WEST VIRGINIA CODE: §18B-4-5

§18B-4-5. Campus police officers; appointment; qualifications; authority; compensation and removal; law enforcement grants; pension plan.

(a) The governing boards may appoint qualified individuals to serve as campus police officers upon any premises owned or leased by the State of West Virginia and under the jurisdiction of the governing boards, subject to the conditions and restrictions established in this section.

(1) A person who previously was qualified for employment as a law-enforcement officer for an agency or political subdivision of any state is considered qualified for appointment as a campus police officer.

(2) Before performing duties as a campus police officer in any county, a person shall qualify as is required of county police officers by:

(A) Taking and filing an oath of office as required by §6-1-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(B) Posting an official bond as required by §6-2-1 *et seq.* of this code.

(b) A campus police officer may carry a gun and any other dangerous weapon while on duty if the officer fulfills the certification requirement for law-enforcement officers under §30-29-5 of this code or meets the requirements of subsection (a) of this section.

(c) A campus police officer shall preserve law and order on:

(1) The premises under the jurisdiction of the governing board; and

(2) Any street, road, or thoroughfare, except controlled access and open country highways, immediately adjacent to or passing through premises, to which the officer is assigned by the president of the institution.

(A) For the purpose of this subdivision, the campus police officer is a law-enforcement officer pursuant to the provisions of §30-29-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(B) The officer has and may exercise all the powers and authority of a law-enforcement officer as to offenses committed within the area assigned;

(C) The officer is subject to all the requirements and responsibilities of a law-enforcement officer;

(D) Authority assigned pursuant to this subdivision does not supersede in any way the authority or duty of other law-enforcement officers to preserve law and order on these premises;

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(E) Campus police officers may assist a local law-enforcement agency on public highways. The assistance may be provided to control traffic in and around premises owned by the state when:

(i) Traffic is generated as a result of athletic or other activities conducted or sponsored by the institution; and

(ii) The assistance has been requested by the local law-enforcement agency; and

(F) Campus police officers may assist a local law-enforcement agency in any location under the agency's jurisdiction at the request of the agency.

(d) The salary of a campus police officer is paid by the employing governing board. A state institution may furnish each campus police officer with a firearm and an official uniform to be worn while on duty. The institution shall furnish and require each officer while on duty to wear a shield with an appropriate inscription and to carry credentials certifying the person's identity and authority as a campus police officer.

(e) A governing board may at its pleasure revoke the authority of any campus police officer and such officers serve at the will and pleasure of the governing board. The president of the state institution shall report the termination of employment of a campus police officer by filing a notice to that effect in the office of the clerk of each county in which the campus police officer's oath of office was filed.

(f) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this code to the contrary, and for purposes of enhancing the ability of campus police officers to perform their duties, a governing board may apply for and receive any public or private grant or other financial award that is available to other law-enforcement agencies in the state.

(g) Campus police officers hired before January 1, 2026, may elect to participate in the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System administered by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board: *Provided*, That no campus police officer participating in the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System may move any service credit or dollars previously accrued from any other retirement plan into the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System: *Provided, however*, That no campus police officer participating in the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System may participate in any other retirement system or plan offered by the campus police officer's employer: *Provided further*, That campus police officers hired before January 1, 2026, must inform the West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board in writing of their choice to become a member of the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System to begin membership: *And provided further*, That any campus police officer hired before January 1, 2026, who does not choose to become a member of the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System must inform the West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board in writing of their decision not to participate on or before December 31, 2025, and may not choose to participate in the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters

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after that date.

(h) All campus police officers hired on or after January 1, 2026, shall participate in the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System.

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