

Senate Bill No. 114

(By Senators Laird, D. Hall and Miller)

[Introduced January 14, 2015; referred to the Committee on Government Organization; and then
to the Committee on the Judiciary.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
designated §8-14-3a, relating to requiring municipal law-enforcement officers to wear certain
armor vests when feasible; and requiring municipal police chiefs to create policy regarding
mandatory use of certain armor vests.

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 §8-14-3a, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 14. LAW AND ORDER; POLICE FORCE OR DEPARTMENTS; POWERS,
AUTHORITY AND DUTIES OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS
AND POLICEMEN; POLICE MATRONS; SPECIAL SCHOOL ZONE
AND PARKING LOT OR PARKING BUILDING POLICE OFFICERS;
CIVIL SERVICE FOR CERTAIN POLICE DEPARTMENTS.**

1 **§8-14-3a. Mandatory armor vest wear policy requirement.**

2 Every police force or department of a municipality shall adopt a formal policy by January 1,
3 2016, that requires all law-enforcement officers in their police force or department to wear an armor
4 vest throughout each duty shift whenever feasible. The terms and exemptions of this mandatory
5 wear policy shall be determined by each chief of police in the reasonable exercise of his or her
6 discretion: *Provided*, That the policy must define an “armor vest” as a vest that has met the
7 performance standards established by the National Law-Enforcement and Corrections Technology
8 Center of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) as published in NIJ Standard 0101.03, or any formal
9 revision of this standard.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require West Virginia municipal police officers to wear armor vests whenever feasible.

§8-14-3a is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.