

1 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

2 for

3 **H. B. 2809**

4 (By Delegates Poore, Sobonya, Skinner, Morgan, Moye,
5 Poling, D., Campbell, Hartman, Guthrie, Ellem and Miller)

6
7 (Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)

8 [March 22, 2013]

9
10 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by
11 adding thereto a new article, designated, §25-8-1, relating to
12 authorizing the Division of Corrections to implement a
13 responsible parent program pilot project; setting forth
14 requirements to participate in the program; setting forth
15 program goals; and requiring a report.

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

17 That the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended
18 by adding thereto a new article, designated §25-8-1, to read as
19 follows:

20 **ARTICLE 8. RESPONSIBLE PARENT PROGRAM PILOT-PROJECT.**

21 **§25-8-1. Authorization; prerequisites; requirements; report.**

22 (a) In an effort to improve child and family well-being and to
23 empower men and women with the skills and resources needed to
24 succeed as parents and as family providers, the Division of
25 Corrections is authorized to implement a twenty-four month pilot
26 project to establish a responsible parenting program that:

- 1 (1) Identifies for enrollment in the program persons who:
- 2 (A) Are parents of one or more children;
- 3 (B) Are present or former recipients of Temporary Aid to Needy
4 Families or have one or more children who are receiving Temporary
5 Aid to Needy Families;
- 6 (C) Have an income that is at two hundred percent or below the
7 federal poverty level;
- 8 (D) Are within nine months of their release from prison or
9 have been previously incarcerated; and
- 10 (E) Currently reside or will reside in Cabell, Harrison,
11 Kanawha, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Putnam, Raleigh, Randolph or Wood
12 Counties.
- 13 (2) Includes a course of instruction, that may include, but is
14 not limited to:
- 15 (A) Healthy marriage/relationship skills;
- 16 (B) Parenting skills;
- 17 (C) Job seeking training that includes:
- 18 (i) Knowledge of personal aptitudes, skills and preferences;
- 19 (ii) Knowledge of different types of employment opportunities;
- 20 (iii) Resume drafting, completion of a job application,
21 drafting a cover letter and follow-up letter; and
- 22 (iv) Interview skills;
- 23 (D) Vocational training; and
- 24 (E) Basics of domestic violence.
- 25 (3) Requires the successful completion of a transitional job

1 assignment.

2 (b) If a pilot project is implemented by the Division of
3 Corrections, it shall submit a report on the results of the pilot
4 project to the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary one year after
5 implementation of the pilot project. The results shall include, at
6 a minimum:

7 (1) Key process measures, including:

8 (A) The number of participants served;

9 (B) The demographics of participants;

10 (C) Attendance/participation in training elements;

11 (D) The knowledge acquired by participants;

12 (E) Participant behavior changes as a result of program
13 participation;

14 (F) The number of participants gaining employment and their
15 wages earned;

16 (G) The number of participants completing vocational training;

17 (H) The number of participants successfully completing
18 transitional job assignments;

19 (I) The number of participants demonstrating workforce
20 readiness; and

21 (J) The recidivism rate of participants.

22 (2) An unbiased comparison of the outcomes between program
23 participants and similarly situated persons not in the program.