

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 616**

By Senators trump, Woelfel, and Deeds

[Introduced February 1, 2024; referred  
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §48-27-204 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,  
2 relating to adding brother-in-law and sister-in-law to the definition of “family and household  
3 members” subject to the provisions of domestic violence laws.

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

**ARTICLE 27. PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

**PART 2. DEFINITIONS.**

**§48-27-204. Family or household members defined.**

1 "Family or household members" means persons who:  
2 (1) Are or were married to each other;  
3 (2) Are or were living together as spouses;  
4 (3) Are or were sexual or intimate partners;  
5 (4) Are or were dating: *Provided*, That a casual acquaintance or ordinary fraternization  
6 between persons in a business or social context does not establish a dating relationship;  
7 (5) Are or were residing together in the same household;  
8 (6) Have a child in common regardless of whether they have ever married or lived together;  
9 (7) Have the following relationships to another person:  
10 (A) Parent;  
11 (B) Stepparent;  
12 (C) Brother or sister;  
13 (D) Half-brother or half-sister;  
14 (E) Stepbrother or stepsister;  
15 (F) Father-in-law or mother-in-law;  
16 (G) Stepfather-in-law or stepmother-in-law;  
17 (H) Child or stepchild;  
18 (I) Daughter-in-law or son-in-law;

- 19 (J) Stepdaughter-in-law or stepson-in-law;
- 20 (K) Grandparent;
- 21 (L) Step grandparent;
- 22 (M) Aunt, aunt-in-law or step aunt;
- 23 (N) Uncle, uncle-in-law or step uncle;
- 24 (O) Brother-in-law or sister-in-law
- 25 ~~(O)~~ (P) Niece or nephew;
- 26 ~~(P)~~ (Q) First or second cousin; or
- 27 (8) Have the relationships set forth in paragraphs (A) through ~~(P)~~, (Q), subdivision (7) of
- 28 this section to a family or household member, as defined in subdivisions (1) through (6) of this
- 29 section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to add brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law to the definition of family and household members subject to the provisions of domestic violence laws.

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