

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2762

**FISCAL
NOTE**

BY DELEGATES MARCUM, PHILLIPS, ELDRIDGE, HICKS,

ISNER, SPONAUGLE, WILLIAMS, IAQUINTA, FERRO,

BREWER AND CANESTRARO

[Introduced March 1, 2017; Referred

to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §15-2-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
 2 to authorizing the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police to increase the number
 3 of employees of the State Police Forensic Laboratory by twenty-five percent.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §15-2-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted
 2 to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE.

**§15-2-7. Cadet selection board; qualifications for and appointment to membership in State
 Police; civilian employees; forensic laboratory employees; salaries.**

1 (a) The superintendent shall establish within the West Virginia State Police a cadet
 2 selection board which shall be representative of commissioned and noncommissioned officers
 3 within the State Police.

4 (b) The superintendent shall appoint a member to the position of trooper from among the
 5 top three names on the current list of eligible applicants established by the cadet selection board.

6 (c) Preference in making appointments shall be given whenever possible to honorably
 7 discharged members of the Armed Forces of the United States and to residents of West Virginia.
 8 Each applicant for appointment shall be a person not less than twenty-one years of age nor more
 9 than thirty-nine years of age, of sound constitution and good moral character and is required to
 10 pass any mental and physical examination and meet other requirements as provided in rules
 11 promulgated by the cadet selection board: *Provided*, That a former member may, at the discretion
 12 of the superintendent, be reenlisted.

13 (d) No person may be barred from becoming a member of the State Police because of his
 14 or her religious or political convictions.

15 (e) The superintendent shall adhere to the principles of equal employment opportunity set
 16 forth in article eleven, chapter five of this code and shall take positive steps to encourage
 17 applications for State Police membership from females and minority groups within the state. An

18 annual report shall be filed with the Legislature on or before January 1 of each year by the
19 superintendent which includes a summary of the efforts and the effectiveness of those efforts
20 intended to recruit females, African-Americans and other minorities into the ranks of the State
21 Police.

22 (f) Except for the superintendent, no person may be appointed or enlisted to membership
23 in the State Police at a grade or rank above the grade of trooper.

24 (g) The superintendent shall appoint civilian employees as are necessary and all
25 employees may be included in the classified service of the civil service system except those in
26 positions exempt under the provisions of article six, chapter twenty-nine of this code.

27 (h) Effective July 1, 2001, through June 30, 2014, civilian employees with a minimum of
28 five years' service shall receive a salary increase equal to \$100 a year for each year of service as
29 a civilian employee. Every three years thereafter, civilian employees who have five or more years
30 of service shall receive an annual salary increase of \$300. The increases in salary provided by
31 this subsection are in addition to any other increases to which the civilian employees might
32 otherwise be entitled. After June 30, 2014, the provisions of this subsection are not operative.

33 (i) After June 30, 2014, West Virginia State Police civilian employees with a minimum of
34 one year service shall receive an annual longevity salary increase equal to \$500. The increases
35 in salary provided by this subsection are in addition to any other increases to which the civilian
36 employees might otherwise be entitled.

37 (j) Effective July 1, 2014, all current West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory
38 analysts, directors and evidence technicians shall receive a one-time, across-the-board salary
39 increase equal to twenty percent of their current salary.

40 (k) On or before January 1, 2018, the Director of the West Virginia State Police Forensic
41 Laboratory shall submit a report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance detailing the
42 West Virginia State Police Forensic Laboratory's ability to retain employees.

43 (l) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a rule or executive order, the

44 superintendent may increase the number employees of the West Virginia State Police Forensic
45 Laboratory by a number equal to twenty-five percent of the laboratory's authorized positions on
46 January 1, 2017.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize the superintendent of the West Virginia State Police to increase the number of employees of the State Police Forensic Laboratory by twenty-five percent.

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