

Senate Bill No. 494

(By Senators Laird, Cookman, Miller, Snyder, Stollings, Wells,
Yost, Plymale and Fitzsimmons)

[Introduced March 11, 2013; referred to the Committee on the
Judiciary; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

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

1 succeed as parents and as family providers, the Division of
2 Corrections is authorized to implement a twelve-month pilot project
3 to establish a responsible parenting 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;

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, that may include, but is
16 not 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

1 (iv) Interview skills;

2 (D) Vocational training; and

3 (E) Basics of domestic violence.

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

6 (b) If a pilot project is implemented by the Division of
7 Corrections, it shall submit a report on the results of the pilot
8 project to the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary one year after
9 implementation of the pilot project. The results shall include, at
10 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

1 readiness; and

2 (J) The recidivism rate of participants.

3 (2) An unbiased comparison of the outcomes between program
4 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, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.