

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 792

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Senator Willis

[Introduced February 6, 2026; referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §50-1-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 courts and officers; and eliminating requirement that Supreme Court of Appeals supply
3 magistrates with copies of West Virginia Code.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. COURTS AND OFFICERS.

§50-1-11. Offices for magistrates; location; expenses; copy of state code.

1 Subject to the rules of the Supreme Court of Appeals, the location of offices for magistrates
2 shall be determined by order of the judge of the circuit court, or the chief judge thereof if there is
3 more than one judge of the circuit court. When required by geography or population dispersion and
4 in order to make such offices accessible to the public, an order may require more than one location
5 for each magistrate. As near as practicable within a county, all office accommodations shall be
6 comparable. All expenses of acquiring or renting offices and utility and telephone expenses shall
7 be paid by the county. All other expenses, including, but not limited to, expenses for furniture,
8 equipment and supplies, shall be paid by the state. ~~The administrative director of the Supreme~~
9 ~~Court of Appeals shall supply each magistrate with a current copy of the West Virginia code which~~
10 ~~shall remain the property of the state.~~

11 Magistrates who serve at more than one location within the county, whether on a regular or
12 temporary basis, shall be reimbursed travel expenses for travel between locations at a rate per
13 mile equal to that allowed for reimbursement of travel expenses of officers in the judicial branch of
14 state government.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the statutory requirement that the Supreme Court of Appeals supply all magistrates with hard copies of the West Virginia Code.

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