WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE
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REGULAR SESSION, 2012

ENROLLED

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE
FOR

Senate Bill No. 611

(SENATORS KESSLER (MR. PRESIDENT), MINARD,
Browning, Stollings, Klempa,
Foster and Unger, original sponsors)

[PASSED MARCH 10, 2012; IN EFFECT NINETY DAYS FROM PASSAGE.]
AN ACT 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; permitting 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 if funds are available; setting forth duties and goals of the community-based organization; requiring the secretary and the director of the community-based organization to make status reports to the Legislature; and setting forth other duties of the Department of Health and Human Resources.

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”.

As used in this article “at-risk youth” means all children between birth and seventeen and young adults between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one who are low income, receiving benefits from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, legally under the jurisdiction of the Department of Health and Human Resources or in custody of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services, the selected county’s juvenile court/probation department or 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.

Effective July 1, 2012, and if funds are available, the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources shall select a community-based organization to establish a special Community-Based Pilot Demonstration Project to Improve Outcomes for At-Risk Youth in a specified community for a duration of four years. The project will identify, implement and document best practices that can be replicated in other communities. The designated community-based organization shall operate the special pilot project under the direction of the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Resources and shall work in collaboration with the State School Superintendent, local county school superintendent, Executive Director of the President of the Community and Technical College System, the closest community and technical college and four-year college or university, State Workforce Investment Division, Executive Director of the West Virginia Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the local juvenile court system, the local
workforce investment board, the Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission, the Director of West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services, the local mental/behavior health organizations and other 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 and Human Resources shall:

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

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

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

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

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

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

(a) The pilot program shall be operated by a local community-based organization under the direction the Secretary of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, and in collaboration with the State School Superintendent, county school superintendent, Executive Director of the State Workforce Investment Division, Executive Director of WV Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the local juvenile court system, the Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission, President of the Community and Technical College System, president of the local Community and Technical College and four-year college or university, the Director of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services, the local mental/behavior health organizations and other governmental and community-based organizations and partner agencies to serve as a clearing house to coordinate comprehensive youth and family services. The pilot project shall be housed within the community and will be directed by a local community-based nonprofit organization.

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

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

(1) Early childhood development:

(A) Increase in the number of mothers receiving early prenatal care;
(B) Increase in number of mothers participating in the Right From the Start Program;

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

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

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

(2) Preschool youth and teen measures:

(A) Decrease in school truancy;

(B) Decrease in truancy hearings;

(C) Decrease in school suspensions;

(D) Decrease in school expulsions;

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

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

(G) Increase in academic performance for select students;

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

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

(3) Parent Measures:

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

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

(C) Increase in the number of individuals completing job training with a certification or credential;
(D) Increase in the number of individuals placed in employment; and

(E) Increase in number of children enrolled in the CHIP program.
The Joint Committee on Enrolled Bills hereby certifies that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Chairman Senate Committee

Chairman House Committee

Originated in the Senate.

In effect ninety days from passage.

Clerk of the Senate

Clerk of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House of Delegates

The within is approved this the 2nd Day of April, 2012.

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor
PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAY 28

Time 4:25 pm