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**H. B. 2717**

(By Delegates Ashley, Skaff, Raines, Swartzmiller, Ferns,  
Reynolds, Stowers, White, Miley and Walker)

[Introduced February 25, 2013; referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §7-14-1 of the Code of West Virginia,  
1931, as amended, relating to requiring that deputy sheriffs  
be issued ballistic vests upon law-enforcement certification.

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

That §17-14-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 14. CIVIL SERVICE FOR DEPUTY SHERIFFS.**

**§7-14-1. Appointments and promotions of deputy sheriffs.**

Notwithstanding the provisions of article three, chapter six,  
and article seven, chapter seven of this code, all appointments and  
promotions of full-time deputy sheriffs shall be made only  
according to qualifications and fitness to be ascertained by  
examinations, which, so far as practicable, shall be competitive,  
as hereinafter provided. On and after the effective date of this  
article, no person except the chief deputy shall be appointed,  
promoted, reinstated, removed, discharged, suspended or reduced in

1 rank or pay as a full-time deputy sheriff, as defined in said  
2 section two, of any county in the State of West Virginia subject to  
3 the provisions hereof, in any manner or by any means other than  
4 those prescribed in this article.

5 Upon law-enforcement certification, all deputy sheriffs shall  
6 be provided necessary equipment by the county commission and the  
7 sheriff's office as appropriate to perform his or her duties. The  
8 equipment provided shall include, but not be limited to, a  
9 ballistic vest which meets the performance standards established by  
10 the National Law-Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center of  
11 the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) as published in NIJ  
12 Standard 0101.03, or any formal revision of this standard.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure deputy sheriffs are issued ballistic vests upon certification as law-enforcement officers.

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