

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 **H. B. 4636**

4 (By Delegates Poore, Frazier, D. Campbell, Morgan,
5 D. Poling, Moye, Hartman, Craig and Stephens)

6 (Originating in the Committee on Finance)

7 [February 24, 2012]

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10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11 adding thereto a new article, designated, §16-44-1, relating
12 to a responsible parent program pilot project; authorizing
13 Department of Health and Human Resources in conjunction with
14 the Division of Corrections to create the pilot project;
15 providing criteria to participate in the project; providing
16 educational topics for the project; and providing reporting
17 requirements.

18 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

19 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
20 by adding thereto a new article, designated §16-44-1, to read as
21 follows:

22 **ARTICLE 44. RESPONSIBLE PARENT PROGRAM PILOT-PROJECT.**

23 **§16-44-1. Authorization of responsible parent program pilot-**
24 **project.**

25 (a) The Department of Health and Human Resources in
26 conjunction with the Division of Corrections in an effort to

1 improve child and family well-being and to empower men and women
2 with the skills and resources needed to succeed as parents and as
3 family providers, may implement a twelve-month pilot project to
4 establish a responsible parent program that:

5 (1) Identifies for enrollment in the program persons who:

6 (A) Are parents of one or more children;

7 (B) Are present or former recipients of Temporary Aid to Needy
8 Families or have one or more children who are receiving Temporary
9 Aid to Needy Families;

10 (C) Have an income that is at two hundred percent or below the
11 federal poverty level; or

12 (D) Are within six months of their release from prison or have
13 been previously incarcerated, and

14 (E) Currently reside or will reside in Kanawha, Cabell,
15 Raleigh, Mercer, McDowell, Wood or Randolph Counties.

16 (2) Includes a course of instruction, which may include, but
17 not be limited to:

18 (A) Healthy marriage/relationship skills.

19 (B) Parenting skills;

20 (C) Job seeking training that includes:

21 (i) Knowledge of personal aptitudes, skills and preferences;

22 (ii) Knowledge of different types of employment opportunities;

23 (iii) Resume drafting, completion of a job application,
24 drafting a cover letter and follow-up letter; and

25 (iv) Interview skills.

26 (D) Vocational training;

1 (E) Basics of domestic violence; and

2 (F) Drug and/or alcohol addiction.

3 (3) Requires the successful completion of a transitional job
4 assignment.

5 (b) If a pilot project is implemented by the Division of
6 Corrections, that agency, in conjunction with the Department of
7 Health and Human Resources, shall submit an annual report on the
8 results of the pilot project to the Interim Joint Committee on
9 Judiciary one year after implementation of the pilot project. The
10 results shall include at a minimum:

11 (1) Key process measures, including,

12 (A) The number of participants served;

13 (B) The demographics of participants;

14 (C) Attendance/participation in training elements;

15 (D) The knowledge acquired by participants;

16 (E) Participant behavior changes as a result of program
17 participation;

18 (F) The number of participants gaining employment and their
19 wages earned;

20 (G) The number of participants completing vocational training;

21 (H) The number of participants successfully completing
22 transitional job assignments;

23 (I) The number of participants demonstrating workforce
24 readiness; and

25 (J) The recidivism rate of participants.

26 (2) An unbiased comparison of the outcomes between program

1 participants and similarly situated persons not in the program.