

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### House Bill 2072

FISCAL  
NOTE

2015 Carryover

(BY DELEGATE CAPUTO)

[Introduced January 13, 2016; referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
then Finance.]

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

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

1 That §20-7-1a and §20-7-1c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be  
2 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.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ANNUAL SALARY SCHEDULE (BASE PAY)**

**SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

10	Conservation Officer-In-Training	
11	(first year until end of probation) .....	\$26,337
12	Conservation Officer (second year) .....	\$29,768
13	Conservation Officer (third year).....	\$30,140
14	Senior Conservation Officer(fourth and fifth year).....	\$30,440
15	Senior Conservation Officer First Class(after fifth year) .....	\$32,528
16	Senior Conservation Officer (after tenth year).....	\$33,104
17	Senior Conservation Officer (after fifteenth year).....	\$33,528
18	Corporal (after sixteenth year) .....	\$36,704
19	Sergeant.....	\$40,880
20	First Sergeant.....	\$42,968
21	Lieutenant .....	\$47,144

22	Captain.....	\$49,232
23	Major .....	\$51,320
24	Lieutenant Colonel .....	\$53,408
25	Colonel .....	

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

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

29 **SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

30	<u>Conservation Officer(In training 1-6 months)</u> .....	<u>\$29,622</u>
31	<u>Conservation Officer (After Training Through First Year)</u> .....	<u>\$36,458</u>
32	<u>Conservation Officer Second Year</u> .....	<u>\$37,922</u>
33	<u>Conservation Officer Third Year</u> .....	<u>\$38,294</u>
34	<u>Senior Conservation Officer (4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> Year)</u> .....	<u>\$38,682</u>
35	<u>Conservation Officer First Class (7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> Year)</u> .....	<u>\$39,270</u>
36	<u>Corporal (10+ years)</u> .....	<u>\$39,858</u>
37	<u>Sergeant</u> .....	<u>\$44,034</u>
38	<u>First Sergeant</u> .....	<u>\$46,122</u>
39	<u>Lieutenant</u> .....	<u>\$50,298</u>
40	<u>Captain</u> .....	<u>\$52,386</u>
41	<u>Major</u> .....	<u>\$54,474</u>
42	<u>Lieutenant Colonel</u> .....	<u>\$56,562</u>
43	<u>Colonel</u> .....	

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

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

47 **SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

54 Corporal .....40,858

55 Sergeant.....45,034

56 First Sergeant .....47,122

57 Lieutenant .....51,298

58 Captain.....53,386

59 Major .....55,474

60 Lieutenant Colonel .....57,562

61 Colonel.....

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

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

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

72 ~~(d) Nothing in this section prohibits other pay increases as provided for under section two,~~  
73 ~~article five, chapter five of this code: *Provided, That any across-the-board pay increase granted*~~  
74 ~~by the Legislature or the Governor will be added to, and reflected in, the minimum salaries set~~  
75 ~~forth in this section; and that any merit increases granted to an officer over and above the annual~~  
76 ~~salary schedule listed in subsection (b) of this section are retained by an officer when he or she~~  
77 ~~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.