

1 **ENROLLED**

2 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

3 FOR

4 **Senate Bill No. 611**

5 (SENATORS KESSLER (MR. PRESIDENT), MINARD, BROWNING, STOLLINGS, KLEMPA,
6 FOSTER AND UNGER, *original sponsors*)

7 _____
8 [Passed March 10, 2012; in effect ninety days from passage.]
9 _____

10
11 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
12 adding thereto a new article, designated §18-21-1, §18-21-2,
13 §18-21-3 and §18-21-4, all relating to developing a special
14 community-based pilot demonstration project to help at-risk
15 youth in West Virginia; defining "at risk"; creating a
16 Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to Improve
17 Outcomes for At-Risk Youth in West Virginia; permitting the
18 Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human
19 Resources to select a community-based organization to
20 establish a Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to
21 Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth if funds are available;
22 setting forth duties and goals of the community-based
23 organization; requiring the secretary and the director of the
24 community-based organization to make status reports to the
25 Legislature; and setting forth other duties of the Department
26 of Health and Human Resources.

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

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

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

7 **§18-21-1. Definition of "at-risk youth".**

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

16 **§18-21-2. Creation of a Special Community-Based Pilot Demonstration**
17 **Project to Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth.**

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

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

14 **§18-21-3. Secretary of Department of Health and Human Resources**
15 **responsibilities.**

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

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

24 (2) Identify the challenges confronting the most at-risk youth
25 and their families and make specific recommendations to the pilot
26 program administrators to improve the outcomes for these youths;

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

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

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

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

19 **§18-21-4. Organization and goals of the Community-Based Pilot**
20 **Demonstration Program.**

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

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

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

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

18 (1) Early childhood development:

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

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

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

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

1 (E) Increase in the number of four year-olds enrolled in:
2 (2) Preschool youth and teen measures:
3 (A) Decrease in school truancy;
4 (B) Decrease in truancy hearings;
5 (C) Decrease in school suspensions;
6 (D) Decrease in school expulsions;
7 (E) Decrease in high school dropouts at a select school;
8 (F) Increase in the number of youth participating in a
9 mentoring program;
10 (G) Increase in academic performance for select students;
11 (H) Increase in number of youth participating in summer
12 employment;
13 (I) Increase in number of youth entering postsecondary
14 education or job.
15 (3) Parent Measures:
16 (A) Increase in the number of individuals registered at the
17 WorkForce West Virginia Center;
18 (B) Increase in the number of individuals enrolled in job
19 training;
20 (C) Increase in the number of individuals completing job
21 training with a certification or credential;
22 (D) Increase in the number of individuals placed in
23 employment; and
24 (E) Increase in number of children enrolled in the CHIP
25 program.

