

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2300

**FISCAL
NOTE**

BY DELEGATES FOSTER AND FAST

[Introduced February 11, 2021; Referred to the Committee
on Pensions and Retirement then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §51-9-1a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating
2 to including family court judges in the Judges' Retirement System.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 9. RETIREMENT SYSTEM FOR JUDGES OF COURTS OF RECORD.

§51-9-1a. Definitions.

1 (a) As used in this article, the term "judge", "judge of any court of record" or "judge of any
2 court of record of this state" means, refers to and includes judges of the several family courts,
3 circuit courts and justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals. ~~For purposes of this article, the terms~~
4 ~~do not mean, refer to or include family court judges~~

5 (b) "Actuarially equivalent" or "of equal actuarial value" means a benefit of equal value
6 computed upon the basis of the mortality table and interest rates as set and adopted by the
7 retirement board in accordance with the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That when used in
8 the context of compliance with the federal maximum benefit requirements of Section 415 of the
9 Internal Revenue Code, "actuarially equivalent" shall be computed using the mortality tables and
10 interest rates required to comply with those requirements.

11 (c) "Beneficiary" means any person, except a member, who is entitled to an annuity or
12 other benefit payable by the retirement system.

13 (d) "Board" means the Consolidated Public Retirement Board created pursuant to article
14 ten-d, chapter five of this code.

15 (e) "Final average salary" means the average of the highest 36 consecutive months'
16 compensation received by the member as a judge of any court of record of this state.

17 (f) "Internal Revenue Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as it has been
18 amended.

19 (g) "Member" means a judge participating in this system.

20 (h) "Plan year" means the 20-month period commencing on July 1 of any designated year
21 and ending the following June 30.

22 (i) "Required beginning date" means April 1 of the calendar year following the later of: (i)
23 The calendar year in which the member attains age 70/1/2; or (ii) the calendar year in which the
24 member retires or otherwise separates from covered employment.

25 (j) "Retirement system" or "system" means the Judges' Retirement System created and
26 established by this article. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
27 provisions of this article are applicable only to family court judges, circuit judges and justices of
28 the Supreme Court of Appeals in the manner specified in this article. ~~No service as a family court
29 judge may be construed to qualify a person to participate in the Judges' Retirement System or
30 used in any manner as credit toward eligibility for retirement benefits under the Judges'
31 Retirement System~~

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to include family court judges in the Judges' Retirement System.

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