2 (By Delegates Sobonya, Miley, Sumner, Border 3 and C. Miller) 4 5 [Introduced February 20, 2012; referred to the 6 Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.] 7 8 9 10 A BILL to amend and reenact §49-6A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 11 1931, as amended, relating to modifying criminal penalties for 12 failing to report child abuse. 13 Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia: That §49-6A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, 14 15 be amended and reenacted to read as follows: REPORTS OF CHILDREN SUSPECTED TO BE ABUSED 16 ARTICLE 6A. OR NEGLECTED. 17 18 §49-6A-8. Failure to report; penalty. 19 Any person, official or institution required by this article 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 24 from doing so, shall be is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon 25 conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail not more than ten

H. B. 4650

1

- 1 sentenced to community service for thirty days or fined not more
- 2 than one hundred \$1,000, or both fined and sentenced.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to modify 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.