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## HOUSE BILL NO. 1543

Offered January 10, 2020

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 40.1-28.9, 53.1-42, and 65.2-101 of the Code of Virginia, relating to incarcerated persons; Virginia Minimum Wage Act and Virginia Workers' Compensation Act; status as employees.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patron—Carter

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Referred to Committee on Labor and Commerce

**Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

**1. That §§ 40.1-28.9, 53.1-42, and 65.2-101 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:**

**§ 40.1-28.9. Definitions.**

A. As used in this article:

"Employed inmate" means an individual who, during any period that he is incarcerated as defined in § 8.01-195.10, participates in any work program conducted pursuant to Article 3 (§ 53.1-41 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of Title 53.1.

"Employee" includes any individual, including any employed inmate, who is employed by an employer, except the following:

1. Any person employed as a farm laborer or farm employee;

2. Any person employed in domestic service or in or about a private home or in an eleemosynary institution primarily supported by public funds;

3. Any person engaged in the activities of an educational, charitable, religious or nonprofit organization where the relationship of employer-employee does not, in fact, exist, or where the services rendered to such organizations are on a voluntary basis;

4. Caddies on golf courses;

5. Traveling salesmen or outside salesmen working on a commission basis; taxicab drivers and operators;

6. Any person under the age of 18 in the employ of his father, mother or legal guardian;

7. Any person confined in any penal or corrective institution of the State Commonwealth or any of its political subdivisions or admitted to a state hospital or training center operated by the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services;

8. Any person employed by a summer camp for boys, girls, or both boys and girls;

9. Any person under the age of 16, regardless of by whom employed;

10. Any person who normally works and is paid based on the amount of work done;

11. Any person whose employment is covered by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended;

12. Any person whose earning capacity is impaired by physical deficiency, mental illness, or intellectual disability;

13. Students participating in a bona fide educational program;

14. Any person employed by an employer who that does not have four or more persons employed at any one time; provided that husbands, wives the spouse, sons, daughters children, and parents of the an individual employer shall not be counted in determining the number of persons employed;

15. Any person who is less than 18 years of age and who is currently enrolled on a full-time basis in any secondary school, institution of higher education or trade school, provided the person is not employed more than 20 hours per week;

16. Any person of any age who is currently enrolled on a full-time basis in any secondary school, institution of higher education or trade school and is in a work-study program or its equivalent at the institution at which he or she is enrolled as a student;

17. Any person who is less than 18 years of age and who is under the jurisdiction and direction of a juvenile and domestic relations district court; or

18. Any person who works as a babysitter for fewer than 10 hours per week.

"Employer" includes any individual, partnership, association, corporation, business trust, or any person or groups group of persons acting directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee. "Employer" includes the Commonwealth, any political subdivision thereof, or any other entity that operates the correctional facility in which an employed inmate is incarcerated.

"Wages" means legal tender of the United States or checks or drafts on banks negotiable into cash on demand or upon acceptance at full value; provided, wages may include; "Wages" includes the reasonable cost to the employer of furnishing meals and for lodging to an employee, if such board or

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lodging is customarily furnished by the employer, and used by the employee.

B. In determining the wage of a tipped employee, the amount paid such employee by his employer shall be deemed to be increased on account of tips by an amount determined by the employer, except in the case of an employee who establishes by clear and convincing evidence that the actual amount of tips received by him was less than the amount determined by the employer. In such case, the amount paid such employee by his employer shall be deemed to have been increased by such lesser amount.

**§ 53.1-42. Allowance for work and disposition thereof.**

Every prisoner committed and transferred to the Department and thereafter confined for the sentence for which he was committed in a state or local correctional facility shall be allowed an amount to be established by the Board, *which amount shall not be less than the minimum wage established pursuant to § 40.1-28.10*, for each day of labor satisfactory to the superintendent or sheriff in whose charge he is. The allowance so made shall accumulate and be paid over to the prisoner upon discharge, except that an amount thereof to be determined by the Board may be drawn upon by the prisoner for such purposes as may be authorized by the regulations of the Board.

For the purposes of this section only, the phrase "transferred to the Department" means (i) the actual physical receipt by the Department of a prisoner in a state correctional facility or (ii) the complete processing by the Department of a prisoner for the purposes of classifying the person as a state prisoner whether or not the person is physically received into a state correctional facility.

**§ 65.2-101. Definitions.**

As used in this title:

"Average weekly wage" means:

1. a. The earnings of the injured employee in the employment in which he was working at the time of the injury during the period of 52 weeks immediately preceding the date of the injury, divided by 52; but if the injured employee lost more than seven consecutive calendar days during such period, although not in the same week, then the earnings for the remainder of the 52 weeks shall be divided by the number of weeks remaining after the time so lost has been deducted. When the employment prior to the injury extended over a period of less than 52 weeks, the method of dividing the earnings during that period by the number of weeks and parts thereof during which the employee earned wages shall be followed, provided that results fair and just to both parties will be thereby obtained. When, by reason of a shortness of time during which the employee has been in the employment of his employer or the casual nature or terms of his employment, it is impractical to compute the average weekly wages as above defined, regard shall be had to the average weekly amount which during the 52 weeks previous to the injury was being earned by a person of the same grade and character employed in the same class of employment in the same locality or community.

b. When for exceptional reasons the foregoing would be unfair either to the employer or employee, such other method of computing average weekly wages may be resorted to as will most nearly approximate the amount which the injured employee would be earning were it not for the injury.

2. Whenever allowances of any character made to an employee in lieu of wages are a specified part of the wage contract, they shall be deemed a part of his earnings. For the purpose of this title, the average weekly wage of the members of the Virginia National Guard and the Virginia Defense Force, registered members on duty or in training of the United States Civil Defense Corps of the Commonwealth, volunteer firefighters engaged in firefighting activities under the supervision and control of the Department of Forestry, and forest wardens shall be deemed to be such amount as will entitle them to the maximum compensation payable under this title; however, any award entered under the provisions of this title on behalf of members of the National Guard or their dependents, or registered members on duty or in training of the United States Civil Defense Corps of the Commonwealth or their dependents, shall be subject to credit for benefits paid them under existing or future federal law on account of injury or occupational disease covered by the provisions of this title.

3. Whenever volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical services personnel, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police, auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs, members of volunteer search and rescue organizations, volunteer members of community emergency response teams, and volunteer members of medical reserve corps are deemed employees under this title, their average weekly wage shall be deemed sufficient to produce the minimum compensation provided by this title for injured workers or their dependents. For the purposes of workers' compensation insurance premium calculations, the monthly payroll for each volunteer firefighter or volunteer who is an individual who meets the definition of "emergency medical services personnel" in § 32.1-111.1 shall be deemed to be \$300.

4. The average weekly wage of persons, other than those covered in subdivision 3 of this definition, who respond to a hazardous materials incident at the request of the Department of Emergency Management shall be based upon the earnings of such persons from their primary employers.

"Award" means the grant or denial of benefits or other relief under this title or any rule adopted pursuant thereto.

"Change in condition" means a change in physical condition of the employee as well as any change in the conditions under which compensation was awarded, suspended, or terminated which would affect the right to, amount of, or duration of compensation.

"Client company" means any person that enters into an agreement for professional employer services with a professional employer organization.

"Coemployee" means an employee performing services pursuant to an agreement for professional employer services between a client company and a professional employer organization.

"Commission" means the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission as well as its former designation as the Virginia Industrial Commission.

"Employee" means:

1. a. Every person, including aliens and minors, in the service of another under any contract of hire or apprenticeship, written or implied, whether lawfully or unlawfully employed, except (i) one whose employment is not in the usual course of the trade, business, occupation or profession of the employer or (ii) as otherwise provided in subdivision 2 of this definition.

b. Any apprentice, trainee, or retrainee who is regularly employed while receiving training or instruction outside of regular working hours and off the job, so long as the training or instruction is related to his employment and is authorized by his employer.

c. Members of the Virginia National Guard, whether on duty in a paid or unpaid status or when performing voluntary service to their unit in a nonduty status at the request of their commander.

Income benefits for members of the National Guard shall be terminated when they are able to return to their customary civilian employment or self-employment. If they are neither employed nor self-employed, those benefits shall terminate when they are able to return to their military duties. If a member of the National Guard who is fit to return to his customary civilian employment or self-employment remains unable to perform his military duties and thereby suffers loss of military pay which he would otherwise have earned, he shall be entitled to one day of income benefits for each unit training assembly or day of paid training which he is unable to attend.

d. Members of the Virginia Defense Force.

e. Registered members of the United States Civil Defense Corps of the Commonwealth, whether on duty or in training.

f. Except as provided in subdivision 2 of this definition, all officers and employees of the Commonwealth, including (i) forest wardens; (ii) judges, clerks, deputy clerks and employees of juvenile and domestic relations district courts and general district courts; and (iii) secretaries and administrative assistants for officers and members of the General Assembly employed pursuant to § 30-19.4 and compensated as provided in the general appropriation act, who shall be deemed employees of the Commonwealth.

g. Except as provided in subdivision 2 of this definition, all officers and employees of a municipal corporation or political subdivision of the Commonwealth.

h. Except as provided in subdivision 2 of this definition, (i) every executive officer, including president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer or other officer, elected or appointed in accordance with the charter and bylaws of a corporation, municipal or otherwise and (ii) every manager of a limited liability company elected or appointed in accordance with the articles of organization or operating agreement of the limited liability company.

i. Policemen and firefighters, sheriffs and their deputies, town sergeants and their deputies, county and city commissioners of the revenue, county and city treasurers, attorneys for the Commonwealth, clerks of circuit courts and their deputies, officers and employees, and electoral board members appointed in accordance with § 24.2-106, who shall be deemed employees of the respective cities, counties and towns in which their services are employed and by whom their salaries are paid or in which their compensation is earnable. However, notwithstanding the foregoing provision of this subdivision, such individuals who would otherwise be deemed to be employees of the city, county, or town in which their services are employed and by whom their salaries are paid or in which their compensation is earnable shall be deemed to be employees of the Commonwealth while rendering aid outside of the Commonwealth pursuant to a request, approved by the Commonwealth, under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact enacted pursuant to § 44-146.28:1.

j. Members of the governing body of any county, city, or town in the Commonwealth, whenever coverage under this title is extended to such members by resolution or ordinance duly adopted.

k. Volunteers, officers and employees of any commission or board of any authority created or controlled by a local governing body, or any local agency or public service corporation owned, operated or controlled by such local governing body, whenever coverage under this title is authorized by resolution or ordinance duly adopted by the governing board of any county, city, town, or any political subdivision thereof.

l. Except as provided in subdivision 2 of this definition, volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency

182 medical services agency personnel, volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police,  
183 auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs, members of volunteer search and rescue organizations, volunteer  
184 members of regional hazardous materials emergency response teams, volunteer members of community  
185 emergency response teams, and volunteer members of medical reserve corps, who shall be deemed  
186 employees of (i) the political subdivision or public institution of higher education in which the principal  
187 office of such volunteer fire company, volunteer emergency medical services agency personnel,  
188 volunteer law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police force, auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriff  
189 force, volunteer search and rescue organization, regional hazardous materials emergency response team,  
190 community emergency response team, or medical reserve corps is located if the governing body of such  
191 political subdivision or public institution of higher education has adopted a resolution acknowledging  
192 those persons as employees for the purposes of this title or (ii) in the case of volunteer firefighters or  
193 volunteer emergency medical services personnel, the fire companies or emergency medical services  
194 agencies for which volunteer services are provided whenever such companies or squads elect to be  
195 included as an employer under this title.

196 m. (1) Volunteer firefighters, volunteer emergency medical services agency personnel, volunteer  
197 law-enforcement chaplains, auxiliary or reserve police, auxiliary or reserve deputy sheriffs, members of  
198 volunteer search and rescue organizations and any other persons who respond to an incident upon  
199 request of the Department of Emergency Management, who shall be deemed employees of the  
200 Department of Emergency Management for the purposes of this title.

201 (2) Volunteer firefighters when engaged in firefighting activities under the supervision and control of  
202 the Department of Forestry, who shall be deemed employees of the Department of Forestry for the  
203 purposes of this title.

204 n. Any sole proprietor, shareholder of a stock corporation having only one shareholder, member of a  
205 limited liability company having only one member, or all partners of a business electing to be included  
206 as an employee under the workers' compensation coverage of such business if the insurer is notified of  
207 this election. Any sole proprietor, shareholder or member or the partners shall, upon such election, be  
208 entitled to employee benefits and be subject to employee responsibilities prescribed in this title.

209 When any partner or sole shareholder, member or proprietor is entitled to receive coverage under this  
210 title, such person shall be subject to all provisions of this title as if he were an employee; however, the  
211 notices required under §§ 65.2-405 and 65.2-600 shall be given to the insurance carrier, and the panel of  
212 physicians required under § 65.2-603 shall be selected by the insurance carrier.

213 o. The independent contractor of any employer subject to this title at the election of such employer  
214 provided (i) the independent contractor agrees to such inclusion and (ii) unless the employer is  
215 self-insured, the employer's insurer agrees in writing to such inclusion. All or part of the cost of the  
216 insurance coverage of the independent contractor may be borne by the independent contractor.

217 When any independent contractor is entitled to receive coverage under this section, such person shall  
218 be subject to all provisions of this title as if he were an employee, provided that the notices required  
219 under §§ 65.2-405 and 65.2-600 are given either to the employer or its insurance carrier.

220 However, nothing in this title shall be construed to make the employees of any independent  
221 contractor the employees of the person or corporation employing or contracting with such independent  
222 contractor.

223 p. The legal representative, dependents and any other persons to whom compensation may be payable  
224 when any person covered as an employee under this title shall be deceased.

225 q. Jail officers and jail superintendents employed by regional jails or jail farm boards or authorities,  
226 whether created pursuant to Article 3.1 (§ 53.1-95.2 et seq.) or Article 5 (§ 53.1-105 et seq.) of Chapter  
227 3 of Title 53.1, or an act of assembly.

228 r. AmeriCorps members who receive stipends in return for volunteering in local, state and nonprofit  
229 agencies in the Commonwealth, who shall be deemed employees of the Commonwealth for the purposes  
230 of this title.

231 s. Food Stamp recipients participating in the work experience component of the Food Stamp  
232 Employment and Training Program, who shall be deemed employees of the Commonwealth for the  
233 purposes of this title.

234 t. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families recipients not eligible for Medicaid participating in the  
235 work experience component of the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work, who shall be deemed  
236 employees of the Commonwealth for the purposes of this title.

237 u. *Any individual who, during any period that he is incarcerated as defined in § 8.01-195.10,*  
238 *participates in any work program conducted pursuant to Article 3 (§ 53.1-41 et seq.) of Chapter 2 of*  
239 *Title 53.1.*

240 2. "Employee" shall not mean:

241 a. Officers and employees of the Commonwealth who are elected by the General Assembly, or  
242 appointed by the Governor, either with or without the confirmation of the Senate. This exception shall  
243 not apply to any "state employee" as defined in § 51.1-124.3 nor to Supreme Court Justices, judges of

the Court of Appeals, judges of the circuit or district courts, members of the Workers' Compensation Commission and the State Corporation Commission, or the Superintendent of State Police.

b. Officers and employees of municipal corporations and political subdivisions of the Commonwealth who are elected by the people or by the governing bodies, and who act in purely administrative capacities and are to serve for a definite term of office.

c. Any person who is a licensed real estate salesperson, or a licensed real estate broker associated with a real estate broker, if (i) substantially all of the salesperson's or associated broker's remuneration is derived from real estate commissions, (ii) the services of the salesperson or associated broker are performed under a written contract specifying that the salesperson is an independent contractor, and (iii) such contract includes a provision that the salesperson or associated broker will not be treated as an employee for federal income tax purposes.

d. Any taxicab or executive sedan driver, provided the Commission is furnished evidence that such individual is excluded from taxation by the Federal Unemployment Tax Act.

e. Casual employees.

f. Domestic servants.

g. Farm and horticultural laborers, unless the employer regularly has in service more than three full-time employees.

h. Employees of any person, firm or private corporation, including any public service corporation, that has regularly in service less than three employees in the same business within this Commonwealth, unless such employees and their employers voluntarily elect to be bound by this title. However, this exemption shall not apply to the operators of underground coal mines or their employees. An executive officer who is not paid salary or wages on a regular basis at an agreed upon amount and who rejects coverage under this title pursuant to § 65.2-300 shall not be included as an employee for purposes of this subdivision.

i. Employees of any common carrier by railroad engaging in commerce between any of the several states or territories or between the District of Columbia and any of the states or territories and any foreign nation or nations, and any person suffering injury or death while he is employed by such carrier in such commerce. This title shall not be construed to lessen the liability of any such common carrier or to diminish or take away in any respect any right that any person so employed, or the personal representative, kindred or relation, or dependent of such person, may have under the act of Congress relating to the liability of common carriers by railroad to their employees in certain cases, approved April 22, 1908, or under §§ 8.01-57 through 8.01-62 or § 56-441.

j. Employees of common carriers by railroad who are engaged in intrastate trade or commerce. However, this title shall not be construed to lessen the liability of such common carriers or take away or diminish any right that any employee or, in case of his death, the personal representative of such employee of such common carrier may have under §§ 8.01-57 through 8.01-61 or § 56-441.

k. Except as provided in subdivision 1 of this definition, a member of a volunteer fire department or volunteer emergency medical services agency when engaged in activities related principally to participation as an individual who meets the definition of "emergency medical services personnel" in § 32.1-111.1 or a member of such fire department whether or not the volunteer continues to receive compensation from his employer for time away from the job.

l. Except as otherwise provided in this title, noncompensated employees and noncompensated directors of (i) corporations exempt from taxation pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code (Internal Revenue Code of 1954) or (ii) property owners' associations as defined in § 55.1-1800.

m. Any person performing services as a sports official for an entity sponsoring an interscholastic or intercollegiate sports event or any person performing services as a sports official for a public entity or a private, nonprofit organization which sponsors an amateur sports event. For the purposes of this subdivision, "sports official" includes an umpire, referee, judge, scorekeeper, timekeeper or other person who is a neutral participant in a sports event. This shall not include any person, otherwise employed by an organization or entity sponsoring a sports event, who performs services as a sports official as part of his regular employment.

n. Any person who suffers an injury on or after July 1, 2012, for which there is jurisdiction under either the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, 33 U.S.C. § 901 et seq., and its extensions, or the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, 46 U.S.C. § 30104 et seq. However, this title shall not be construed to eliminate or diminish any right that any person or, in the case of the person's death, his personal representative, may have under either the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, 33 U.S.C. § 901 et seq., and its extensions, or the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, 46 U.S.C. § 30104 et seq.

o. An owner-operator of a motor vehicle that is leased with or to a common or contract carrier in the trucking industry if (i) the owner-operator performs services for the carrier pursuant to a contract that

305 provides that the owner-operator is an independent contractor and shall not be treated as an employee  
306 for purposes of the Federal Insurance Contributions Act, 26 U.S.C. § 3101 et seq., Social Security Act  
307 of 1935, P.L. 74-271, federal unemployment tax laws, and federal income tax laws and (ii) each of the  
308 following factors is present:

- 309 (1) The owner-operator is responsible for the maintenance of the vehicle;
- 310 (2) The owner-operator bears the principal burden of the vehicle's operating costs;
- 311 (3) The owner-operator is the driver;
- 312 (4) The owner-operator's compensation is based on factors related to the work performed and not on  
313 the basis of hours or time expended; and
- 314 (5) The owner-operator determines the method and means of performing the service.

315 "Employer" includes (i) any person, the Commonwealth or any political subdivision thereof, and any  
316 individual, firm, association or corporation, or the receiver or trustee of the same, or the legal  
317 representative of a deceased employer, using the service of another for pay ~~and~~; (ii) any volunteer fire  
318 company or volunteer emergency medical services agency electing to be included and maintaining  
319 coverage as an employer under this title; *and (iii) with respect to any employee described in subdivision*  
320 *1 u of the definition of employee, the Commonwealth, any political subdivision thereof, or any other*  
321 *entity that operates the correctional facility in which such an employee is incarcerated.* If the employer  
322 is insured, it includes his insurer so far as applicable.

323 "Executive officer" means (i) the president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer or other officer elected  
324 or appointed in accordance with the charter and bylaws of a corporation and (ii) the managers elected or  
325 appointed in accordance with the articles of organization or operating agreement of a limited liability  
326 company. However, "executive officer" does not include (a) noncompensated officers of corporations  
327 exempt from taxation pursuant to § 501(c)(3) of Title 26 of the United States Code (Internal Revenue  
328 Code of 1954) or (b) noncompensated officers of a property owners' association as such term is defined  
329 in § 55.1-1800.

330 "Filed" means hand delivered to the Commission's office in Richmond or any regional office  
331 maintained by the Commission; sent by means of electronic transmission approved by the Commission;  
332 sent by facsimile transmission; or posted at any post office of the United States Postal Service by  
333 certified or registered mail. Filing by first-class mail, electronic transmission, or facsimile transmission  
334 shall be deemed completed only when the document or other material transmitted reaches the  
335 Commission or its designated agent.

336 "Injury" means only injury by accident arising out of and in the course of the employment or  
337 occupational disease as defined in Chapter 4 (§ 65.2-400 et seq.) and does not include a disease in any  
338 form, except when it results naturally and unavoidably from either of the foregoing causes. Such term  
339 shall not include any injury, disease or condition resulting from an employee's voluntary:

340 1. Participation in employer-sponsored off-duty recreational activities which are not part of the  
341 employee's duties; or

342 2. Use of a motor vehicle that was provided to the employee by a motor vehicle dealer as defined by  
343 § 46.2-1500 and bears a dealer's license plate as defined by § 46.2-1550 for (i) commuting to or from  
344 work or (ii) any other nonwork activity.

345 Such term shall include any injury, disease or condition:

346 1. Arising out of and in the course of the employment of (a) an employee of a hospital as defined in  
347 § 32.1-123; (b) an employee of a health care provider as defined in § 8.01-581.1; (c) an employee of the  
348 Department of Health or a local department of health; (d) a member of a search and rescue organization;  
349 or (e) any person described in clauses (i) through (iv), (vi), and (ix) of subsection A of § 65.2-402.1  
350 otherwise subject to the provisions of this title; and

351 2. Resulting from (a) the administration of vaccinia (smallpox) vaccine, Cidofivir and derivatives  
352 thereof, or Vaccinia Immune Globulin as part of federally initiated smallpox countermeasures, or (b)  
353 transmission of vaccinia in the course of employment from an employee participating in such  
354 countermeasures to a coemployee of the same employer.

355 "Professional employer organization" means any person that enters into a written agreement with a  
356 client company to provide professional employer services.

357 "Professional employer services" means services provided to a client company pursuant to a written  
358 agreement with a professional employer organization whereby the professional employer organization  
359 initially employs all or a majority of a client company's workforce and assumes responsibilities as an  
360 employer for all coemployees that are assigned, allocated, or shared by the agreement between the  
361 professional employer organization and the client company.

362 "Staffing service" means any person, other than a professional employer organization, that hires its  
363 own employees and assigns them to a client to support or supplement the client's workforce. It includes  
364 temporary staffing services that supply employees to clients in special work situations such as employee  
365 absences, temporary skill shortages, seasonal workloads, and special assignments and projects.