

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

Senate Bill 715

BY SENATORS WILLIS, RUCKER, AND DEEDS

[Reported February 27, 2026, from the Committee on
the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §29-6-28, relating to requiring state agencies or appointing authorities to give
3 first consideration to any veteran of the United States armed forces and to any retired or
4 disabled law-enforcement officer when considering applicants for state employment.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 6. CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM.

**§29-6-28. First consideration in hiring for veterans of the U.S. armed forces and retired or
disabled law-enforcement officers.**

1 (a) Any state agency or appointing authority shall give first consideration to hiring any
2 veteran of the United States armed forces and any retired or disabled law-enforcement officer
3 when considering applicants for employment with the state.

4 (b) To receive first consideration pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, an applicant
5 shall provide documentation, which may not include medical records, to the state agency or
6 appointing authority as follows:

7 (1) A veteran of the United States armed forces shall provide documentation validating his
8 or her military service; and

9 (2) A law-enforcement officer shall provide documentation validating his or her retirement
10 or disability.

11 (c) As used in this section, "veteran" has the meaning specified in §6-13-1 of this code.