

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Originating

Senate Bill 850

BY SENATORS BALDWIN, BEACH, CLEMENTS, CLINE,
HARDESTY, JEFFRIES, LINDSAY, MAYNARD,
PITSENBARGER, ROMANO, RUCKER, SMITH, TAKUBO,
WELD, WOELFEL, AND TRUMP

[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;
reported on February 24, 2020]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
2 designated §5-11-21, relating to prohibiting racial discrimination based on certain hair
3 textures and hairstyles.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 11. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

§5-11-21. Racial discrimination based on certain hair textures and hairstyles; definitions.

1 (a) For the purposes of this article, discrimination based on race includes, but is not limited
2 to, discrimination based on hair textures and protective hairstyles historically associated with a
3 particular race.

4 (b) The term “protective hairstyles” includes, but is not limited to, hairstyles such as braids,
5 locks, and twists.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify that race discrimination includes discrimination based on certain hair textures and styles.

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