

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4571

By Delegates Dean, Flanigan, Pritt, Shamblin, Vance,

Ferrell, Stephens, Bell, Heckert, and Worrell

[Introduced January 20, 2026; referred to the

Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §11-21-11a, relating to taxable income of residents; and creating an "ABC" test
3 designed to ensure that individual taxpayers are not misclassified; and clarifying when a
4 taxpayer is not an independent contractor.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 21. PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

§11-21-11a. Taxpayer Protection Act.

1 (a) In order to prevent the misclassification of resident individual taxpayers as independent
2 contractors and ensure the state rightfully receives taxes from employment, the Tax
3 Commissioner shall implement an "ABC" test for an independent contractor as follows:

4 (1) Absence of Control – Is the worker taxpayer free from the direction or control of the
5 employer;

6 (2) Business of Worker – Is the worker taxpayer's task unusual, with regards to the hiring
7 employer's business; and

8 (3) Customarily Engaged -- Is the worker taxpayer customarily independent from the
9 employer and does the worker taxpayer have their own business identity on the open market?

10 (b) A worker taxpayer is presumed to be an independent contractor unless a hiring entity or
11 employer can demonstrate all three of the following:

12 (1) The worker taxpayer is subject to the type and degree of control a business typically
13 exercises over employees;

14 (2) The worker taxpayer performs the work under the direction of, and is economically
15 responsible to, the principal; and

16 (3) The work is performed under the direction of, and is economically responsible to, the
17 principal.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure individual taxpayers are not misclassified.

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