

H. B. 4591

(By Delegate Brown)

[Introduced February 17, 2012; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
adding thereto a new section, designated §18-2E-3h, relating
to the establishment of a pilot program for school age
expectant mothers, developed by the State Superintendent of
Schools and the State Board of Education.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding
thereto a new section, designated §18-2E-3h, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 2E. HIGH QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.

**§18-2E-3h. West Virginia state pilot program for school age
expectant mothers.**

(a) The Legislature makes the following findings:

(1) Teenage pregnancy rates has been on the decline
nationwide except in the State of West Virginia where, according to

1 the latest statistics, the teen birth rate among fifteen to
2 seventeen year olds increased by seventeen percent between 2007 and
3 2009;

4 (2) Research shows that without intervention, twenty-five
5 percent of pregnant teenage mothers will have a subsequent
6 pregnancy within two years;

7 (3) Teenage pregnancy is the leading cause of dropping out of
8 school for adolescent women, has been shown to increase poverty and
9 to start a downward spiral of events that can affect the mother and
10 child for the rest of their lives;

11 (4) In 2008, the State of West Virginia spent \$67 million
12 dollars on services related to teen childbearing;

13 (5) Programs provided to teenage expectant mothers in other
14 states, in particular in the state of Kentucky, have resulted in
15 higher graduation rates, higher college acceptance rates, lower
16 subsequent pregnancies, greater self-esteem of the program
17 participants, improved parenting skills, increased knowledge and
18 increased job skills;

19 (6) With increased services, expectant teenagers and teen
20 mothers can complete high school and reduce the high school drop
21 out rate, obtain a rewarding career or college degree, delay
22 subsequent pregnancies and deliver babies at healthy birth weights
23 who attain developmentally appropriate milestones; and

24 (7) Services contemplated by this section has the potential

1 of saving the State of West Virginia \$15 million annually.

2 (b) The purpose of this section is to provide for the
3 development and implementation of a pilot program for school age
4 expectant mothers and their children to initially be located in
5 Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia, and to be established by
6 the State Superintendent of Schools and the State Board of
7 Education.

8 (c) Required components of the pilot program include, but are
9 not limited to, the following:

10 (1) Countywide transportation for students and their newborn
11 infants during the pregnancy and for not more than one year after
12 the birth of the infant;

13 (2) Day care services for the infants, on site, during the
14 school day;

15 (3) On site obstetrical and pediatric health services;

16 (4) On site prenatal and parenting education for teenage
17 parents including instruction in the stages of child growth and
18 development, methods for aiding in the intellectual, language,
19 physical and social development of children and guidance on
20 constructive play activities;

21 (5) On site therapeutic support group with oversight and
22 leadership by a qualified clinical professional;

23 (6) An exemption from minimum attendance requirements for
24 absences related to pregnancy or parenting except that student

1 participants shall be required to make up all course work due to
2 absence;

3 (7) Flexible scheduling to assure success in the pilot
4 program in addition to attaining all requirements for graduation;
5 and

6 (8) A minimum teacher student ratio.

7 (d) The state superintendent shall make status reports to the
8 Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability and to
9 the state board annually and may include in those reports any
10 recommendations based on the progress of the pilot program that he
11 or she considers either necessary for improving the operations of
12 the pilot project or prudent for improving participant achievement.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a pilot program for expectant teenage mothers.

This section is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.