ENROLLED

HOUSE BILL No. 463

(BY MR. SPEAKER, MR. HANNAN)

PASSED March 13, 1953

In Effect July 1, 1953
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House Bill No. 463
(By Mr. Speaker, Mr. Flannery)

(Passed March 13, 1953; in effect July 1, 1953.)

AN ACT to amend and reenact section seven, article one, chapter fifteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, relating to the governor's staff of the national guard and to the appointment, qualifications, duties and compensation of the adjutant general.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That section seven, article one, chapter fifteen of the code of West Virginia, one thousand nine hundred thirty-one, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

Section 7. Governor's Staff: Adjutant General.—The staff of the governor shall consist of one adjutant general with rank of brigadier general, an assistant adjutant general with rank not above that of colonel, and, in addition thereto, such other officers as may be currently prescribed by existing tables of organizations as established by federal authority. The governor may also appoint and
commission an honorary staff to serve during his term
of office, of such number as he may deem advisable, with
such rank as he may fix, which honorary staff will not be
held to be a part of the regularly organized militia.

The adjutant general shall be appointed and commis-
sioned by the governor, but no person shall be appointed
adjutant general unless such person has had at least six
years' service in the national guard of this or some other
state, or in the armed forces of the United States, or in
all combined.

In time of peace he shall perform the duties of chief of
the pay, quartermaster and ordnance departments unless
otherwise ordered by the governor, and shall give bond in
such sum as the governor may require, such bond to be
provided in like manner as the bonds of other officers.
He shall receive a compensation of seven thousand dollars
per annum, which shall be paid to him in equal monthly
installments, and his term of office shall be for four years.
He shall attest, record, and seal with the seal of the state
all commissions issued by the governor, and keep a
register of all commissioned officers, with dates of com-
mission, and all changes occurring in the commissioned
force, and shall keep a full and complete record at all
times of the organized militia of the state. He shall, as
soon as possible after the first day of July in even years,
make a biennial report to the governor of the transactions
and the expenditures of his department and the condi-
tion of the national guard. Such report shall show all
receipts into the military or militia fund of the state
from every source, including fines, appropriations from
the state, and all money received from the federal govern-
ment and from every other source. All such funds and
moneys shall be paid into the state treasury as soon as
received, and shall be credited to the military fund. Such
report shall also show in detail all expenditures made
from each fund, and the purpose of the expenditures,
and shall state such other details as the governor may
order; and the report shall be communicated by the
governor to the next session of the legislature. He shall
also make such other reports and returns as may be re-
quired by the governor from time to time. He shall cause
to be procured, prepared and issued to the different
organizations of the national guard all necessary books and blanks for reports, records, returns and general administration, and shall, at the expense of the state, cause the military laws, military code, and rules and regulations in force to be printed, bound in proper form, and distributed, one copy to each commissioned officer, and one each to all the circuit, intermediate and criminal court judges, sheriffs, assessors, and justices of the peace in the state requiring them; and shall procure and supply all necessary textbooks of drill and instruction. He shall keep in his office an accurate account of all state and United States property issued to the state. He shall keep on file in his office all official bonds, except the bond of the adjutant general, which shall be filed with the auditor of the state; the reports and returns of troops and heads of military departments; and all other writings and papers which are required to be transmitted to and preserved at the general headquarters of the state militia. He shall employ such clerical force and assistants as may be required in the military department, in addition to the assistant adjutant general herein authorized. He
shall keep records of all service personnel from the state
of West Virginia, commissioned or enlisted, in any of the
wars of the United States, and of individual claims of
citizens of West Virginia for service rendered in such
wars. He shall assist all persons residing in this state
having claims against the United States for pension,
bounty or back pay, or such claims as have arisen out of,
or by reason of, service in any of said wars. To this end
he shall cooperate with the agents or attorneys of such
claimants, furnish to claimants only all necessary certifi-
cates or certified abstracts from, or copies of, records or
documents in his office, and shall in all practicable ways
seek to secure speedy and just action in all claims now
pending or which may hereafter be filed: Provided, That
any and all of the above services shall be rendered with-
out charge to the claimant. He shall establish and main-
tain as a part of his office a bureau of records of the serv-
ices of the West Virginia troops during such wars, and
shall keep arranged in proper and convenient form all
records and papers pertaining thereto.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

[Signature]
Chairman Senate Committee

[Signature]
Chairman House Committee

Originated in the House of Delegates

Takes effect [July 1, 1953] 

[Signature]
Clerk of the Senate

[Signature]
Clerk of the House of Delegates

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Speaker House of Delegates

The within approved this the 20th day of March, 1953.

[Signature]
Governor

[Signature]
Secretary of State