

H. B. 4636

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

[Introduced February 20, 2012; referred to the  
Committee on Health and Human Resources then Finance.]

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
adding thereto a new article, designated, §16-44-1, relating  
to health and human resources; and the authorization of a  
responsible parent pilot project by the Department of Health  
and Human Resources in conjunction with the Division of  
Corrections.

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

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

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

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

(a) The Department of Health and Human Resources in  
conjunction with the Division of Corrections in an effort to  
improve child and family well-being and to empower men and women

1 with the skills and resources needed to succeed as parents and as  
2 family providers, may implement a twelve-month pilot project to  
3 establish a responsible fatherhood program that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 (A) Healthy marriage/relationship skills.

18 (B) Parenting skills;

19 (C) Job seeking training that includes:

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

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

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

24 (iv) Interview skills.

1       (D) Vocational training; and

2       (E) Basics of domestic violence.

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, these entities shall submit an annual report on the  
7 results of the pilot project to the Interim Joint Committee on  
8 Judiciary one year after implementation of the pilot project. The  
9 results shall include at a minimum:

10       (1) Key process measures, including,

11       (A) The number of participants served;

12       (B) The demographics of participants;

13       (C) Attendance/participation in training elements;

14       (D) The knowledge acquired by participants;

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

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

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

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

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

24       (J) The recidivism rate of participants.

1        (2) An unbiased comparison of the outcomes between program  
2 participants and similarly situated persons not in the program.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to authorize a responsible parent pilot project by the Department of Health and Human Resources in conjunction with the Division of Corrections.

§16-44-1 is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.