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H. B. 2054

(By Delegates Shaver, Duke and Butcher)
[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the
Committee on Government Organization then Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

10 A BILL to amend and reenact §5A-1A-4 of the Code of West Virginia,
11 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the maximum cash
12 award the Employee Suggestion Award Board may make; requiring
13 the board to report to the Legislature every five years
14 regarding effect of inflation; and allowing the Governor to
15 make a secondary award for suggestions if the suggestion is
16 implemented in one or more additional state agencies.

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

18 That §5A-1A-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
19 be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

20 **ARTICLE 1A. EMPLOYEE SUGGESTION AWARD PROGRAM.**

21 **§5A-1A-4. Awards.**

22 (a) The maximum cash award approved ~~shall be~~ is limited to
23 twenty percent of the first year's estimated savings, as

1 established by the head of the affected spending unit, or ~~ten~~
2 ~~thousand dollars~~ \$16,000, whichever is less. ~~Any~~ A cash award
3 approved by the board shall be charged by the head of the affected
4 spending unit against the appropriation item or items to which ~~such~~
5 the estimated savings apply.

6 (b) Beginning in December 2015 and every five years after
7 that, the board shall submit a report to the Joint Committee on
8 Government and Finance containing:

9 (1) The amount the maximum award amount would need to be
10 adjusted to compensate for inflation; and

11 (2) Its recommendation, if any, addressing the amount the
12 maximum award amount should be changed.

13 (c) After the board has made an award for a suggestion, the
14 Governor may make one secondary award of up to twenty percent of
15 the additional savings realized by implementing the suggestion in
16 one or more other state agencies, not to exceed \$5,000. The
17 Governor shall pay secondary awards from funds appropriated by the
18 Legislature for secondary awards.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to:

(1) Increase the maximum cash award the Employee Suggestion Award Board may make for an individual award to \$16,000;

(2) Require the board to report to the Legislature every five years the amount the maximum award amount would need to be adjusted to compensate for inflation and give its recommendation, if any, addressing the amount the maximum award amount should be changed; and

(3) Allow the Governor to make a secondary award of up to

\$5,000 for suggestions the board has approved if the suggestion is implemented in one or more additional state agencies.

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