

Senate Bill No. 472

(By Senators Palumbo, Laird, Tucker, Edgell, Wills, Browning,
Yost, Klempa, Kessler (Mr. President) and Plymale)

[Introduced February 1, 2012; referred to the Committee on the
Judiciary; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A Bill to amend and reenact §51-2A-6 of the Code of West Virginia,
1931, as amended, relating to increasing the compensation caps
for secretary-clerks and case coordinators in the family court
system.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That §51-2A-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2A. FAMILY COURTS.

**§51-2A-6. Compensation and expenses of family court judges and
their staffs.**

(a) A family court judge is entitled to receive as
compensation for his or her services an annual salary of \$62,500:

1 *Provided*, That beginning July 1, 2005, a family court judge is
2 entitled to receive as compensation for his or her services an
3 annual salary of \$82,500: *Provided, however*, That beginning July
4 1, 2011, the annual salary of a family court judge shall be
5 \$94,500.

6 (b) The secretary-clerk of the family court judge is appointed
7 by the family court judge and serves at his or her will and
8 pleasure. The secretary-clerk of the family court judge is entitled
9 to receive an annual salary of \$27,036: *Provided*, That on and
10 after July 1, 2006, the annual salary of the secretary-clerk shall
11 be established by the administrative director of the Supreme Court
12 of Appeals, but may not exceed \$35,000: *Provided, however*, That on
13 and after July 1, 2012, the annual salary of the secretary-clerk
14 shall be established by the administrative director of the Supreme
15 Court of Appeals, but may not exceed \$41,500. In addition, any
16 person employed as a secretary-clerk to a family court judge on the
17 effective date of the enactment of this section during the sixth
18 extraordinary session of the Legislature in the year 2001 who is
19 receiving an additional \$500 per year up to ten years of a certain
20 period of prior employment under the provisions of the prior
21 enactment of section eight of this article during the second
22 extraordinary session of the Legislature in the year 1999 shall
23 continue to receive such additional amount. Further, the secretary-

1 clerk will receive such percentage or proportional salary increases
2 as may be provided by general law for other public employees and is
3 entitled to receive the annual incremental salary increase as
4 provided in article five, chapter five of this code.

5 (c) The family court judge may employ not more than one family
6 case coordinator who serves at his or her will and pleasure. The
7 annual salary of the family case coordinator of the family court
8 judge shall be established by the Administrative Director of the
9 Supreme Court of Appeals but may not exceed \$36,000: *Provided,*
10 That on and after July 1, 2006, the annual salary of the family
11 case coordinator of the family court judge may not exceed \$46,060:
12 *Provided, however, That on and after July 1, 2012, the annual*
13 *salary of the family case coordinator shall be established by the*
14 *administrative director of the Supreme Court of Appeals, but may*
15 *not exceed \$52,000.* The family case coordinator will receive such
16 percentage or proportional salary increases as may be provided by
17 general law for other public employees and is entitled to receive
18 the annual incremental salary increase as provided in article five,
19 chapter five of this code.

20 (d) The sheriff or his or her designated deputy shall serve as
21 a bailiff for a family court judge. The sheriff of each county
22 shall serve or designate persons to serve so as to assure that a
23 bailiff is available when a family court judge determines the same

1 is necessary for the orderly and efficient conduct of the business
2 of the family court.

3 (e) Disbursement of salaries for family court judges and
4 members of their staffs are made by or pursuant to the order of the
5 Director of the Administrative Office of the Supreme Court of
6 Appeals.

7 (f) Family court judges and members of their staffs are
8 allowed their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the
9 performance of their duties. The expenses and compensation will be
10 determined and paid by the Director of the Administrative Office of
11 the Supreme Court of Appeals under such guidelines as he or she may
12 prescribe, as approved by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

13 (g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, family court
14 judges are not eligible to participate in the retirement system for
15 judges under the provisions of article nine of this chapter.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the compensation caps for secretary-clerks and case coordinators in the family court system. The bill is necessary as recent across-the-board raises for state employees have resulted in some of those employees exceeding the cap.

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

This bill was recommended for introduction and passage during the Regular Session of the Legislature by the West Virginia Supreme

Court of Appeals.