

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 3111

FISCAL
NOTE

By Delegates Dean, McCormick, B. Smith, Stephens,

Ward, Kelly, Moore, Hite, Chiarelli, and Pritt

[Introduced March 04, 2025; referred to the

Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §50-1-3, §51-1-10a, §51-2-13, §51-2A-6 and §51-11-11 of the Code
 2 of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the annual salary of
 3 magistrates, justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit court judges, family court
 4 judges, and judges of the Intermediate Court of Appeals.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 50. MAGISTRATE COURTS.

ARTICLE 1. COURTS AND OFFICERS.

§50-1-3. Salaries of magistrates.

1 Notwithstanding any provisions of this code to the contrary, beginning July 1, 2021, the
 2 annual salary of a magistrate shall be \$60,375, and beginning July 1, 2022, the annual salary of a
 3 magistrate shall be \$63,250.: Provided, That beginning July 1, 2025, the annual salary of a
 4 magistrate shall be \$75,840.

CHAPTER 51. COURTS AND THEIR OFFICERS.

ARTICLE 1. SUPREME COURT OF APPEALS.

§51-1-10a. Salary of justices.

1 The salary of each of the justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals shall be \$95,000 per
 2 year: *Provided, That beginning July 1, 2005, the salary of each of the justices of the Supreme*
 3 *Court shall be \$121,000: Provided, however, That beginning July 1, 2011, the annual salary of a*
 4 *justice of the Supreme Court shall be \$136,000: Provided further, That beginning July 1, 2021, the*
 5 *annual salary of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals shall be \$142,800, and beginning July*
 6 *1, 2022, the annual salary of a justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals shall be \$149,600.: And*
 7 *provided further, That beginning July 1, 2025, the annual salary of a justice of the Supreme Court*
 8 *of Appeals shall be \$167,552.*

ARTICLE 2. CIRCUIT COURTS; CIRCUIT JUDGES.

§51-2-13. Salaries of judges of circuit courts.

16 serves at his or her will and pleasure: *Provided*, That the Supreme Court of Appeals may authorize
17 additional family case coordinators if the workload of a circuit's family court requires extra staff
18 support. The annual salary of the family case coordinator of the family court judge shall be
19 established by the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court of Appeals but may not exceed
20 \$54,576. Beginning July 1, 2023, the annual salary of a family court case coordinator shall not
21 exceed \$56,876. Family court case coordinators may receive any general salary increase granted
22 to state employees, whose salaries are not set by statute, expressed as a percentage increase or
23 an across-the-board increase enacted after July 1, 2023. If more than one family case coordinator
24 is approved by the Supreme Court of Appeals, then the chief family court judge of that circuit shall
25 appoint, supervise, and assign job duties for any additional family case coordinator as needed for
26 that circuit.

27 (d) The sheriff or his or her designated deputy shall serve as a bailiff for a family court
28 judge. The sheriff of each county shall serve or designate persons to serve so as to assure that a
29 bailiff is available when a family court judge determines the same is necessary for the orderly and
30 efficient conduct of the business of the family court.

31 (e) Disbursement of salaries for family court judges and members of their staffs are made
32 by or pursuant to the order of the Director of the Administrative Office of the Supreme Court of
33 Appeals.

34 (f) Family court judges and members of their staffs ~~staff~~ are allowed their actual and
35 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties. The expenses and compensation
36 will be determined and paid by the Director of the Administrative Office of the Supreme Court of
37 Appeals under such guidelines as he or she may prescribe, as approved by the Supreme Court of
38 Appeals.

39 (g) The Supreme Court of Appeals is authorized to create additional classifications of
40 support staff that it deems necessary to adequately and efficiently staff the family courts of this
41 state, including, but not limited to, receptionists, assistant case coordinators, and assistant

42 secretary-clerks. The Supreme Court of Appeals may determine the authority to hire and
43 terminate, supervise, and assign job duties for these positions pursuant to its own employment
44 rules, policies, and procedures. The annual salary of additional support staff authorized by this
45 section shall not exceed the regular annual salary of a secretary-clerk and shall be paid by the
46 state on the same basis established for secretary-clerks as provided in this section.

ARTICLE 11. THE WEST VIRGINIA APPELLATE REORGANIZATION ACT.

§51-11-11. Judicial compensation and benefits; expenses.

1 (a) The annual salary of a Judge of the Intermediate Court of Appeals is ~~\$142,500~~;
2 Provided, That beginning July 1, 2025 the annual salary of a Judge of the Intermediate Court of
3 Appeals shall be \$159,600. The budget for the payment of compensation and expenses of
4 Intermediate Court of Appeals judges shall be included in the appropriation for the Supreme Court
5 of Appeals.

6 (b) Judges of the Intermediate Court of Appeals and staff shall be reimbursed for their
7 actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties under the guidelines
8 prescribed by the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court of Appeals.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide pay increases to members of the judiciary.

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