

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 458

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced January 16, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §17-2A-4b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to Division of Highways payroll; and providing a \$5,000 raise to state road employees.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2A. WEST VIRGINIA COMMISSIONER OF HIGHWAYS.

**§17-2A-4b. Scholarships for training highway personnel; other training programs; notes
for money advanced; payment or cancellation of notes.**

1 (a) The Legislature hereby declares that there is a wide and continuing need for trained
2 personnel in the Division of Highways of this state and that the scholarships herein provided will
3 aid the Division of Highways in attracting and holding competent employees.

4 (b) The commissioner of highways is empowered to enter into contracts for training
5 programs with state colleges, universities and other training sources and to award scholarships to
6 competent persons, whether presently employed by the Division of Highways or not, for the
7 purpose of enabling and encouraging such persons to attend a college or university to pursue the
8 course of study as may be approved by the commissioner of highways, but the number of persons
9 holding such scholarships at any one time shall not exceed fifteen. Each scholarship shall carry a
10 stipend in an amount fixed by the commissioner of highways not in excess of \$12,000 in the
11 aggregate. The necessary expenditures for the scholarships shall be made from the funds
12 available to the Division of Highways. The recipient of a scholarship shall execute notes and shall
13 deliver said notes to the commissioner of highways. Each note shall be in the amount of the sum
14 received from the state road fund and shall be payable on demand to the Division of Highways.
15 The commissioner of highways shall hold said notes and if, for any reason, except death or
16 physical or mental disability, or being drafted into the armed services, the recipient of a scholarship
17 fails successfully to complete the course of study for which the scholarship was granted or if after
18 the completion of the prescribed course of study does not continue or become an employee of the
19 Division of Highways, or ceases to be an employee before all the notes have been paid or
20 canceled, the commissioner of highways shall make demand for payment of all of the unpaid and

21 uncanceled notes and shall promptly enforce collection thereon and shall deposit the sums so
22 collected thereon in the state road fund. The commissioner of highways is authorized to credit the
23 oldest outstanding notes in the sum of \$1,500 every six months that the recipient of the
24 scholarship is employed by the Division of Highways after completing the course of study for which
25 the scholarship was granted. The commissioner of highways shall have the power and authority to
26 make all necessary rules to carry this section into effect.

27 (c) Effective July 1, 2026, all employees of the Division of Highways shall enjoy a \$5,000
28 raise to their salaries in place as of July 1, 2026.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide a \$5,000 raise to state road employees.

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