

WVHA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 6, 2026

8 Days Out: Hospital and Healthcare Legislation Update

We're heading into the home stretch of the 60-day regular session which concludes midnight March 14. Lawmakers are moving swiftly to advance bills out of committee and onto the floor for action. The following features key hospital and healthcare bills currently advancing. Contact [me](#) with any questions or visit the Legislature's [website](#) for schedules and livestreams.

Completed Legislative Action and Signed by the Governor

- [HB 4335](#) - Medicaid Provider Enrollment and Credentialing Streamlining
- [HB 4740](#) – Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) expedited state purchasing requirements
- [HB 4982](#) - “Make West Virginia Healthy Act of 2026”
- [HB 4196](#) - Long-acting reversible contraception to patients receiving methadone and suboxone

WVHA Agenda Related Bills advancing

The following bills reflect WVHA's core legislative priorities for 2026 and are advancing through the legislature — areas where we are engaged with legislators and closely tracking progress toward passage.

- [SB 650](#) - Designating psychiatric hospital that treats exclusively civil and forensic patients (**DPP related**) – *pending House Floor*
- [SB 570](#) - RHTP – Appropriations - *pending House Finance*
- [SB 741](#) - Pilot program **involuntary commitment process** – *pending House Finance*
- [SB 742](#) – **72-Hour Hold** – *pending House Health Mark-Up/Passage Stage / House Judiciary*
- [SB 200](#) – **Healthcare worker protection** – *pending House Judiciary*
- [SB 231](#) - Performance-Based Payment Model for **Addiction Treatment Services** – *pending House Finance*
- [HB 5458](#) - WV Board of Med. licensing – *pending Senate Floor*
- [HB 4089](#) - Preservation of hair during **chemotherapy** – *pending Senate Floor*
- [SB 822](#) – **Prior Authorization** – *pending Senate Health (will be committed to an Interim Study for 2026)*

Bills Under Active Monitoring

As session enters its final week, all the above remain a priority — and the bills below represent additional legislation WVHA is closely tracking/collaborating with legislators - alongside our core agenda.

Transplant Referral & Veteran Care [HB 5563](#), the WV Timely Transplant Referral and Veteran Care Coordination Act, is pending in the Senate Health Committee. Should the bill move forward, amendments to address hospital and provider operational concerns are being prepared.

Certificate of Need (CON) Reform – [HB 5096](#) proposes to remove **personal care services** and intellectual/developmental disabilities services from the CON process. The bill is currently pending in the Senate Health Committee. WVHA is closely monitoring to ensure no amendments are advanced beyond the underlying bill. The same goes for [SB 1012](#) (*pending in House Finance*) which deals with the CON process and **Juvenile Behavioral Health Capacity**. This bill would permit the development of juvenile treatment beds in Cabell County, responding to a recognized gap in youth behavioral health services.

Medicaid Administration Two bills touch on Medicaid administration and enrollment. [HB 4767](#) would require the **Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) to file a legislative rule** and is pending in Senate Judiciary. WVHA has engaged legislators regarding the delays this bill could create for Medicaid policy affecting hospitals and healthcare delivery. [HB 4772](#), which addresses **verification** of Medicaid enrollees, is pending in the Senate Health Committee.

Workforce & Immigration Compliance Two bills address immigration-related employer and provider obligations. [HB 4198](#), the **E-Verify Safe Harbor Act**, is pending in Senate Judiciary. WVHA is coordinating its efforts in opposition with the WV Chamber of Commerce and other stakeholders. [SB 615](#), which would require persons with illegal immigration status to be turned over to ICE, is pending in the House Judiciary Committee. Should this bill advance, WVHA staff is working with the committee chair to introduce a HIPAA-protective amendment to safeguard patient privacy and provider obligations under federal law.

[Some Active Healthcare Bills of Interest](#)

WVHA is actively monitoring the following healthcare-related bills that are advancing and could have meaningful implications for our members and the patients care.

- [HB 4169](#) - Relating to **mental health** examination requirements – *pending Senate Judiciary*
- [HB 4191](#) - Relating to providing **childcare** generally – *pending Senate Finance*
- [HB 4951](#) - Requiring MDs and DOs to complete **continuing education** – *pending Senate Floor*
- [HB 5015](#) - Relating to West Virginia into the **Respiratory Care** Interstate Compact – *pending Senate Health*
- [HB 5086](#) – Relating to **peer support** services – *pending Senate Health*
- [HB 5168](#) – Increases funding for **EMS** first responders – *pending Senate Finance*
- [HB 5325](#) (same as [SB 583](#)) – Creating emeritus license status for **retired physicians**, etc. – *pending Senate/House Government Organization*
- [HB 5430](#) – Regulating **PBMs** - *pending Senate Floor*
- [HB 5459](#) – **MCO Tax** – *pending Senate Floor*
- [SB 580](#) - Updates the practice act for the WV Medical Imaging and **Radiation Therapy** Technology Board – *pending House Government Organization*
- [SB 956](#) – Grants **physician assistants** full practice authority – *pending House Health*

Legislature Passes FY2027 Budget with Week to Spare

The [West Virginia Legislature](#) made early history this session by completing work on the FY2027 general revenue budget with more than a week remaining in the 60-day legislative session. The compromise budget ([SB 250](#)) passed the Senate 30-1 and the House 68-15, and is now headed to the Governor's desk.

Budget Overview

The compromise sets the general revenue budget at \$5.485 billion — a slight decrease from the governor's \$5.493 billion revenue estimate but leaving \$5 million unappropriated.

Key Provisions Relevant to WVHA Members

Medicaid: The budget includes an additional \$28 million for Medicaid over the current fiscal year, bringing total funding to \$284 million. Funding for aged and disabled waiver programs increased by \$5 million, to \$162.6 million.

Rural Health Transformation: The Department of Health budget includes \$200 million for the federal dollars being allocated for the Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). The legislation [SB 570](#) to appropriate the funding is still pending in the House Finance Committee.

Personal Income Tax Cut: A 5% personal income tax cut — retroactive to January 1 — was approved, returning an estimated \$125 million to taxpayers. Governor Morrisey had sought a full 10% cut; the Legislature agreed to half that amount. Legislation ([SB 392](#)) to implement the tax cut is still pending in the House Finance Committee.

Workforce & Pay Raises: An average 3% pay raise was approved for teachers, school service personnel, State Police, and public employees (\$78.4 million total).

Adoption & Foster Care: A \$40 million increase over current funding levels was included for adoption and foster care services.

What's Next

The Governor has five days to sign, veto, or issue line-item vetoes while the Legislature remains in session. The Legislature finalized the budget early in part to preserve its ability to override any potential vetoes, which would require a two-thirds majority.

In the coming days, the WVHA team will be reviewing the budget in its entirety so please be on the lookout for additional details. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [me](#). Thanks.

Tony