

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Originating

House Bill 3515

By Delegates Akers and Maynor

[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;

Reported on March 28, 2025]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §15-2-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 appointment of officers of the West Virginia State Police; and increasing the number of
3 principal supervisors to 20.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WEST VIRGINIA STATE POLICE.

§15-2-4. Appointment of commissioned officers, noncommissioned officers, other members; temporary and permanent positions.

1 (a) The superintendent shall appoint, from the enlisted membership of the State Police, a
2 deputy superintendent who shall hold the rank of lieutenant colonel and be next in authority to the
3 superintendent. The superintendent shall appoint, from the enlisted membership of the State
4 Police, the number of other officers and members he or she considers necessary to operate and
5 maintain the executive offices, training school and forensic laboratory; and to keep records relating
6 to crimes and criminals, coordinate traffic safety activities, maintain a system of supplies and
7 accounting and perform other necessary services.

8 (b) The ranks within the membership of the State Police shall be colonel, lieutenant
9 colonel, major, captain, first lieutenant, second lieutenant, first sergeant, sergeant, corporal,
10 trooper first class, senior trooper, trooper or cadet trooper. Each member while in uniform shall
11 wear the insignia of rank as provided by law and written State Police policies. Members assigned
12 to the forensic laboratory shall hold the title of trooper, be classified as criminalists and wear the
13 insignia of classification as provided by written State Police policies.

14 The superintendent may appoint from the membership of the State Police ~~nineteen~~ 20
15 principal supervisors who shall receive the compensation and hold the temporary rank of
16 lieutenant colonel, major or captain at the will and pleasure of the superintendent. The
17 superintendent may also appoint from the membership of the executive protection section of the
18 State Police two additional supervisors who shall receive the compensation and hold the
19 temporary rank of first lieutenant and serve at the will and pleasure of the superintendent.

20 Appointments are exempt from any eligibility requirements established by the career progression
21 system: *Provided*, That any member appointed from within the executive protection section of the
22 State Police to the temporary rank of first lieutenant must have completed a minimum of two years
23 service within the executive protection section prior to becoming eligible for such appointment.
24 Any person appointed to a temporary rank under the provisions of this article remains eligible for
25 promotion or reclassification under the provisions of the career progression system if his or her
26 permanent rank is below that of first lieutenant. Upon the termination of a temporary appointment
27 by the superintendent, the member may not be reduced to a rank or classification below his or her
28 permanent rank or classification, unless the reduction results from disciplinary action, and remains
29 eligible for subsequent appointment to a temporary rank.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the number of principal supervisors to 20.

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