

**H. B. 2072**

(By Delegate Caputo)

[Introduced January 15, 2015; referred to the

Committee on Agriculture and 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 during his or her next three years of service and a like increase at three-year intervals thereafter, with these increases to be cumulative. Each conservation officer whose salary is fixed and specified pursuant~~

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

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

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

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

14 **§20-7-1c. Conservation officers, ranks, salary schedule, base pay, exceptions.**

15 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the ranks within the  
16 law-enforcement section of the Division of Natural Resources are colonel, lieutenant colonel, major,  
17 captain, lieutenant, sergeant, corporal, conservation officer first class, senior conservation officer,  
18 conservation officer and conservation officer-in-training. Each officer while in uniform shall wear  
19 the insignia of rank as provided by the chief conservation officer.

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

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

1 **SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

2	Conservation Officer-In-Training	
3	(first year until end of probation).....	\$26,337
4	Conservation Officer (second year).....	\$29,768
5	Conservation Officer (third year).....	\$30,140
6	Senior Conservation Officer(fourth and fifth year).....	\$30,440
7	Senior Conservation Officer First Class(after fifth year).....	\$32,528
8	Senior Conservation Officer (after tenth year).....	\$33,104
9	Senior Conservation Officer (after fifteenth year).....	\$33,528
10	Corporal (after sixteenth year).....	\$36,704
11	Sergeant.....	\$40,880
12	First Sergeant.....	\$42,968
13	Lieutenant.....	\$47,144
14	Captain.....	\$49,232
15	Major.....	\$51,320
16	Lieutenant Colonel.....	\$53,408
17	Colonel.....	

18 Beginning July 1, 2015, until and including June 30, 2016, conservation officers shall be paid  
19 the annual salaries based on the following schedule:

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

21 **SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

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

14 Beginning July 1, 2016, and continuing thereafter, conservation officers shall receive annual  
15 salaries as follows:

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

17 **SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

18	<u>Conservation Officer(In training 1-6 months)</u> .....	<u>\$31,122</u>
19	<u>Conservation Officer (After Training Through First Year)</u> .....	<u>37,958</u>
20	<u>Conservation Officer Second Year</u> .....	<u>38,922</u>
21	<u>Conservation Officer Third Year</u> .....	<u>39,294</u>
22	<u>Senior Conservation Officer (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Year)</u> .....	<u>39,682</u>

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

2 Corporal . . . . . 40,858

3 Sergeant . . . . . 45,034

4 First Sergeant . . . . . 47,122

5 Lieutenant . . . . . 51,298

6 Captain . . . . . 53,386

7 Major . . . . . 55,474

8 Lieutenant Colonel . . . . . 57,562

9 Colonel . . . . .

10 Each conservation officer whose salary is fixed and specified in this annual salary schedule  
 11 is entitled to the length of service increases set forth in section one-a of this article.

12 ~~Conservation officers in service at the time the amendment to this section becomes effective~~  
 13 In applying the salary schedules set forth in this section where salary increases are provided for  
 14 length of service, conservation officers in service at the time the schedules become effective shall  
 15 be given credit for prior service and shall be paid salaries as the same length of service will entitle  
 16 paid salaries the same length of service entitles them to receive under the provisions of this section.

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

19 (d) ~~Nothing in this section prohibits other pay increases as provided for under section two,~~  
 20 ~~article five, chapter five of this code: *Provided*, That any across the board pay increase granted by~~  
 21 ~~the Legislature or the Governor will be added to, and reflected in, the minimum salaries set forth in~~  
 22 ~~this section, and that any merit increases granted to an officer over and above the annual salary~~

- 1 ~~schedule listed in subsection (b) of this section are retained by an officer when he or she advances~~
- 2 ~~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.