

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 FOR

3 **Senate Bill No. 611**

4 (By Senators Kessler (Mr. President), Minard, Browning,  
5 Stollings, Klempa, Foster and Unger)

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7 [Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;  
8 reported February 24, 2012.]  
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11 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
12 adding thereto a new article, designated §18-21-1, §18-21-2,  
13 §18-21-3 and §18-21-4, all relating to developing a special  
14 community-based pilot demonstration project to help at-risk  
15 youth in West Virginia; defining "at risk"; creating a  
16 Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to Improve  
17 Outcomes for At-Risk Youth in West Virginia; requiring the  
18 Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human  
19 Resources to select a community-based organization to  
20 establish a Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to  
21 Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth and perform other duties;  
22 and setting forth duties and goals of the community-based  
23 pilot organization.

24 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

25 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended  
26 by adding thereto a new article, designated §18-21-1, §18-21-2,

1 §18-21-3 and §18-21-4, all to read as follows:

2 **ARTICLE 21. SPECIAL COMMUNITY-BASED PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO**  
3 **IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR AT-RISK YOUTH.**

4 **§18-21-1. Definition of "at-risk youth".**

5 As used in this article "at-risk youth" means all children  
6 between birth and seventeen and young adults between the ages of  
7 eighteen and twenty-one who are low income, receiving benefits from  
8 the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, legally  
9 under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human  
10 Resources or in custody of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile  
11 Services, the selected county's juvenile court/probation department  
12 or the selected county's alternative school system program.

13 **§18-21-2. Creation of a Special Community-Based Pilot Demonstration**  
14 **Project to Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth.**

15 Effective July 1, 2012, the Secretary of the West Virginia  
16 Department of Health and Human Resources shall select a community-  
17 based organization to establish a special Community-Based Pilot  
18 Demonstration Project to Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth in a  
19 specified community for a duration of four years. The project will  
20 identify, implement and document best practices that can be  
21 replicated in other communities. The designated community-based  
22 organization shall operate the special pilot project under the  
23 direction of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human  
24 Resources and shall work in collaboration with the State School  
25 Superintendent, local county school superintendent, Executive

1 Director of the President of the Community and Technical College  
2 System, the closest community and technical college and four-year  
3 college or university, State Workforce Investment Division,  
4 Executive Director of the West Virginia Vocational Rehabilitation  
5 Services, the local juvenile court system, the local workforce  
6 investment board, the Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy  
7 Commission, the Director of West Virginia Division of Juvenile  
8 Services, the local mental/behavior health organizations and other  
9 governmental and community-based organizations.

10 **§18-21-3. Secretary of Department of Health and Human Resources**  
11 **responsibilities.**

12 The Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and  
13 Human Resources shall:

14 (1) Identify a county with the most at-risk youth, that also  
15 has adequate facilities and community leadership, to run a  
16 community-based pilot program that brings together both state and  
17 local organizations, to work collaboratively to provide  
18 comprehensive, intense wrap-around services to at-risk youth and  
19 their families in a seamless coordinated system; and

20 (2) Identify the challenges confronting the most at-risk youth  
21 and their families and make specific recommendations to the pilot  
22 program administrators to improve the outcomes for these youths;  
23 specifically, to reduce the number of abuse and neglect cases to  
24 reduce the number of youth in out-of-home and out-of-state  
25 placements; to reduce high school drop-out rates, to reduce  
26 substance abuse among youth including smoking, reduce teen

1 pregnancies, to reduce juvenile delinquency and to reduce the  
2 number of juvenile delinquents and youth aging out of foster care  
3 that eventually enter into the adult criminal justice system.

4 (3) Document best practices which can be replicated in other  
5 counties.

6 (4) Establish base line and goals for each performance measure  
7 in conjunction with the director of the community-based  
8 organization operating the pilot project.

9 (5) Beginning in January 2013, on or before the first day of  
10 the regular session of the Legislature, and each year thereafter,  
11 the Secretary of Department of Health and Human Resources along  
12 with the director of the community-based organization operating the  
13 pilot program shall make a status report to the Legislative  
14 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Resources Accountability.

15 **§18-21-4. Organization and goals of the Community-Based Pilot**  
16 **Demonstration Program.**

17 (a) The pilot program shall be operated by a local community-  
18 based organization under the direction the Secretary of the West  
19 Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and in  
20 collaboration with the State School Superintendent, county school  
21 superintendent, Executive Director of the State Workforce  
22 Investment Division, Executive Director of WV Vocational  
23 Rehabilitation Services, the local juvenile court system, the  
24 Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission, President of  
25 the Community and Technical College System, president of the local  
26 Community and Technical College and four-year college or

1 university, the Director of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile  
2 Services, the local mental/behavior health organizations and other  
3 governmental and community-based organizations and partner agencies  
4 to serve as a clearing house to coordinate comprehensive youth and  
5 family services. The pilot project shall be housed within the  
6 community and will be directed by a local community-based nonprofit  
7 organization.

8 (b) The pilot project shall operate out of a centrally located  
9 building to coordinate services to youth and their families in the  
10 selected county from birth to seventeen years of age who are  
11 referred by the Department of Health and Human Resources.

12 (c) The goal of the pilot program is to improve outcomes for  
13 at-risk youth as measured by the following metrics:

14 (1) Early childhood development:

15 (A) Increase in the number of mothers receiving early prenatal  
16 care;

17 (B) Increase in number of mothers participating in the Right  
18 From the Start Program;

19 (C) Increase in the number of children screened by birth to  
20 three year-old program for early development delays;

21 (D) Increase in the number of three year-olds enrolled in Head  
22 Start;

23 (E) Increase in the number of four year-olds enrolled in:

24 (2) Preschool youth and teen measures:

25 (A) Decrease in school truancy;

26 (B) Decrease in truancy hearings;

- 1 (C) Decrease in school suspensions;
- 2 (D) Decrease in school expulsions;
- 3 (E) Decrease in high school dropouts at a select school;
- 4 (F) Increase in the number of youth participating in a  
5 mentoring program;
- 6 (G) Increase in academic performance for select students;
- 7 (H) Increase in number of youth participating in summer  
8 employment;
- 9 (I) Increase in number of youth entering postsecondary  
10 education or job.
- 11 (3) Parent Measures:
- 12 (A) Increase in the number of individuals registered at the  
13 WorkForce West Virginia Center;
- 14 (B) Increase in the number of individuals enrolled in job  
15 training;
- 16 (C) Increase in the number of individuals completing job  
17 training with a certification or credential;
- 18 (D) Increase in the number of individuals placed in  
19 employment; and
- 20 (E) Increase in number of children enrolled in the CHIP  
21 program.

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(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a special community-based pilot program to help at-risk youth in a selected county in West Virginia by introducing prevention strategies for children through early intervention and diversion strategies.

This article is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.)