

HOUSE BILL NO. 238

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE

(Proposed by the House Committee on Labor and Commerce

on _____)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Delegate Lopez)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-4321.3, 11-4.6, 40.1-28.7:7, 40.1-28.12, 40.1-29, 40.1-29.2, and 40.1-29.3 of the Code of Virginia, relating to labor and employment; payment of wages; minimum wage and overtime wages; misclassification of workers; civil actions.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 2.2-4321.3, 11-4.6, 40.1-28.7:7, 40.1-28.12, 40.1-29, 40.1-29.2, and 40.1-29.3 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 2.2-4321.3. Payment of prevailing wage for work performed on public works contracts; penalty.

A. As used in this section:

"Locality" means any county, city, or town, school division, or other political subdivision.

"Prevailing wage rate" means the rate, amount, or level of wages, salaries, benefits, and other remuneration prevailing for the corresponding classes of mechanics, laborers, or workers employed for the same work in the same trade or occupation in the locality in which the public facility or immovable property that is the subject of public works is located, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry on the basis of applicable prevailing wage rate determinations made by the U.S. Secretary of Labor under the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act, 40 U.S.C. § 276 et seq., as amended.

"Public works" means the operation, erection, construction, alteration, improvement, maintenance, or repair of any public facility or immovable property owned, used, or leased by a state agency or locality, including transportation infrastructure projects.

"State agency" means any authority, board, department, instrumentality, institution, agency, or other unit of state government. "State agency" does not include any county, city, or town.

B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, each state agency, when procuring services or letting contracts for public works paid for in whole or in part by state funds, or when overseeing or administering such contracts for public works, shall ensure that its bid specifications or other public contracts applicable to the public works require bidders, offerors, contractors, and subcontractors to pay wages, salaries, benefits, and other remuneration to any mechanic, laborer, or worker employed, retained, or

31 otherwise hired to perform services in connection with the public contract for public works at the prevailing
32 wage rate. Each public contract for public works by a state agency shall contain a provision requiring that the
33 remuneration to any individual performing the work of any mechanic, laborer, or worker on the work
34 contracted to be done under the public contract shall be at a rate equal to the prevailing wage rate.

35 C. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any locality may adopt an ordinance requiring
36 that, when letting contracts for public works paid for in whole or in part by funds of the locality, or when
37 overseeing or administering a public contract, its bid specifications, project agreements, or other public
38 contracts applicable to the public works shall require bidders, offerors, contractors, and subcontractors to pay
39 wages, salaries, benefits, and other remuneration to any mechanic, laborer, or worker employed, retained, or
40 otherwise hired to perform services in connection with the public contract at the prevailing wage rate. Each
41 public contract of a locality that has adopted an ordinance described in this section shall contain a provision
42 requiring that the remuneration to any individual performing the work of any mechanic, laborer, or worker on
43 the work contracted to be done under the public contract shall be at a rate equal to the prevailing wage rate.

44 D. Any contractor or subcontractor who employs any mechanic, laborer, or worker to perform work
45 contracted to be done under the public contract for public works for or on behalf of a state agency or for or on
46 behalf of a locality that has adopted an ordinance described in subsection C or at a rate that is less than the
47 prevailing wage rate (i) shall be liable to such individuals for the payment of all wages due, plus interest at an
48 annual rate of eight percent accruing from the date the wages were due; and (ii) shall be disqualified from
49 bidding on public contracts with any public body until the contractor or subcontractor has made full
50 restitution of the amount described in clause (i) owed to such individuals. A contractor or subcontractor who
51 willfully violates this section is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

52 E. Any interested party, which shall include a bidder, offeror, contractor, or subcontractor, shall have
53 standing to challenge any bid specification, project agreement, or other public contract for public works that
54 violates the provisions of this section. Such interested party shall be entitled to injunctive relief to prevent any
55 violation of this section. Any interested party bringing a successful action under this section shall be entitled
56 to recover reasonable attorney fees and costs from the responsible party.

57 F. A representative of a state agency or a representative of a locality that has adopted an ordinance
58 described in subsection C may contact the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, at least 10 but not more than
59 20 days prior to the date bids for such a public contract for public works will be advertised or solicited, to

60 ascertain the proper prevailing wage rate for work to be performed under the public contract.

61 G. Upon the award of any public contract subject to the provisions of this section, the contractor to whom
62 such contract is awarded shall certify, under oath, to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry the pay scale
63 for each craft or trade employed on the project to be used by such contractor and any of the contractor's
64 subcontractors for work to be performed under such public contract. This certification shall, for each craft or
65 trade employed on the project, specify the total hourly amount to be paid to employees, including wages and
66 applicable fringe benefits, provide an itemization of the amount paid in wages and each applicable benefit,
67 and list the names and addresses of any third party fund, plan or program to which benefit payments will be
68 made on behalf of employees.

69 H. Each employer subject to the provisions of this section shall keep, maintain, and preserve (i) records
70 relating to the wages paid to and hours worked by each individual performing the work of any mechanic,
71 laborer, or worker and (ii) a schedule of the occupation or work classification at which each individual
72 performing the work of any mechanic, laborer, or worker on the public works project is employed during
73 each work day and week. The employer shall preserve these records for a minimum of six years and make
74 such records available to the Department of Labor and Industry within 10 days of a request and shall certify
75 that records reflect the actual hours worked and the amount paid to its workers for whatever time period they
76 request.

77 I. Contractors and subcontractors performing public works for a state agency or for a locality that has
78 adopted an ordinance described in subsection C shall post the general prevailing wage rate for each craft and
79 classification involved, as determined by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, including the effective
80 date of any changes thereof, in prominent and easily accessible places at the site of the work or at any such
81 places as are used by the contractor or subcontractors to pay workers their wages. Within 10 days of such
82 posting, a contractor or subcontractor shall certify to the Commissioner of Labor and Industry its compliance
83 with this subsection.

84 J. The provisions of this section shall not apply to any public contract for public works of \$250,000 or
85 less.

86 K. *The Attorney General or the Commissioner of Labor and Industry may investigate and bring a civil
87 action in a court of competent jurisdiction against an employer or other person for a violation of this section
88 under subsection M of § 40.1-29.*

89 *L. As used in this section, "employer" includes any person or group of persons acting directly or*
90 *indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee and includes a state agency.*

91 **§ 11-4.6. Required contract provisions in construction contracts.**

92 A. As used in this section, unless the context requires a different meaning:

93 "Construction contract" means a contract for the construction, alteration, repair, or maintenance of a
94 building, structure, or appurtenance thereto, including moving, demolition, and excavation connected
95 therewith, or any provision contained in any contract relating to the construction of projects other than
96 buildings, except for contracts awarded solely for professional services as that term is defined in § 2.2-4301.

97 "Contractor" or "general contractor" means the same as that term is defined in § 54.1-1100, except that
98 such term shall not include persons solely furnishing materials.

99 "Owner" means a person or entity, other than a public body as defined in § 2.2-4301, responsible for
100 contracting with a general contractor for the procurement of a construction contract.

101 "Subcontractor" means the same as that term is defined in § 2.2-4347.

102 B. 1. In any construction contract between an owner and a general contractor, the parties shall include a
103 provision that requires the owner to pay such general contractor within 60 days of the receipt of an invoice
104 following satisfactory completion of the portion of the work for which the general contractor has invoiced.

105 An owner shall not be liable for amounts otherwise reducible due to the general contractor's noncompliance
106 with the terms of the contract. However, in the event that an owner withholds all or a part of the amount
107 invoiced by the general contractor under the terms of the contract, the owner shall notify the general
108 contractor within 45 days of the receipt of such invoice, in writing, of his intention to withhold all or part of
109 the general contractor's payment with the reason for nonpayment, specifically identifying the contractual
110 noncompliance and the dollar amount being withheld. Failure of an owner to make timely payment as
111 provided in this subdivision shall result in interest penalties consistent with § 2.2-4355. Nothing in this
112 subdivision shall be construed to apply to or prohibit the inclusion of any retainage provisions in a
113 construction contract.

114 2. Any construction contract in which there is at least one general contractor and one subcontractor shall
115 be deemed to include a provision under which any general contractor is liable to any subcontractor with
116 whom the general contractor contracts for satisfactory performance of the subcontractor's duties under the
117 contract. Such contract shall require such general contractor to pay such subcontractor within the earlier of (i)
118 60 days of the receipt of an invoice following satisfactory completion of the portion of the work for which the
119 subcontractor has invoiced or (ii) seven days after receipt of amounts paid by the owner to the general

120 contractor or by the contractor to the subcontractor for work performed by a subcontractor pursuant to the
121 terms of the contract. Such contractors shall not be liable for amounts otherwise reducible due to the
122 subcontractor's noncompliance with the terms of the contract. However, in the event that a contractor
123 withholds all or a part of the amount invoiced by any subcontractor under the contract, the contractor shall
124 notify the subcontractor within 50 days of the receipt of such invoice, in writing, of his intention to withhold
125 all or a part of the subcontractor's payment with the reason for nonpayment, specifically identifying the
126 contractual noncompliance, the dollar amount being withheld, and the subcontractor responsible for the
127 contractual noncompliance. Payment by the party contracting with the contractor shall not be a condition
128 precedent to payment to any subcontractor, regardless of that contractor's receiving payment for amounts
129 owed to that contractor, unless the party contracting with the contractor is insolvent or a debtor in bankruptcy
130 as defined in § 50-73.79. Any provision in a contract contrary to this section shall be unenforceable. Failure
131 of a contractor to make timely payment as provided in this subdivision shall result in interest penalties
132 consistent with § 2.2-4355. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to apply to or prohibit the inclusion
133 of any retainage provisions in a construction contract. Every subcontract between a subcontractor and a
134 lower-tier subcontractor or supplier, of any tier, shall contain the identical payment, notice, and interest
135 requirements as those provided in this subdivision if (i) such construction contract is related to a project other
136 than a single-family residential project and (ii) the value of the project, or an aggregate of projects under such
137 construction contract, is greater than \$500,000.

138 C. 1. Any construction contract between a general contractor and its subcontractor and any lower tier
139 additional subcontract entered into on or after July 1, 2020 2026, shall be deemed to include a provision
140 under which the general contractor, its subcontractor, and the additional subcontractor at any lower tier are
141 jointly and severally liable to pay the employees of any ~~additional~~ subcontractor at any lower tier the greater
142 of (i) all wages due to a subcontractor's employees or to the lower tier subcontractor's employees at such rate
143 and upon such terms as shall be provided in the employment agreement between the subcontractor and its
144 employees or (ii) the amount of wages that the subcontractor or any lower tier subcontractor is required to
145 pay to its employees under the provisions of applicable law, including the provisions of §§ 40.1-28.7:7 and
146 40.1-29, the Virginia Minimum Wage Act (§ 40.1-28.8 et seq.), and the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (29
147 U.S.C. § 201 et seq.).

148 2. A general contractor shall be deemed to be the employer of any subcontractor's employees for purposes
149 of § 40.1-29. If the wages due to the subcontractor's employees under the terms of the employment agreement
150 between a subcontractor and its employees are not paid, the general contractor shall be subject to all

151 penalties, criminal and civil, to which an employer that fails or refuses to pay wages is subject under
152 § 40.1-29. Any liability of a general contractor pursuant to § 40.1-29 shall be joint and several with the
153 subcontractor that failed or refused to pay the wages to its employees.

154 3. Except as otherwise provided in a contract between the general contractor and the subcontractor, the
155 subcontractor shall indemnify the general contractor for any wages, damages, interest, penalties, or attorney
156 fees owed as a result of the subcontractor's failure to pay wages to the subcontractor's employees as provided
157 in subdivision 1, unless the subcontractor's failure to pay the wages was due to the general contractor's failure
158 to pay moneys due to the subcontractor in accordance with the terms of their construction contract.

159 4. The provisions of this subsection shall only apply if (i) it can be demonstrated that the general
160 contractor knew or should have known that the subcontractor was not paying his employees all wages due,
161 (ii) the construction contract is related to a project other than a single family residential project; and (iii) the
162 value of the project, or an aggregate of projects under one construction contract, is greater than \$500,000. As
163 evidence a general contractor or any subcontractor may offer a written certification, under oath, from the
164 subcontractor in direct privity of contract with the general contractor or subcontractor stating that (a) the
165 subcontractor and each of his sub-subcontractors has paid all employees all wages due for the period during
166 which the wages are claimed for the work performed on the project and (b) to the subcontractor's knowledge
167 all sub-subcontractors below the subcontractor have similarly paid their employees all such wages. Any
168 person who falsely signs such certification shall be personally liable to the general contractor or subcontractor
169 for fraud and any damages the general contractor or subcontractor may incur.

170 **§ 40.1-28.7:7. Misclassification of workers.**

171 A. An individual who has not been properly classified as an employee may bring a civil action for
172 damages against his employer for failing to properly classify the employee if the employer had knowledge of
173 the individual's misclassification. An individual's representative may bring the action on behalf of the
174 individual. If the court finds that the employer has not properly classified the individual as an employee, the
175 court may award the individual damages in the amount of any wages, salary, employment benefits, including
176 expenses incurred by the employee that would otherwise have been covered by insurance, or other
177 compensation lost to the individual, a reasonable attorney fee, and the costs incurred by the individual in
178 bringing the action. *In addition, any employer that violates this section shall be liable to the aggrieved*
179 *individual for the applicable remedies, damages, or other relief available in an action brought pursuant to*
180 *subsection J of § 40.1-29. Any action brought pursuant to this subsection shall commence within three years*
181 *after the accrual of the cause of action.*

182 B. In a proceeding under subsection A, an individual who performs services for a person for remuneration
183 shall be presumed to be an employee of the person that paid such remuneration, and the person that paid such
184 remuneration shall be presumed to be the employer of the individual who was paid for performing the
185 services, unless it is shown that the individual is an independent contractor as determined under the Internal
186 Revenue Service guidelines.

187 C. As used in this section, "Internal Revenue Service guidelines" means the most recent version of the
188 guidelines published by the Internal Revenue Service for evaluating independent contractor status, including
189 its interpretation of common law doctrine on independent contractors, and any regulations that the Internal
190 Revenue Service may promulgate regarding determining whether an employee is an independent contractor,
191 including 26 C.F.R. § 31.3121(d)-1.

192 D. In a proceeding under subsection A, a hiring party providing an individual with personal protective
193 equipment in response to a disaster caused by a communicable disease of public health threat for which a
194 state of emergency has been declared pursuant to § 44-146.17 shall not be considered in any determination
195 regarding whether such individual is an employee or independent contractor. For the purposes of this
196 subsection, the terms "communicable disease of public health threat," "disaster," and "state of emergency"
197 have the same meaning as provided in § 44-146.16.

198 *E. For the purposes of this section, "employer" includes any person or group of persons acting directly or
199 indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee.*

200 **§ 40.1-28.12. Employee's remedies.**

201 Any employer who violates *any of* the minimum wage requirements of this ~~law article~~ shall be liable to
202 the employee or employees affected ~~in the amount of the unpaid minimum wages, plus interest at eight per~~
203 ~~centum per annum upon such unpaid wages as may be due the plaintiff, said interest to be awarded from the~~
204 ~~date or dates said wages were due the employee or employees. The court may, in addition to any judgment~~
205 ~~awarded to the employee or employees, require defendant to pay reasonable attorney's fees incurred by the~~
206 ~~employee or employees for the applicable remedies, damages, or other relief available in an action brought~~
207 ~~pursuant to subsection J of § 40.1-29.~~

208 **§ 40.1-29. Time and medium of payment; withholding wages; written statement of earnings;
209 agreement for forfeiture of wages; proceedings to enforce compliance; penalties.**

210 A. All employers operating a business or engaging an individual to perform domestic service shall
211 establish regular pay periods and rates of pay for employees except executive personnel. All such employers

212 shall pay salaried employees at least once each month and employees paid on an hourly rate at least once
213 every two weeks or twice in each month, except that (i) a student who is currently enrolled in a work-study
214 program or its equivalent administered by any secondary school, institution of higher education, or trade
215 school, and (ii) employees whose weekly wages total more than 150 percent of the average weekly wage of
216 the Commonwealth as defined in § 65.2-500, upon agreement by each affected employee, may be paid once
217 each month if the institution or employer so chooses. Upon termination of employment an employee shall be
218 paid all wages ~~or salaries~~ due him for work performed prior thereto; such payment shall be made on or before
219 the date on which he would have been paid for such work had his employment not been terminated.

220 B. Payment of wages ~~or salaries~~ shall be (i) in lawful money of the United States, (ii) by check payable at
221 face value upon demand in lawful money of the United States, (iii) by electronic automated fund transfer in
222 lawful money of the United States into an account in the name of the employee at a financial institution
223 designated by the employee, or (iv) by credit to a prepaid debit card or card account from which the employee
224 is able to withdraw or transfer funds with full written disclosure by the employer of any applicable fees and
225 affirmative consent thereto by the employee. However, an employer that elects not to pay wages ~~or salaries~~ in
226 accordance with clause (i) or (ii) to an employee who is hired after January 1, 2010, shall be permitted to pay
227 wages ~~or salaries~~ by credit to a prepaid debit card or card account in accordance with clause (iv), even though
228 such employee has not affirmatively consented thereto, if the employee fails to designate an account at a
229 financial institution in accordance with clause (iii) and the employer arranges for such card or card account to
230 be issued through a network system through which the employee shall have the ability to make at least one
231 free withdrawal or transfer per pay period, which withdrawal may be for any sum in such card or card
232 account as the employee may elect, using such card or card account at financial institutions participating in
233 such network system.

234 C. No employer shall withhold any part of the wages ~~or salaries~~ of any employee except for payroll, wage
235 or withholding taxes or in accordance with law, without the written and signed authorization of the employee.
236 On each regular pay date, each employer, other than an employer engaged in agricultural employment
237 including agribusiness and forestry, shall provide to each employee a written statement, by a paystub or
238 online accounting, that shows the name and address of the employer; the number of hours worked during the
239 pay period if the employee is paid on the basis of (i) the number of hours worked or (ii) a salary that is less
240 than the standard salary level adopted by regulation of the U.S. Department of Labor pursuant to § 13(a)(1) of
241 the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 213(a)(1), as amended, establishing an exemption from the
242 Act's overtime premium pay requirements; the rate of pay; the gross wages earned by the employee during

243 the pay period; and the amount and purpose of any deductions therefrom. The paystub or online accounting
244 shall include sufficient information to enable the employee to determine how the gross and net pay were
245 calculated. *An employer shall keep such paystubs or online accounting for at least three years following the*
246 *date of the work performed.* An employer engaged in agricultural employment including agribusiness and
247 forestry, upon request of its employee, shall furnish the employee a written statement of the gross wages
248 earned by the employee during any pay period and the amount and purpose of any deductions therefrom.

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

252 E. An employer who willfully ~~and~~ or with intent to defraud fails or refuses to pay wages ~~in accordance~~
253 ~~with this section or § 40.1-29.3~~, unless the failure to pay was because of a bona fide dispute between the
254 employer and its employee:

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

257 2. To an employee or employees is guilty of a Class 6 felony (i) if the value of the wages earned and not
258 paid is \$10,000 or more or (ii) regardless of the value of the wages earned and not paid, if the conviction is a
259 second or subsequent conviction under this section or § 40.1-29.3.

260 For purposes of this section, the determination as to the "value of the wages earned" shall be made by
261 combining all wages the employer failed or refused to pay ~~pursuant to this section and § 40.1-29.3~~.

262 F. The Commissioner may ~~require a written complaint of the violation of this section and~~, with the written
263 ~~and signed~~ consent of an employee *or an interested third party, or at the Commissioner's discretion based on*
264 *reasonable and good-faith belief of wage violations, may institute administrative or court proceedings on*
265 *behalf of an employee to enforce compliance with this section, and to remedy the failure to pay wages. The*
266 *Commissioner may seek and collect any moneys wages unlawfully withheld from such any employee that*
267 *shall be paid to the employee entitled thereto and all damages and penalties available under subsection J.*
268 *Such wages and damages shall be paid as restitution to any affected employee entitled thereto and such*
269 *penalties may be paid to any affected employee or the Commonwealth. In the course of an investigation, the*
270 *Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee may enter the employer's premises to review records.* In
271 *addition, following the issuance of a final order by the Commissioner or a court, the Commissioner may*
272 *engage private counsel, approved by the Attorney General, to collect any moneys owed to the employee or*
273 *the Commonwealth. Upon entry of a final order of the Commissioner, or upon entry of a judgment, against*

274 the employer, the Commissioner or the court shall assess *reasonable* attorney fees of ~~one-third of the amount~~
275 ~~set forth in the final order or judgment.~~

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

280 H. Any employer who knowingly fails to make payment of wages ~~in accordance with subsection A or~~
281 ~~§ 40.1-29.3~~ shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation. The Commissioner
282 shall notify any employer that the Commissioner alleges has violated any provision of this section ~~or~~
283 ~~§ 40.1-29.3~~ by certified mail. Such notice shall contain a description of the alleged violation. Within 15 days
284 of receipt of notice of the alleged violation, the employer may request an informal conference regarding such
285 violation with the Commissioner. In determining the amount of any penalty to be imposed, the Commissioner
286 shall consider the size of the business of the employer charged and the gravity of the violation. The decision
287 of the Commissioner shall be final. Civil penalties owed under this section shall be paid to the Commissioner
288 for deposit into the general fund of the State Treasurer. The Commissioner shall prescribe procedures for the
289 payment of proposed assessments of penalties that are not contested by employers. Such procedures shall
290 include provisions for an employer to consent to abatement of the alleged violation and pay a proposed
291 penalty or a negotiated sum in lieu of such penalty without admission of any civil liability arising from such
292 alleged violation.

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

296 J. In addition to any civil or criminal penalty provided by this section, and without regard to any
297 exhaustion of alternative administrative remedies provided for in this section, if an employer fails to pay
298 wages to an employee in accordance with this section *or violates any provision of § 40.1-28.7:7, the Virginia*
299 *Minimum Wage Act (§ 40.1-28.8 et seq.), § 40.1-29.2, or § 40.1-29.3*, the employee may bring an action,
300 individually, jointly, with other aggrieved employees, or on behalf of similarly situated employees as a
301 collective action consistent with the collective action procedures of the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. §
302 216(b), against the employer in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover payment of the wages, and the
303 court shall award the wages owed, an additional equal amount as liquidated damages, plus prejudgment
304 interest thereon as provided in subsection G, and reasonable attorney fees and costs. If the court finds that the

305 employer knowingly failed to pay wages to an employee ~~in accordance with this section~~, the court shall
306 award the employee an amount equal to triple the amount of wages due and reasonable attorney fees and
307 costs. *No provision of this subsection shall be construed to replace or limit the availability of any other class*
308 *or collective action available in a court of competent jurisdiction or other tribunal.*

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

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

317 *M. The Attorney General or the Commissioner may investigate and bring a civil action in a court of*
318 *competent jurisdiction against an employer or other person for a violation of this section, § 2.2-4321.3 or*
319 *40.1-28.7:7, the Virginia Minimum Wage Act (§ 40.1-28.8 et seq.), § 40.1-29.2, or § 40.1-29.3 for restitution*
320 *or for injunctive, compensatory, or other authorized relief for any affected employees or for the public*
321 *interest. In conducting investigations, the Attorney General or the Commissioner may require an employer or*
322 *employee to submit a statement or report in writing under oath as to all necessary information, examine*
323 *under oath any person alleged to have participated in or have knowledge of the violation, and issue*
324 *subpoenas. Upon prevailing in a civil action under this section, the Attorney General or the Commissioner*
325 *shall be entitled to reasonable attorney fees and costs, statutory penalties equal to any administrative*
326 *penalties provided by law, and, on behalf of affected employees, the payment of wages unlawfully withheld,*
327 *additional damages to the same extent as would be available if the employee brought the civil action, and*
328 *equitable relief as may be appropriate. In no such action shall the Attorney General or the Commissioner be*
329 *awarded an amount already recovered by an employee. In addition, the Attorney General or the*
330 *Commissioner may authorize private counsel to pursue any wages, damages, and penalties owed to*
331 *employees or the Commonwealth in any such action.*

332 *N. As used in this section, "wages" includes any remuneration an employer owes to an employee,*
333 *including hourly wages, piece rate wages, day rates, salaries, overtime wages, legally required prevailing*
334 *wages, commissions, tips, bonuses, severance, accrued vacation or sick leave pay pursuant to an employment*
335 *policy or agreement, and damages available due to the misclassification of an employee in violation of*

336 § 40.1-28.7:7.

337 *O. For the purposes of this section, "employer" includes any person or group of persons acting directly or*
338 *indirectly in the interest of an employer in relation to an employee.*

339 **§ 40.1-29.2. Employer liability.**

340 Any employer that violates the overtime pay requirements of the federal Fair Labor Standards Act of
341 1938, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., as amended, and any regulations, guidance, or rules adopted pursuant to the
342 overtime pay provisions of such federal act or any related governing case law shall be liable to the employee
343 for the applicable remedies, damages, or other relief available ~~under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act~~ in
344 an action brought pursuant to ~~the process in~~ subsection J of § 40.1-29. For the purposes of this section,
345 "employer" and "employee" shall have the meanings ascribed to them under the federal Fair Labor Standards
346 Act and all applicable exemptions, overtime calculation methods, methods of overtime payment, or other
347 overtime provisions within the federal Fair Labor Standards Act and any attendant regulations, guidance, or
348 rules shall apply. ~~Any action brought pursuant to this section shall accrue according to the applicable~~
349 ~~limitations set forth in the federal Fair Labor Standards Act.~~

350 **§ 40.1-29.3. Overtime for certain employees.**

351 A. As used in this section:

352 "Carrier" means an air carrier that is subject to the provisions of the federal Railway Labor Act, 45 U.S.C.
353 § 181 et seq.

354 "Derivative carrier" means a carrier that meets the two-part test used by the federal National Mediation
355 Board to determine if a carrier is considered a derivative carrier.

356 "*Direct support services*" means personal care services that assist participants with instrumental
357 activities of daily living, such as grooming, toileting, bathing, eating, dressing, monitoring health status and
358 physical condition, and assisting with housekeeping activities, and other in-home, long-term services and
359 supports provided to an elderly person or person with a disability.

360 "Employee" means an individual employed by a derivative carrier or an individual who is employed by a
361 home care agency or other third-party provider to provide direct support services.

362 "*Employer*" includes any person or group of persons acting directly or indirectly in the interest of an
363 employer in relation to an employee.

364 B. An employer shall pay each employee an overtime premium at a rate not less than one and one-half
365 times the employee's regular rate for any hours worked by an employee in excess of 40 hours in any one

366 workweek. An employee's regular rate shall be calculated as the employee's hourly rate of pay plus any other
367 non-overtime wages paid or allocated for that workweek, excluding any amounts that would be excluded
368 from the regular rate by the federal Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., and its implementing
369 regulations for an individual covered by such federal act, divided by the total number of hours worked in that
370 workweek.

371 C. If an employer fails to pay overtime wages to an employee in accordance with this section, the
372 ~~employee may bring an action against the employer in a court of competent jurisdiction to recover payment~~
373 ~~of the overtime wages, and the court shall award the overtime wages owed, an additional equal amount as~~
374 ~~liquidated damages, and reasonable attorney fees and costs; however, if the employer shows to the~~
375 ~~satisfaction of the court that the act or omission giving rise to such action was in good faith and that he had~~
376 ~~reasonable grounds for believing that his act or omission was not a violation of this section, the court may, in~~
377 ~~its discretion, award no liquidated damages or award any amount thereof not to exceed the amount of the~~
378 ~~unpaid overtime wages.~~

379 D. ~~An action under this section shall be commenced within two years after the cause of action accrued,~~
380 ~~except that a cause of action arising out of a willful violation may be commenced within three years after the~~
381 ~~cause of action accrued employer shall be liable to the employee for the applicable remedies, damages, or~~
382 ~~other relief available in an action brought pursuant to subsection J of § 40.1-29.~~