

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 5571**

By Delegates Hott, Green, Brooks, Martin, Pritt,  
Dittman, B. Ward, Willis, Flanigan, Mallow, and  
Fehrenbacher

[Introduced February 16, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §5-5-4b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
 2 providing a pay equity salary adjustment and increase to certain employees of the Division  
 3 of Corrections and Rehabilitation; and specifying the funding for the pay equity salary  
 4 adjustments.

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

**ARTICLE 5. SALARY INCREASE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES.**

**§5-5-4b. Division of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Services, and Regional Jail Authority**

**pay equity salary adjustment.**

1 (a) The Legislature hereby finds that the Division of Corrections, Division of Juvenile  
 2 Services and the West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority have extreme  
 3 difficulty with recruiting and retaining employees of all types.

4 (b) The Legislature hereby directs that a pay equity salary adjustment and increase be  
 5 provided to all employees of the Division of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Services, and the  
 6 West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority, regardless of where the employee  
 7 reports to work. This salary adjustment shall be for a total of \$6,000 apportioned over a three-year  
 8 period as follows:

9 (1) On July 1, 2018, applicable employees of the Division of Corrections, Division of  
 10 Juvenile Services, and the West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority shall be  
 11 given an increase in annual pay of \$2,000;

12 (2) On July 1, 2019, applicable employees of the Division of Corrections, Division of  
 13 Juvenile Services, and the West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority shall be  
 14 given an increase in annual pay of \$2,000; and

15 (3) On July 1, 2020, applicable employees of the Division of Corrections, Division of  
 16 Juvenile Services, and the West Virginia Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority shall be  
 17 given an increase in annual pay of \$2,000.

18 (c) Funding for the pay rates for employees of the Division of Corrections and Division of  
19 Juvenile Services shall be provided from the general revenue appropriations to the Division of  
20 Corrections and Division of Juvenile Services, respectively.

21 (d) The salary adjustment for employees of the West Virginia Regional Jail Authority shall  
22 be funded from the special revenue fund established in §31-20-10 of this code, and shall not  
23 require additional general revenue appropriations from the Legislature.

24 (e)(1) The Legislature hereby directs that a pay equity salary adjustment and increase be  
25 provided to full-time equivalent employees of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation that  
26 are employed as non-uniform administrative staff. This salary adjustment shall be for a total of  
27 \$6,000 apportioned over a three-year period as follows:

28 (1) On July 1, 2026, applicable employees of the Division of Corrections and  
29 Rehabilitation shall be given an increase in annual pay of \$2,000;

30 (2) On July 1, 2027, applicable employees of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
31 shall be given an increase in annual pay of \$2,000; and

32 (3) On July 1, 2028, applicable employees of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
33 shall be given an increase in annual pay of \$2,000.

34 (f) For purposes of the reenactment of this section during the regular session of the  
35 Legislature in 2026, the salary adjustments set forth in subsection (e) of this section for the  
36 applicable full-time equivalent employees of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation that are  
37 employed as non-uniform administrative staff shall be paid from the general revenue  
38 appropriations to the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation: *Provided*, That the salary  
39 adjustment for the applicable full-time equivalent employees of the Division of Corrections and  
40 Rehabilitation that are employed as non-uniform administrative staff employed at a regional jail  
41 shall be funded from the special revenue fund established in §15A-3-16.

42 (e)(g) In the event any provision of this section conflicts with any rule, policy, or provision of  
43 this code, this section shall control. Due to the limits of funding, the implementation of the pay rates

44 and employment requirements shall not be subject to the provisions of §6C-2-1 *et seq.* of this  
45 code. The provisions of this section are rehabilitative in nature and it is the specific intent of the  
46 Legislature that no private cause of action, either express or implied, shall arise pursuant to the  
47 provisions or implementation of this section.

48 ~~(f)~~(h) If, following this pay raise, the employee will make more than the maximum allowable  
49 by the Division of Personnel for the pay grade, this salary increase shall still take effect, and that  
50 employee shall make more than the pay grade maximum.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide a pay equity salary adjustment for non-uniformed employees of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

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