

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 496

By Senators Caputo and Woelfel

[Introduced January 22, 2024; referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §5-11-22, 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.

§5-11-22. 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.