

**H. B. 2243**

(By Delegates Miller, J., Overington and Cowles)  
[Introduced January 12, 2011; referred to the  
Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.]

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
adding thereto a new section, designated §56-6-14a, relating  
to disclosure by a judicial officer of campaign contributions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended  
by adding thereto a new section, designated §56-6-14a, to read as  
follows:

**ARTICLE 6. TRIAL.**

**§56-6-14a. Contributions disclosure.**

(a) On or before January 1 of each calendar year, the  
Secretary of State shall supply to each circuit clerk and the clerk  
of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals a list of all  
attorneys who have donated more than \$250 to: (1) The election  
campaign of a candidate for judicial office, including magistrates,  
family court judges, circuit court judges and justices of the

1 Supreme Court of Appeals; or (2) any campaign for or against the  
2 election of a candidate for judicial office: Provided, That if a  
3 candidate has not provided the donors' occupations, the secretary  
4 shall make a good faith effort to determine those occupations.

5 (b) In matters before any judicial officer, including when a  
6 jury has been empaneled, immediately following the completion of  
7 voir dire, if applicable, and before testimony is taken, the clerk  
8 shall inform, in writing, members of the jury and trial counsel of:

9 (1) All election contributions greater than \$250 that the  
10 judicial officer has ever received;

11 (2) All election contributions greater than \$250 that  
12 advocated for or against the election of the judicial officer; and

13 (3) All election contributions of more than \$250 that the  
14 judicial officer has ever received from any attorney in the  
15 proceeding before the court, including the specific amount given by  
16 each attorney and the date the contribution was made. The clerk  
17 shall also cause a copy of this information to be entered into the  
18 record.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require disclosure by  
judicial officers of campaign contributions in excess of \$250.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely  
underscored.