

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4851

**FISCAL
NOTE**

BY DELEGATES HORNBUCKLE, FLUHARTY, LOVEJOY,

ZUKOFF, LAVENDER-BOWE AND ROWE

[Introduced February 11, 2020; Referred to the Committee

on Banking and Insurance then Health and Human

Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §16-25A-1, §16-25A-2, and §16-25A-3, relating to screening for adverse
 3 childhood experiences; definitions and findings; mandatory insurance coverage.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 25A. ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.

§16-25A-1. Legislative findings.

1 There is evidence of causation between adverse childhood experiences and addiction and
 2 chronic disease. Early detection and intervention reduce the likelihood that these experiences
 3 will lead to morbidity later in life. Factors such as food insecurity, housing insecurity, living in a
 4 single parent household or having a parent who suffers from substance use disorder are all
 5 indicators of childhood trauma and all are prevalent in this state. This causes the citizens of this
 6 state to be more at risk for chronic disease than citizens of the other states.

§16-25A-2. Definition.

1 “Adverse Childhood Experiences” are traumatic experiences occurring in childhood which
 2 create real and lasting physiological changes to the brain, immune system, stress response and
 3 behavior patterns; the result of which is higher risk for certain chronic diseases such as obesity,
 4 heart disease, respiratory illness and even lung cancer.

§16-25A-3. Mandatory insurance coverage; school coverage.

1 All public and private health insurance offered in this state shall cover screening for
 2 adverse childhood experiences as part of preventative child wellness visits. In cases where the
 3 child has no form of health insurance, the state Department of Education shall develop a program
 4 to provide school-based adverse childhood experiences screening through local schools.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require screenings for adverse childhood experiences.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.