

Senate Bill No. 609

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

[Introduced March 22, 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

1 succeed as parents and as family providers, the Division of
2 Corrections is authorized to implement a twenty-four-month pilot
3 project 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 nine months of their release from prison or
12 have been previously incarcerated; and

13 (E) Currently reside or will reside in Kanawha, Cabell,
14 Raleigh, Mason, Mercer, McDowell, Wood, Randolph, Putnam or
15 Harrison Counties.

16 (2) Includes a course of instruction, that may include, but is
17 not limited to:

18 (A) Healthy marriage/relationship skills;

19 (B) Parenting skills;

20 (C) Job seeking training that includes:

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

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

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

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

2 (iv) Interview skills;

3 (D) Vocational training;

4 (E) Basics of domestic violence; and

5 (F) Drug and/or alcohol addiction.

6 (3) Requires the successful completion of a transitional job
7 assignment.

8 (b) If a pilot project is implemented by the Division of
9 Corrections, it shall submit a report on the results of the pilot
10 project to the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary each year
11 during implementation of the pilot project. The results shall
12 include, at a minimum:

13 (1) Key process measures, including:

14 (A) The number of participants served;

15 (B) The demographics of participants;

16 (C) Attendance/participation in training elements;

17 (D) The knowledge acquired by participants;

18 (E) Participant behavior changes as a result of program
19 participation;

20 (F) The number of participants gaining employment and their
21 wages earned;

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

23 (H) The number of participants successfully completing

1 transitional job assignments;

2 (I) The number of participants demonstrating workforce
3 readiness; and

4 (J) The recidivism rate of participants.

5 (2) An unbiased comparison of the outcomes between program
6 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.