

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 952

BY SENATOR OLIVERIO

[Introduced February 16, 2026; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization; and
then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL and to amend and reenact §51-3-14 and §51-3-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
2 amended; and to repeal §51-3-17, relating to court security; transferring Court Security
3 Fund from Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety to Supreme Court of Appeals;
4 authorizing appropriation by Legislature to pay expenses of court in administering fund;
5 modifying membership of Court Security Board; and eliminating legislative rule-making
6 requirements for Court Security Board.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. COURTS IN GENERAL.

§51-3-14. Court security fund.

1 (a) The offices and the clerks of the magistrate courts and the circuit courts shall, on or
2 before the 10th day of each month, transmit all fees and costs received for the Court Security
3 Fund in accordance with the provisions of §50-3-1 and §50-3-2 of this code and §59-1-11 of this
4 code for deposit in the State Treasury to the credit of a special revenue fund to be known as the
5 Court Security Fund, which is hereby created under the ~~Department of Military Affairs and Public~~
6 ~~Safety~~ Supreme Court of Appeals. The Court Security Fund may receive any gifts, grants,
7 contributions or other money from any source which is specifically designated for deposit in the
8 fund. All moneys collected and received and paid into the State Treasury and credited to the Court
9 Security Fund shall be expended by the board exclusively to implement the improvement
10 measures agreed upon in accordance with the security plans submitted pursuant to ~~section~~
11 ~~sixteen of this article~~ §51-3-16 of this code and in accordance with an appropriation by the
12 Legislature and to pay expenses of the ~~Department of Military Affairs and Public Safety~~ Supreme
13 Court of Appeals in administering this fund, which expenses may not in any fiscal year exceed
14 the lesser of three percent of the funds deposited into the Court Security Fund or \$30,000.
15 Amounts collected which are found from time to time to exceed the funds needed for the purposes
16 set forth in this article may be transferred to other accounts or funds and redesignated for other
17 purposes upon appropriation by the Legislature.

18 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, after June 30, 2000, the
19 Court Security Board shall transfer such amounts from the Court Security Fund as may, from time
20 to time, be directed by the Legislature in an appropriation act to the Domestic Violence Legal
21 Services Fund created in §48-2C-4c of this code. Any moneys transferred to the Domestic
22 Violence Legal Services Fund pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be expended for the
23 purposes specified in said section.

§51-3-15. Court security board, terms.

1 (a) There is hereby created a Court Security Board who shall make decisions on how the
2 money in the Court Security Fund is to be spent to enhance the security of courts. The board shall
3 consist of ~~seven~~ six members and the administrative director of the Supreme Court of Appeals
4 who shall serve ex officio and be the chair. The board shall be appointed as follows: One circuit
5 court judge appointed by the judicial association; one magistrate appointed by the magistrate's
6 association; one family law ~~master~~ judge appointed by the family law ~~master's court~~ judicial
7 association; one member of the bar appointed by the president of the West Virginia State Bar;
8 one representative of counties appointed by the West Virginia Association of Counties; and one
9 representative of sheriffs appointed by the West Virginia sheriffs association; ~~and one~~
10 ~~representative of the State Police appointed by the secretary of the Department of Military Affairs~~
11 ~~and Public Safety.~~

12 (b) ~~The members of the board shall each serve terms that commence on July 1, 1996. Of~~
13 ~~the initial appointments to the board, two shall serve for two-year terms, two shall serve for three-~~
14 ~~year terms and two shall serve for four-year terms. Thereafter, each~~ Each appointment shall be
15 for a four-year term commencing upon the expiration of his or her previous term or of his or her
16 predecessor's term. No member may be appointed for more than three consecutive terms.
17 Vacancies shall be appointed in a like manner for the balance of an unexpired term.

18 (c) The board shall compile and keep a list of able and available law-enforcement officers
19 who have obtained certification in compliance with the provisions of §30-29-5 of this code and

20 who have maintained all necessary qualifications and firearms certifications to enable them to
21 serve as bailiffs in court facilities. The board shall make the list available to all county sheriffs for
22 their use in recruiting and hiring temporary, part-time, or occasional bailiffs to exercise all the
23 powers and duties of bailiffs in the court facilities in their counties.

§51-3-17. Promulgation of legislative rules.

1 [Repealed.]