

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 822

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced March 20, 2025; referred
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources;
and then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,
2 designated §49-2-815, relating to the use of technology in child abuse and neglect
3 investigations; requiring the Department of Human Services to use mobile technology to
4 assist child protective services workers who conduct investigations; requiring an operating
5 system in the mobile technology; requiring the operating system to create a
6 contemporaneous, electronic record; requiring the record to be uploaded; requiring the
7 operating system to be interoperable with existing department programs; requiring data
8 extracting for quality review; and requiring members to review the data.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN.

§49-2-815. Use of technology in child abuse and neglect investigation.

1 On or before December 1, 2025, the department shall use mobile technology to assist child
2 protective workers to conduct child abuse and neglect investigations. The mobile technology shall
3 have an operating system that is customized for child welfare casework. This operating system
4 shall allow a child protective services worker to create a contemporaneous, digital record of all
5 components of the investigation which shall be uploaded automatically electronically on a daily
6 basis if not more frequently. The operating system used on the mobile technology shall be
7 interoperable with existing department programs to allow relevant quality metrics to be extracted
8 from the operating system into standard reports to be analyzed for systemic improvement. The
9 quality metrics shall be extracted on a monthly basis and analyzed by the secretary and members
10 of his or her staff charged with systemic improvement of the child welfare system.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Human Services to provide child welfare workers with mobile technology that will permit them to conduct investigations and create a digital record. This will upload to the system automatically and reduce the need for a child protective services worker to input data manually into a system. This will enhance service delivery to children. This data will allow managers to have real time access to data to conduct quality improvement analysis.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law

and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.