THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2160 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY DeLUCA, SANCHEZ, McNEILL, HOWARD, SCHLOSSBERG, DELLOSO, CIRESI, MALAGARI AND N. NELSON, DECEMBER 13, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND INDUSTRY, DECEMBER 13, 2021

AN ACT

Amending the act of October 13, 2010 (P.L.506, No.72), entitled "An act providing for the criteria for independent 2 contractors in the construction industry and for the powers 3 and duties of the Department of Labor and Industry and the Secretary of Labor and Industry; and imposing penalties," 5 further providing for improper classification of employees 6 7 and for criminal penalties. 8 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania hereby enacts as follows: 10 Section 1. Sections 4(a) and 5 of the act of October 13, 11 2010 (P.L.506, No.72), known as the Construction Workplace Misclassification Act, are amended to read: 12 13 Section 4. Improper classification of employees. 14 (a) Violation. -- An employer, or officer or agent of an employer, shall be in violation of this act and shall be subject 15 16 to the penalties, remedies and actions contained in this act if 17 the employer, officer or agent: 18 fails to properly classify an individual as an 19 employee for purposes of the Workers' Compensation Act and

fails to provide the coverage required under the Workers'

20

- 1 Compensation Act; [or]
- 2 (2) fails to properly classify an individual as an
- 3 employee for purposes of the Unemployment Compensation Law
- 4 and fails to pay contributions, reimbursements or other
- 5 amounts required to be paid under the Unemployment
- 6 Compensation Law[.]; or
- 7 (3) is convicted of an offense under 18 Pa.C.S. § 4107
- 8 <u>(relating to deceptive or fraudulent business practices)</u>
- 9 <u>reasonably related to a violation under paragraph (1) or (2).</u>
- 10 * * *
- 11 Section 5. Criminal penalties.
- 12 (a) Grading. -- An employer, or officer or agent of an
- 13 employer, that intentionally violates section [4(a)] $\underline{4(a)(1)}$ or
- 14 <u>(2)</u> commits:
- 15 (1) A misdemeanor of the [third] second degree for a
- 16 first offense.
- 17 (2) A misdemeanor of the [second] $\underline{\text{first}}$ degree for a
- 18 second or subsequent offense.
- [(b) Summary offense. -- An employer, or officer or agent of
- 20 an employer, that negligently fails to properly classify an
- 21 individual as an employee under section 4(a) commits a summary
- 22 offense and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine
- of not more than \$1,000. Evidence of a prior conviction under
- 24 this subsection shall be admissible as evidence of intent under
- 25 subsection (a).]
- 26 (b.1) Debarment.--A person sentenced under subsection (a)
- 27 <u>shall be prohibited from contracting or in any manner doing</u>
- 28 <u>business</u> with the Commonwealth for a period of five years.
- 29 (c) Concurrent jurisdiction.--
- 30 (1) The Attorney General shall have concurrent

- 1 prosecutorial jurisdiction with the district attorney of the
- 2 appropriate county for violations under this section and any
- 3 offense arising out of the activity prohibited by this
- 4 section.
- 5 (2) No person charged with a violation of this section
- 6 by the Attorney General shall have standing to challenge the
- authority of the Attorney General to prosecute the case, and
- 8 if a challenge is made, the challenge shall be dismissed, and
- 9 no relief shall be available in the courts of this
- 10 Commonwealth to the person making the challenge.
- 11 Section 2. This act shall apply to offenses committed and
- 12 sentences imposed on and after the effective date of this
- 13 section.
- 14 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.