

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 165**

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced February 12, 2025; referred  
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
 2 designated §49-2-131, relating to ensuring equal financial support by the state for kinship  
 3 parents and fictive kin as provided to certified foster parents.

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

**ARTICLE 2. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN.**

Part I. General Authority and Duties of the Department of Health and Human  
 Resources.

**§49-2-131. Financial support for kinship parents and fictive kin as provided to certified  
 foster parents.**

1 (a) The state shall ensure that all available financial support and resources that are  
 2 currently available to certified foster parents will be given to kinship parents and fictive kin. Neither  
 3 kinship parents nor fictive kin shall be required to become certified. A safety check and  
 4 background check are still required for placement.  
 5 (b) This covers all support that is presently provided to foster parents in this article.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to ensure that all financial support presently available to certified foster parents is provided to kinship parents and fictive kin. The barriers and burdens placed upon kinship parents and fictive kin are too onerous.

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