

Senate Bill No. 451

(By Senators Carmichael, Leonhardt, Kessler, Nohe, Blair, Romano, Boso and Karnes)

[Introduced February 10, 2015; referred to the Committee on Military; and then to the Committee

on Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §15-1B-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to retaining current West Virginia National Guard firefighters; and allowing certain National Guard firefighters to become civilian firefighters with West Virginia Air National Guard.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §15-1B-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 1B. NATIONAL GUARD.

§15-1B-26. Firefighters and security guards to be members of the National Guard.

(a) Only firefighters and security guards who are members of the West Virginia National Guard may be employed by the Adjutant General as firefighters and security guards: *Provided*, That any person employed as a firefighter on the effective date of this section who is not a member of the West Virginia Air National Guard may continue to be employed as a firefighter: *Provided, however*, That no person who is not employed on the effective date of this section as a firefighter and who is

1 not a member of the West Virginia Air National Guard may be employed as a firefighter for the West
2 Virginia Air National Guard.

3 (b) Any firefighter employed by West Virginia Air National Guard who, after six years of
4 military service with the West Virginia Air National Guard, chooses not to reenlist may continue his
5 or her duties as a civilian firefighter under the authority of the West Virginia Air National Guard.
6 Any military firefighter transferring to civilian firefighter status retains his or her rank, salary and
7 benefits and shall be afforded all of the rights and privileges commensurate with that status.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow certain National Guard firefighters to become civilian firefighters for the West Virginia Air National Guard.

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