

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2016 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 132

**FISCAL
NOTE**

BY SENATORS LAIRD, UNGER AND MILLER

[Introduced January 13, 2016;

Referred to the Committee on Government

Organization; and then to the Committee on the

Judiciary.]

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

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new
 2 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.**

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

1 Every police force or department of a municipality shall adopt a formal policy by January
 2 1, 2017, that requires all law-enforcement officers in their police force or department to wear an
 3 armor vest throughout each duty shift whenever feasible. The terms and exemptions of this
 4 mandatory wear policy shall be determined by each chief of police in the reasonable exercise of
 5 his or her discretion: *Provided*, That the policy must define an “armor vest” as a vest that has met
 6 the performance standards established by the National Law-Enforcement and Corrections
 7 Technology Center of the National Institute of Justice (NIJ) as published in NIJ Standard 0101.03,
 8 or any formal revision of this standard.

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

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