

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2698

BY DELEGATES WALKER, HANSEN, EVANS, YOUNG AND

PUSHKIN

[Introduced February 23, 2021; Referred to the
Committee on Government Organization then 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 making it illegal to discriminate based on hair texture or
3 hair style; and defining terms.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 11. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION.

§5-11-22. Protective hairstyles; definitions.

1 (a) The term “race”, for the purposes of this article, include traits historically associated
2 with race, including, but not limited to, hair texture and protective hairstyles.

3 (b) The term “protective hairstyles” include, but not be limited to, such hairstyles as braids,
4 locks, and twists.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to make it illegal to discriminate based on hair text or hair style. The bill defines terms.

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