

H. B. 2809

(By Delegates Poore, Sobonya, Skinner, Morgan, Moye, Poling, D., Campbell, Hartman, Guthrie, Ellem and Miller)

[Introduced March 4, 2013; referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated, §25-8-1, relating to authorizing the Division of Corrections to implement a responsible parent program pilot project; setting forth requirements to participate in the program; setting forth program goals; and requiring a report.

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 §25-8-1, to read as follows:

**ARTICLE 8. RESPONSIBLE PARENT PROGRAM PILOT-PROJECT.**

**§25-8-1. Authorization; prerequisites; requirements; report.**

(a) In an effort to improve child and family well-being and to empower men and women with the skills and resources needed to succeed as parents and as family providers, the Division of Corrections is authorized to implement a twelve-month pilot project

1 to establish a responsible parenting program that:

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

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

4 (B) Are present or former recipients of Temporary Aid to Needy

5 Families or have one or more children who are receiving Temporary

6 Aid to Needy Families;

7 (C) Have an income that is at two hundred percent or below the

8 federal poverty level;

9 (D) Are within six months of their release from prison or have

10 been previously incarcerated; and

11 (E) Currently reside or will reside in Kanawha, Cabell,

12 Raleigh, Mercer, Wood or Randolph Counties.

13 (2) Includes a course of instruction, that may include, but is

14 not limited to:

15 (A) Healthy marriage/relationship skills;

16 (B) Parenting skills;

17 (C) Job seeking training that includes:

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

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

20 (iii) Resume drafting, completion of a job application,

21 drafting a cover letter and follow-up letter; and

22 (iv) Interview skills;

23 (D) Vocational training; and

24 (E) Basics of domestic violence.

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

3       (b) If a pilot project is implemented by the Division of  
4 Corrections, it shall submit a report on the results of the pilot  
5 project to the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary one year after  
6 implementation of the pilot project. The results shall include, at  
7 a minimum:

8       (1) Key process measures, including:

9       (A) The number of participants served;

10       (B) The demographics of participants;

11       (C) Attendance/participation in training elements;

12       (D) The knowledge acquired by participants;

13       (E) Participant behavior changes as a result of program  
14 participation;

15       (F) The number of participants gaining employment and their  
16 wages earned;

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

18       (H) The number of participants successfully completing  
19 transitional job assignments;

20       (I) The number of participants demonstrating workforce  
21 readiness; and

22       (J) The recidivism rate of participants.

23       (2) An unbiased comparison of the outcomes between program  
24 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 Division of Corrections. The bill sets forth requirements to participate in the program and program goals. The bill also requires a report.

§25-8-1 is new; therefore, it has been completely underscored.