

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4954

FISCAL
NOTE

By Delegate Longanacre

[Introduced January 22, 2024; Referred to the
Committee on Workforce Development then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section,
 2 designated §9-3-7, relating to limiting the amount of money provided to individuals who do
 3 not attempt to obtain an education or seek employment or open a business within two
 4 years of first receiving benefits; listing exceptions.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. APPLICATION FOR AND GRANTING OF ASSISTANCE.

§9-3-7. Limitations on assistance to applicants who do not enroll in classes or obtain employment; exceptions.

1 (a) There shall be a limit of any 24 months out of a five-year period for assistance available
 2 to those adults receiving assistance who are capable of enrolling in a trade school or college
 3 program, are capable of working or starting a business who do not begin an educational program
 4 or obtain employment.

5 (b) Exceptions:

6 (1) This shall be increased to any 36 months out of a five year period in the event of the
 7 death of a spouse or minor child;

8 (3) In the event of an illness endured by the applicant that made attendance in an
 9 education program or working impossible for any significant portion of this time, as established by
 10 a medical professional and, if applicable, school enrollment schedules, this shall be increased for
 11 up to 36 months out of a five year period or until the completion of an educational program, not to
 12 exceed 48 months out of a five-year period;

13 (4) This shall be increased for up to 36 months out of a five year period if the applicant is
 14 the primary caregiver for a family member with a life-threatening illness, as established by a
 15 medical professional providing the treatment for the family member and, if applicable, school
 16 enrollment schedules.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to reduce the amount of money provided in welfare

programs for individuals who can otherwise work or obtain an education.

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