

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 240

BY SENATORS WOODRUM AND DEEDS

[Introduced January 11, 2024; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §59-1-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to fees charged by sheriffs.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. FEES AND ALLOWANCES.

§59-1-14. Fees to be charged by sheriffs.

1 (a) The county commission shall determine the amount which the sheriff may charge,
2 which charges shall not exceed the following:

3 For serving on any person an order, notice, summons, or other process where the body
4 is not taken, except a subpoena served on a witness, and making return thereof . ~~\$25.00~~ \$30.00

5 For summoning a witness..... ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

6 For serving on any person an attachment or
7 other process under which the body is taken..... ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

8 For levying an attachment on real estate and
9 making the return ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

10 For making any other levy ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

11 For serving a writ of possession ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

12 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, a county sheriff shall owe
13 the fees set forth in subsection (a) of this section to another sheriff's department or law-
14 enforcement agency for service of an order, notice, summons, or other process, or for service of
15 an attachment once the requested service has been completed.

16 (c) The county commission shall determine the amount which the sheriff may charge,
17 which charges shall not exceed the following:

18 For conveying a prisoner to or from jail, for each mile of necessary travel either in going
19 or returning25

20 For taking any bond..... \$1.00

21 When a jury is sworn in court, for summoning and impaneling such jury \$1.00

22 For issuing receipt to purchaser at delinquent tax sale \$1.00

23 (d) The county commission, giving due regard to the cost thereof, may, from time to time,
24 prescribe the amount which the sheriff may charge for keeping any property or in removing any
25 property. When, after distraining or levying, he or she neither sells nor receives payment, and
26 either takes no bond or takes one which is not forfeited, he or she shall, if guilty of no default,
27 have (in addition to the \$1 for a bond, if one was taken) a fee of \$3, unless this be more than half
28 of what his or her commission would have amounted to if he or she had received payment; in
29 which case he or she shall (whether a bond was taken or not) have a fee of \$1 at the least, and
30 so much more as is necessary to make the said half of his or her commission. The commission
31 to be included in a forthcoming bond (when one is taken) shall be five percent on the first \$300 of
32 the money for which the distress or levy is made, and two percent on the residue of the money;
33 but the commission shall not be received, in whole or in part, except as hereinbefore provided,
34 unless the bond be forfeited, or the amount (including the commission) be paid to the plaintiff. An
35 officer receiving payment in money, or selling property, shall have the like commission of five
36 percent on the first \$300 of the money paid or proceeds from the sale, and two percent on the
37 residue, except that when the payment or sale is on an execution on a forthcoming bond, his or
38 her commission shall be only half what it would be if the execution were not on the bond.

39 (e) Any amounts collected by the sheriff pursuant to this section shall be deposited in a
40 separate account of the county general fund and used by the sheriff for the expenses of providing
41 the services herein described: *Provided*, That ~~\$2~~ \$5 of each fee collected pursuant to the
42 provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be deposited by the county commission in the
43 West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement Fund created in ~~section six, article fourteen-d, chapter~~
44 ~~seven~~ §7-14D-6 of this code and \$3 of each fee collected pursuant to the provisions of subsection
45 (a) of this section shall be deposited by the county commission in the general revenue account of
46 the county commission. Any surplus funds that remain in the separate account of the county
47 general fund required by the provisions of this subsection on the last day of the fiscal year, and

48 have not been expended for the purposes herein described, shall revert to the county general
49 fund.