Τ	Senate Bill No. 639
2	(By Senators Snyder, Palumbo, Foster and Klempa)
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4	[Introduced February 17, 2012; referred to the Committee on the
5	Judiciary.]
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LO	A BILL to amend and reenact \$48-18-125 of the Code of West
L1	Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Bureau for Child
L2	Support Enforcement; reporting employment and income;
L3	providing definition of "independent contractor"; and
L 4	reporting income of an independent contractor if the contract
L 5	for services is over \$2,500.
L 6	Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:
L 7	That $$48-18-125$ of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as
L 8	amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:
L 9	ARTICLE 18. BUREAU FOR CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT.
20	§48-18-125. Employment and income reporting.
21	(a) For purposes of this section:
22	(1) "Employee" means an individual who is an "employee" for
23	purposes of federal income tax withholding, as defined in 26 U.S.C.

- 1 §3401;
- 2 (2) "Employer" means the person or entity for whom an
- 3 individual performs or performed any service of whatever nature and
- 4 who has control of the payment of the individual's wages for
- 5 performance of the service or services, as defined in 26 U.S.C.
- 6 §3401;
- 7 (3) "Independent Contractor" means an individual who is not an
- 8 employee of the employer and who receives compensation or executes
- 9 a contract for services performed for that employer. Independent
- 10 contractor does not include a direct seller as defined in 26 U. S.
- 11 C. §3508(b)(2).
- 12 (4) An individual is considered a "new hire" on the first
- 13 day in which that individual performs services for remuneration and
- 14 on which an employer begins to withhold amounts for income tax
- 15 purposes.
- 16 (b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this
- 17 section, all employers doing business in the state shall report to
- 18 the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement:
- 19 (1) The hiring of any person who resides or works in this
- 20 state to whom the employer anticipates paying earnings; and
- 21 (2) The rehiring or return to work of any employee or
- 22 independent contractor who resides or works in this state; and
- 23 (3) The contracting for services in the state with an

- 1 independent contractor when payment for the services is \$2,500 or
- 2 more. Payment for the services shall be reported within fourteen
- 3 days of the earlier of first making payments that in the aggregate
- 4 equal or exceed \$2,500 in any year or contracts with an independent
- 5 contractor providing for payments that in the aggregate equal or
- 6 exceed \$2,500 in any year.
- 7 (c) Employers are not required to report the hiring, rehiring
- 8 or return to work of any person who is an employee or independent
- 9 contractor of a federal or state agency performing intelligence or
- 10 counterintelligence functions if the head of the agency has
- 11 determined that reporting could endanger the safety of the employee
- 12 or independent contractor or compromise an ongoing investigation or
- 13 intelligence mission.
- 14 (d) An employer that has employees or independent contractors
- 15 in states other than this state and that transmits reports
- 16 magnetically or electronically is not required to report to the
- 17 Bureau for Child Support Enforcement the hiring, rehiring or return
- 18 to work of any employee or independent contractor if the employer
- 19 has filed with the secretary of the federal department of health
- 20 and human services, as required by 42 U.S.C. §653A, a written
- 21 designation of another state in which it has employees or
- 22 independent contractors as the reporting state.
- 23 (e) Employers shall report by mailing the required information

- 1 to the Bureau for Child Support Enforcement a copy of the
- 2 employee's W-4 form; however, an employer or may transmit the
- 3 information through another means if approved in writing by the
- 4 Bureau for Child Support Enforcement prior to the transmittal. The
- 5 report shall include the employee's or independent contractor's
- 6 name, address and social security number, start date, the
- 7 employer's name and address, any different address of the payroll
- 8 office and the employer's federal tax identification number. The
- 9 employer may report other information, such as date of birth or
- 10 income information, if desired.
- 11 (f) Employers shall submit a report within fourteen days of
- 12 the date of the hiring, rehiring or return to work of the employee
- 13 or independent contractor. However, if the employer transmits the
- 14 reports magnetically or electronically by two monthly submissions,
- 15 the reports shall be submitted not less than twelve days nor more
- 16 than sixteen days apart.
- 17 (q) An employer shall provide to the Bureau for Child Support
- 18 Enforcement, upon its written request, information regarding an
- 19 obligor's employment, wages or salary, medical insurance, start
- 20 date and location of employment.
- 21 (h) Any employer who fails to report in accordance with the
- 22 provisions of this section shall be assessed a civil penalty of no
- 23 more than \$25 per failure. If the failure to report is the result

- 1 of a conspiracy between the employer and the employee or
- 2 <u>independent contractor</u> not to supply the required report or to
- 3 supply a false or incomplete report, the employer shall be assessed
- 4 a civil penalty of no more than \$500.
- 5 (i) Employers required to report under this section may assess
- 6 each employee or independent contractor reported \$1 for the
- 7 administrative costs of reporting.
- 8 (j) Uses for the new hire information include, but are not
- 9 limited to, the following:
- 10 (1) The state directory of new hires shall furnish the
- 11 information to the national directory of new hires;
- 12 (2) The Bureau for Child Support Enforcement shall use
- 13 information received pursuant to this section to locate individuals
- 14 for purposes of establishing paternity and of establishing,
- 15 modifying and enforcing child support obligations and may disclose
- 16 the information to any agent of the agency that is under contract
- 17 with the bureau to carry out those purposes;
- 18 (3) State agencies responsible for administering a program
- 19 specified in 42 U.S.C. §1320b-7(b) shall have access to information
- 20 reported by employers for purposes of verifying eligibility for the
- 21 program; and
- 22 (4) The Bureau of Employment Programs and the Workers'
- 23 Compensation Commission shall have access to information reported

- 1 by employers for purposes of administering employment security and
- 2 Workers' Compensation Programs.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require employers to report the contracting of services with an independent contractor and report payment made to an independent contractor if over \$2,500.

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