

Senate Bill No. 56

(By Senator Walters)

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[Introduced January 8, 2014; referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources; and then to the Committee on Finance.]

**FISCAL
NOTE**

A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §9-3-6, relating to creating a pilot program that provides incentives to recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families cash benefits whose children achieve certain standards of academic performance.

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 section, designated §9-3-6, to read as follows:

ARTICLE 3. APPLICATION FOR AND GRANTING OF ASSISTANCE.

§9-3-6. Pilot program to promote a culture of educational achievement for children of recipients of

1 **federal-state and state assistance.**

2 (a) The Commissioner of the Division of Human Services shall
3 institute a pilot program, in not more than ten counties in various
4 regions of the state, for recipients of temporary assistance for
5 needy families cash (TANF) benefits who have children attending
6 school in grades six through twelve to incentivize their
7 educational achievement. In counties where this pilot program is
8 implemented, a family's benefit payments shall increase
9 commensurate with the academic achievement of their child's or
10 their household average of children's grades in the following
11 amounts:

12 (1) A two percent increase for a 3.0 grade point average;

13 (2) A two and one-half percent increase for a 3.5 grade point
14 average; or

15 (3) A three percent increase for a 4.0 grade point average.

16 (b) The Commissioner shall propose rules for legislative
17 approval in accordance with the provisions of article three,
18 chapter twenty-nine-a of this code to implement the provisions of
19 this section.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to promote a culture of educational achievement by creating a pilot program that provides incentives to recipients of temporary assistance for needy families cash (TANF) benefits whose children achieve certain standards of academic performance.

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