

1 **ENROLLED**

2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

3 FOR

4 **H. B. 2505**

5 (By Delegates Canterbury, Pethtel, Folk, Walters, Hamilton, Marcum, Kurcaba and Hicks)

6  
7 [Passed March 9, 2015; in effect ninety days from passage.]  
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11 AN ACT to amend and reenact §5-10-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend  
12 and reenact §7-14D-5 of said code; to amend and reenact §8-22A-6 of said code; to amend  
13 and reenact §15-2A-3 of said code; to amend and reenact §16-5V-6 of said code; and to  
14 amend and reenact §18-7A-13 of said code, all relating to retirement system participation;  
15 clarifying that police officers and firefighters hired after a certain date are members of the  
16 West Virginia Municipal Police and Firefighters Retirement System; clarifying that  
17 members first employed in covered employment in the West Virginia Deputy Sheriffs  
18 Retirement System, West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement  
19 System or the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System shall  
20 participate in only one retirement system administered by the Consolidated Public  
21 Retirement Board in which the member has the earliest date of hire; and specifying that

1 members of the Public Employees Retirement System, the State Police Retirement System  
2 and the Teachers' Retirement System who are employed in an additional job that requires  
3 membership in the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia  
4 Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System or the West Virginia  
5 Emergency Medical Services Retirement System shall abide by the concurrent employment  
6 provisions of said system and participate in only one system administered by the  
7 Consolidated Public Retirement Board.

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

9 That §5-10-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted;  
10 that §7-14D-5 of said code be amended and reenacted; that §8-22A-6 of said code be amended and  
11 reenacted; that §15-2A-3 of said code be amended and reenacted; that §16-5V-6 of said code be  
12 amended and reenacted; and that §18-7A-13 of said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as  
13 follows:

14 **CHAPTER 5. GENERAL POWERS AND AUTHORITY OF THE GOVERNOR,**  
15 **SECRETARY OF STATE AND ATTORNEY GENERAL; BOARD OF PUBLIC**  
16 **WORKS; MISCELLANEOUS AGENCIES, COMMISSIONS, OFFICES, PROGRAMS,**  
17 **ETC.**

18 **ARTICLE 10. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ACT.**

19 **§5-10-17. Retirement system membership.**

20 The membership of the retirement system consists of the following persons:

21 (a) All employees, as defined in section two of this article, who are in the employ of a

1 political subdivision the day preceding the date it becomes a participating public employer and who  
2 continue in the employ of the participating public employer on and after that date shall become  
3 members of the retirement system; and all persons who become employees of a participating public  
4 employer on or after that date shall thereupon become members of the system; except as provided  
5 in subdivisions (b), (c) and (d) of this section.

6 (b) The membership of the Public Employees Retirement System shall not include any person  
7 who is an active contributing member of, or who has been retired by, any of the state Teachers  
8 retirement systems, the Judges Retirement System, any Retirement System of the West Virginia State  
9 Police, the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System or any municipal retirement system for either, or both,  
10 police or firefighter; and the Bureau of Employment Programs, by the Commissioner of the Bureau,  
11 may elect whether its employees will accept coverage under this article or be covered under the  
12 authorization of a separate enactment: *Provided*, That the exclusions of membership do not apply  
13 to any member of the State Legislature, the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the Clerk of the State  
14 Senate or to any member of the legislative body of any political subdivision provided he or she once  
15 becomes a contributing member of the retirement system: *Provided, however*, That any retired  
16 member of the State Police Death, Disability and Retirement Fund, the West Virginia State Police  
17 Retirement System, the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System and any retired member of any municipal  
18 retirement system for either, or both, police or firefighter may on and after the effective date of this  
19 section become a member of the retirement system as provided in this article, without receiving  
20 credit for prior service as a municipal police officer or firefighter or as a member of the State Police  
21 Death, Disability and Retirement Fund, the West Virginia State Police Retirement System or the

1 Deputy Sheriff Retirement System: *Provided further*, That any retired member of the State Police  
2 Death, Disability and Retirement Fund, the West Virginia State Police Retirement System, the  
3 Deputy Sheriff Retirement System and any retired member of any municipal retirement system for  
4 either, or both, police or firefighters, who begins participation in the retirement system established  
5 in this article on or after July1,2005, may not receive a combined retirement benefit in excess of one  
6 hundred five percent of the member's highest annual salary earned while either a member of the  
7 retirement system established in this article or while a member of the other retirement system or  
8 systems from which he or she previously retired when adding the retirement benefit from the  
9 retirement system created in this article to the retirement benefit received by that member from the  
10 other retirement system or systems set forth herein from which he or she previously retired: *And*  
11 *provided further*, That the membership of the retirement system does not include any person who  
12 becomes employed by the Prester Center for Mental Health Services, Valley Comprehensive Mental  
13 Health Center, Westbrook Health Services or Eastern Panhandle Mental Health Center on or after  
14 July1,1997, *And provided further*, That membership of the retirement system does not include any  
15 person who becomes a member of the federal Railroad Retirement Act on or after July1, 2000.

16 (c) Any member of the State Legislature, the Clerk of the House of Delegates, the Clerk of  
17 the State Senate and any employee of the State Legislature whose employment is otherwise classified  
18 as temporary and who is employed to perform services required by the Legislature for its regular  
19 sessions or during the interim between regular sessions and who has been or is employed during  
20 regular sessions or during the interim between sessions in seven consecutive calendar years, as  
21 certified by the Clerk of the House in which the employee served, or any member of the legislative

1 body of any other political subdivision shall become a member of the retirement system provided  
2 he or she notifies the retirement system in writing of his or her intention to be a member of the  
3 system and files a membership enrollment form as prescribed by the Board of Trustees, and each  
4 person, upon filing his or her written notice to participate in the retirement system, shall by that act  
5 authorize the Clerk of the House of Delegates or the Clerk of the State Senate or such person or  
6 legislative agency as the legislative body of any other political subdivision shall designate to deduct  
7 the member's contribution, as provided in subsection (b), section twenty-nine of this article, and after  
8 the deductions have been made from the member's compensation, the deductions shall be forwarded  
9 to the retirement system.

10 (d) Any employee, as defined in section two of this article, who has concurrent employment  
11 in an additional job or jobs which would require the employee to be a member of the West Virginia  
12 Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters  
13 Retirement System or the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System shall abide  
14 by the concurrent employment statutory provisions of said retirement system and shall participate  
15 in only one retirement system administered by the board.

16 (e) If question arises regarding the membership status of any employee, the Board of Trustees  
17 has the final power to decide the question.

18 (f) Any individual who is a leased employee is not eligible to participate in the system. For  
19 the purposes of this article, the term "leased employee" means any individual who performs services  
20 as an independent contractor or pursuant to an agreement with an employee leasing organization or  
21 other similar organization. If a question arises regarding the status of an individual as a leased

1 employee, the board has final authority to decide the question.

2 **CHAPTER 7. COUNTY COMMISSIONS AND OFFICERS.**

3 **ARTICLE 14D. DEPUTY SHERIFF RETIREMENT SYSTEM ACT.**

4 **§7-14D-5. Members.**

5 (a) Any deputy sheriff first employed by a county in covered employment after the effective  
6 date of this article shall be a member of this retirement system and does not qualify for membership  
7 in any other retirement system administered by the board, so long as he or she remains employed in  
8 covered employment: *Provided*, That any deputy sheriff who has concurrent employment in an  
9 additional job or jobs which would require the deputy sheriff to be a member of the West Virginia  
10 Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System or the West Virginia Emergency  
11 Medical Services Retirement System shall participate in only one retirement system administered  
12 by the board, and the retirement system applicable to the concurrent employment for which the  
13 employee has the earliest date of hire shall prevail. The membership of any person in the plan  
14 ceases: (1) Upon the withdrawal of accumulated contributions after the cessation of service; (2)  
15 upon retirement; (3) at death; or (4) upon the date, if any, when after the cessation of service, the  
16 outstanding balance of any loan obtained by the member pursuant to section twenty-three of the  
17 article, plus accrued interest, equals or exceeds the accumulated contributions of the member.

18 (b) Any deputy sheriff employed in covered employment on the effective date of this article  
19 shall within six months of that effective date notify in writing both the county commission in the  
20 county in which he or she is employed and the board, of his or her desire to become a member of the  
21 plan: *Provided*, That this time period is extended to January 30, 1999, in accordance with the

1 decision of the Supreme Court of Appeals in *West Virginia Deputy Sheriffs' Association, et al v.*  
2 *James L. Sims, et al*, No. 25212: *Provided, however*, That any deputy sheriff employed in covered  
3 employment on the effective date of this article has an additional time period consisting of the ten-  
4 day period following the day after which the amended provisions of this section become law to notify  
5 in writing both the county commission in the county in which he or she is employed and the board  
6 of his or her desire to become a member of the plan. Any deputy sheriff who elects to become a  
7 member of the plan ceases to be a member or have any credit for covered employment in any other  
8 retirement system administered by the board and shall continue to be ineligible for membership in  
9 any other retirement system administered by the board so long as the deputy sheriff remains  
10 employed in covered employment in this plan: *Provided further*, That any deputy sheriff who elects  
11 during the time period from July 1, 1998 to January 30, 1999 or who so elects during the ten-day  
12 time period occurring immediately following the day after the day the amendments made during the  
13 1999 legislative session become law, to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System to  
14 the plan created in this article shall contribute to the plan created in this article at the rate set forth  
15 in section seven of this article retroactive to July 1, 1998. Any deputy sheriff who does not  
16 affirmatively elect to become a member of the plan continues to be eligible for any other retirement  
17 system as is from time to time offered to other county employees but is ineligible for this plan  
18 regardless of any subsequent termination of employment and rehire.

19 (c) Any deputy sheriff employed in covered employment on the effective date of this article  
20 who has timely elected to transfer into this plan as provided in subsection (b) of this section shall be  
21 given credited service at the time of transfer for all credited service then standing to the deputy

1 sheriff's service credit in the Public Employees Retirement System regardless of whether the credited  
2 service (as that term is defined in section two, article ten, chapter five of this code) was earned as  
3 a deputy sheriff. All the credited service standing to the transferring deputy sheriff's credit in the  
4 Public Employees Retirement Fund System at the time of transfer into this plan shall be transferred  
5 into the plan created by this article, and the transferring deputy sheriff shall be given the same credit  
6 for the purposes of this article for all service transferred from the Public Employees Retirement  
7 System as that transferring deputy sheriff would have received from the Public Employees  
8 Retirement System as if the transfer had not occurred. In connection with each transferring deputy  
9 sheriff receiving credit for prior employment as provided in this subsection, a transfer from the  
10 Public Employees Retirement System to this plan shall be made pursuant to the procedures described  
11 in section eight of this article: *Provided*, That a member of this plan who has elected to transfer from  
12 the Public Employees Retirement System into this plan pursuant to subsection (b) of this section may  
13 not, after having transferred into and become an active member of this plan, reinstate to his or her  
14 credit in this plan any service credit relating to periods of nondeputy sheriff service which were  
15 withdrawn from the Public Employees Retirement System prior to his or her elective transfer into  
16 this plan.

17 (d) Any deputy sheriff who was employed as a deputy sheriff prior to the effective date of  
18 this article, but was not employed as a deputy sheriff on the effective date of this article, shall  
19 become a member upon rehire as a deputy sheriff. For purposes of this subsection, the member's  
20 years of service and credited service in the Public Employees Retirement System prior to the  
21 effective date of this article shall not be counted for any purposes under this plan unless: (1) The



1 deputy sheriff has not received the return of his or her accumulated contributions in the Public  
2 Employees Retirement System pursuant to section thirty, article ten, chapter five of this code; or (2)  
3 the accumulated contributions returned to the member from the Public Employees Retirement  
4 System have been repaid pursuant to section thirteen of this article. If the conditions of subdivision  
5 (1) or (2) of this subsection are met, all years of the deputy sheriff's covered employment shall be  
6 counted as years of service for the purposes of this article.

7 (e) Once made, the election provided in this section is irrevocable. All deputy sheriffs first  
8 employed after the effective date and deputy sheriffs electing to become members as described in  
9 this section shall be members as a condition of employment and shall make the contributions  
10 required by section seven of this article.

11 (f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any individual who is a leased  
12 employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. For purposes of this plan, a "leased employee"  
13 means any individual who performs services as an independent contractor or pursuant to an  
14 agreement with an employee leasing organization or similar organization. If a question arises  
15 regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final power to decide the  
16 question.

17 **CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.**

18 **ARTICLE 22A. WEST VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS AND**  
19 **FIREFIGHTERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**

20 **§8-22A-6. Members.**

21 (a) A police officer or firefighter hired in covered employment after the effective date of this

1 article by a municipality or municipal subdivision which has established and maintained a  
2 policemen's pension and relief fund or a firemen's pension and relief fund pursuant to section sixteen,  
3 article twenty-two of this chapter and which is a participating employer, shall be a member of this  
4 retirement plan: *Provided*, That any police officer or firefighter who has concurrent employment in  
5 an additional job or jobs which would require the police officer or firefighter to be a member of the  
6 West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System or the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services  
7 Retirement System shall participate in only one retirement system administered by the board, and  
8 the retirement system applicable to the concurrent employment for which the employee has the  
9 earliest date of hire shall prevail.

10 (b) Except as provided in section thirty-two of this article, a police officer or firefighter who  
11 is a member of the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System may not have  
12 credit for covered employment in any other retirement system applied as service credit in the  
13 Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System.

14 (c) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any individual who is a leased  
15 employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. For purposes of this plan, a "leased employee"  
16 means any individual who performs services as an independent contractor or pursuant to an  
17 agreement with an employee leasing organization or similar organization. If a question arises  
18 regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final power to decide the  
19 question.

20 **CHAPTER 15. PUBLIC SAFETY.**

21 **ARTICLE 2A. WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**

1     **§15-2A-3. Continuation and administration of West Virginia State Police Retirement System;**  
2                     **leased employees; federal qualification requirements.**

3             (a) The West Virginia State Police Retirement System is continued. It is contemplated that  
4 substantially all of the members of the retirement system shall be qualified public safety employees  
5 as defined in section two of this article. Any West Virginia state trooper employed by the agency  
6 on or after the effective date of this article shall be a member of this retirement system and may not  
7 qualify for membership in any other retirement system administered by the board so long as he or  
8 she remains employed by the State Police: *Provided*, That any state trooper who has concurrent  
9 employment in an additional job or jobs which would require the state trooper to be a member of the  
10 West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and  
11 Firefighters Retirement System or the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement  
12 System shall abide by the statutory provisions of said retirement system related to concurrent  
13 employment and participate in only one retirement system administered by the board.

14             (b) Any individual who is a leased employee shall not be eligible to participate in the system.  
15 For purposes of this system, a "leased employee" means any individual who performs services as an  
16 independent contractor or pursuant to an agreement with an employee leasing organization or other  
17 similar organization. If a question arises regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee,  
18 the board has final power to decide the question.

19             (c) The board created pursuant to article ten-d, chapter five of this code shall administer the  
20 retirement system. The board may sue and be sued, contract and be contracted with and conduct all  
21 the business of the system in the name of the West Virginia State Police Retirement System.

1 (d) This fund is intended to meet the federal qualification requirements of Section 401(a) and  
2 related sections of the Internal Revenue Code as applicable to governmental plans. Notwithstanding  
3 any other provision of state law, the board shall administer the retirement system to fulfill this intent  
4 for the exclusive benefit of the employees, members, retirants and their beneficiaries. Any provision  
5 of this article referencing or relating to these federal qualification requirements shall be effective as  
6 of the date required by federal law. The board may promulgate rules and amend or repeal conflicting  
7 rules in accordance with the authority granted to the board pursuant to section one, article ten-d,  
8 chapter five of this code to assure compliance with this section.

9 **CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.**

10 **ARTICLE 5V. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES RETIREMENT SYSTEM ACT.**

11 **§16-5V-6. Members.**

12 (a) Any emergency medical services officer first employed by a county or political  
13 subdivision in covered employment after the effective date of this article shall be a member of this  
14 retirement plan as a condition of employment and upon membership does not qualify for  
15 membership in any other retirement system administered by the board, so long as he or she remains  
16 employed in covered employment: *Provided*, That any emergency medical services officer who has  
17 concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs which would require the emergency medical  
18 services officer to be a member of the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement System or the West  
19 Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System shall participate in only one  
20 retirement system administered by the board, and the retirement system applicable to the concurrent  
21 employment for which the employee has the earliest date of hire shall prevail.

1 (b) Any emergency medical services officer employed in covered employment by an  
2 employer which is currently a participating public employer of the Public Employees Retirement  
3 System shall notify in writing both the county commission in the county or officials in the political  
4 subdivision in which he or she is employed and the board of his or her desire to become a member  
5 of the plan by December 31, 2007. Any emergency medical services officer who elects to become  
6 a member of the plan ceases to be a member or have any credit for covered employment in any other  
7 retirement system administered by the board and shall continue to be ineligible for membership in  
8 any other retirement system administered by the board so long as the emergency medical services  
9 officer remains employed in covered employment by an employer which is currently a participating  
10 public employer of this plan: *Provided*, That any emergency medical services officer who does not  
11 affirmatively elect to become a member of the plan continues to be eligible for any other retirement  
12 system as is, from time to time, offered to other county employees but is ineligible for this plan  
13 regardless of any subsequent termination of employment and rehire.

14 (c) Any emergency medical services officer who was employed as an emergency medical  
15 services officer prior to the effective date, but was not employed on the effective date of this article,  
16 shall become a member upon rehire as an emergency medical services officer. For purposes of this  
17 section, the member's years of service and credited service prior to the effective date shall not be  
18 counted for any purposes under this plan unless the emergency medical services officer has not  
19 received the return of his or her accumulated contributions in the Public Employees Retirement  
20 System pursuant to section thirty, article ten, chapter five of this code. The member may request in  
21 writing to have his or her accumulated contributions and employer contributions from covered

1 employment in the Public Employees Retirement System transferred to the plan. If the conditions  
2 of this subsection are met, all years of the emergency medical services officer's covered employment  
3 shall be counted as years of service for the purposes of this article.

4 (d) Any emergency medical services officer employed in covered employment on the  
5 effective date of this article who has timely elected to transfer into this plan as provided in subsection  
6 (b) of this section shall be given credited service at the time of transfer for all credited service then  
7 standing to the emergency medical services officer's service credit in the Public Employees  
8 Retirement System regardless of whether the credited service (as that term is defined in section two,  
9 article ten, chapter five of this code) was earned as an emergency medical services officer. All  
10 credited service standing to the transferring emergency medical services officer's credit in the Public  
11 Employees Retirement System at the time of transfer into this plan shall be transferred into the plan  
12 created by this article and the transferring emergency medical services officer shall be given the same  
13 credit for the purposes of this article for all service transferred from the Public Employees  
14 Retirement System as that transferring emergency medical services officer would have received from  
15 the Public Employees Retirement System as if the transfer had not occurred. In connection with each  
16 transferring emergency medical services officer receiving credit for prior employment as provided  
17 in this subsection, a transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System to this plan shall be  
18 made pursuant to the procedures described in this article: *Provided*, That any member of this plan  
19 who has elected to transfer from the Public Employees Retirement System into this plan pursuant  
20 to subsection (b) of this section may not, after having transferred into and becoming an active  
21 member of this plan, reinstate to his or her credit in this plan any service credit relating to periods

1 in which the member was not in covered employment as an emergency medical services officer and  
2 which service was withdrawn from the Public Employees Retirement System prior to his or her  
3 elective transfer into this plan.

4 (e) Once made, the election made under this section is irrevocable. All emergency medical  
5 services officers employed by an employer which is a participating public employer of the Public  
6 Employees Retirement System after the effective date and emergency medical services officers  
7 electing to become members as described in this section shall be members as a condition of  
8 employment and shall make the contributions required by this article.

9 (f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, any individual who is a leased  
10 employee is not eligible to participate in the plan. For purposes of this plan, a "leased employee"  
11 means any individual who performs services as an independent contractor or pursuant to an  
12 agreement with an employee leasing organization or similar organization. If a question arises  
13 regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee, the board has final power to decide the  
14 question.

## 15 **CHAPTER 18. EDUCATION.**

### 16 **ARTICLE 7A. STATE TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM.**

#### 17 **§18-7A-13. Membership in retirement system; cessation of membership; reinstatement of** 18 **withdrawn service.**

19 The membership of the retirement system shall consist of the following:

20 (a) New entrants, whose membership in the system is compulsory upon employment as  
21 teachers and nonteachers: *Provided*, That any teaching member or nonteaching member, as defined

1 in section three of this article, who has concurrent employment in an additional job or jobs which  
2 would require the teaching member or nonteaching member to be a member of the West Virginia  
3 Deputy Sheriff Retirement System, the West Virginia Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters  
4 Retirement System or the West Virginia Emergency Medical Services Retirement System shall abide  
5 by the concurrent employment statutory provisions of said retirement system and shall participate  
6 in only one retirement system administered by the retirement board.

7 (b) The membership of the retirement system shall not include any person who is an active  
8 member of or who has been retired by the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System, the  
9 judge's retirement system, or the retirement system of the West Virginia State Police or the  
10 supplemental retirement system as provided in section four-a, article twenty-three of this chapter.

11 The membership of any person in the retirement system ceases: (1) Upon the withdrawal of  
12 accumulated contributions after the cessation of service; (2) upon effective retirement date; (3) at  
13 death; or (4) upon the date, if any, when after the cessation of service, the outstanding balance of any  
14 loan obtained by the member pursuant to section thirty-four of this article or section five, article  
15 seven-d of this chapter, plus accrued interest, equals or exceeds the member's accumulated  
16 contributions.

17 (c) Any former member of the retirement system who has withdrawn accumulated  
18 contributions but subsequently reenters the retirement system may repay to the retirement fund the  
19 amount withdrawn, plus interest at a rate set by the board, compounded annually from the date of  
20 withdrawal to the date of repayment: *Provided*, That no repayment may be made until the former  
21 member has completed two years of contributory service after reentry; and the member shall be



1     accorded all the rights to prior service and experience as were held at the time of withdrawal of the  
2     accumulated contributions: *Provided, however,* That no withdrawn service may be reinstated that  
3     has been transferred to another retirement system from which the member is currently or will in the  
4     future draw benefits based on the same service. The interest paid shall be deposited in the reserve  
5     fund.

6             (d) No member is eligible for prior service credit unless he or she is eligible for prior service  
7     pension, as prescribed by section twenty-two of this article; however, a new entrant who becomes  
8     a present teacher as provided in this subdivision shall be considered eligible for prior service pension  
9     upon retirement.

10            (e) Any individual who is a leased employee is not eligible to participate in the system. For  
11     purposes of this system, a "leased employee" means any individual who performs services as an  
12     independent contractor or pursuant to an agreement with an employee leasing organization or other  
13     similar organization. If a question arises regarding the status of an individual as a leased employee,  
14     the board has final power to decide the question.