

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

House Bill 4561

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

2026 MAR 19 P 3:24

FILED

BY DELEGATES BROOKS, ROOP, PRITT, GREEN, AND

MARTIN

[Passed March 10, 2026; in effect 90 days from  
passage (June 8, 2026)]

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1 AN ACT to amend and reenact §7-14-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to clarifying a sheriff's authority to hire within their own office.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 14. CIVIL SERVICE FOR DEPUTY SHERIFFS.**

**§7-14-13. Vacancies filled by promotions; eligibility for promotion; rights of chief deputy.**

1 Vacancies in positions of deputy sheriff shall be filled, so far as practicable, by promotion  
2 from among persons holding positions in the next lower grade. Promotions shall be based upon  
3 merit and fitness, to be ascertained by competitive examinations to be provided by the civil service  
4 commission, and upon the superior qualifications of the persons promoted, as shown by their  
5 previous service and experience: *Provided*, That, except for chief deputy or jailer, no person shall  
6 be eligible for promotion from the lower grade to the next higher grade until such person shall  
7 have completed at least two years' service in the next lower grade: *Provided, however*, That  
8 notwithstanding the provisions of §7-14-1 of this code, any person occupying the office of chief  
9 deputy or any deputy sheriff occupying the office of jailer pursuant to the provisions of §7-8-2 of  
10 this code in any such county on the effective date of this article, or thereafter appointed to such  
11 office, shall, except as hereinafter provided in this section, be and shall continue to be entitled to  
12 all of the rights and benefits of the provisions of this article, except that he or she may be removed  
13 from such office of chief deputy or jailer without cause and the time spent by such person in the  
14 office of such chief deputy or jailer shall be added to the time, if any, served by such person during  
15 the entire time he or she was a deputy sheriff of such county prior to his or her appointment as  
16 chief deputy or jailer, and shall in all cases of removal, except for removal for just cause, retain  
17 the regular rank within said sheriff's office which he or she held, if any, at the time of his or her  
18 appointment to the office of chief deputy or jailer or which he or she has attained, if any, during  
19 his or her term of service as chief deputy or jailer. The sheriff may have and appoint more than  
20 one chief deputy by and with the advice and consent of the county commission, pursuant to the  
21 provisions of §7-7-7 of this code. The provisions of this section shall be construed to apply and to

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22 inure to the benefit of all persons who have ever been subject to the provisions of this article. The  
23 commission shall have the power to determine in each instance whether an increase in salary  
24 constitutes a promotion.

The Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.



Clerk of the House of Delegates



Clerk of the Senate

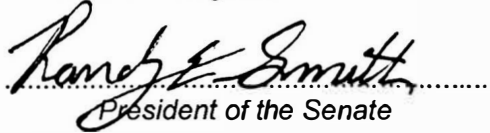
Originated in the House of Delegates.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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SECRETARY OF STATE



Speaker of the House of Delegates



President of the Senate

The within is approved this the 19th  
Day of March, 2026.

  
Governor



PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 11 2026

Time 11:45am