

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 5019**

By Delegates Sheedy, Stephens, Bell, and  
Canterbury

[Introduced February 02, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §6-2-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 bonds of county officers; and increasing all bond limits to \$500,000.

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

## **ARTICLE 2. OFFICIAL AND OTHER BONDS.**

### **§6-2-10. Bonds of county officers; required for deputy sheriffs.**

1 Every commissioner of a county commission and every clerk of a circuit court shall give  
2 bond with good security, to be approved by the circuit court, or the judge thereof in vacation; and  
3 every sheriff, deputy sheriff, surveyor of lands, clerk of a county commission, assessor, county  
4 superintendent of schools, notary public and magistrate shall give bond with good security, to be  
5 approved, unless otherwise provided by law, by the county commission of the county in which  
6 such officer is to act. The penalty of the bond of each commissioner of a county commission shall  
7 be not less than \$20,000 and not more than ~~\$200,000~~ \$500,000, the amount to be fixed by the  
8 circuit court of the county, or the judge thereof in vacation, by order entered of record on the proper  
9 order books of both the county and circuit courts; of the clerk of the circuit court, not less than  
10 \$10,000 nor more than ~~\$50,000~~ \$500,000; of the sheriff, not less than \$100,000 nor more than the  
11 aggregate amount of all state, county, district, school, municipal and other moneys which will  
12 probably come into his or her hands during any one year of his or her term of office; of the deputy  
13 sheriff, not less than \$35,000 nor more than ~~\$100,000~~ \$500,000; of the surveyor of lands, not less  
14 than \$1,000 nor more than ~~\$3,000~~ \$500,000; of the clerk of the county commission, not less than  
15 \$10,000 nor more than ~~\$50,000~~ \$500,000; of the assessor, not less than \$2,000 nor more than  
16 ~~\$5,000~~ \$500,000; of the county superintendent of schools, not less than \$10,000 nor more than  
17 ~~\$50,000~~ \$500,000; of a notary public, not less than \$250 nor more than ~~\$1,000~~ \$500,000. Any  
18 public body required to pay the premiums on official bonds may provide a blanket bond policy for  
19 two or more such official bonds: *Provided*, That the bond herein required to be given by a notary  
20 public may be given before the clerk of the county commission, in the vacation of said commission,  
21 and approved by it at its next regular session.

22           For the purposes of this section, "deputy sheriff" shall mean a person appointed by a sheriff  
23   as his or her deputy whose primary duty as such deputy is within the scope of active, general law  
24   enforcement and as such is authorized to carry deadly weapons, patrol the highways, perform  
25   police functions, make arrests or safeguard prisoners.

26           The bond described in this section is not required for deputy sheriffs if a county purchases  
27   professional liability insurance pursuant to the provisions of section three, article fourteen-a,  
28   chapter seven of this code.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to raise all bonds to \$500,000.

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