

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 4079**

By Delegate Crouse

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Health and Human Resources then  
Finance]

- 1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,  
2 designated §1-9-1, relating to restricting speech by eliminating woke words and agendas  
3 from state government documents, websites, literature, and in person.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 9. ELIMINATING WOKE WORDS AND WOKE AGENDAS FROM  
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATIONS.**

**§1-9-1. Woke words and agendas are prohibited from being used in government  
communications.**

- 1 (a) All state offices, departments, boards, and commissions are prohibited from using  
2 exclusionary, sexist language in state government business, effective immediately.
- 3 (b) In official government documents, websites, literature and in person, the following  
4 exclusionary and sexist terms shall be replaced with accurate, female-affirming alternatives:
- 5 (1) Rather than "pregnant people" or "pregnant person", use "pregnant women" or  
6 "pregnant mom".
- 7 (2) Rather than "chestfeeding", use "breastfeeding".
- 8 (3) Rather than "body fed" or "person fed", use "breast fed".
- 9 (4) Rather than "human milk", use "breast milk".
- 10 (5) Rather than "birthing person", use "birth mom".
- 11 (6) Rather than "laboring person", use "birth mom".
- 12 (7) Rather than "menstruating person" or "menstruating people", use "woman" or "women".
- 13 (8) Rather than "birth-giver", use "woman".
- 14 (9) Rather than "womxn" or "womyn", use "woman".
- 15 (c) This bill shall take effect on June 1, 2026.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to eliminate woke words and agendas from state government documents, websites, literature, and in person.

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