

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

FOR

## **Senate Bill No. 611**

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

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[Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary;  
reported February 24, 2012.]

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A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §18-21-1, §18-21-2, §18-21-3 and §18-21-4, all relating to developing a special community-based pilot demonstration project to help at-risk youth in West Virginia; defining “at risk”; creating a Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth in West Virginia; requiring the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources to select a community-based organization to establish a Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth and perform other duties;

and setting forth duties and goals of the community-based pilot organization.

*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 §18-21-1, §18-21-2, §18-21-3 and §18-21-4, all to read as follows:

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

**§18-21-1. Definition of “at-risk youth”.**

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

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

1       Effective July 1, 2012, the Secretary of the West Virginia  
2 Department of Health and Human Resources shall select a  
3 community-based organization to establish a special  
4 Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to Improve  
5 Outcomes for At-Risk Youth in a specified community for a  
6 duration of four years. The project will identify, implement  
7 and document best practices that can be replicated in other  
8 communities. The designated community-based organization  
9 shall operate the special pilot project under the direction of  
10 the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human  
11 Resources and shall work in collaboration with the State  
12 School Superintendent, local county school superintendent,  
13 Executive Director of the President of the Community and  
14 Technical College System, the closest community and  
15 technical college and four-year college or university, State  
16 Workforce Investment Division, Executive Director of the  
17 West Virginia Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the local  
18 juvenile court system, the local workforce investment board,  
19 the Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission,  
20 the Director of West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services,  
21 the local mental/behavior health organizations and other  
22 governmental and community-based organizations.

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

1 The Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health  
2 and Human Resources shall:

3 (1) Identify a county with the most at-risk youth, that  
4 also has adequate facilities and community leadership, to run  
5 a community-based pilot program that brings together both  
6 state and local organizations, to work collaboratively to  
7 provide comprehensive, intense wrap-around services to at-  
8 risk youth and their families in a seamless coordinated  
9 system; and

10 (2) Identify the challenges confronting the most at-risk  
11 youth and their families and make specific recommendations  
12 to the pilot program administrators to improve the outcomes  
13 for these youths; specifically, to reduce the number of abuse  
14 and neglect cases to reduce the number of youth in out-of-  
15 home and out-of-state placements; to reduce high school  
16 drop-out rates, to reduce substance abuse among youth  
17 including smoking, reduce teen pregnancies, to reduce  
18 juvenile delinquency and to reduce the number of juvenile  
19 delinquents and youth aging out of foster care that eventu-  
20 ally enter into the adult criminal justice system.

21 (3) Document best practices which can be replicated in  
22 other counties.

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

26 (5) Beginning in January 2013, on or before the first day  
27 of the regular session of the Legislature, and each year  
28 thereafter, the Secretary of Department of Health and  
29 Human Resources along with the director of the community-  
30 based organization operating the pilot program shall make  
31 a status report to the Legislative Oversight Committee on  
32 Health and Human Resources Accountability.

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

1 (a) The pilot program shall be operated by a local  
2 community-based organization under the direction the  
3 Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and  
4 Human Resources, and in collaboration with the State  
5 School Superintendent, county school superintendent,  
6 Executive Director of the State Workforce Investment  
7 Division, Executive Director of WV Vocational Rehabilita-  
8 tion Services, the local juvenile court system, the Chancellor

9 of the Higher Education Policy Commission, President of the  
10 Community and Technical College System, president of the  
11 local Community and Technical College and four-year  
12 college or university, the Director of the West Virginia  
13 Division of Juvenile Services, the local mental/behavior  
14 health organizations and other governmental and  
15 community-based organizations and partner agencies to  
16 serve as a clearing house to coordinate comprehensive youth  
17 and family services. The pilot project shall be housed within  
18 the community and will be directed by a local community-  
19 based nonprofit organization.

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

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

27 (1) Early childhood development:

28 (A) Increase in the number of mothers receiving early  
29 prenatal care;

30 (B) Increase in number of mothers participating in the  
31 Right From the Start Program;

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

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

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

37 (2) Preschool youth and teen measures:

38 (A) Decrease in school truancy;

39 (B) Decrease in truancy hearings;

40 (C) Decrease in school suspensions;

41 (D) Decrease in school expulsions;

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

43 (F) Increase in the number of youth participating in a  
44 mentoring program;

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

46 (H) Increase in number of youth participating in summer  
47 employment;

48 (I) Increase in number of youth entering postsecondary  
49 education or job.

50 (3) Parent Measures:

51 (A) Increase in the number of individuals registered at  
52 the WorkForce West Virginia Center;

53 (B) Increase in the number of individuals enrolled in job  
54 training;

55 (C) Increase in the number of individuals completing job  
56 training with a certification or credential;

57 (D) Increase in the number of individuals placed in  
58 employment; and

59 (E) Increase in number of children enrolled in the CHIP  
60 program.

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(NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create a special community-based pilot program to help at-risk youth in a selected county in West Virginia by introducing prevention strategies for children through early intervention and diversion strategies.

This article is new; therefore, strike-throughs and underscoring have been omitted.)