

**H. B. 2149**

(By Delegates Caputo, Azinger, Talbott, D. Poling and Williams)

[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the  
Committee on Natural Resources then Finance.]

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §20-7-1a and §20-7-1c of the Code of  
West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to providing an  
increase in compensation for conservation officers.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

That §20-7-1a and §20-7-1c of the Code of West Virginia,  
1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 7. LAW ENFORCEMENT, MOTORBOATING, LITTER.**

**§20-7-1a. Conservation officers salary increase based on length  
of service.**

~~(a) Effective the first day of July, two thousand two, each  
conservation officer shall receive and be entitled to an increase  
in salary based on length of service, including that heretofore and  
hereafter served as a conservation officer as follows: For five  
years of service with the division, a conservation officer shall  
receive a salary increase of six hundred dollars per year payable~~

1 ~~during his or her next three years of service and a like increase~~  
2 ~~at three-year intervals thereafter, with these increases to be~~  
3 ~~cumulative.~~ Each conservation officer whose salary is fixed and  
4 specified pursuant to section one-c of this article shall receive,  
5 and is entitled to, an increase in salary over that set forth in  
6 section one-c of this article, for grade in rank, based on length  
7 of service, including that service served before and after the  
8 effective date of this section as a conservation officer as  
9 follows: At the end of two years of service as a conservation  
10 officer, the officer shall receive a salary increase of \$400 to be  
11 effective during his or her next year of service and a like  
12 increase at yearly intervals thereafter, with the increases to be  
13 cumulative.

14 A salary increase shall be based upon years of service as of  
15 July 1 of each year and may not be recalculated until July 1 of the  
16 following year.

17 Conservation officers in service at the time the amendment to  
18 this section becomes effective ~~shall be~~ are given credit for prior  
19 service and shall be paid such salaries as the same length of  
20 service will entitle them to receive under the provisions hereof.

21 (b) This section does not apply to special or emergency  
22 conservation officers appointed under the authority of section one  
23 of this article.

24 **§20-7-1c. Conservation officers, ranks, salary schedule, base pay,**

1 **exceptions.**

2 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the  
3 contrary, the ranks within the law-enforcement section of the  
4 Division of Natural Resources are colonel, lieutenant colonel,  
5 major, captain, lieutenant, sergeant, corporal, conservation  
6 officer first class, senior conservation officer, conservation  
7 officer and conservation officer-in-training. Each officer while  
8 in uniform shall wear the insignia of rank as provided by the chief  
9 conservation officer.

10 (b) Beginning July 1, 2002, and continuing thereafter,  
11 conservation officers shall be paid the minimum annual salaries  
12 based on the following schedule:

13 **ANNUAL SALARY SCHEDULE (BASE PAY)**

14 **SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

15 Conservation Officer-In-Training(first year until end of	
16 probation).....	\$26,337
17 Conservation Officer (second year).....	\$29,768
18 Conservation Officer (third year).....	\$30,140
19 Senior Conservation Officer(fourth and fifth year).....	\$30,440
20 Senior Conservation Officer First Class(after fifth year) ..	\$32,528
21 Senior Conservation Officer (after tenth year).....	\$33,104
22 Senior Conservation Officer (after fifteenth year).....	\$33,528
23 Corporal (after sixteenth year).....	\$36,704
24 Sergeant.....	\$40,880

1	First Sergeant.....	\$42,968
2	Lieutenant.....	\$47,144
3	Captain.....	\$49,232
4	Major.....	\$51,320
5	Lieutenant Colonel.....	\$53,408
6	Colonel.....	

7       Beginning July 1, 2011, until and including June 30, 2012,  
8 conservation officers shall be paid the annual salaries based on  
9 the following schedule:

10                   **ANNUAL SALARY SCHEDULE (BASE PAY)**

11                   **SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

12	<u>Conservation Officer(In training 1-6 months).....</u>	<u>\$29,622</u>
13	<u>Conservation Officer (After Training Through First Year)....</u>	<u>\$36,458</u>
14	<u>Conservation Officer Second Year .....</u>	<u>\$37,922</u>
15	<u>Conservation Officer Third Year .....</u>	<u>\$38,294</u>
16	<u>Senior Conservation Officer (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Year).....</u>	<u>\$38,682</u>
17	<u>Conservation Officer First Class (7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Year).....</u>	<u>\$39,270</u>
18	<u>Corporal (10+ years).....</u>	<u>\$39,858</u>
19	<u>Sergeant .....</u>	<u>\$44,034</u>
20	<u>First Sergeant.....</u>	<u>\$46,122</u>
21	<u>Lieutenant .....</u>	<u>\$50,298</u>
22	<u>Captain.....</u>	<u>\$52,386</u>
23	<u>Major.....</u>	<u>\$54,474</u>
24	<u>Lieutenant Colonel .....</u>	<u>\$56,562</u>

1 Colonel .....

2 Beginning July 1, 2012, and continuing thereafter,  
3 conservation officers shall receive annual salaries as follows:

4 **ANNUAL SALARY SCHEDULE (BASE PAY)**

5 **SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

6 Conservation Officer(In training 1-6 months).....\$31,122

7 Conservation Officer (After Training Through First Year)...37,958

8 Conservation Officer Second Year.....38,922

9 Conservation Officer Third Year.....39,294

10 Senior Conservation Officer (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Year).....39,682

11 Conservation Officer First Class (7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Year).....40,270

12 Corporal .....40,858

13 Sergeant .....45,034

14 First Sergeant .....47,122

15 Lieutenant .....51,298

16 Captain .....53,386

17 Major .....55,474

18 Lieutenant Colonel .....57,562

19 Colonel .....

20 Each conservation officer whose salary is fixed and specified  
21 in this annual salary schedule is entitled to the length of service  
22 increases set forth in subsection one-a of this article.

23 ~~Conservation officers in service at the time the amendment to~~  
24 ~~this section becomes effective~~ In applying the salary schedules set

1 forth in this section where salary increases are provided for  
2 length of service, conservation officers in service at the time the  
3 schedules become effective shall be given credit for prior service  
4 and shall be paid salaries ~~as~~ the same length of service ~~will~~  
5 ~~entitle~~ entitles them to receive under the provisions of this  
6 section.

7 (c) This section does not apply to special or emergency  
8 conservation officers appointed under the authority of section one  
9 of this article.

10 ~~(d) Nothing in this section prohibits other pay increases as~~  
11 ~~provided for under section two, article five, chapter five of this~~  
12 ~~code: *Provided*, That any across the board pay increase granted by~~  
13 ~~the Legislature or the Governor will be added to, and reflected in,~~  
14 ~~the minimum salaries set forth in this section; and that any merit~~  
15 ~~increases granted to an officer over and above the annual salary~~  
16 ~~schedule listed in subsection (b) of this section are retained by~~  
17 ~~an officer when he or she advances from one rank to another.~~

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide an increase in compensation for conservation officers.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from the present law, and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.