

**Senate Bill No. 131**

(By Senators Unger and Williams)

[Introduced February 13, 2013; referred to the Committee on  
Military; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

A BILL to amend and reenact §15-1B-26 of the Code of West Virginia,  
1931, as amended, relating to retaining current West Virginia  
National Guard firefighters; and allowing certain National  
Guard firefighters to become civilian firefighters with the  
West Virginia National Guard.

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

That §15-1B-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 1B. NATIONAL GUARD.**

**§15-1B-26. Firefighters and security guards to be members of the  
National Guard.**

(a) Only firefighters and security guards who are members of  
the West Virginia National Guard may be employed by the Adjutant  
General as firefighters and security guards: *Provided, That any*

1 person employed as a firefighter on the effective date of this  
2 section who is not a member of the West Virginia Air National Guard  
3 may continue to be employed as a firefighter: *Provided, however,*  
4 That no person who is not employed on the effective date of this  
5 section as a firefighter and who is not a member of the West  
6 Virginia Air National Guard may be employed as a firefighter for  
7 the West Virginia Air National Guard.

8       (b) Any firefighter employed by the West Virginia Air National  
9 Guard who, after six years of military service with the West  
10 Virginia Air National Guard, chooses not to reenlist may continue  
11 his or her duties as a civilian firefighter under the authority of  
12 the West Virginia Air National Guard. Any such military  
13 firefighter transferring to civilian firefighter status shall  
14 retain his or her rank, salary and benefits and shall be afforded  
15 all of the rights and privileges commensurate with that status.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to allow West Virginia National Guard firefighters to become civilian firefighters for the West Virginia Air National Guard.

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