

# H. B. 4064

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(BY DELEGATES SHAVER, DUKE AND BUTCHER)

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[Introduced January 13, 2012; referred to the  
Committee on Finance.]

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

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

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

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

**§5A-1A-4. Awards.**

1           (a) The maximum cash award approved ~~shall be~~ is limited  
2           to twenty percent of the first year's estimated savings, as  
3           established by the head of the affected spending unit, or ~~ten~~  
4           ~~thousand dollars~~ \$16,000, whichever is less. ~~Any~~ A cash  
5           award approved by the board shall be charged by the head of  
6           the affected spending unit against the appropriation item or  
7           items to which ~~such~~ the estimated savings apply.

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

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

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

15          (c) After the board has made an award for a suggestion,  
16          the Governor may make one secondary award of up to twenty

17 percent of the additional savings realized by implementing  
18 the suggestion in one or more other state agencies, not to  
19 exceed \$5,000. The Governor shall pay secondary awards  
20 from funds appropriated by the Legislature for secondary  
21 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.