

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2024 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5179

By Delegate Ellington, Hornby and Longanacre

[Introduced January 25, 2024; Referred to the
Committee on Education]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article,
 2 designated §18-34-1, §18-34-2, and §18-34-3, all relating to the creation of Jaycie's Law;
 3 providing for legislative intent; requiring the West Virginia Department of Education to
 4 establish a policy to support the educational and parenting goals and improve the
 5 educational outcomes of pregnant and parenting students; requiring an allotment of time
 6 for a student's pregnancy, including 6 weeks for a natural birth and 8 weeks for a C-section
 7 birth; and providing for an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 34. JAYCIE'S LAW.

§18-34-1. Legislative intent.

1 The West Virginia Legislature finds that parents of children throughout any age in middle or
 2 high school should be given the utmost support, because they face a unique set of challenges and
 3 circumstances on their road to graduation. School systems in West Virginia shall implement
 4 programs to provide educational support to those students with children at any age through
 5 graduation. The goal of this act is to assist these students to stay in school while providing enough
 6 time for proper medical recovery after the birth of the child.

§18-34-2. Policy enacted.

1 (a) A student's absence due to a student's pregnancy or parenting needs is a lawful
 2 absence as provided under this section.

3 (b) Each county board shall develop a written attendance policy for pregnant and parenting
 4 students that, at a minimum, meets the requirements of this article. The policy developed under
 5 this section shall:

6 (1) Excuse all absences due to pregnancy – or parenting–related conditions, including
 7 absences for:

8 (A) Labor;

9 (B) Delivery;

