

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 299

FISCAL
NOTE

By Senator Caputo

[Introduced January 11, 2024; referred
to the Committee on Pensions; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §5-10-48 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to
2 reemployment after retirement by public employees; and increasing the maximum
3 compensation that may be earned by certain retired public employees who accept
4 legislative per diem, temporary full-time, or temporary part-time employment from a
5 participating employer without suspending his or her retirement annuity.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 10. WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ACT.

§5-10-48. Reemployment after retirement; options for holder of elected public office.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that a compelling state interest exists in maintaining an
2 actuarially sound retirement system and that this interest necessitates that certain limitations be
3 placed upon an individual's ability to retire from the system and to then later return to state
4 employment as an employee with a participating public employer while contemporaneously
5 drawing an annuity from the system. The Legislature hereby further finds and declares that the
6 interests of the public are served when persons having retired from public employment are
7 permitted, within certain limitations, to render post-retirement employment in positions of public
8 service, either in elected or appointed capacities. The Legislature further finds and declares that it
9 has the need for qualified employees and that in many cases an employee of the Legislature will
10 retire and be available to return to work for the Legislature as a per diem employee. The
11 Legislature further finds and declares that in many instances these employees have particularly
12 valuable expertise which the Legislature cannot find elsewhere. The Legislature further finds and
13 declares that reemploying these persons on a limited per diem basis after they have retired is not
14 only in the best interests of this state but has no adverse effect whatsoever upon the actuarial
15 soundness of this particular retirement system.

16 (b) For the purposes of this section: (1) "Regularly employed on a full-time basis" means
17 employment of an individual by a participating public employer, in a position other than as an
18 elected or appointed public official, which normally requires 12 months per year service and at

19 least 1,040 hours of service per year in that position; (2) "temporary full-time employment" or
20 "temporary part-time employment" means employment of an individual on a temporary or
21 provisional basis by a participating public employer, other than as an elected or appointed public
22 official, in a position which does not otherwise render the individual as regularly employed; (3)
23 "former employee of the Legislature" means any person who has retired from employment with the
24 Legislature and who has at least 10 years' contributing service with the Legislature; and (4)
25 "reemployed by the Legislature" means a former employee of the Legislature who has been
26 reemployed on a per diem basis not to exceed 175 days per calendar year.

27 (c) If a retirant becomes regularly employed on a full-time basis by a participating public
28 employer, payment of his or her annuity shall be suspended during the period of his or her
29 reemployment and he or she shall become a contributing member to the retirement system. If his
30 or her reemployment is for a period of one year or longer, his or her annuity shall be recalculated
31 and he or she shall be granted an increased annuity due to the additional employment, the annuity
32 to be computed according to §5-10-22 of this code. If his or her reemployment is for a period less
33 than one year, he or she may request in writing that the employee and employer retirement
34 contributions submitted during reemployment be credited to the participating public employer
35 pursuant to §5-10-44 of this code, and his or her previous annuity shall be reinstated effective the
36 first day of the month following termination of reemployment and the board's receipt of written
37 notice thereof. A retirant may accept legislative per diem, temporary full-time, or temporary part-
38 time employment from a participating employer without suspending his or her retirement annuity
39 so long as he or she does not receive annual compensation in excess of ~~\$25,000~~ \$30,000.

40 (d) Senior judges, justices, and magistrates. –

41 (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, a retired judge or justice
42 who is recalled and assigned to temporary service as a senior judge or justice by the West Virginia
43 Supreme Court of Appeals may receive per diem compensation pursuant to the requirements of
44 §51-9-10 of this code while continuing to receive his or her annuity.

45 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (c) of this section, a retired magistrate
46 who is recalled and assigned to temporary service as a senior magistrate by the West Virginia
47 Supreme Court of Appeals may receive per diem compensation pursuant to the requirements of
48 §50-1-6a of this code while continuing to receive his or her annuity.

49 (e) If a member retires and is then subsequently elected to a public office or is
50 subsequently appointed to hold an elected public office, or is a former employee of the Legislature
51 who has been reemployed by the Legislature, he or she has the option, notwithstanding
52 subsection (c) of this section, to either:

53 (1) Continue to receive payment of his or her annuity while holding public office or during
54 any reemployment of a former employee of the Legislature on a per diem basis, in addition to the
55 salary he or she may be entitled to as an office holder or as a per diem reemployed former
56 employee of the Legislature; or

57 (2) Suspend the payment of his or her annuity and become a contributing member of the
58 retirement system as provided in subsection (c) of this section. Notwithstanding the provisions of
59 this subsection, a member who is participating in the system as an elected public official may not
60 retire from his or her elected position and commence to receive an annuity from the system and
61 then be elected or reappointed to the same position unless and until a continuous 12-month period
62 has passed since his or her retirement from the position: *Provided*, That a former employee of the
63 Legislature may not be reemployed by the Legislature on a per diem basis until at least 60 days
64 after the employee has retired: *Provided, however*, That the limitation on compensation provided
65 by subsection (c) of this section does not apply to the reemployed former employee: *Provided*
66 *further*, That in no event may reemployment by the Legislature of a per diem employee exceed
67 175 days per calendar year.

68 (f) A member who is participating in the system simultaneously as both a regular, full-time
69 employee of a participating public employer and as an elected or appointed member of the
70 legislative body of the state or any political subdivision may, upon meeting the age and service

71 requirements of this article, elect to retire from his or her regular full-time state employment and
72 may commence to receive an annuity from the system without terminating his or her position as a
73 member of the legislative body of the state or political subdivision: *Provided*, That the retired
74 member shall may not, during the term of his or her retirement and continued service as a member
75 of the legislative body of a political subdivision, be eligible to continue his or her participation as a
76 contributing member of the system and shall may not continue to accrue any additional service
77 credit or benefits in the system related to the continued service.

78 (g) Notwithstanding the provisions of §5-10-27b of this code, any publicly elected member
79 of the legislative body of any political subdivision or of the State Legislature, the Clerk of the House
80 of Delegates, and the Clerk of the Senate may elect to commence receiving in-service retirement
81 distributions from this system upon attaining the age of 70 and one-half years: *Provided*, That the
82 member is eligible to retire under the provisions of §5-10-20 or §5-10-21 of this code: *Provided*,
83 *however*, That the member elects to stop actively contributing to the system while receiving the in-
84 service distributions.

85 (h) The provisions of §5-10-22h of this code are not applicable to the amendments made to
86 this section during the 2006 regular session.

87 (i) The Legislature hereby finds and declares that a severe shortage of child protective
88 services workers and adult protective services workers exists throughout the state and therefore a
89 compelling state interest exists in expanding the use of retired employees to serve this critical
90 need. Notwithstanding any provision of subsection (c) of this section to the contrary, a person
91 receiving retirement benefits or eligible to receive retirement benefits pursuant to the provisions of
92 this chapter may accept employment as a child protective services worker or an adult protective
93 services worker on a full-time or part-time basis without having payment of his or her retirement
94 annuity suspended and without reentering the retirement system as a contributing member. This
95 subsection is only applicable if the retired employee meets the minimum qualifications of the
96 position, has been retired for at least 60 days, and is hired to fill an existing child protective

97 services or adult protective services vacancy. The retired employee may continue to work under
98 this subsection only as long as that position remains vacant. The vacant position shall be posted
99 until it is filled by a regularly employed person meeting the minimum qualifications to serve as a
100 child protective service worker or an adult protective service worker. The provisions of this
101 subsection shall expire July 1, 2025.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase the maximum compensation that may be earned by certain retired public employees who accept legislative per diem, temporary full-time, or temporary part-time employment from a participating employer without suspending his or her retirement annuity from \$25,000 to \$30,000 annually.

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