WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4672

By Delegates Steele, Pack, Foster, Summers, Barrett, Wamsley, Smith, Maynor, Holstein, Booth, and Honaker

[Introduced February 14, 2022; Referred to the Committee on Finance]

A BILL to amend and reenact §15-2-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to enacting a pay raise for West Virginia State Troopers; and providing for an educational benefit.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE.

§15-2-5. Career progression system state; salaries; exclusion from wage and hour laws, with supplemental payment; bond; leave time for members called to duty in guard or reserves.

(a) The superintendent shall establish within the West Virginia State Police a system to provide for: (1) The promotion of members to the supervisory ranks of sergeant, first sergeant, second lieutenant, and first lieutenant; (2) the classification of nonsupervisory members within the field operations force to the ranks of trooper, senior trooper, trooper first class, or corporal; and (3) the temporary reclassification of members assigned to administrative duties as administrative support specialist I-VIII. The promotion of individuals in the forensic laboratory shall include the classifications of Evidence Custodians I-IV, Forensic Technicians I-III, Forensic Scientists I-VI, and Forensic Scientist Supervisors I-IV, based on the Forensic Lab Career Progression System.

(b) The superintendent may propose legislative rules for promulgation in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq*. of this code for the purpose of ensuring consistency, predictability, and independent review of any system developed under the provisions of this section.

(c) The superintendent shall provide to each member a written manual governing any system established under the provisions of this section and specific procedures shall be identified for the evaluation and testing of members for promotion or reclassification and the subsequent placement of any members on a promotional eligibility or reclassification recommendation list. A written manual shall also be provided to individuals within the forensic laboratory governing any system established under the provisions of this section and specific procedures shall be identified for the evaluation of promotion or reclassification of those individuals.

(d) Beginning on July 1, ~~2019~~ 2022, members shall receive annual salaries payable at least twice per month as follows:

ANNUAL SALARY SCHEDULE (BASE PAY)

SUPERVISORY AND NONSUPERVISORY RANKS

Cadet During Training $ ~~38,524~~ 58,524

Cadet Trooper After Training ~~45,784~~ 65,784

Trooper Second Year ~~46,796~~ 66,796

Trooper Third Year ~~47,179~~ 67,179

Senior Trooper ~~47,578~~ 67,578

Trooper First Class ~~48,184~~ 68,184

Corporal ~~48,790~~ 70,000

Sergeant ~~53,091~~ 73,091

First Sergeant ~~55,242~~ 75,242

Second Lieutenant ~~57,392~~ 77,392

First Lieutenant ~~59,543~~ 79,543

Captain ~~61,694~~ 81,694

Major ~~63,844~~ 83,844

Lieutenant Colonel ~~65,995~~ 85,995

ANNUAL SALARY SCHEDULE (BASE PAY)

ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT SPECIALIST CLASSIFICATION

I $46,796

II 47,578

III 48,184

IV 48,790

V 53,091

VI 55,242

VII 57,392

VIII 59,543

Beginning on July 1, 2021, designated individuals within the forensic laboratory shall receive annual base salaries payable at least twice per month as follows:

ANNUAL SALARY SCHEDULE (BASE PAY)

EVIDENCE CUSTODIAN

I $35,650

II 37,978

III 41,639

IV 44,666

FORENSIC TECHNICIAN

I $37,850

II 39,544

III 43,426

FORENSIC SCIENTIST

I $45,050

II 47,234

III 49,338

IV 51,737

V 55,263

VI 59,063

FORENSIC SCIENTIST SUPERVISOR

I $61,762

II 65,326

III 69,104

IV 73,108

Each member of the West Virginia State Police whose salary is fixed and specified in this annual salary schedule is entitled to the length of service increases set forth in §15-2-5(e) of this code and supplemental pay as provided in §15-2-5(g) of this code.

(e) Each member of the West Virginia State Police whose salary is fixed and specified pursuant to this section shall receive, and is entitled to, an increase in salary over that set forth in §15-2-5(d) of this code for grade in rank, based on length of service, including that service served before and after the effective date of this section with the West Virginia State Police as follows: Beginning on January 1, 2015, and continuing thereafter, at the end of two years of service with the West Virginia State Police, the member shall receive a salary increase of $500 to be effective during his or her next year of service and a like increase at yearly intervals thereafter, with the increases to be cumulative. The forensic laboratory employees whose salaries are fixed and specified pursuant to this section, shall receive, and are entitled to, an increase in salary over that set forth in §15-2-5(d) of this code, in accordance with §15-2-7(h) of this code.

(f) In applying the salary schedules set forth in this section where salary increases are provided for length of service, members of the West Virginia State Police in service at the time the schedules become effective shall be given credit for prior service and shall be paid the salaries the same length of service entitles them to receive under the provisions of this section.

(g) The Legislature finds and declares that because of the unique duties of members of the West Virginia State Police, it is not appropriate to apply the provisions of state wage and hour laws to them. Accordingly, members of the West Virginia State Police are excluded from the provisions of state wage and hour laws. This express exclusion shall not be construed as any indication that the members were or were not covered by the wage and hour laws prior to this exclusion.

In lieu of any overtime pay they might otherwise have received under the wage and hour laws, and in addition to their salaries and increases for length of service, members who have completed basic training and who are exempt from federal Fair Labor Standards Act guidelines may receive supplemental pay as provided in this section.

The authority of the superintendent to propose a legislative rule or amendment thereto for promulgation in accordance with §29A-3-1 *et seq*. of this code to establish the number of hours per month which constitute the standard pay period for the members of the West Virginia State Police is hereby continued. The rule shall further establish, on a graduated hourly basis, the criteria for receipt of a portion or all of supplemental payment when hours are worked in excess of the standard pay period. The superintendent shall certify at least twice per month to the West Virginia State Police payroll officer the names of those members who have worked in excess of the standard pay period and the amount of their entitlement to supplemental payment. The supplemental payment may not exceed $200 per pay period. The superintendent and civilian employees of the West Virginia State Police are not eligible for any supplemental payments.

(h) Each member of the West Virginia State Police, except the superintendent and civilian employees, shall execute, before entering upon the discharge of his or her duties, a bond with security in the sum of $5,000 payable to the State of West Virginia, conditioned upon the faithful performance of his or her duties, and the bond shall be approved as to form by the Attorney General and as to sufficiency by the Governor.

(i) In consideration for compensation paid by the West Virginia State Police to its members during those members’ participation in the West Virginia State Police Cadet Training Program pursuant to §30-29-8 of this code, the West Virginia State Police may require of its members by written agreement entered into with each of them in advance of such participation in the program that, if a member should voluntarily discontinue employment any time within one year immediately following completion of the training program, he or she shall be obligated to pay to the West Virginia State Police a pro rata portion of such compensation equal to that part of such year which the member has chosen not to remain in the employ of the West Virginia State Police.

(j) Any member of the West Virginia State Police who is called to perform active duty training or inactive duty training in the National Guard or any reserve component of the armed forces of the United States annually shall be granted, upon request, leave time not to exceed 30 calendar days for the purpose of performing the active duty training or inactive duty training and the time granted may not be deducted from any leave accumulated as a member of the West Virginia State Police.

(k) Any person employed in a supervisory or nonsupervisory rank in subsection (d) of this section, is entitled to an educational benefit up to $2,500 per year. The benefit is intended to provide assistance to further the education of any trooper through classes taken at an accredited educational institute in this state. This benefit may be prepaid to any person desiring to enroll in any class. If the class is not completed, meaning the person does not receive a final grade for the class, the trooper must repay any educational benefit received.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for a pay increase to West Virginia State Troopers, and to provide for an educational benefit.

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