H. B. 2679 1 2 (By Delegates Sobonya, Reynolds and C. Miller) 3 [Introduced January 20, 2011; referred to the 4 5 Committee on the Judiciary.] 6 7 8 9 10 A BILL to amend and reenact \$49-6A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing criminal penalties 11 12 for failing to report child abuse. 13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: 14 That §49-6A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, 15 be amended and reenacted to read as follows: 16 ARTICLE 6A. REPORTS OF CHILDREN SUSPECTED TO BE ABUSED OR 17 NEGLECTED. 18 §49-6A-8. Failure to report; penalty. Any person, official or institution required by this article 19 20 to report a case involving a child known or suspected to be abused 21 or neglected, or required by section five of this article to 22 forward a copy of a report of serious injury, who knowingly fails 23 to do so or knowingly prevents another person acting reasonably

- 1 from doing so, shall be is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon
- 2 conviction thereof, shall be confined in the county jail not more
- 3 than ten thirty days or fined not more than one hundred \$1,000, or
- 4 both fined and confined.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to increase criminal penalties for failing to report child abuse.

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