

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2020 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4508**

BY DELEGATES WALKER, HORNBUCKLE, BATES, S.  
BROWN, STAGGERS, EVANS, PYLES, WILLIAMS, HANSEN,  
CAMPBELL AND C. THOMPSON

[Introduced January 23, 2020; Referred to the  
Committee on Government Organization then the  
Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,  
 2 designated §5-11-22, relating to making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture or  
 3 hair style; and defining terms.

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

**ARTICLE 11. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.**

**§5-11-22. Protective hairstyles; definitions.**

1 (a) The term “race”, for the purposes of this article, include traits historically associated  
 2 with race, including but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles.

3 (b) The term “protective hairstyles” include, but not be limited to, such hairstyles as braids,  
 4 locks, and twists.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make it illegal to discriminate based on hair text or hair style. The bill defines terms.

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