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HOUSE BILL NO. 2032

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor
on February 15, 2021)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Gooditis)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3905, 40.1-2, 40.1-29, 40.1-49.3, and 40.1-49.8 of the Code of Virginia, relating to the employees providing domestic service; the Virginia Human Rights Act; application of laws applicable to employee safety and payment of wages.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-3905, 40.1-2, 40.1-29, 40.1-49.3, and 40.1-49.8 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-3905. Nondiscrimination in employment; definitions; exceptions.

A. As used in this section:

"Age" means being an individual who is at least 40 years of age.

"Domestic worker" means an individual who is compensated directly or indirectly for the performance of services of a household nature performed in or about a private home, including services performed by individuals such as companions, babysitters, cooks, waiters, butlers, valets, maids, housekeepers, nannies, nurses, janitors, laundresses, caretakers, handymen, gardeners, home health aides, personal care aides, and chauffeurs of automobiles for family use. "Domestic worker" does not include (i) a family member, friend, or neighbor of a child, or a parent of a child, who provides child care in the child's home; (ii) any child day program as defined in § 22.1-289.02 or an individual who is an employee of a child day program; or (iii) any employee employed on a casual basis in domestic service employment to provide companionship services for individuals who, because of age or infirmity, are unable to care for themselves.

"Employee" means an individual employed by an employer.

"Employer" means a person employing (i) 15 or more employees for each working day in each of 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar year, and any agent of such a person or (ii) one or more domestic workers. However, (i) for purposes of unlawful discharge under subdivision B 1 on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, status as a veteran, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, or childbirth or related medical conditions including lactation, "employer" means any employer person employing more than five persons or one or more domestic workers and (ii) (b) for purposes of unlawful discharge under subdivision B 1 on the basis of age, "employer" means any employer employing more than five but fewer than 20 persons.

"Employment agency" means any person, or an agent of such person, regularly undertaking with or without compensation to procure employees for an employer or to procure for employees opportunities to work for an employer.

"Joint apprenticeship committee" means the same as that term is defined in § 40.1-120.

"Labor organization" means an organization engaged in an industry, or an agent of such organization, that exists for the purpose, in whole or in part, of dealing with employers on behalf of employees concerning grievances, labor disputes, wages, rates of pay, hours, or other terms or conditions of employment. "Labor organization" includes employee representation committees, groups, or associations in which employees participate.

"Lactation" means a condition that may result in the feeding of a child directly from the breast or the expressing of milk from the breast.

B. It is an unlawful employment practice for:

1. An employer to:

a. Fail or refuse to hire, discharge, or otherwise discriminate against any individual with respect to such individual's compensation, terms, conditions, or privileges of employment because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions including lactation, age, status as a veteran, or national origin; or

b. Limit, segregate, or classify employees or applicants for employment in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive any individual of employment opportunities or otherwise adversely affect an individual's status as an employee, because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions including lactation, age, status as a veteran, or national origin.

2. An employment agency to:

a. Fail or refuse to refer for employment, or otherwise discriminate against, any individual because of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin; or

60 b. Classify or refer for employment any individual on the basis of such individual's race, color,
61 religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical
62 conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin.

63 3. A labor organization to:

64 a. Exclude or expel from its membership, or otherwise discriminate against, any individual because
65 of such individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status,
66 pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin;

67 b. Limit, segregate, or classify its membership or applicants for membership, or classify or fail to or
68 refuse to refer for employment any individual, in any way that would deprive or tend to deprive such
69 individual of employment opportunities, or would limit such employment opportunities or otherwise
70 adversely affect an individual's status as an employee or as an applicant for employment, because of
71 such individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy,
72 childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin; or

73 c. Cause or attempt to cause an employer to discriminate against an individual in violation of
74 subdivisions a or b.

75 4. An employer, labor organization, or joint apprenticeship committee to discriminate against any
76 individual in any program to provide apprenticeship or other training program on the basis of such
77 individual's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related
78 medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin.

79 5. An employer, in connection with the selection or referral of applicants or candidates for
80 employment or promotion, to adjust the scores of, use different cutoff scores for, or otherwise alter the
81 results of employment-related tests on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender
82 identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or
83 national origin.

84 6. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, an employer to use race, color, religion, sex, sexual
85 orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status
86 as a veteran, or national origin as a motivating factor for any employment practice, even though other
87 factors also motivate the practice.

88 7. (i) An employer to discriminate against any employees or applicants for employment, (ii) an
89 employment agency or a joint apprenticeship committee controlling an apprenticeship or other training
90 program to discriminate against any individual, or (iii) a labor organization to discriminate against any
91 member thereof or applicant for membership because such individual has opposed any practice made an
92 unlawful employment practice by this chapter or because such individual has made a charge, testified,
93 assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this chapter.

94 8. An employer, labor organization, employment agency, or joint apprenticeship committee
95 controlling an apprenticeship or other training program to print or publish, or cause to be printed or
96 published, any notice or advertisement relating to (i) employment by such an employer, (ii) membership
97 in or any classification or referral for employment by such a labor organization, (iii) any classification or
98 referral for employment by such an employment agency, or (iv) admission to, or employment in, any
99 program established to provide apprenticeship or other training by such a joint apprenticeship committee
100 that indicates any preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on race, color, religion,
101 sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical
102 conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin, except that such a notice or advertisement may
103 indicate a preference, limitation, specification, or discrimination based on religion, sex, age, or national
104 origin when religion, sex, age, or national origin is a bona fide occupational qualification for
105 employment.

106 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, it is not an unlawful employment practice:

107 1. For (i) an employer to hire and employ employees; (ii) an employment agency to classify, or refer
108 for employment, any individual; (iii) a labor organization to classify its membership or to classify or
109 refer for employment any individual; or (iv) an employer, labor organization, or joint apprenticeship
110 committee to admit or employ any individual in any apprenticeship or other training program on the
111 basis of such individual's religion, sex, or age in those certain instances where religion, sex, or age is a
112 bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of that particular
113 employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint apprenticeship committee;

114 2. For an elementary or secondary school or institution of higher education to hire and employ
115 employees of a particular religion if such elementary or secondary school or institution of higher
116 education is, in whole or in substantial part, owned, supported, controlled, or managed by a particular
117 religion or by a particular religious corporation, association, or society or if the curriculum of such
118 elementary or secondary school or institution of higher education is directed toward the propagation of a
119 particular religion;

120 3. For an employer to apply different standards of compensation, or different terms, conditions, or
121 privileges of employment, pursuant to a bona fide seniority or merit system, or a system that measures

earnings by quantity or quality of production, or to employees who work in different locations, provided that such differences are not the result of an intention to discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin;

4. For an employer to give and to act upon the results of any professionally developed ability test, provided that such test, its administration, or an action upon the results is not designed, intended, or used to discriminate because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin;

5. For an employer to provide reasonable accommodations related to pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, and lactation, when such accommodations are requested by the employee; or

6. For an employer to condition employment or premises access based upon citizenship where the employer is subject to any requirement imposed in the interest of the national security of the United States under any security program in effect pursuant to or administered under any statute or regulation of the federal government or any executive order of the President of the United States.

D. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require any employer, employment agency, labor organization, or joint apprenticeship committee to grant preferential treatment to any individual or to any group because of such individual's or group's race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin on account of an imbalance that may exist with respect to the total number or percentage of persons of any race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin employed by any employer, referred or classified for employment by any employment agency or labor organization, admitted to membership or classified by any labor organization, or admitted to or employed in any apprenticeship or other training program, in comparison with the total number or percentage of persons of such race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, status as a veteran, or national origin in any community.

E. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the employment of individuals of a particular religion by a religious corporation, association, educational institution, or society to perform work associated with its activities.

§ 40.1-2. Definitions.

As used in this title, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the following terms have the following meanings:

"Board" means the Safety and Health Codes Board.

"Business establishment" means any proprietorship, firm or corporation where people are employed, permitted or suffered to work, including agricultural employment on a farm.

"Commission" means the Safety and Health Codes Board.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. Except where the context clearly indicates the contrary, any reference to "Commissioner" shall include his authorized representatives.

"Department" means the Department of Labor and Industry.

"Domestic service" means services related to the care of an individual in a private home or the maintenance of a private home or its premises, on a permanent or temporary basis, including services performed by individuals such as companions, cooks, waiters, butlers, maids, valets, and chauffeurs. "Domestic service" does not include work that is irregular, uncertain, or incidental in nature and duration.

"Employ" shall include to permit or suffer to work.

"Employee" means any person who, in consideration of wages, salaries or commissions, may be permitted, required or directed by any employer to engage in any employment directly or indirectly.

"Employer" means an individual, partnership, association, corporation, legal representative, receiver, trustee, or trustee in bankruptcy doing business in or operating within this Commonwealth who employs another to work for wages, salaries, or on commission and shall include any similar entity acting directly or indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee.

"Female" or "woman" means a female 18 years of age or over.

"Machinery" means machines, belts, pulleys, motors, engines, gears, vats, pits, elevators, conveyors, shafts, tunnels, including machinery being operated on farms in connection with the production or harvesting of agricultural products.

§ 40.1-29. Time and medium of payment; withholding wages; written statement of earnings; agreement for forfeiture of wages; proceedings to enforce compliance; penalties.

A. All employers operating a business or engaging an individual to perform domestic service shall establish regular pay periods and rates of pay for employees except executive personnel. All such employers shall pay salaried employees at least once each month and employees paid on an hourly rate at least once every two weeks or twice in each month, except that (i) a student who is currently enrolled

183 in a work-study program or its equivalent administered by any secondary school, institution of higher
184 education, or trade school, and (ii) employees whose weekly wages total more than 150 percent of the
185 average weekly wage of the Commonwealth as defined in § 65.2-500, upon agreement by each affected
186 employee, may be paid once each month if the institution or employer so chooses. Upon termination of
187 employment an employee shall be paid all wages or salaries due him for work performed prior thereto;
188 such payment shall be made on or before the date on which he would have been paid for such work had
189 his employment not been terminated.

190 B. Payment of wages or salaries shall be (i) in lawful money of the United States, (ii) by check
191 payable at face value upon demand in lawful money of the United States, (iii) by electronic automated
192 fund transfer in lawful money of the United States into an account in the name of the employee at a
193 financial institution designated by the employee, or (iv) by credit to a prepaid debit card or card account
194 from which the employee is able to withdraw or transfer funds with full written disclosure by the
195 employer of any applicable fees and affirmative consent thereto by the employee. However, an employer
196 that elects not to pay wages or salaries in accordance with clause (i) or (ii) to an employee who is hired
197 after January 1, 2010, shall be permitted to pay wages or salaries by credit to a prepaid debit card or
198 card account in accordance with clause (iv), even though such employee has not affirmatively consented
199 thereto, if the employee fails to designate an account at a financial institution in accordance with clause
200 (iii) and the employer arranges for such card or card account to be issued through a network system
201 through which the employee shall have the ability to make at least one free withdrawal or transfer per
202 pay period, which withdrawal may be for any sum in such card or card account as the employee may
203 elect, using such card or card account at financial institutions participating in such network system.

204 C. No employer shall withhold any part of the wages or salaries of any employee except for payroll,
205 wage or withholding taxes or in accordance with law, without the written and signed authorization of the
206 employee. On each regular pay date, each employer other than an employer engaged in agricultural
207 employment including agribusiness and forestry shall provide to each employee a written statement, by a
208 paystub or online accounting, that shows the name and address of the employer; the number of hours
209 worked during the pay period if the employee is paid on the basis of (i) the number of hours worked or
210 (ii) a salary that is less than the standard salary level adopted by regulation of the U.S. Department of
211 Labor pursuant to § 13(a)(1) of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1), as
212 amended, establishing an exemption from the Act's overtime premium pay requirements; the rate of pay;
213 the gross wages earned by the employee during the pay period; and the amount and purpose of any
214 deductions therefrom. The paystub or online accounting shall include sufficient information to enable the
215 employee to determine how the gross and net pay were calculated. An employer engaged in agricultural
216 employment including agribusiness and forestry, upon request of its employee, shall furnish the
217 employee a written statement of the gross wages earned by the employee during any pay period and the
218 amount and purpose of any deductions therefrom.

219 D. No employer shall require any employee, except executive personnel, to sign any contract or
220 agreement which provides for the forfeiture of the employee's wages for time worked as a condition of
221 employment or the continuance therein, except as otherwise provided by law.

222 E. An employer who willfully and with intent to defraud fails or refuses to pay wages in accordance
223 with this section, unless the failure to pay was because of a bona fide dispute between the employer and
224 its employee:

225 1. To an employee or employees is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if the value of the wages earned
226 and not paid by the employer is less than \$10,000; and

227 2. To an employee or employees is guilty of a Class 6 felony (i) if the value of the wages earned
228 and not paid is \$10,000 or more or (ii) regardless of the value of the wages earned and not paid, if the
229 conviction is a second or subsequent conviction under this section.

230 For purposes of this section, the determination as to the "value of the wages earned" shall be made
231 by combining all wages the employer failed or refused to pay pursuant to this section.

232 F. The Commissioner may require a written complaint of the violation of this section and, with the
233 written and signed consent of an employee, may institute proceedings on behalf of an employee to
234 enforce compliance with this section, and to collect any moneys unlawfully withheld from such
235 employee which shall be paid to the employee entitled thereto. In addition, following the issuance of a
236 final order by the Commissioner or a court, the Commissioner may engage private counsel, approved by
237 the Attorney General, to collect any moneys owed to the employee or the Commonwealth. Upon entry
238 of a final order of the Commissioner, or upon entry of a judgment, against the employer, the
239 Commissioner or the court shall assess attorney fees of one-third of the amount set forth in the final
240 order or judgment.

241 G. In addition to being subject to any other penalty provided by the provisions of this section, any
242 employer who fails to make payment of wages in accordance with subsection A shall be liable for the
243 payment of all wages due, and an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, plus interest at an
244 annual rate of eight percent accruing from the date the wages were due.

H. Any employer who knowingly fails to make payment of wages in accordance with subsection A shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. The Commissioner shall notify any employer that he alleges has violated any provision of this section by certified mail. Such notice shall contain a description of the alleged violation. Within 15 days of receipt of notice of the alleged violation, the employer may request an informal conference regarding such violation with the Commissioner. In determining the amount of any penalty to be imposed, the Commissioner shall consider the size of the business of the employer charged and the gravity of the violation. The decision of the Commissioner shall be final. Civil penalties owed under this section shall be paid to the Commissioner for deposit into the general fund of the State Treasurer. The Commissioner shall prescribe procedures for the payment of proposed assessments of penalties that are not contested by employers. Such procedures shall include provisions for an employer to consent to abatement of the alleged violation and pay a proposed penalty or a negotiated sum in lieu of such penalty without admission of any civil liability arising from such alleged violation.

I. Final orders of the Commissioner, the general district courts, or the circuit courts may be recorded, enforced, and satisfied as orders or decrees of a circuit court upon certification of such orders by the Commissioner or the court as appropriate.

J. In addition to any civil or criminal penalty provided by this section, and without regard to any exhaustion of alternative administrative remedies provided for in this section, if an employer fails to pay wages to an employee in accordance with this section, the employee may bring an action, individually, jointly, with other aggrieved employees, or on behalf of similarly situated employees as a collective action consistent with the collective action procedures of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 216(b), against the employer in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover payment of the wages, and the court shall award the wages owed, an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, plus prejudgment interest thereon as provided in subsection G, and reasonable attorney fees and costs. If the court finds that the employer knowingly failed to pay wages to an employee in accordance with this section, the court shall award the employee an amount equal to triple the amount of wages due and reasonable attorney fees and costs.

K. As used in this section, a person acts "knowingly" if the person, with respect to information, (i) has actual knowledge of the information, (ii) acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity of the information, or (iii) acts in reckless disregard of the truth or falsity of the information. Establishing that a person acted knowingly shall not require proof of specific intent to defraud.

L. An action under this section shall be commenced within three years after the cause of action accrued. The period for filing is tolled upon the filing of an administrative action under subsection F until the employee has been informed that the action has been resolved or until the employee has withdrawn the complaint, whichever is sooner.

§ 40.1-49.3. Definitions.

For the purposes of §§ 40.1-49.4, 40.1-49.5, 40.1-49.6, 40.1-49.7, and 40.1-51.1 through 40.1-51.3 the following terms shall have the following meanings:

"Commission" means the Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission.

"Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Labor and Industry. Except where the context clearly indicates the contrary, any reference to Commissioner shall include his authorized representatives.

"Employee" means an ~~employee of an employer~~ *individual* who is employed in a business of his by an employer.

"Employer" means any person ~~or entity who~~ *that* (i) is engaged in business or engages an individual to perform domestic service and (ii) has employees; ~~but~~. "Employer" does not include the United States.

"Occupational safety and health standard" means a standard which requires conditions, or the adoption or use of one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or processes, reasonably necessary or appropriate to provide safe or healthful employment and places of employment.

"Serious violation" means a violation deemed to exist in a place of employment if there is a substantial probability that death or serious physical harm could result from a condition which exists, or from one or more practices, means, methods, operations, or processes which have been adopted or are in use, in such place of employment unless the employer did not, and could not with the exercise of reasonable diligence, know of the presence of the violation.

"Person" means one or more individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, business trusts, legal representatives, or any organized group of persons.

"Circuit court" means the circuit court of the city or county wherein the violation of this title or any standard, rule or regulation issued pursuant thereto is alleged to have occurred. Venue shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of §§ 8.01-257 through 8.01-267.

§ 40.1-49.8. Inspections of workplace.

In order to carry out the purposes of the occupational safety and health laws of the Commonwealth and any such rules, regulations, or standards adopted in pursuance of such laws, the Commissioner,

306 upon representing appropriate credentials to the owner, operator, or agent in charge, is authorized, with
307 the consent of the owner, operator, or agent in charge of such workplace as described in subdivision ~~(4)~~
308 ~~of this section 1~~, or with an appropriate order or warrant:

309 ~~(4)~~ 1. To enter without delay and at reasonable times any factory, plant, establishment, construction
310 site, or other area, workplace, or environment where work is performed, *including any place where an*
311 *individual is engaged to perform domestic service*, by an employee of an employer; and

312 ~~(2)~~ 2. To inspect, investigate, and take samples during regular working hours and at other reasonable
313 times, and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable manner, any such place of employment and all
314 pertinent conditions, structures, machines, apparatus, devices, equipment, and materials therein, and to
315 question privately any such employer, owner, operator, agent, or employee.

316 **2. That the provisions of this act may result in a net increase in periods of imprisonment or**
317 **commitment. Pursuant to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the**
318 **necessary appropriation cannot be determined for periods of imprisonment in state adult**
319 **correctional facilities; therefore, Chapter 1289 of the Acts of Assembly of 2020 requires the**
320 **Virginia Criminal Sentencing Commission to assign a minimum fiscal impact of \$50,000. Pursuant**
321 **to § 30-19.1:4 of the Code of Virginia, the estimated amount of the necessary appropriation cannot**
322 **be determined for periods of commitment to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice.**