

1 ENGROSSED

2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

3 FOR

4 **Senate Bill No. 611**

5 (By Senators Kessler (Mr. President), Minard, Browning,  
6 Stollings, Klempa, Foster and Unger)

7 \_\_\_\_\_  
8 [Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;  
9 reported February 24, 2012.]  
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11  
12 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by  
13 adding thereto a new article, designated §18-21-1, §18-21-2,  
14 §18-21-3 and §18-21-4, all relating to developing a special  
15 community-based pilot demonstration project to help at-risk  
16 youth in West Virginia; defining "at risk"; creating a  
17 Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to Improve  
18 Outcomes for At-Risk Youth in West Virginia; permitting the  
19 Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human  
20 Resources to select a community-based organization to  
21 establish a Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to  
22 Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth if funds are available;  
23 setting forth duties and goals of the community-based  
24 organization; requiring the secretary and the director of the  
25 community-based organization to make status reports to the  
26 Legislature; and setting forth other duties of the Department

1 of Health and Human Resources.

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

3 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended  
4 by adding thereto a new article, designated §18-21-1, §18-21-2,  
5 §18-21-3 and §18-21-4, all to read as follows:

6 **ARTICLE 21. SPECIAL COMMUNITY-BASED PILOT DEMONSTRATION PROJECT TO**  
7 **IMPROVE OUTCOMES FOR AT-RISK YOUTH.**

8 **§18-21-1. Definition of "at-risk youth".**

9 As used in this article "at-risk youth" means all children  
10 between birth and seventeen and young adults between the ages of  
11 eighteen and twenty-one who are low income, receiving benefits from  
12 the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, legally  
13 under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human  
14 Resources or in custody of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile  
15 Services, the selected county's juvenile court/probation department  
16 or the selected county's alternative school system program.

17 **§18-21-2. Creation of a Special Community-Based Pilot Demonstration**  
18 **Project to Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth.**

19 Effective July 1, 2012, and if funds are available, the  
20 Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human  
21 Resources shall select a community-based organization to establish  
22 a special Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to Improve  
23 Outcomes for At-Risk Youth in a specified community for a duration  
24 of four years. The project will identify, implement and document  
25 best practices that can be replicated in other communities. The

1 designated community-based organization shall operate the special  
2 pilot project under the direction of the Secretary of the  
3 Department of Health and Human Resources and shall work in  
4 collaboration with the State School Superintendent, local county  
5 school superintendent, Executive Director of the President of the  
6 Community and Technical College System, the closest community and  
7 technical college and four-year college or university, State  
8 Workforce Investment Division, Executive Director of the West  
9 Virginia Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the local juvenile  
10 court system, the local workforce investment board, the Chancellor  
11 of the Higher Education Policy Commission, the Director of West  
12 Virginia Division of Juvenile Services, the local mental/behavior  
13 health organizations and other governmental and community-based  
14 organizations.

15 **§18-21-3. Secretary of Department of Health and Human Resources**  
16 **responsibilities.**

17 The Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and  
18 Human Resources shall:

19 (1) Identify a county with the most at-risk youth, that also  
20 has adequate facilities and community leadership, to run a  
21 community-based pilot program that brings together both state and  
22 local organizations, to work collaboratively to provide  
23 comprehensive, intense wrap-around services to at-risk youth and  
24 their families in a seamless coordinated system; and

25 (2) Identify the challenges confronting the most at-risk youth  
26 and their families and make specific recommendations to the pilot

1 program administrators to improve the outcomes for these youths;  
2 specifically, to reduce the number of abuse and neglect cases to  
3 reduce the number of youth in out-of-home and out-of-state  
4 placements; to reduce high school drop-out rates, to reduce  
5 substance abuse among youth including smoking, reduce teen  
6 pregnancies, to reduce juvenile delinquency and to reduce the  
7 number of juvenile delinquents and youth aging out of foster care  
8 that eventually enter into the adult criminal justice system.

9 (3) Document best practices which can be replicated in other  
10 counties.

11 (4) Establish base line and goals for each performance measure  
12 in conjunction with the director of the community-based  
13 organization operating the pilot project.

14 (5) Beginning in January 2013, on or before the first day of  
15 the regular session of the Legislature, and each year thereafter,  
16 the Secretary of Department of Health and Human Resources along  
17 with the director of the community-based organization operating the  
18 pilot program shall make a status report to the Legislative  
19 Oversight Committee on Health and Human Resources Accountability.

20 **§18-21-4. Organization and goals of the Community-Based Pilot**  
21 **Demonstration Program.**

22 (a) The pilot program shall be operated by a local community-  
23 based organization under the direction the Secretary of the West  
24 Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and in  
25 collaboration with the State School Superintendent, county school  
26 superintendent, Executive Director of the State Workforce

1 Investment Division, Executive Director of WV Vocational  
2 Rehabilitation Services, the local juvenile court system, the  
3 Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission, President of  
4 the Community and Technical College System, president of the local  
5 Community and Technical College and four-year college or  
6 university, the Director of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile  
7 Services, the local mental/behavior health organizations and other  
8 governmental and community-based organizations and partner agencies  
9 to serve as a clearing house to coordinate comprehensive youth and  
10 family services. The pilot project shall be housed within the  
11 community and will be directed by a local community-based nonprofit  
12 organization.

13 (b) The pilot project shall operate out of a centrally located  
14 building to coordinate services to youth and their families in the  
15 selected county from birth to seventeen years of age who are  
16 referred by the Department of Health and Human Resources.

17 (c) The goal of the pilot program is to improve outcomes for  
18 at-risk youth as measured by the following metrics:

19 (1) Early childhood development:

20 (A) Increase in the number of mothers receiving early prenatal  
21 care;

22 (B) Increase in number of mothers participating in the Right  
23 From the Start Program;

24 (C) Increase in the number of children screened by birth to  
25 three year-old program for early development delays;

26 (D) Increase in the number of three year-olds enrolled in Head

1 Start;

2 (E) Increase in the number of four year-olds enrolled in:

3 (2) Preschool youth and teen measures:

4 (A) Decrease in school truancy;

5 (B) Decrease in truancy hearings;

6 (C) Decrease in school suspensions;

7 (D) Decrease in school expulsions;

8 (E) Decrease in high school dropouts at a select school;

9 (F) Increase in the number of youth participating in a

10 mentoring program;

11 (G) Increase in academic performance for select students;

12 (H) Increase in number of youth participating in summer

13 employment;

14 (I) Increase in number of youth entering postsecondary

15 education or job.

16 (3) Parent Measures:

17 (A) Increase in the number of individuals registered at the

18 WorkForce West Virginia Center;

19 (B) Increase in the number of individuals enrolled in job

20 training;

21 (C) Increase in the number of individuals completing job

22 training with a certification or credential;

23 (D) Increase in the number of individuals placed in

24 employment; and

25 (E) Increase in number of children enrolled in the CHIP

26 program.

