

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

H. B. 4636

(BY DELEGATES POORE, FRAZIER, D. CAMPBELL,
MORGAN, D. POLING, MOYE, HARTMAN,
CRAIG AND STEPHENS)

(Originating in the Committee on Finance)
[February 24, 2012]

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

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.

1 (a) The Department of Health and Human Resources in
2 conjunction with the Division of Corrections in an effort to
3 improve child and family well-being and to empower men
4 and women with the skills and resources needed to succeed
5 as parents and as family providers, may implement a twelve-
6 month pilot project to establish a responsible parent program
7 that:

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

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

10 (B) Are present or former recipients of Temporary Aid to
11 Needy Families or have one or more children who are
12 receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families;

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

15 (D) Are within six months of their release from prison or
16 have been previously incarcerated; and

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

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

21 (A) Healthy marriage/relationship skills;

22 (B) Parenting skills;

23 (C) Job seeking training that includes:

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

26 (ii) Knowledge of different types of employment
27 opportunities;

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

30 (iv) Interview skills;

31 (D) Vocational training;

32 (E) Basics of domestic violence; and

33 (F) Drug and/or alcohol addiction.

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

36 (b) If a pilot project is implemented by the Division of
37 Corrections, that agency, in conjunction with the Department
38 of Health and Human Resources, shall submit an annual
39 report on the results of the pilot project to the Interim Joint
40 Committee on Judiciary one year after implementation of the
41 pilot project. The results shall include at a minimum:

42 (1) Key process measures, including,

43 (A) The number of participants served;

44 (B) The demographics of participants;

45 (C) Attendance/participation in training elements;

46 (D) The knowledge acquired by participants;

47 (E) Participant behavior changes as a result of program
48 participation;

49 (F) The number of participants gaining employment and
50 their wages earned;

51 (G) The number of participants completing vocational
52 training;

53 (H) The number of participants successfully completing
54 transitional job assignments;

55 (I) The number of participants demonstrating workforce
56 readiness; and

57 (J) The recidivism rate of participants.

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