

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 109**

By Senator Garcia

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred to  
the Committee on Government Organization; and  
then to the Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §16B-17-21, relating to clarifying that racial discrimination includes  
3 discrimination based on certain hair textures and hairstyles historically associated with a  
4 particular race; and defining a term.

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

**ARTICLE 17. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

**§16B-17-21. 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 racial discrimination includes discrimination based on certain hair textures and hairstyles.

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