; and reduce the quality of life in their communities and neighborhoods. The Legislature further finds that improved properties expand housing opportunities, increase property values and enhance the quality of life in communities and neighborhoods.
(c) The Legislature finds that the housing development fund, as a public body corporate and the state’s leading housing authority, has the expertise and resources to lead a property rescue initiative to assist counties and municipalities in removing or rehabilitating dilapidated housing and improving their communities and neighborhoods by providing technical assistance, training and consultation as well as needed financial resources.

(d) The housing development fund shall implement the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative to provide technical assistance, training and consultation to counties and municipalities which include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) maintaining lists of contractors, developers, nonprofit organizations, disposal companies and land fills available to assist counties and municipalities in the removal or rehabilitation of dilapidated properties; (2) providing information on the use of the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative in other jurisdictions; and (3) conducting or facilitating seminars in strategic areas of the state to encourage and inform community leaders in counties and municipalities on how to successfully use the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative to improve their communities and neighborhoods individually and in combination with other counties or municipalities for economies of scale and efficient use of local resources.

(e) For the purpose of the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative, the housing development fund shall establish and fund a revolving loan program to make funding available to counties and municipalities for the removal of dilapidated structures on such terms for repayment of loans, with or without interest, as the housing development fund finds appropriate and to provide technical assistance, training and consulting services to counties and municipalities regarding the identification, purchase, removal and rehabilitation of properties to maximize the benefits of the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative on an ongoing
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basis, with a commitment by the housing development fund to
deposit at least $5 million dollars to the West Virginia Property
Rescue Initiative Revolving Loan Fund over a five year period
beginning on July, 2015, at the rate of at least $1 million dollars
per fiscal year.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, the
revolving loan fund established in this section shall not be
considered or construed as an obligation of the state.

(g) To enhance the success of the West Virginia Property
Rescue Initiative, the housing development fund may, as a form
of its technical assistance, seek grants and awards of funding to
be made to the housing development fund or directly to counties
and municipalities for their property rescue initiatives, from
public and private organizations and government agencies,
federal and state, in order to provide both for additional funding
for the property rescue revolving loan fund or the repayment of
loans and for grants to counties and municipalities with dire need
and limited resources such that special aid and funding is needed
to begin and complete their local property rescue initiatives.

(h) The executive director of the housing development fund
shall report on the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative to
the Joint Committee on Government and Finance annually
during the initial five years of the West Virginia Property Rescue
Initiative. At the end of the initial five years of the West Virginia
Property Rescue Initiative, the housing development fund board
of directors shall evaluate participation and success of the West
Virginia Property Rescue Initiative as well as other aspects of
the West Virginia Property Rescue Initiative in order determine
whether and how to adjust services and levels of funding under
this section.
That Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman, House Committee

Chairman, Senate Committee

Originating in the House.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Clerk of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

The within, ___ approved this the ___
day of ___ April ______, 2015.

Governor