

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

for

**H. B. 2809**

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(BY DELEGATE(S) POORE, SOBONYA, SKINNER, MORGAN, MOYE,  
POLING, D., CAMPBELL, HARTMAN, GUTHRIE, ELLEM AND MILLER)

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(Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)

[March 22, 2013]

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.**

1       (a) In an effort to improve child and family well-being and  
2 to empower men and women with the skills and resources  
3 needed to succeed as parents and as family providers, the  
4 Division of Corrections is authorized to implement a twenty-four  
5 month pilot project to establish a responsible parenting program  
6 that:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 not 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 preferences;

25 (ii) Knowledge of different types of employment opportuni-

26 ties;

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

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

29 (iv) Interview skills;

30 (D) Vocational training; and

31 (E) Basics of domestic violence.

32 (3) Requires the successful completion of a transitional job

33 assignment.

34 (b) If a pilot project is implemented by the Division of

35 Corrections, it shall submit a report on the results of the pilot

36 project to the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary one year

37 after implementation of the pilot project. The results shall

38 include, at a minimum:

- 39       (1) Key process measures, including:
- 40       (A) The number of participants served;
- 41       (B) The demographics of participants;
- 42       (C) Attendance/participation in training elements;
- 43       (D) The knowledge acquired by participants;
- 44       (E) Participant behavior changes as a result of program  
45 participation;
- 46       (F) The number of participants gaining employment and  
47 their wages earned;
- 48       (G) The number of participants completing vocational  
49 training;
- 50       (H) The number of participants successfully completing  
51 transitional job assignments;
- 52       (I) The number of participants demonstrating workforce  
53 readiness; and
- 54       (J) The recidivism rate of participants.
- 55       (2) An unbiased comparison of the outcomes between  
56 program participants and similarly situated persons not in the  
57 program.