

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 3383

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Delegates Kimble, Pritt, Statler, Mazzocchi,
Ellington, Toney, Dittman, Crouse, Pinson,
Burkhammer, and Kelly

[Introduced March 14, 2025; referred to the
Committee on Education then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
2 designated §18B-3G-1, §18B-3G-2, §18B-3G-3, and §18B-3G-4, relating to the creation of
3 the Great Expectations Pilot Program; providing for legislative findings; providing for the
4 enactment of the program; establishing funding; and creating the length of the pilot
5 program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3G. GREAT EXPECTATIONS PILOT PROGRAM.

§18B-3G-1. Legislative findings.

1 (a) The Legislature finds that despite available social services, tuition assistance, and
2 many other resources, aging out of foster care is a problem for the state. In the neighboring state of
3 Virginia, the Virginia Community College System has instituted a program providing one or more
4 full-time specialized coaches at participating community colleges. Great Expectations (GE)
5 coaches are able to connect graduating, close to graduating, and potentially stop-out students to
6 their nearby community college and much needed support services. GE Coaches are not simply
7 an academic advisor or enrollment counselor, but instead provide a unique blend of life-coaching
8 and college success navigation—fully focused on this unique and vulnerable population.

9 (b) According to the Kanawha Valley Health Systems, there are almost 2,000 foster
10 children in the state between the ages of 13 and 17. This amounts to over 200 foster children
11 nearing transition for each of West Virginia's nine Community and Technical College regions. In
12 2019, the WV Invests Program was established for students enrolling in community and technical
13 college program. These funds are available to prospective students, but the resources do not exist
14 to address the special connection, advising, and supportive service needs specific to these foster
15 children.

16 (c) For this reason, the Legislature finds that the establishment of a pilot program to create
17 the Great Expectations program within the state's community and technical college system would
18 be extremely beneficial.

§18B-3G-2.**Enactment.**

1 (a) There is hereby established the Great Expectations Pilot Program. The institution
2 selected for the pilot program will be selected by the Chancellor of the WV Community and
3 Technical College System and be based upon the standing of the institution.

4 (b) When a foster child joins the Great Expectations program, the child shall be paired with
5 the adult coach at the institution selected for the pilot program. The duties and responsibilities of
6 the foster child and the coach shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

7 (1) The foster child and coach work together to assess skills and interests;

8 (2) Discuss the future of the foster child, and make a plan for enrolling in the college;

9 (3) The coach shall assist the foster child with filling out applications, covering expenses,
10 and arranging transportation between school, home, and work;

11 (4) The coach and the foster child shall talk about goals for the future;

12 (5) Research career options and learn about the schools and programs that offer the best
13 fit for the foster child; and

14 (6) Reduce college costs by enacting financial aid and scholarships to students who have
15 experienced foster care, including tuition grants that can cover tuition and fees at the selected
16 institution for the pilot program:

17 (A) To qualify, a child must have been in foster care, custody of social services, or a special
18 needs adoption when he or she earned his or her high school diploma or GED; and

19 (B) Tuition grants can also be used for non-credit workforce programs.

§18B-3G-3.**Funding.**

1 There is hereby created a special revenue account entitled the "WV Community and
2 Technical College Great Expectations Pilot Program" from the state's general revenue fund.
3 Funding shall be \$95,000 per year for the duration of the pilot program. The funding shall cover the
4 full-time salary and benefits of the Great Expectations Coach and resources to fund recruitment,
5 onboarding, and supportive activities and services.

§18B-3G-4. Length of pilot program; evaluation.

1 The pilot program shall begin at the selected college on September 1, 2025, and last for
2 three years, after which the West Virginia Community and Technical College System, as
3 administered by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, in coordination with the
4 first selected pilot program, shall evaluate the success of the program, and determine the
5 likelihood of success for implementation at other community and technical colleges across the
6 state and will report back to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability in
7 July of 2029.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Great Expectations Pilot Program. The bill provides for legislative findings. The bill provides for the enactment of the program. The bill establishes funding. Finally, the bill sets the length of the pilot program.

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