# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE 2021 REGULAR SESSION

### Introduced

## Senate Bill 364

By SENATOR TRUMP

[Introduced February 19, 2021; referred

to the Committee on the Judiciary]

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A BILL to amend and reenact §3-8-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §21-1A-4 of said code; to amend and reenact §21-5-1 of said code; and to amend and reenact §21-5-3 of said code, all relating to limitations on the use of wages and agency shop fees by employers and labor organizations for political activities; prohibiting any person from coercing or intimidating any employee into making a political contribution or engaging in any form of political activity; prohibiting employers and any other persons responsible for the disbursement of wages and salaries from withholding or diverting any portion of an employee's wages or salary for political activities without express, written authorization; providing that the prohibition against withholding or diverting wages for political activities applies to any written or oral contract or agreement entered into, modified, renewed, or extended on or after July 1, 2021, and shall not otherwise apply or abrogate a written or oral contract or agreement in effect on or before June 30, 2021; providing for criminal penalties; setting forth requirements for employees to provide written authorization for disbursement of wages and salaries by an employer or other person for political activities; requiring the Secretary of State to promulgate forms; defining terms "political activities" and "agency shop fees"; modifying definition of "deductions" to exclude amounts for union or club dues; making it an unfair labor practice under the Labor-Management Relations Act for the Private Sector for a labor organization to use agency shop fees paid by nonmembers for political activities, unless expressly authorized by the individual; removing the requirement that an assignment or order be acknowledged by the party making the same before a notary public or other official authorized to take acknowledgments; requiring that an assignment or order shall be in writing; and providing that the changes made to the assignment of wages during the regular session of the Legislature, 2021, apply to any written or oral contract or agreement entered into, modified, renewed, or extended on or after July 1, 2021, and shall not

otherwise apply or abrogate a written or oral contract or agreement in effect on or before

June 30, 2021.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

#### **CHAPTER 3. ELECTIONS.**

#### ARTICLE 8. REGULATION AND CONTROL OF ELECTIONS.

- §3-8-12. Additional acts forbidden; circulation of written matter; newspaper advertising; solicitation of contributions; intimidation and coercion of employees; withholding of wages or salaries without express authorization; promise of employment or other benefits; limitations on contributions; public contractors; penalty.
- (a) A person may not publish, issue, or circulate, or cause to be published, issued, or circulated, any anonymous letter, circular, placard, radio or television advertisement, or other publication supporting or aiding the election or defeat of a clearly identified candidate.
- (b) An owner, publisher, editor, or employee of a newspaper or other periodical may not insert, either in its advertising or reading columns, any matter, paid for or to be paid for, which tends to influence the voting at any election, unless directly designating it as a paid advertisement and stating the name of the person authorizing its publication and the candidate in whose behalf it is published.
- (c) A person may not, in any room or building occupied for the discharge of official duties by any officer or employee of the state or a political subdivision of the state, solicit orally or by written communication delivered within the room or building, or in any other manner, any contribution of money or other thing of value for any party or political purpose, from any postmaster or any other officer or employee of the federal government, or officer or employee of the state, or a political subdivision of the state. An officer, agent, clerk, or employee of the federal government, or of this state, or any political subdivision of the state, who may have charge or control of any building, office, or room, occupied for any official purpose, may not knowingly permit

any person to enter any building, office, or room, occupied for any official purpose, for the purpose of soliciting or receiving any political assessments from, or delivering or giving written solicitations for, or any notice of, any political assessments to, any officer or employee of the state, or a political subdivision of the state.

- (d) Except as provided in §3-8-8 of this code, a person entering into any contract with the state or its subdivisions, or any department or agency of the state, either for rendition of personal services or furnishing any material, supplies, or equipment or selling any land or building to the state, or its subdivisions, or any department or agency of the state, if payment for the performance of the contract or payment for the material, supplies, equipment, land, or building is to be made, in whole or in part, from public funds may not, during the period of negotiation for or performance under the contract or furnishing of materials, supplies, equipment, land, or buildings, directly or indirectly, make any contribution to any political party, committee, or candidate for public office, or to any person for political purposes or use nor may any person or firm solicit any contributions for any purpose during any period.
- (e) A person may not, directly or indirectly, promise any employment, position, work, compensation, or other benefit provided for, or made possible, in whole or in part, by act of the Legislature, to any person as consideration, favor or reward for any political activity for the support of or opposition to any candidate, or any political party in any election.
- (f) A person may not, directly or indirectly, make any contribution in excess of the amounts permitted by §3-8-5c of this code, in connection with any campaign for nomination or election to or on behalf of any statewide office, in connection with any other campaign for nomination or election to or on behalf of any other elective office in the state or any of its subdivisions, or in connection with or on behalf of any person engaged in furthering, advancing, supporting, or aiding the nomination or election of any candidate for any of the offices.
- (g) It is unlawful for any person to create, establish, or organize more than one political committee with the intent to avoid or evade the contribution limitations contained in this article.

(h) A person may not, directly or indirectly, make contributions to a state party executive committee or caucus campaign committee which, in the aggregate, are in excess of the amounts permitted by §3-8-5c of this code in any calendar year.

- (i) The limitations on contributions contained in this section do not apply to transfers among a state party executive committee, a caucus campaign committee, and a national committee of the same political party: *Provided*, That the moneys transferred may only be used for voter registration and get-out-the-vote activities of the state committees.
- (j) A person may not solicit any contribution, other than contributions to a campaign for or against a county or local government ballot issue, from any nonelective salaried employee of the state government or of any of its subdivisions: *Provided*, That in no event may any person acting in a supervisory role solicit a person who is a subordinate employee for any contribution. A person may not coerce or intimidate any nonelective salaried employee into making a contribution. A person may not coerce or intimidate any nonsalaried employee of the state government or any of its subdivisions into engaging in or refraining from any form of political activity. The provisions of this subsection may not be construed to prevent any employee from making a contribution or from engaging in political activity voluntarily without coercion, intimidation, or solicitation.
- (k) A person may not solicit a contribution from any other person without informing the other person at the time of the solicitation of the amount of any commission, remuneration, or other compensation that the solicitor or any other person will receive or expect to receive as a direct result of the contribution being successfully collected. Nothing in this subsection may be construed to apply to solicitations of contributions made by any person serving as an unpaid volunteer.
- (I) A person may not place any letter, circular, flyer, advertisement, election paraphernalia, solicitation material, or other printed or published item tending to influence voting at any election in a roadside receptacle unless it is: (1) Approved for placement into a roadside receptacle by the business or entity owning the receptacle; and (2) contains a written acknowledgment of the

approval. This subdivision does not apply to any printed material contained in a newspaper or periodical published or distributed by the owner of the receptacle. The term "roadside receptacle" means any container placed by a newspaper or periodical business or entity to facilitate home or personal delivery of a designated newspaper or periodical to its customers.

(m) An employer or any other person or entity responsible for the disbursement of funds in payment of wages or salaries may not withhold or divert any portion of an employee's wages or salaries for use as contributions to any candidate or political committee, or for any other political activities which tend to influence the voting at any election, except upon the express, written request of the employee. The request must be made on a form prescribed by the Secretary of State informing the employee of the prohibition against discrimination set forth in §3-8-12(l) of this code. The request is valid for no more than 12 months from the date it is made by the employee. For purposes of this section, "political activities" shall mean any activity to urge any person to vote for or against any candidate or ballot issue or to support or oppose a political committee, political party or any other organization engaged in electioneering communications or independent expenditures as defined in §3-8-1a of this code. This subsection applies to any written or oral contract or agreement entered into, modified, renewed or extended on or after July 1, 2021: *Provided*, That the provisions of this subsection shall not otherwise apply to or abrogate a written or oral contract or agreement or any provisions thereof in effect on or before June 30, 2021.

(m) (n) Any person violating any provision of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$1,000, or confined in jail for not more than one year, or both fined and confined.

#### **CHAPTER 21. LABOR.**

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

§21-1A-4. Unfair labor practices.

- (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;
  - (2) To dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any labor organization or contribute financial or other support to it: *Provided*, That an employer shall not be prohibited from permitting employees to confer with him or her during working hours without loss of time or pay;
  - (3) By discrimination in regard to hire or tenure of employment or any term or condition of employment, to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organization;
  - (4) To discharge or otherwise discriminate against an employee because he or she has filed charges or given testimony under this article; and
  - (5) To refuse to bargain collectively with the representatives of his or her employees, subject to the provisions of §12-1A-5(a).
    - (b) It shall be an unfair labor practice for a labor organization or its agents:
- 15 (1) To restrain or coerce:

- (A) Employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in §12-1A-3: *Provided*, That this subdivision shall not impair the right of a labor organization to prescribe its own rules with respect to the acquisition or retention of membership therein; or
- (B) an employer in the selection of his or her representatives for the purposes of collective bargaining or the adjustment of grievances;
- (2) To cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate against an employee in violation of §21-1A-4(a)(3) or to discriminate against an employee with respect to whom membership in such organization has been denied or terminated on some ground other than his or her failure to tender the periodic dues and the initiation fees uniformly required as a condition of acquiring or retaining membership;
  - (3) To refuse to bargain collectively with an employer, provided it is the representative of

his or her employees subject to the provisions of §21-1A-4(a)(5);

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

- (A) Forcing or requiring any employer or self-employed person to join any labor or employer organization or to enter into any agreement which is prohibited by subsection (e) of this section;
- (B) Forcing or requiring any person to cease using, selling, handling, transporting, or otherwise dealing in the products of any other producer, processor or manufacturer, or to cease doing business with any other person, or forcing or requiring any other employer to recognize or bargain with a labor organization as the representative of his or her employees unless such labor organization has been certified as the representative of such employees under the provisions of section five of this article: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this paragraph may be construed to make unlawful, where not otherwise unlawful, any primary strike or primary picketing;
- (C) Forcing or requiring any employer to recognize or bargain with a particular labor organization as the representative of his or her employees if another labor organization has been certified as the representative of such employees under the provisions of §21-1A-5;
- (D) Forcing or requiring any employer to assign particular work to employees in a particular labor organization or in a particular trade, craft or class rather than to employees in another labor organization or in another trade, craft or class, unless such employer is failing to conform to an order of certification of the board determining the bargaining representative for employees performing such work: *Provided*, That nothing contained in this subsection shall be construed to make unlawful a refusal by any person to enter upon the premises of any employer, other than his or her own employer, if the employees of such employer are engaged in a strike ratified or

approved by a representative of such employees whom such employer is required by law to recognize;

- (5) To require of employees covered by an agreement authorized under §21-1A-4(a)(3) the payment, as a condition precedent to becoming a member of such organization, of a fee in an amount which the board finds excessive or discriminatory under all the circumstances. In making such a finding, the board shall consider, among other relevant factors, the practices and customs of labor organizations in the particular industry, and the wages currently paid to the employees affected;
- (6) To cause or attempt to cause an employer to pay or deliver or agree to pay or deliver any money or other thing of value, in the nature of an exaction, for services which are not performed or not to be performed; and
- (7) To picket or cause to be picketed, or threaten to picket or cause to be picketed, any employer where an object thereof is forcing or requiring an employer to recognize or bargain with a labor organization as the representative of his or her employees, or forcing or requiring the employees of an employer to accept or select such labor organization as their collective bargaining representative, unless such labor organization is currently certified as the representative of such employees:
- (A) Where the employer has lawfully recognized in accordance with this article any other labor organization and a question concerning representation may not appropriately be raised under §21-1A-4(c)(5);
- (B) Where within the preceding 12 months a valid election under §21-1A-4(c)(5) has been conducted; or
- (C) Where such picketing has been conducted without a petition under §21-1A-4(c)(5) being filed within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 15 days from the commencement of such picketing: *Provided*, That when such a petition has been filed the board shall forthwith, without regard to the provisions of said subsection or the absence of a showing of a substantial

interest on the part of the labor organization, direct an election in such unit as the board finds to be appropriate and shall certify the results thereof. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit any act which would otherwise be an unfair labor practice under this subsection.

- (c) The expressing of any views, argument or opinion, or the dissemination thereof, whether in written, printed, graphic or visual form, shall not constitute or be evidence of an unfair labor practice, or be prohibited under this article, if such expression contains no threat of reprisal or force or promise of benefit.
- (d) For the purposes of this section, to bargain collectively is the performance of the mutual obligation of the employer and the representative of the employees to meet at reasonable times and confer in good faith with respect to wages, hours and other terms and conditions of employment, or the negotiation of an agreement, or any question arising thereunder, and the execution of a written contract incorporating any agreement reached if requested by either party, but such obligation does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making a concession: *Provided*, That where there is in effect a collective bargaining contract covering employees, the duty to bargain collectively shall also mean that no party to such contract shall terminate or modify such contract, unless the party desiring such termination or modification:
- (1) Gives a written notice to the other party of the proposed termination or modification 60 days prior to the expiration date thereof, or in the event such contract contains no expiration date,60 days prior to the time it is proposed to make such termination or modification;
- (2) Offers to meet and confer with the other party for the purpose of negotiating a new contract or a contract containing the proposed modifications;
  - (3) Notifies the Commissioner of Labor of the existence of a dispute:
- (4) Continues in full force and effect, without resorting to strike or lockout, all the terms and conditions of the existing contract for a period of 60 days after such notice is given or until the expiration date of such contract, whichever occurs later. The duties imposed upon employers, employees and labor organizations by this subdivision and §21-1A-4(d)(2) and §21-1A-4(d)(3)

shall become inapplicable upon an intervening certification of the board, under which the labor organization or individual, which is a party to the contract, has been superseded as or ceased to be the representative of the employees subject to the provisions of §21-1A-4(a)(5) and the duties so imposed shall not be construed as requiring either party to discuss or agree to any modification of the terms and conditions contained in a contract for a fixed period, if such modification is to become effective before such terms and conditions can be reopened under the provisions of the contract. Any employee who engages in a strike within the 60 day period specified in this subsection shall lose his or her status as an employee of the employer engaged in the particular labor dispute, for the purposes of §21-1A-4, §21-1A-3, and §21-1A-5, but such loss of status for such employee shall terminate if and when he or she is reemployed by such employer.

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

(f) It shall be an unfair labor practice for any labor organization to use agency shop fees paid by an individual who is not a member of the organization to make any contributions or expenditures to influence an election or to operate a political committee, unless affirmatively authorized by the individual. Any such authorization is valid for no more than 12 months from the date it is made by the individual. For purposes of this section, "agency shop fees" shall mean any dues, fees, assessments or other similar charges, however denominated, of any kind or amount to the labor organization.

#### ARTICLE 5. WAGE PAYMENT AND COLLECTION.

#### §21-5-1. Definitions.

As used in this article:

(a) The term "firm" includes any partnership, association, joint-stock company, trust, division of a corporation, the administrator or executor of the estate of a deceased individual, or the receiver, trustee or successor of any of the same, or officer thereof, employing any person.

- (b) The term "employee" or "employees" includes any person suffered or permitted to work by a person, firm, or corporation.
- (c) The term "wages" means compensation for labor or services rendered by an employee, whether the amount is determined on a time, task, piece, commission, or other basis of calculation. As used in §21-1A-4, §21-1A-5, §21-1A-8a, §21-1A-10, and §21-1A-12, the term "wages" shall also include then accrued fringe benefits capable of calculation and payable directly to an employee: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall require fringe benefits to be calculated contrary to any agreement between an employer and his or her employees which does not contradict the provisions of this article.
- (d) The term "commissioner" means Commissioner of Labor or his or her designated representative.
- (e) The term "railroad company" includes any firm or corporation engaged primarily in the business of transportation by rail.
- (f) The term "special agreement" means an arrangement filed with and approved by the commissioner whereby a person, firm or corporation is permitted upon a compelling showing of good cause to establish regular paydays less frequently than once in every two weeks: *Provided*, That in no event shall the employee be paid in full less frequently than once each calendar month on a regularly established schedule.
- (g) The term "deductions" includes amounts required by law to be withheld, and amounts authorized for union or club dues pension plans, payroll savings plans, credit unions, charities and hospitalization and medical insurance.
- (h) The term "officer" shall include officers or agents in the management of a corporation or firm who knowingly permit the corporation or firm to violate the provisions of this article.

(i) The term "wages due" shall include at least all wages earned up to and including the 12th day immediately preceding the regular payday.

- (j) The term "construction" means the furnishing of work in the fulfillment of a contract for the construction, alteration, decoration, painting or improvement of a new or existing building, structure, roadway or pipeline, or any part thereof, or for the alteration, improvement or development of real property: *Provided*, That construction performed for the owner or lessee of a single family dwelling or a family farming enterprise is excluded.
- (k) The term "minerals" means clay, coal, flagstone, gravel, limestone, manganese, sand, sandstone, shale, iron ore, and any other metallurgical ore.
- (I) The term "fringe benefits" means any benefit provided an employee or group of employees by an employer, or which is required by law, and includes regular vacation, graduated vacation, floating vacation, holidays, sick leave, personal leave, production incentive bonuses, sickness and accident benefits and benefits relating to medical and pension coverage.
  - (m) The term "employer" means any person, firm, or corporation employing any employee.
- (n) The term "doing business in this state" means having employees actively engaged in the intended principal activity of the person, firm, or corporation in West Virginia.

#### §21-5-3. Payment of wages by employers other than railroads; assignments of wages.

- (a) Every person, firm, or corporation doing business in this state, except railroad companies as provided in section one of this article, shall settle with its employees at least twice every month and with no more than 19 days between settlements, unless otherwise provided by special agreement, and pay them the wages due, less authorized deductions and authorized wage assignments, for their work or services.
  - (b) Payment required in §21-5-3(a) shall be made:
- 7 (1) In lawful money of the United States;

- (2) By cash order as described and required in §21-5-4;
  - (3) By deposit or electronic transfer of immediately available funds into an employee's

payroll card account in a federally insured depository institution. The term "payroll card account" means an account in a federally insured depository institution that is directly or indirectly established through an employer and to which electronic fund transfers of the employee's wages, salary, commissions, or other compensation are made on a recurring basis, whether the account is operated or managed by the employer, a third person payroll processor, a depository institution or another person. "Payroll card" means a card, code, or combination thereof or other means of access to an employee's payroll card account, by which the employee may initiate electronic fund transfers or use a payroll card to make purchases or payments. Payment of employee compensation by means of a payroll card must be agreed upon in writing by both the person, form firm, or corporation paying the compensation and the person being compensated; or

- (4) By any method of depositing immediately available funds in an employee's demand or time account in a bank, credit union, or savings and loan institution that may be agreed upon in writing between the employee and such person, firm or corporation, which agreement shall specifically identify the employee, the financial institution, the type of account and the account number: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed in a manner to require any person, firm or corporation to pay employees by depositing funds in a financial institution.
- (c) If, at any time of payment, any employee is absent from his or her regular place of labor and does not receive his or her wages through a duly authorized representative, he or she is entitled to payment at any time thereafter upon demand upon the proper paymaster at the place where his or her wages are usually paid and where the next pay is due.
- (d) Nothing herein contained may affect the right of an employee to assign part of his or her claim against his or her employer except as in §21-5-3(e).
- (e) No assignment of or order for future wages may be valid for a period exceeding one year from the date of the assignment or order. An assignment or order shall be acknowledged by the party making the same before a notary public or other officer authorized to take acknowledgments, and any order or assignment shall in writing and specify thereon the total

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amount due and collectible by virtue of the same and, unless otherwise provided for in §21-5-3(f), three-fourths of the periodical earnings or wages of the assignor are all times exempt from such assignment or order and no assignment or order is valid which does not so state upon its face: *Provided*, That no such order or assignment is valid unless the written acceptance of the employer of the assignor to the making thereof is endorsed thereon: *Provided*, *however*, *That nothing herein* contained may be construed as affecting the right of employer and employees to agree between themselves as to deductions to be made from the payroll of employees. The changes to this section which were adopted by the regular session of the Legislature, 2021, in this bill apply to any written or oral contract or agreement entered into, modified, renewed, or extended on or after July 1, 2021: *Provided, however*, That the provisions of this subsection shall not otherwise apply to or abrogate a written or oral contract or agreement or any provisions thereof in effect on or before June 30, 2021.

(f) If an employee of the state has been overpaid wages, including incremental salary increases pursuant to §5-5-2 of this code, an employee may voluntarily authorize a written assignment or order for future wages to the state to repay the overpayment in an amount not to exceed three-fourths of his or her periodical earnings or wages.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to limit the use of wages and agency shop fees by employers and labor organizations for political activities; prohibit any person from coercing or intimidating any employee into making a political contribution or engaging in any form of political activity; prohibit employers and any other persons responsible for the disbursement of wages and salaries from withholding or diverting any portion of an employee's wages or salary for political activities without express, written authorization: providing that the prohibition against withholding or diverting wages for political activities applies to any written or oral contract or agreement entered into, modified, renewed or extended on or after July 1, 2021, and shall not otherwise apply or abrogate a written or oral contract or agreement in effect on or before June 30, 2021; provide for criminal penalties; set forth requirements for employees to provide written authorization for disbursement of wages and salaries by an employer or other person for political activities; require the Secretary of State to promulgate forms; define terms "political activities" and "agency shop fees"; modify the definition of "deductions" to exclude amounts for union or club dues; making it an unfair labor practice under the Labor-Management Relations Act for the Private Sector for a labor organization to use agency shop fees paid by nonmembers for political activities, unless expressly authorized by the individual; remove the requirement that an assignment or order be acknowledged by the party making the same before a notary public or other official authorized to take acknowledgments; require that

an assignment or order shall be in writing.

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