

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2022 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### House Bill 4458

FISCAL  
NOTE

BY DELEGATE HORNBUCKLE

[Introduced January 31, 2022; Referred to  
the Committee on Banking and Insurance then Finance]

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, all relating to screening for adverse  
 3 childhood experiences; providing for a definition and setting forth legislative findings; and  
 4 setting forth terms for mandatory insurance coverage and school 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 will  
 3 lead to morbidity later in life. Factors such as food insecurity, housing insecurity, living in a single  
 4 parent household or having a parent who suffers from substance use disorder are all indicators  
 5 of childhood trauma and all are prevalent in this state. This causes the citizens of this state to be  
 6 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.