

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

**2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**Committee Substitute**

**for**

**Senate Bill 822**

By Senator Chapman

[Reported March 25, 2025, from 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 §49-2-815, relating to the establishment of a pilot program for the use of mobile  
3 devices in child abuse and neglect investigations; setting forth effective date; setting forth  
4 requirements for system; setting forth term of pilot program; and requiring reporting.

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

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

**§49-2-815. Pilot program for the use of technology in child abuse and neglect investigations.**

1 (a) Beginning October 1, 2026, the department shall implement a pilot project for two  
2 counties requiring the use of mobile device including, but not limited to, a computer or tablet to  
3 access the department's case management system in order to assist child protective service  
4 workers to conduct child abuse and neglect investigations contemporaneously with the  
5 investigation.

6 (b) The department shall determine which counties shall participate in the pilot program.

7 (c) The department shall develop policies to implement the pilot program which shall  
8 include, at a minimum, the following:

9 (1) The mobile device shall have an operating system that is customized for child welfare  
10 casework;

11 (2) The operating system on the mobile device shall allow a child protective services  
12 worker to create a contemporaneous, digital record of all components of the investigation;

13 (3) The mobile device shall automatically and securely upload to the department's server  
14 on a daily basis;

15 (4) The operating system used in the mobile device shall be interoperable with existing  
16 department programs to allow relevant quality metrics to be extracted from the operating system  
17 into standard reports to be analyzed for systemic improvement; and

18 (5) The mobile device shall be used on at least 70 percent of the cases in the pilot counties

19 during the time period being studied.

20 (d) The quality metrics shall be extracted on a monthly basis and analyzed by the secretary  
21 and members of his or her staff charged with systemic improvement of the child welfare system.

22 (e) The pilot program shall terminate five years from the time the department fully  
23 implements the pilot program in two counties.

24 (f) The department shall file annual reports beginning July 1, 2027, and July 1 annually  
25 thereafter, with the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources  
26 Accountability to provide a program update on the status of the pilot program, including metrics on  
27 the use of the technology.