

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2017 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2355

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E. AND FLUHARTY

[Introduced February 13, 2017; Referred
to the Committee on Industry and Labor then the
Judiciary.]

1 A BILL to repeal §21-5G-1, 3 §21-5G-2, §21-5G-3, §21-5G-4, §21-5G-5, §21-5G-6, §21-5G-7 and
 2 §21-5G-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact
 3 §21-1A-3 and §21-1A-4 of said code, all relating to repealing the West Virginia Workplace
 4 Freedom Act and restoring prior law; and authorizing employers, through agreement with
 5 a labor organization, to require membership in the organization as a condition of
 6 employment.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

1 That §21-5G-1, 3 §21-5G-2, §21-5G-3, §21-5G-4, §21-5G-5, §21-5G-6, §21-5G-7 and
 2 §21-5G-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be repealed; and that §21-1A-3 and
 3 §21-1A-4 of said code be amended and reenacted, all to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 1A. LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS ACT FOR THE PRIVATE
 SECTOR.**

§21-1A-3. Rights of employees.

1 Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join or assist labor
 2 organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to
 3 engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid
 4 or protection, and shall also have the right to refrain from any or all of such activities, ~~including~~
 5 ~~the right to refrain from paying any dues, fees, assessments or other similar charges however~~
 6 ~~denominated of any kind or amount to a labor organization or to any third party including, but not~~
 7 ~~limited to, a charity in lieu of a payment to a labor organization~~ except to the extent that such right
 8 may be affected by an agreement requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of
 9 employment as authorized in subdivision (3), subsection (a), section four of this article.

§21-1A-4. Unfair labor practices.

1 (a) It shall be an unfair labor practice for an employer:
 2 (1) To interfere with, restrain or coerce employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed

3 in section three of this article;

4 (2) To dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any labor organization
5 or contribute financial or other support to it: *Provided*, That an employer shall not be prohibited
6 from permitting employees to confer with him or her during working hours without loss of time or
7 pay;

8 (3) By discrimination in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of
9 employment, to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization: *Provided*, That
10 nothing contained in this article, or in any other statute of this state, shall preclude an employer
11 from making an agreement with a labor organization (not established, maintained or assisted by
12 any action defined in this section as an unfair labor practice) to require as a condition of
13 employment membership therein on or after the thirtieth day following the beginning of such
14 employment or the effective date of such agreement, whichever is the later: (i) If such labor
15 organization is the representative of the employees as provided in section five of this article, in
16 the appropriate collective-bargaining unit covered by such agreement when made; and (ii) unless
17 following an election held as provided in subsection (d), section five of this article, within one year
18 preceding the effective date of such agreement, the board shall have certified that at least a
19 majority of the employees eligible to vote in such election have voted to rescind the authority of
20 such labor organization to make such an agreement: *Provided, however*, That no employer shall
21 justify any discrimination against an employee for nonmembership in a labor organization: (A) If
22 he or she has reasonable grounds for believing that such membership was not available to the
23 employee on the same terms and conditions generally applicable to other members; or (B) if he
24 or she has reasonable grounds for believing that membership was denied or terminated for
25 reasons other than the failure of the employee to tender the periodic dues and the initiation fees
26 uniformly required as a condition of acquiring or retaining membership;

27 (4) To discharge or otherwise discriminate against an employee because he or she has
28 filed charges or given testimony under this article; and

29 (5) To refuse to bargain collectively with the representatives of his or her employees,
30 subject to the provisions of subsection (a), section five of this article.

31 (b) It shall be an unfair labor practice for a labor organization or its agents:

32 (1) To restrain or coerce: (A) Employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in section
33 three of this article: *Provided*, That this subdivision shall not impair the right of a labor organization
34 to prescribe its own rules with respect to the acquisition or retention of membership therein; or (B)
35 an employer in the selection of his or her representatives for the purposes of collective bargaining
36 or the adjustment of grievances;

37 (2) To cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate against an employee in
38 violation of subdivision (3), subsection (a) of this section or to discriminate against an employee
39 with respect to whom membership in such organization has been denied or terminated on some
40 ground other than his or her failure to tender the periodic dues and the initiation fees uniformly
41 required as a condition of acquiring or retaining membership;

42 (3) To refuse to bargain collectively with an employer, provided it is the representative of
43 his or her employees subject to the provisions of subsection (a), section five of this article;

44 (4) (i) To engage in, or induce or encourage any individual employed by any person to
45 engage in, a strike or a refusal in the course of employment to use, manufacture, process,
46 transport or otherwise handle or work on any goods, articles, materials or commodities or to
47 perform any services; or (ii) to threaten, coerce or restrain any person, where in either case an
48 object thereof is:

49 (A) Forcing or requiring any employer or self-employed person to join any labor or
50 employer organization or to enter into any agreement which is prohibited by subsection (e) of this
51 section;

52 (B) Forcing or requiring any person to cease using, selling, handling, transporting or
53 otherwise dealing in the products of any other producer, processor or manufacturer, or to cease
54 doing business with any other person, or forcing or requiring any other employer to recognize or

55 bargain with a labor organization as the representative of his or her employees unless such labor
56 organization has been certified as the representative of such employees under the provisions of
57 section five of this article: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this paragraph may be construed
58 to make unlawful, where not otherwise unlawful, any primary strike or primary picketing;

59 (C) Forcing or requiring any employer to recognize or bargain with a particular labor
60 organization as the representative of his or her employees if another labor organization has been
61 certified as the representative of such employees under the provisions of section five of this article;

62 (D) Forcing or requiring any employer to assign particular work to employees in a particular
63 labor organization or in a particular trade, craft or class rather than to employees in another labor
64 organization or in another trade, craft or class, unless such employer is failing to conform to an
65 order of certification of the board determining the bargaining representative for employees
66 performing such work: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed to
67 make unlawful a refusal by any person to enter upon the premises of any employer (other than
68 his or her own employer), if the employees of such employer are engaged in a strike ratified or
69 approved by a representative of such employees whom such employer is required by law to
70 recognize;

71 (5) To require of employees covered by an agreement authorized under subdivision (3),
72 subsection (a) of this section, the payment, as a condition precedent to becoming a member of
73 such organization, of a fee in an amount which the board finds excessive or discriminatory under
74 all the circumstances. In making such a finding, the board shall consider, among other relevant
75 factors, the practices and customs of labor organizations in the particular industry, and the wages
76 currently paid to the employees affected;

77 (6) To cause or attempt to cause an employer to pay or deliver or agree to pay or deliver
78 any money or other thing of value, in the nature of an exaction, for services which are not
79 performed or not to be performed; and

80 (7) To picket or cause to be picketed, or threaten to picket or cause to be picketed, any

81 employer where an object thereof is forcing or requiring an employer to recognize or bargain with
82 a labor organization as the representative of his or her employees, or forcing or requiring the
83 employees of an employer to accept or select such labor organization as their collective
84 bargaining representative, unless such labor organization is currently certified as the
85 representative of such employees:

86 (A) Where the employer has lawfully recognized in accordance with this article any other
87 labor organization and a question concerning representation may not appropriately be raised
88 under subsection (c), section five of this article;

89 (B) Where within the preceding twelve months a valid election under subsection (c),
90 section five of this article has been conducted; or

91 (C) Where such picketing has been conducted without a petition under subsection (c),
92 section five of this article being filed within a reasonable period of time not to exceed fifteen days
93 from the commencement of such picketing: *Provided*, That when such a petition has been filed
94 the board shall forthwith, without regard to the provisions of said subsection or the absence of a
95 showing of a substantial interest on the part of the labor organization, direct an election in such
96 unit as the board finds to be appropriate and shall certify the results thereof. Nothing in this
97 subdivision shall be construed to permit any act which would otherwise be an unfair labor practice
98 under this subsection.

99 (c) The expressing of any views, argument or opinion, or the dissemination thereof,
100 whether in written, printed, graphic or visual form, shall not constitute or be evidence of an unfair
101 labor practice, or be prohibited under this article, if such expression contains no threat of reprisal
102 or force or promise of benefit.

103 (d) For the purposes of this section, to bargain collectively is the performance of the mutual
104 obligation of the employer and the representative of the employees to meet at reasonable times
105 and confer in good faith with respect to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of
106 employment, or the negotiation of an agreement, or any question arising thereunder, and the

107 execution of a written contract incorporating any agreement reached if requested by either party,
108 but such obligation does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making a
109 concession: *Provided*, That where there is in effect a collective bargaining contract covering
110 employees, the duty to bargain collectively shall also mean that no party to such contract shall
111 terminate or modify such contract, unless the party desiring such termination or modification:

112 (1) Gives a written notice to the other party of the proposed termination or modification
113 sixty days prior to the expiration date thereof, or in the event such contract contains no expiration
114 date, sixty days prior to the time it is proposed to make such termination or modification;

115 (2) Offers to meet and confer with the other party for the purpose of negotiating a new
116 contract or a contract containing the proposed modifications;

117 (3) Notifies the Commissioner of Labor of the existence of a dispute;

118 (4) Continues in full force and effect, without resorting to strike or lockout, all the terms
119 and conditions of the existing contract for a period of sixty days after such notice is given or until
120 the expiration date of such contract, whichever occurs later. The duties imposed upon employers,
121 employees and labor organizations by this subdivision and subdivisions (2) and (3) of this
122 subsection shall become inapplicable upon an intervening certification of the board, under which
123 the labor organization or individual, which is a party to the contract, has been superseded as or
124 ceased to be the representative of the employees subject to the provisions of subsection (a),
125 section five of this article, and the duties so imposed shall not be construed as requiring either
126 party to discuss or agree to any modification of the terms and conditions contained in a contract
127 for a fixed period, if such modification is to become effective before such terms and conditions
128 can be reopened under the provisions of the contract. Any employee who engages in a strike
129 within the sixty-day period specified in this subsection shall lose his or her status as an employee
130 of the employer engaged in the particular labor dispute, for the purposes of this section and
131 sections three and five of this article, but such loss of status for such employee shall terminate if
132 and when he or she is reemployed by such employer.

133 (e) It shall be an unfair labor practice for any labor organization and any employer to enter
134 into any contract or agreement, express or implied, whereby such employer ceases or refrains or
135 agrees to cease or refrain from handling, using, selling, transporting or otherwise dealing in any
136 of the products of any other employer, or to cease doing business with any other person and any
137 such contract or agreement entered into heretofore or hereafter shall be to such extent
138 unenforceable and void.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to repeal the Workplace Freedom Act of 2016 and restore the prior provisions of the Labor-Management Relations Act.

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