

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2530

BY DELEGATES FOSTER, FAST, AND ANDERSON

[Introduced February 15, 2021; Referred to the
Committee on Workforce Development then
Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §21A-1A-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and
 2 to amend and reenact §23-2-1a of said code, relating to the definition of employee for the
 3 purposes of the unemployment compensation and workers compensation laws.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

CHAPTER 21A. UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION.

ARTICLE 1A. DEFINITIONS.

§21A-1A-16. Employment.

1 "Employment", subject to the other provisions of this article, means:

2 (1) Service, including service in interstate commerce, performed for wages or under any
 3 contract of hire, written or oral, express or implied;

4 (2) Any service performed by an employee, as defined in Section 3306(i) of the federal
 5 Unemployment Tax Act, including service in interstate commerce;

6 (3) Any service performed, including service in interstate commerce, by any officer of a
 7 corporation;

8 (4) An individual's entire service, performed within or both within and without this state if:
 9 (A) The service is localized in this state; or (B) the service is not localized in any state but some
 10 of the service is performed in this state and: (i) The base of operations, or, if there is no base of
 11 operations, then the place from which the service is directed or controlled, is in this state; or (ii)
 12 the base of operations or place from which the service is directed or controlled is not in any state
 13 in which some part of the service is performed but the individual's residence is in this state;

14 (5) Service not covered under subdivision (4) of this section and performed entirely without
 15 this state with respect to no part of which contributions are required and paid under an
 16 unemployment compensation law of any other state or of the federal government, is employment
 17 subject to this chapter if the individual performing the services is a resident of this state and the
 18 commissioner approves the election of the employing unit for whom the services are performed

19 that the entire service of the individual is employment subject to this chapter;

20 (6) Service is localized within a state, if: (A) The service is performed entirely within the
21 state; or (B) the service is performed both within and without the state, but the service performed
22 without the state is incidental to the individual's service within this state, as, for example, is
23 temporary or transitory in nature or consists of isolated transactions;

24 (7) Services performed by an individual for wages are employment ~~subject to this chapter~~
25 ~~unless and until it is shown to the satisfaction of the commissioner that:~~ (A) The individual has
26 ~~been and will continue to be free from control or direction over the performance of the services,~~
27 ~~both under his or her contract of service and in fact; and (B) the service is either outside the usual~~
28 ~~course of the business for which the service is performed or that such service is performed outside~~
29 ~~of all the places of business of the enterprise for which such service is performed; and (C) the~~
30 ~~individual is customarily engaged in an independently established trade, occupation, profession~~
31 ~~or business~~ when, through the commissioner's evaluation of the following factors, sufficient
32 control is present to establish an employer-employee relationship:

33 (A) Instructions. — A worker who is required to comply with other persons' instructions
34 about when, where, and how he or she is to work is ordinarily an employee. This control factor is
35 present if the person or persons for whom the services are performed have the right to require
36 compliance with instructions.

37 (B) Training. — Training a worker by requiring an experienced employee to work with the
38 worker, by corresponding with the worker, by requiring the worker to attend meetings, or by using
39 other methods, indicates that the person or persons for whom the services are performed want
40 the services performed in a particular method or manner.

41 (C) Integration. — Integration of the worker's services into the business operations
42 generally shows that the worker is subject to direction and control. When the success or
43 continuation of a business depends to an appreciable degree upon the performance of certain
44 services, the workers who perform those services must necessarily be subject to a certain amount

45 of control by the owner of the business.

46 (D) Services Rendered Personally. — If the services must be rendered personally,
47 presumably the person or persons for whom the services are performed are interested in the
48 methods used to accomplish the work as well as in the results.

49 (E) Hiring, Supervising, and Paying Assistants. — If the person or persons for whom the
50 services are performed hire, supervise, and pay assistants, that factor generally shows control
51 over the workers on the job. However, if one worker hires, supervises, and pays the other
52 assistants pursuant to a contract under which the worker agrees to provide materials and labor
53 and under which the worker is responsible only for the attainment of a result, this factor indicates
54 an independent contractor status.

55 (F) Continuing Relationship. — A continuing relationship between the worker and the
56 person or persons for whom the services are performed indicates that an employer-employee
57 relationship exists. A continuing relationship may exist where work is performed at frequently
58 recurring although irregular intervals.

59 (G) Set Hours of Work. — The establishment of set hours of work by the person or persons
60 for whom the services are performed is a factor indicating control.

61 (H) Full Time Required. — If the worker must devote substantially full time to the business
62 of the person or persons for whom the services are performed, such person or persons have
63 control over the amount of time the worker spends working and impliedly restrict the worker from
64 doing other gainful work. An independent contractor, on the other hand, is free to work when and
65 for whom he or she chooses.

66 (I) Doing Work on Employer's Premises. — If the work is performed on the premises of
67 the person or persons for whom the services are performed, that factor suggests control over the
68 worker, especially if the work could be done elsewhere. Work done off the premises of the person
69 or persons receiving the services, such as at the office of the worker, indicates some freedom
70 from control. However, this fact by itself does not mean that the worker is not an employee. The

71 importance of this factor depends on the nature of the service involved and the extent to which
72 an employer generally would require that employees perform such services on the employer's
73 premises. Control over the place of work is indicated when the person or persons for whom the
74 services are performed have the right to compel the worker to travel a designated route, to
75 canvass a territory within a certain time, or to work at specific places as required.

76 (J) Order or Sequence Set. — If a worker must perform services in the order or sequence
77 set by the person or persons for whom the services are performed, that factor shows that the
78 worker is not free to follow the worker's own pattern of work but must follow the established
79 routines and schedules of the person or persons for whom the services are performed. Often,
80 because of the nature of an occupation, the person or persons for whom the services are
81 performed do not set the order of the services or set the order infrequently. It is sufficient to show
82 control, however, if such person or persons retain the right to do so.

83 (K) Oral or Written Reports. — A requirement that the worker submit regular or written
84 reports to the person or persons for whom the services are performed indicates a degree of
85 control.

86 (L) Payment by Hour, Week, Month. — Payment by the hour, week, or month generally
87 points to an employer-employee relationship, provided that this method of payment is not just a
88 convenient way of paying a lump sum agreed upon as the cost of a job. Payment made by the
89 job or on a straight commission generally indicates that the worker is an independent contractor.

90 (M) Payment of Business and/or Traveling Expenses. — If the person or persons for whom
91 the services are performed ordinarily pay the worker's business and/or traveling expenses, the
92 worker is ordinarily an employee. An employer, to be able to control expenses, generally retains
93 the right to regulate and direct the worker's business activities.

94 (N) Furnishing of Tools and Materials. — The fact that the person or persons for whom
95 the services are performed furnish significant tools, materials, and other equipment tends to show
96 the existence of an employer-employee relationship.

97 (O) Significant Investment. — If the worker invests in facilities that are used by the worker
98 in performing services and are not typically maintained by employees (such as the maintenance
99 of an office rented at fair value from an unrelated party), that factor tends to indicate that the
100 worker is an independent contractor. On the other hand, lack of investment in facilities indicates
101 dependence on the person or persons for whom the services are performed for such facilities
102 and, accordingly, the existence of an employer-employee relationship. Special scrutiny is required
103 with respect to certain types of facilities, such as home offices.

104 (P) Realization of Profit or Loss. — A worker who can realize a profit or suffer a loss as a
105 result of the worker's services (in addition to the profit or loss ordinarily realized by employees) is
106 generally an independent contractor, but the worker who cannot is an employee. For example, if
107 the worker is subject to a real risk of economic loss due to significant investments or a bona fide
108 liability for expenses, such as salary payments to unrelated employees, that factor indicates that
109 the worker is an independent contractor. The risk that a worker will not receive payment for his or
110 her services, however, is common to both independent contractors and employees and thus does
111 not constitute a sufficient economic risk to support treatment as an independent contractor.

112 (Q) Working for More Than One Firm at a Time. — If a worker performs more than de
113 minimis services for a multiple of unrelated persons or firms at the same time, that factor generally
114 indicates that the worker is an independent contractor. However, a worker who performs services
115 for more than one person may be an employee of each of the persons, especially where such
116 persons are part of the same service arrangement.

117 (R) Making Service Available to General Public. — The fact that a worker makes his or
118 her services available to the general public on a regular and consistent basis indicates an
119 independent contractor relationship.

120 (S) Right to Discharge. — The right to discharge a worker is a factor indicating that the
121 worker is an employee and the person possessing the right is an employer. An employer exercises
122 control through the threat of dismissal, which causes the worker to obey the employer's

123 instructions. An independent contractor, on the other hand, cannot be fired so long as the
124 independent contractor produces a result that meets the contract specifications.

125 (T) *Right to Terminate.* — If the worker has the right to end his or her relationship with the
126 person for whom the services are performed at any time he or she wishes without incurring
127 liability, that factor indicates an employer-employee relationship.

128 (8) All service performed by an officer or member of the crew of an American vessel (as
129 defined in Section 305 of an act of Congress entitled Social Security Act Amendment of 1946,
130 approved August 10, 1946), on or in connection with the vessel, provided that the operating office,
131 from which the operations of the vessel operating on navigable waters within and without the
132 United States is ordinarily and regularly supervised, managed, directed and controlled, is within
133 this state;

134 (9) (A) Service performed by an individual in the employ of this state or any of its
135 instrumentalities (or in the employ of this state and one or more other states or their
136 instrumentalities) for a hospital or institution of higher education located in this state: *Provided,*
137 That the service is excluded from "employment" as defined in the federal Unemployment Tax Act
138 solely by reason of Section 3306(c)(7) of that act and is not excluded from "employment" under
139 §21A-1A-17(9) of this code;

140 (B) Service performed in the employ of this state or any of its instrumentalities or political
141 subdivisions thereof or any of its instrumentalities or any instrumentality of more than one of the
142 foregoing or any instrumentality of any foregoing and one or more other states or political
143 subdivisions: *Provided,* That the service is excluded from "employment" as defined in the federal
144 Unemployment Tax Act by Section 3306(c)(7) of that act and is not excluded from "employment"
145 under §21A-1A-17(13) of this code; and

146 (C) Service performed in the employ of a nonprofit educational institution which is not an
147 institution of higher education;

148 (10) Service performed by an individual in the employ of a religious, charitable, educational

149 or other organization but only if the following conditions are met:

150 (A) The service is excluded from "employment" as defined in the federal Unemployment
151 Tax Act solely by reason of Section 3306(c)(8) of that act; and

152 (B) The organization had four or more individuals in employment for some portion of a day
153 in each of twenty different weeks, whether or not the weeks were consecutive, within either the
154 current or preceding calendar year, regardless of whether they were employed at the same
155 moment of time;

156 (11) Service of an individual who is a citizen of the United States, performed outside the
157 United States after December 31, 1971 (except in Canada and in the case of the Virgin Islands
158 after December 31, 1971, and before January 1, the year following the year in which the secretary
159 of labor approves for the first time an unemployment insurance law submitted to him or her by the
160 Virgin Islands for approval), in the employ of an American employer (other than service which is
161 considered "employment" under the provisions of subdivision (4), (5) or (6) of this section or the
162 parallel provisions of another state's law) if:

163 (A) The employer's principal place of business in the United States is located in this state;

164 or

165 (B) The employer has no place of business in the United States, but: (i) The employer is
166 an individual who is a resident of this state; or (ii) the employer is a corporation which is organized
167 under the laws of this state; or (iii) the employer is a partnership or a trust and the number of the
168 partners or trustees who are residents of this state is greater than the number who are residents
169 of any one other state; or

170 (C) None of the criteria of paragraphs (A) and (B) of this subdivision is met but the
171 employer has elected coverage in this state or, the employer having failed to elect coverage in
172 any state, the individual has filed a claim for benefits, based on the service, under the law of this
173 state.

174 (D) An "American employer", for purposes of this subdivision, means a person who is: (i)

175 An individual who is a resident of the United States; or (ii) a partnership if two thirds or more of
176 the partners are residents of the United States; or (iii) a trust, if all of the trustees are residents of
177 the United States; or (iv) a corporation organized under the laws of the United States or of any
178 state;

179 (12) Service performed by an individual in agricultural labor as defined in subdivision (3),
180 section seventeen of this article when:

181 (A) The service is performed for a person who: (i) During any calendar quarter in either
182 the current or the preceding calendar year paid remuneration in cash of \$20,000 or more to
183 individuals employed in agricultural labor including labor performed by an alien referred to in
184 paragraph (B) of this subdivision; or (ii) for some portion of a day in each of twenty different
185 calendar weeks, whether or not the weeks were consecutive, in either the current or the preceding
186 calendar year, employed in agricultural labor, including labor performed by an alien referred to in
187 paragraph (B) of this subdivision, ten or more individuals, regardless of whether they were
188 employed at the same moment of time;

189 (B) The service is not performed in agricultural labor if performed by an individual who is
190 an alien admitted to the United States to perform service in agricultural labor pursuant to Sections
191 214(c) and 101(a)(15)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act;

192 (C) For the purposes of the definition of employment, any individual who is a member of
193 a crew furnished by a crew leader to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person
194 shall be treated as an employee of the crew leader: (i) If the crew leader holds a valid certificate
195 of registration under the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act; or substantially
196 all the members of the crew operate or maintain tractors, mechanized harvesting or crop-dusting
197 equipment, or any other mechanized equipment, which is provided by the crew leader; and (ii) if
198 the other person is not otherwise an employer of the individual;

199 (D) For the purposes of this subdivision, in the case of any individual who is furnished by
200 a crew leader to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person and who is not treated

201 as an employee of the crew leader under paragraph (C) of this subdivision: (i) The other person
202 and not the crew leader shall be treated as the employer of the individual; and (ii) the other person
203 shall be treated as having paid cash remuneration to the individual in an amount equal to the
204 amount of cash remuneration paid to the individual by the crew leader (either on his or her own
205 behalf or on behalf of the other person) for the service in agricultural labor performed for the other
206 person; and

207 (E) For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "crew leader" means an individual who:
208 (i) Furnishes individuals to perform service in agricultural labor for any other person; (ii) pays
209 (either on his or her own behalf or on behalf of the other person) the individuals so furnished by
210 him or her for the service in agricultural labor performed by them; and (iii) has not entered into a
211 written agreement with the other person under which the individual is designated as an employee
212 of the other person;

213 (13) (A) The term "employment" includes domestic service in a private home, local college
214 club or local chapter of a college fraternity or sorority performed for a person who paid cash
215 remuneration of \$1,000 or more in any calendar quarter in the current calendar year or the
216 preceding calendar year to individuals employed in domestic service; and

217 (B) Notwithstanding the foregoing definition of "employment", if the services performed
218 during one half or more of any pay period by an employee for the person employing him or her
219 constitute employment, all the services of the employee for the period are employment; but if the
220 services performed during more than one half of any such pay period by an employee for the
221 person employing him or her do not constitute employment, then none of the services of the
222 employee for the period are employment.

CHAPTER 23. WORKERS' COMPENSATION

ARTICLE 2. EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES SUBJECT TO CHAPTER; EXTRATERRITORIAL COVERAGE.

§23-2-1a. Employees subject to chapter.

1 (a) Employees subject to this chapter are all persons in the service of employers and
2 employed by them for the purpose of carrying on the industry, business, service or work in which
3 they are engaged, including, but not limited to:

4 (1) Persons regularly employed in the state whose duties necessitate employment of a
5 temporary or transitory nature by the same employer without the state;

6 (2) Every person in the service of the state or of any political subdivision or agency thereof,
7 under any contract of hire, express or implied, and every appointed official or officer thereof while
8 performing his or her official duties;

9 (3) Checkweighmen employed according to law;

10 (4) All members of rescue teams assisting in mine accidents with the consent of the owner
11 who, in such case, shall be deemed the employer, or at the direction of the director of the
12 department of mines;

13 (5) All forest firefighters who, under the supervision of the director of the department of
14 natural resources or his or her designated representative, assist in the prevention, confinement
15 and suppression of any forest fire; and

16 (6) Students while participating in a work-based learning experience with an employer
17 approved as a part of the curriculum by the county board. The county board shall be the employer
18 of record of students while participating in unpaid work-based experiences off school premises
19 with employers other than the county board. Students in unpaid work-based learning experiences
20 shall be considered to be paid the amount of wages so as to provide the minimum workers'
21 compensation weekly benefits required by §23-4-6 of this code.

22 (b) The right to receive compensation under this chapter shall not be affected by the fact
23 that a minor is employed or is permitted to be employed in violation of the laws of this state relating
24 to the employment of minors, or that he or she obtained his or her employment by misrepresenting
25 his or her age.

26 (c) When determining whether an employee is subject to this chapter, the commissioner
27 shall use the following 20 factors to evaluate whether sufficient control is present to establish an
28 employer-employee relationship:

29 (1) *Instructions.* — A worker who is required to comply with other persons' instructions
30 about when, where, and how he or she is to work is ordinarily an employee. This control factor is
31 present if the person or persons for whom the services are performed have the right to require
32 compliance with instructions.

33 (2) *Training.* — Training a worker by requiring an experienced employee to work with the
34 worker, by corresponding with the worker, by requiring the worker to attend meetings, or by using
35 other methods, indicates that the person or persons for whom the services are performed want
36 the services performed in a particular method or manner.

37 (3) *Integration.* — Integration of the worker's services into the business operations
38 generally shows that the worker is subject to direction and control. When the success or
39 continuation of a business depends to an appreciable degree upon the performance of certain
40 services, the workers who perform those services must necessarily be subject to a certain amount
41 of control by the owner of the business.

42 (4) *Services Rendered Personally.* — If the services must be rendered personally,
43 presumably the person or persons for whom the services are performed are interested in the
44 methods used to accomplish the work as well as in the results.

45 (5) *Hiring, Supervising, and Paying Assistants.* — If the person or persons for whom the
46 services are performed hire, supervise, and pay assistants, that factor generally shows control
47 over the workers on the job. However, if one worker hires, supervises, and pays the other
48 assistants pursuant to a contract under which the worker agrees to provide materials and labor
49 and under which the worker is responsible only for the attainment of a result, this factor indicates
50 an independent contractor status.

51 (6) *Continuing Relationship.* — A continuing relationship between the worker and the

52 person or persons for whom the services are performed indicates that an employer-employee
53 relationship exists. A continuing relationship may exist where work is performed at frequently
54 recurring although irregular intervals.

55 (7) *Set Hours of Work.* — The establishment of set hours of work by the person or persons
56 for whom the services are performed is a factor indicating control.

57 (8) *Full Time Required.* — If the worker must devote substantially full time to the business
58 of the person or persons for whom the services are performed, such person or persons have
59 control over the amount of time the worker spends working and impliedly restrict the worker from
60 doing other gainful work. An independent contractor, on the other hand, is free to work when and
61 for whom he or she chooses.

62 (9) *Doing Work on Employer's Premises.* — If the work is performed on the premises of
63 the person or persons for whom the services are performed, that factor suggests control over the
64 worker, especially if the work could be done elsewhere. Work done off the premises of the person
65 or persons receiving the services, such as at the office of the worker, indicates some freedom
66 from control. However, this fact by itself does not mean that the worker is not an employee. The
67 importance of this factor depends on the nature of the service involved and the extent to which
68 an employer generally would require that employees perform such services on the employer's
69 premises. Control over the place of work is indicated when the person or persons for whom the
70 services are performed have the right to compel the worker to travel a designated route, to
71 canvass a territory within a certain time, or to work at specific places as required.

72 (10) *Order or Sequence Set.*— If a worker must perform services in the order or sequence
73 set by the person or persons for whom the services are performed, that factor shows that the
74 worker is not free to follow the worker's own pattern of work but must follow the established
75 routines and schedules of the person or persons for whom the services are performed. Often,
76 because of the nature of an occupation, the person or persons for whom the services are
77 performed do not set the order of the services or set the order infrequently. It is sufficient to show

78 control, however, if such person or persons retain the right to do so.

79 (11) Oral or Written Reports. — A requirement that the worker submit regular oral or written
80 reports to the person or persons for whom the services are performed indicates a degree of
81 control.

82 (12) Payment by Hour, Week, Month. — Payment by the hour, week, or month generally
83 points to an employer-employee relationship, provided that this method of payment is not just a
84 convenient way of paying a lump sum agreed upon as the cost of a job. Payment made by the
85 job or on a straight commission generally indicates that the worker is an independent contractor.

86 (13) Payment of Business and/or Traveling Expenses. — If the person or persons for
87 whom the services are performed ordinarily pay the worker's business and/or traveling expenses,
88 the worker is ordinarily an employee. An employer, to be able to control expenses, generally
89 retains the right to regulate and direct the worker's business activities.

90 (14) Furnishing of Tools and Materials. — The fact that the person or persons for whom
91 the services are performed furnish significant tools, materials, and other equipment tends to show
92 the existence of an employer-employee relationship.

93 (15) Significant Investment. — If the worker invests in facilities that are used by the worker
94 in performing services and are not typically maintained by employees (such as the maintenance
95 of an office rented at fair value from an unrelated party), that factor tends to indicate that the
96 worker is an independent contractor. On the other hand, lack of investment in facilities indicates
97 dependence on the person or persons for whom the services are performed for such facilities
98 and, accordingly, the existence of an employer-employee relationship. Special scrutiny is required
99 with respect to certain types of facilities, such as home offices.

100 (16) Realization of Profit or Loss. — A worker who can realize a profit or suffer a loss as
101 a result of the worker's services (in addition to the profit or loss ordinarily realized by employees)
102 is generally an independent contractor, but the worker who cannot is an employee. For example,
103 if the worker is subject to a real risk of economic loss due to significant investments or a bona fide

104 liability for expenses, such as salary payments to unrelated employees, that factor indicates that
105 the worker is an independent contractor. The risk that a worker will not receive payment for his or
106 her services, however, is common to both independent contractors and employees and thus does
107 not constitute a sufficient economic risk to support treatment as an independent contractor.

108 (17) Working for More Than One Firm at a Time. — If a worker performs more than de
109 minimis services for a multiple of unrelated persons or firms at the same time, that factor generally
110 indicates that the worker is an independent contractor. However, a worker who performs services
111 for more than one person may be an employee of each of the persons, especially where such
112 persons are part of the same service arrangement.

113 (18) Making Service Available to General Public. —The fact that a worker makes his or
114 her services available to the general public on a regular and consistent basis indicates an
115 independent contractor relationship.

116 (19) Right to Discharge. — The right to discharge a worker is a factor indicating that the
117 worker is an employee and the person possessing the right is an employer. An employer exercises
118 control through the threat of dismissal, which causes the worker to obey the employer's
119 instructions. An independent contractor, on the other hand, cannot be fired so long as the
120 independent contractor produces a result that meets the contract specifications.

121 (20) Right to Terminate. — If the worker has the right to end his or her relationship with
122 the person for whom the services are performed at any time he or she wishes without incurring
123 liability, that factor indicates an employer-employee relationship.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify the definition of an employee for the purposes of unemployment compensation and workers' compensation to match conform with Internal Revenue Code provisions.

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