

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5375

By Delegate Worrell

[Introduced; Referred

to the Committee on]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article
 2 designated §5B-2P-1, all relating to creating the "Work Protection Act" prohibiting a state
 3 agency or local government from enacting or enforcing a universal basic income program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2P. WORK PROTECTION ACT.

**§5B-2P-1. Creating the Work Protection Act; purpose; definitions; prohibition on
guaranteed income programs; and effective date.**

1 (a) Short title. This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Work Protection Act".

2 (b) Purpose. The purpose of this act is to promote the value of work by prohibiting a state
3 agency or local government from administering, enacting, or enforcing guaranteed income
4 programs.

5 (c) Definitions. As used in this section:

6 (1) "Local government" means a county; a municipality, an incorporated town, or a village;
7 or any other district or political subdivision of the state or an agency, board, or commission of the
8 district or political subdivision of the state;

9 (2) "State agency" means an office, board, commission, department, council, bureau, or
10 other agency of state government;

11 (3) "Universal basic income program" means a program that is not expressly required by
12 federal law in which an individual receives a guaranteed cash payment regularly.

13 (d) Prohibition on program. Unless expressly authorized by state law, a state agency or a
14 local government shall not enact or enforce, directly or indirectly, a universal basic income
15 program.

16 (e) Effective date. This act shall take effect upon passage.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Work Protection Act prohibiting a state agency or local government from enacting or enforcing a universal basic income program.

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