

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2021 REGULAR SESSION

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 2620

BY DELEGATES J. PACK AND ROHRBACH

(BY REQUEST OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN RESOURCES)

[Originating in the Committee on Health and Human
Resources; Reported on February 23, 2021]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §49-2-111b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended,
2 relating to requiring the Department of Health and Human Resources to conduct a study;
3 requiring the department to evaluate its child protective services; requiring the department
4 to evaluate its foster care workforce; requiring the report to be submitted to the Legislative
5 Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN

§49-2-111b. Study of the Department's child protective services and foster care workforce.

1 ~~(a) The department shall conduct a study and make recommendations for improving~~
2 ~~services provided for kinship foster care families. This study shall include at a minimum:~~

3 ~~(1) A review of best practices in other states;~~

4 ~~(2) A proposal for an alternate system of regulation for kinship foster care that includes~~
5 ~~the same reimbursement as other foster care families as well as a reasonable time period for~~
6 ~~obtaining certification;~~

7 ~~(3) An evaluation of what training and supports are needed to ensure that kinship care~~
8 ~~homes are successful.~~

9 ~~(b) The results of this shall be shared with all members of the Legislature by October 1,~~
10 ~~2019.~~

11 (a) The department shall conduct a study and make recommendations for ensuring a
12 healthy departmental child protective services and foster care workforce. This study shall include
13 at a minimum:

14 (1) An evaluation of the workload for caseworkers to ensure caseworkers have
15 manageable workloads to achieve positive outcomes for the children and families they serve;

16 (2) A determination of whether factors such as child population and poverty rate should
17 be incorporated into the analysis for allocating caseworkers across the state;

18 (3) A survey of the salaries and benefits of caseworkers in neighboring states;

- 19 (4) A cost estimate for proposed recommendations;
20 (5) Survey data of the experiences, opinions and recommendations of current and former
21 frontline child welfare workers and supervisors regarding workplace satisfaction, workplace
22 safety, workforce recruitment and retention, and system and service delivery improvements; and
23 (6) Input solicited from a variety of partnering agencies, organizations, associations and
24 groups, including affected individuals and former clients.
- 25 (b) The results of this study and recommendations based upon the findings shall be
26 reported to the Governor and Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources
27 Accountability by July 1, 2022.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to is to provide for a departmental study of the child protective services and foster care workforce.

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