

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 293

By Senators Woodrum, Deeds, and Hamilton

[Introduced January 18, 2023; referred
to the Committee on Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §59-1-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 fees charged by sheriffs.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1. FEES AND ALLOWANCES.

§59-1-14. Fees to be charged by sheriffs.

1 (a) The county commission shall determine the amount which the sheriff may charge,
2 which charges shall not exceed the following:

3 For serving on any person an order, notice, summons or other process where the body is
4 not taken, except a subpoena served on a witness, and making return thereof ~~\$25.00~~ \$30.00

5 For summoning a witness..... ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

6 For serving on any person an attachment or
7 other process under which the body is taken..... ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

8 For levying an attachment on real estate and
9 making the return..... ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

10 For making any other levy..... ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

11 For serving a writ of possession..... ~~25.00~~ \$30.00

12 (b) The county commission shall determine the amount which the sheriff may charge,
13 which charges shall not exceed the following:

14 For conveying a prisoner to or from jail, for each mile of necessary travel either in going or
15 returning..... .25

16 For taking any bond..... 1.00

17 When a jury is sworn in court, for summoning and impaneling such jury..... 1.00

18 For issuing receipt to purchaser at delinquent tax sale..... 1.00

19 (c) The county commission, giving due regard to the cost thereof, may from time to time
20 prescribe the amount which the sheriff may charge for keeping any property or in removing any
21 property. When, after distraining or levying, he or she neither sells nor receives payment, and

22 either takes no bond or takes one which is not forfeited, he or she shall, if guilty of no default, have
23 (in addition to the \$1 for a bond, if one was taken) a fee of \$3, unless this be more than half of what
24 his or her commission would have amounted to if he or she had received payment; in which case
25 he or she shall (whether a bond was taken or not) have a fee of \$1 at the least, and so much more
26 as is necessary to make the said half of his or her commission. The commission to be included in a
27 forthcoming bond (when one is taken) shall be five percent on the first \$300 of the money for which
28 the distress or levy is made, and two percent on the residue of the money; but the commission
29 shall not be received, in whole or in part, except as hereinbefore provided, unless the bond be
30 forfeited, or the amount (including the commission) be paid to the plaintiff. An officer receiving
31 payment in money, or selling property, shall have the like commission of five percent on the first
32 \$300 of the money paid or proceeds from the sale, and two percent on the residue, except that
33 when the payment or sale is on an execution on a forthcoming bond, his or her commission shall
34 be only half what it would be if the execution were not on the bond.

35 (d) Any amounts collected by the sheriff pursuant to this section shall be deposited in a
36 separate account of the county general fund and used by the sheriff for the expenses of providing
37 the services herein described: *Provided*, That ~~\$2~~ \$5 of each fee collected pursuant to the
38 provisions of subsection (a) of this section shall be deposited by the county commission in the
39 "West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement Fund" created in ~~section six, article fourteen-d, chapter~~
40 ~~seven~~ §17-14D-6 of this code and \$3 of each fee collected pursuant to the provisions of
41 subsection (a) of this section shall be deposited by the county commission in the general revenue
42 account of the county commission. Any surplus funds that remain in the separate account of the
43 county general fund required by the provisions of this subsection on the last day of the fiscal year,
44 and have not been expended for the purposes herein described, shall revert to the county general
45 fund.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase fees charged by sheriffs and to increase the portion of fees directed to the Deputy Sheriff Retirement Fund.

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