

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 763**

By Senator Chapman

[Introduced February 5, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §49-2-106 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating  
2 to requiring all children placed into foster care to be screened for human trafficking upon  
3 entry into the foster care system.

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

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

**§49-2-106. Department responsibility for foster care homes.**

1 (a) It is the responsibility of the Department of Human Services to provide care for  
2 neglected children who are committed to its care for custody or guardianship. The department may  
3 provide this care for children in family homes meeting required standards of certification  
4 established and enforced by the Department of Human Services.

5 (b) Every child who is placed in foster care by the Department of Human Services shall be  
6 screened for sex or labor trafficking by a trained child advocate.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require children to be screened for sex trafficking and labor trafficking as they enter foster care.

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