

E N G R O S S E D

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

H. B. 4636

(BY DELEGATES POORE, FRAZIER, D. CAMPBELL, MORGAN,
D. POLING, MOYE, HARTMAN, CRAIG AND STEPHENS)

(Originating in the Committee on Finance)
[February 24, 2012]

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated, §16-44-1, relating to a responsible parent program pilot project; authorizing Department of Health and Human Resources in conjunction with the Division of Corrections to create the pilot project; providing criteria to participate in the project; providing educational topics for the project; and providing reporting requirements.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended by adding thereto a new article, designated §16-44-1, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 44. RESPONSIBLE PARENT PROGRAM PILOT-PROJECT.

§16-44-1. Authorization of responsible parent program pilot-project.

1 (a) The Division of Corrections in an effort to improve
2 child and family well-being and to empower men and women
3 with the skills and resources needed to succeed as parents
4 and as family providers, may implement a twenty-four month
5 pilot project to establish a responsible parent program that:

6 (1) Identifies for enrollment in the program persons who:

7 (A) Are parents of one or more children;

8 (B) Are present or former recipients of Temporary Aid to
9 Needy Families or have one or more children who are
10 receiving Temporary Aid to Needy Families;

11 (C) Have an income that is at two hundred percent or
12 below the federal poverty level; or

13 (D) Are within six months of their release from prison or
14 have been previously incarcerated, and

15 (E) Currently reside or will reside in Kanawha, Cabell,
16 Raleigh, Mason, Mercer, McDowell, Wood or Randolph
17 Counties.

18 (2) Includes a course of instruction, which may include,
19 but not be limited to:

20 (A) Healthy marriage/relationship skills;

21 (B) Parenting skills;

22 (C) Job seeking training that includes:

23 (i) Knowledge of personal aptitudes, skills and
24 preferences;

25 (ii) Knowledge of different types of employment
26 opportunities;

27 (iii) Resume drafting, completion of a job application,
28 drafting a cover letter and follow-up letter; and

29 (iv) Interview skills.

30 (D) Vocational training;

31 (E) Basics of domestic violence; and

32 (F) Drug and/or alcohol addiction.

33 (3) Requires the successful completion of a transitional
34 job assignment.

35 (b) If a pilot project is implemented by the Division of
36 Corrections, that agency shall submit an annual report on the
37 results of the pilot project to the Interim Joint Committee on
38 Judiciary each year during implementation of the pilot
39 project. The results shall include at a minimum:

40 (1) Key process measures, including,

41 (A) The number of participants served;

42 (B) The demographics of participants;

43 (C) Attendance/participation in training elements;

44 (D) The knowledge acquired by participants;

45 (E) Participant behavior changes as a result of program
46 participation;

47 (F) The number of participants gaining employment and
48 their wages earned;

49 (G) The number of participants completing vocational
50 training;

51 (H) The number of participants successfully completing
52 transitional job assignments;

53 (I) The number of participants demonstrating workforce
54 readiness; and

55 (J) The recidivism rate of participants.

56 (2) An unbiased comparison of the outcomes between

57 program participants and similarly situated persons not in the

58 program.