

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2019 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 2054**

BY DELEGATES SPONAUGLE, CAPUTO AND LONGSTRETH

[Introduced January 9, 2019; Referred  
to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Homeland  
Security then Government Organization.]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §29-6-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to giving all honorably discharged veterans 10 extra points when successfully completing  
3 a civil service examination.

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

## **ARTICLE 6. CIVIL SERVICE SYSTEM.**

### **§29-6-10. Rules of division.**

1 The board ~~shall have the authority to~~ may promulgate, amend or repeal rules, according  
2 to chapter 29-a of this code, to implement the provisions of this article:

3 (1) For the preparation, maintenance and revision of a position classification plan for all  
4 positions in the classified service and a position classification plan for all positions in the classified-  
5 exempt service, based upon similarity of duties performed and responsibilities assumed, so that  
6 the same qualifications may reasonably be required for and the same schedule of pay may be  
7 equitably applied to all positions in the same class. Except for persons employed by the governing  
8 boards of higher education, all persons receiving compensation as a wage or salary, funded either  
9 in part or in whole by the state, are included in either the position classification plan for classified  
10 service or classified-exempt service. After each such classification plan has been approved by  
11 the board, the director shall allocate the position of every employee in the classified service to  
12 one of the classes in the classified plan and the position of every employee in the classified-  
13 exempt service to one of the positions in the classified-exempt plan. Any employee affected by  
14 the allocation of a position to a class shall, after filing with the director of personnel a written  
15 request for reconsideration thereof in such manner and form as the director may prescribe, be  
16 given a reasonable opportunity to be heard thereon by the director. The interested appointing  
17 authority shall be given like opportunity to be heard.

18 (2) For a pay plan for all employees in the classified service, after consultation with  
19 appointing authorities and the state fiscal officers, and after a public hearing held by the board.  
20 Such pay plan shall become effective only after it has been approved by the Governor after

21 submission to him or her by the board. Amendments to the pay plan may be made in the same  
22 manner. Each employee shall be paid at one of the rates set forth in the pay plan for the class of  
23 position in which he or she is employed. The principle of equal pay for equal work in the several  
24 agencies of the state government shall be followed in the pay plan as established hereby.

25 (3) For open competitive examinations to test the relative fitness of applicants for the  
26 respective positions in the classified service. Such examinations need not be held until after the  
27 rules have been adopted, the service classified and a pay plan established, but shall be held not  
28 later than one year after this article takes effect. Such examinations shall be announced publicly  
29 at least fifteen days in advance of the date fixed for the filing of applications therefor, and may be  
30 advertised through the press, radio and other media. The director may, however, in his or her  
31 discretion, continue to receive applications and examine candidates long enough to assure a  
32 sufficient number of eligibles to meet the needs of the service and may add the names of  
33 successful candidates to existing eligible lists in accordance with their respective ratings.

34 An additional ~~five~~ 10 points shall be awarded to the score of any examination successfully  
35 completed by a an honorably discharged veteran. ~~A disabled veteran shall be entitled to an~~  
36 ~~additional ten points, rather than five points as aforesaid, upon successful completion of any~~  
37 ~~examination~~

38 (4) For promotions within the classified service which shall give appropriate consideration  
39 to the applicant's qualifications, record of performance, seniority and his or her score on a written  
40 examination, when such examination is practicable. An advancement in rank or grade or an  
41 increase in salary beyond the maximum fixed for the class shall constitute a promotion. When any  
42 benefit such as a promotion, wage increase or transfer is to be awarded, or when a withdrawal of  
43 a benefit such as a reduction in pay, a layoff or job termination is to be made, and a choice is  
44 required between two or more employees in the classified service as to who will receive the benefit  
45 or have the benefit withdrawn, and if some or all of the eligible employees have substantially equal  
46 or similar qualifications, consideration shall be given to the level of seniority of each of the

47 respective employees as a factor in determining which of the employees will receive the benefit  
48 or have the benefit withdrawn, as the case may be. When an employee classified in a secretarial  
49 or clerical position has, irrespective of job classification, actual job experience related to the  
50 qualifications for a managerial or supervisory position, the division shall consider the experience  
51 as qualifying experience for the position. The division in its classification plan may, for designated  
52 classifications, permit substitution of qualifying experience for specific educational or training  
53 requirements at a rate determined by the division.

54 (5) For layoffs by classification for reason of lack of funds or work, or abolition of a position,  
55 or material changes in duties or organization, or any loss of position because of the provisions of  
56 this subdivision and for recall of employees so laid off, consideration shall be given to an  
57 employee's seniority as measured by permanent employment in the classified service or a state  
58 agency. In the event that the agency wishes to lay off a more senior employee, the agency must  
59 demonstrate that the senior employee cannot perform any other job duties held by less senior  
60 employees within that agency in the job class or any other equivalent or lower job class for which  
61 the senior employee is qualified: *Provided*, That if an employee refuses to accept a position in a  
62 lower job class, such employee shall retain all rights of recall as hereinafter provided.

63 (6) For recall of employees, recall shall be by reverse order of layoff to any job class that  
64 the employee has previously held or a lower class in the series within the agency as that job class  
65 becomes vacant. An employee will retain his or her place on the recall list for the same period of  
66 time as his or her seniority on the date of his or her layoff or for a period of two years, whichever  
67 is less. No new employees shall be hired for any vacancy in his or her job class or in a lower job  
68 class in the series until all eligible employees on layoff are given the opportunity to refuse that job  
69 class. An employee shall be recalled onto jobs within the county wherein his or her last place of  
70 employment is located or within a county contiguous thereto. Any laid-off employee who is eligible  
71 for a vacant position shall be notified by certified mail of the vacancy. It shall be the responsibility  
72 of the employee to notify the agency of any change in his or her address.

73 Notwithstanding any other provision of the code to the contrary, except for the provisions  
74 of §5b-2-7 of this code, when filling vacancies at state agencies the directors of state agencies  
75 shall, for a period of 12 months after the layoff of a permanent classified employee in another  
76 agency, give preference to qualified permanent classified employees based on seniority and  
77 fitness over all but existing employees of the agency or its facilities: *Provided*, That employment  
78 of these persons who are qualified and who were permanently employed immediately prior to  
79 their layoff shall not supersede the recall rights of employees who have been laid off in such  
80 agency or facility.

81 (7) For the establishment of eligible lists for appointment and promotion within the  
82 classified service, upon which lists shall be placed the names of successful candidates in the  
83 order of their relative excellence in the respective examinations. Eligibility for appointment from  
84 any such list shall continue not longer than three years. An appointing authority shall make his or  
85 her selection from the top 10 names on the appropriate lists of eligibles, or may choose any person  
86 scoring at or above the ninetieth percentile on the examination.

87 For the establishment of eligible lists for preference as provided in subdivision (6) of this  
88 section, a list shall be provided according to seniority. An appointed authority shall make the  
89 selection of the most senior qualified person: *Provided*, That eligibility for appointment from any  
90 such list shall continue not longer than one year and shall cease immediately upon appointment  
91 to a classified position.

92 (8) For the rejection of candidates or eligibles within the classified service who fail to  
93 comply with reasonable requirements in regard to such factors as age, physical condition,  
94 character, training and experience who are addicted to alcohol or narcotics or who have attempted  
95 any deception or fraud in connection with an examination.

96 (9) For a period of probation not to exceed one year before appointment or promotion may  
97 be made complete within the classified service.

98 (10) For provisional employment without competitive examination within the classified

99 service when there is no appropriate eligible list available. No such provisional employment may  
100 continue longer than six months, nor shall successive provisional appointments be allowed,  
101 except during the first year after the effective date of this article, in order to avoid stoppage of  
102 orderly conduct of the business of the state.

103 (11) For keeping records of performance of all employees in the classified service, which  
104 service records may be considered in determining salary increases and decreases provided in  
105 the pay plan; as a factor in promotion tests; as a factor in determining the order of layoffs because  
106 of lack of funds or work and in reinstatement; and as a factor in demotions, discharges and  
107 transfers.

108 (12) For discharge or reduction in rank or grade only for cause of employees in the  
109 classified service. Discharge or reduction of these employees shall take place only after the  
110 person to be discharged or reduced has been presented with the reasons for such discharge or  
111 reduction stated in writing, and has been allowed a reasonable time to reply thereto in writing, or  
112 upon request to appear personally and reply to the appointing authority or his or her deputy:  
113 *Provided*, That upon an involuntary discharge for cause, the employer may require immediate  
114 separation from the workplace, or the employee may elect immediate separation. If separation is  
115 required by the employer in lieu of any advance notice of discharge, or if immediate separation is  
116 elected by an employee who receives notice of an involuntary discharge for cause, the employee  
117 is entitled to receive severance pay attributable to time the employee otherwise would have  
118 worked, up to a maximum of fifteen calendar days following separation. Receipt of severance pay  
119 does not affect any other right to which the employee is entitled with respect to the discharge.  
120 The statement of reasons and the reply shall be filed as a public record with the director.  
121 Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions of this subdivision, no permanent employee shall be  
122 discharged from the classified service for absenteeism upon using all entitlement to annual leave  
123 and sick leave when such use has been due to illness or injury as verified by a physician's  
124 certification or for other extenuating circumstances beyond the employee's control unless his or

125 her disability is of such a nature as to permanently incapacitate him or her from the performance  
126 of the duties of his or her position. Upon exhaustion of annual leave and sick leave credits for the  
127 reasons specified herein and with certification by a physician that the employee is unable to  
128 perform his or her duties, a permanent employee shall be granted a leave of absence without pay  
129 for a period not to exceed six months if such employee is not permanently unable to satisfactorily  
130 perform the duties of his or her position.

131 (13) For such other rules and administrative regulations, not inconsistent with this article,  
132 as may be proper and necessary for its enforcement.

133 (14) The board shall review and approve by rules the establishment of all classified-  
134 exempt positions to assure consistent interpretation of the provisions of this article.

135 The provisions of this section are subject to any modifications contained in chapter five-f  
136 of this code. The board may include in the rules provided for in this article such provisions as are  
137 necessary to conform to regulations and standards of any federal agency governing the receipt  
138 and use of federal grants-in-aid by any state agency, anything in this article to the contrary  
139 notwithstanding. The board and the director shall see that rules and practices meeting such  
140 standards are in effect continuously after the effective date of this article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to give all honorably discharged veterans ten extra points  
when successfully completing a civil service examination.

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