

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2016 REGULAR SESSION

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 531**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

BY SENATOR FERNS

[Introduced February 6, 2016;

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary; and then to  
the Committee on Finance.]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
 2 designated §49-3-103; and to amend and reenact §59-1-10 of said code, all relating to  
 3 requiring each judicial circuit to have a court-appointed special advocate program and  
 4 each county to have special advocate for children in abuse and neglect proceedings;  
 5 raising price of certified copy of birth certificate, death certificate or marriage license from  
 6 \$5 to \$11; and creating a fund within the State Treasury to pay for implementation and  
 7 sustenance of court-appointed special advocate programs.

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

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new  
 2 section, designated §49-3-103; and that §59-1-10 of said code be amended and reenacted, all to  
 3 read as follows:

**CHAPTER 49. CHILD WELFARE.**

**ARTICLE 1. PURPOSES; DEFINITIONS.**

**§49-3-103. Requirement for each county to have a special advocate.**

1 (a) Every judicial circuit shall have a court appointed special advocate (CASA) program,  
 2 as defined in section three of this article. Each county in each judicial circuit shall have at least  
 3 one special advocate working exclusively in that county.

4 (b) The CASA program is paid with funds from the Court Appointed Special Advocate  
 5 (CASA) Fund created under subsection (c) of this section.

6 (c) There is created within the State Treasury a special revenue fund designated the Court  
 7 Appointed Special Advocate Fund, which consists of money collected under subdivision (4),  
 8 subsection (d), section ten, article one, chapter fifty-nine of this code.

9 (d) Upon written request to the State Treasurer, the Supreme Court of Appeals may  
 10 withdraw moneys from the Court Appointed Special Advocate Fund to fund CASA programs.

**CHAPTER 59. FEES, ALLOWANCES AND COSTS;**

**NEWSPAPERS; LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS.**

**ARTICLE 1. FEES AND ALLOWANCES.**

**§59-1-10. Fees to be charged by clerk of county commission.**

1 For the purpose of this section, the word "page" is defined as being a paper or electronic  
2 writing of not more than legal size, 8 1/2" x 14".

3 (a) When a writing is admitted to record, for receiving proof of acknowledgment ~~thereof of~~  
4 the writing, entering an order in connection ~~therewith~~ with the writing, endorsing clerk's certificate  
5 of recordation ~~thereon~~ on the writing and indexing in a proper index, the clerk of the county  
6 commission shall charge and collect the following fees:

7 (1) Fifteen dollars for a deed of conveyance with or without a plat, trust deed, fixture filing  
8 or security agreement concerning real estate lease.

9 (2) Forty dollars for a trustee's report of sale for any property for which additional  
10 information and filing requirements are required by section eight-a, article one, chapter thirty-eight  
11 of this code. Twenty dollars of each recording fee received pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
12 deposited into the county's General Revenue Fund and \$20 paid quarterly by the clerk of the  
13 county commission to the West Virginia Housing Development Fund established in article  
14 eighteen, chapter thirty-one of this code.

15 (3) Ten dollars for a financing, continuation, termination or other statement or writing  
16 permitted to be filed under chapter forty-six of this code.

17 (4) Ten dollars for a plat or map with no deed of conveyance.

18 (5) No charge for a service discharge record.

19 (6) Ten dollars for any document or writing other than those referenced in subdivisions  
20 (1), (2), (3), (4) and (5) of this subsection.

21 (7) One dollar for each additional page for documents or writings containing more than  
22 five pages.

23 For any of the documents admitted to record pursuant to this subsection, if the clerk of the  
24 county commission has the technology available to receive these documents in electronic form  
25 or other media, the clerk shall set a reasonable fee to record these writings not to exceed the cost  
26 for filing paper documents.

27 (8) Of the fees collected pursuant to subdivision (1), subsection (a) of this section, \$10  
28 shall be deposited in the county general fund in accordance with section twenty-eight of this article  
29 and \$1 shall be deposited in the county general fund and dedicated to the operation of the county  
30 clerk's office. Four dollars of the fees collected pursuant to subdivision (1), subsection (a) of this  
31 section and \$5 of the fees collected pursuant to subdivision (6), subsection (a) of this section shall  
32 be paid by the county clerk into the State Treasury and deposited in equal amounts for deposit  
33 into the Farmland Protection Fund created in article twelve, chapter eight-a of this code for the  
34 benefit of the West Virginia Agricultural Land Protection Authority and into the Outdoor Heritage  
35 Conservation Fund created in article two-g, chapter five-b of this code. The funds deposited in  
36 the State Treasury pursuant to this subdivision may only be used for costs, excluding personnel  
37 costs, associated with purpose of land conservation, as defined in subsection (f), section seven,  
38 article two-g, chapter five-b of this code.

39 (b) Five dollars for administering any oath other than oaths by officers and employees of  
40 the state, political subdivisions of the state or a public or quasi-public entity of the state or a  
41 political subdivision of the state, taken in his or her official capacity.

42 (c) Fifty-five dollars for issuance of marriage license and other duties pertaining to the  
43 marriage license (including preparation of the application, administering the oath, registering and  
44 recording the license, mailing acknowledgment of minister's return to one of the licensees and  
45 notification to a licensee after sixty days of the nonreceipt of the minister's return). This fee is  
46 reduced to \$35 if the applicants present a premarital education course completion certificate  
47 issued pursuant to section seven hundred one, article two, chapter forty-eight of this code, and  
48 dated within one year of the application for a marriage license.

49 (1) One dollar of the marriage license fee received pursuant to this subsection shall be  
50 paid by the county clerk into the State Treasury as a state registration fee in the same manner  
51 that license taxes are paid into the Treasury under article twelve, chapter eleven of this code;

52 (2) Fifteen dollars of the marriage license fee received pursuant to this subsection shall  
53 be paid by the county clerk into the State Treasury for the Family Protection Shelter Support Act  
54 in the same manner that license taxes are paid into the Treasury under article twelve, chapter  
55 eleven of this code;

56 (3) Ten dollars of the marriage license fee received pursuant to this subsection shall be  
57 deposited in the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Fund created by section six, article twenty-  
58 six, chapter twenty-nine of this code; and

59 (4) If a premarital education course completion certificate is not presented, the county  
60 clerk shall, on or before the tenth day of each month, transmit \$20 of the marriage license fee  
61 received pursuant to this subsection to the State Treasurer for deposit in the State Treasury as  
62 follows:

63 (A) Five dollars to the credit of the Family Protection Shelter Support Act in the same  
64 manner that license taxes are paid into the Treasury under article twelve, chapter eleven of this  
65 code;

66 (B) Five dollars to the credit of the special revenue account, hereby created, designated  
67 the "Fund for Civil Legal Services for Low Income Persons," which ~~shall consist~~ consists of all  
68 gifts, grants, bequests, transfers, appropriations or other donations or payments which may be  
69 received and administered by the Division of Justice and Community Services from any  
70 governmental entity or unit or any person, firm, foundation, or corporation for the purposes of this  
71 section, and all interest or other return earned from investment of the fund. Expenditures from the  
72 fund shall be made by the Director of the Division of Justice and Community Services and shall  
73 be limited to grants to nonprofit agencies which provide civil legal services to low income persons  
74 made at his or her discretion. Any balance in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall not

75 revert to the General Revenue Fund but shall remain in the fund and be expended as provided  
76 by this section.

77 (C) Ten dollars to the credit of the Marriage Education Fund created pursuant to section  
78 seven hundred two, article two, chapter forty-eight of this code.

79 (d) (1) One dollar and fifty cents for a copy of any writing or document, if it is not otherwise  
80 provided for.

81 (2) One dollar for each additional page if the writing or documents contains more than two  
82 pages.

83 (3) One dollar for annexing the seal of the commission or clerk to any paper.

84 (4) ~~Five~~ Eleven dollars for a certified copy of a birth certificate, death certificate or marriage  
85 license. Six dollars of each fee the county clerk collects for certified copies shall be remitted  
86 quarterly to the Tax Commissioner. Upon remittance of the fee, the county clerk shall file returns  
87 on forms and in the manner as prescribed by the Tax Commissioner. The Tax Commissioner shall  
88 then remit accrued funds to the State Treasurer, who shall place the collected funds in the Court  
89 Appointed Special Advocate Fund created in section six, article one, chapter forty-nine of this  
90 code.

91 (e) For copies of any record in electronic form or a medium other than paper, a reasonable  
92 fee set by the clerk of the county commission not to exceed the costs associated with document  
93 search and duplication.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide for a court appointed special advocate (CASA) program in each judicial circuit and court appointed special advocates in each county for child abuse and neglect cases. The bill also provides for a revenue stream and a fund within the State Treasury to pay for the implementation and sustenance of court-appointed special advocate programs.

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