

# WVIA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

September 8, 2023

## Legislature in town for interim meetings beginning Sunday

Another round of 3-day legislative interim meetings will begin on Sunday at the State Capitol. The full meeting agenda is available [here](#). Key meetings include the following:

- The [Joint Health Committee](#) will hear an update from DHHR on residential treatment facilities for children. The department is working to reduce the reliance for children to be in residential treatment facilities and working to ensure behavioral health services are available in the community.
- The [Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability](#) will hear from the [three new incoming Secretaries of DHHR](#) and also receive an update by the Bureau for Medical Services ([BMS](#)) regarding the state's Medicaid "unwinding" process. In West Virginia, Medicaid and CHIP eligibility unwinding began in April, with the first benefit closures effective May 1.
- The [Joint Committee on EMS](#) will hear a recap of [SB 1021](#) from last month's special session. This is the \$12 million funding bill for volunteer fire departments, which will also benefit EMS. The bill started out using surplus funds but was switched to a permanent funding source through the counties. The change to a permanent funding source now requires the legislature to find a way to maintain it in the state budget moving forward. The bill passed during the special session will send \$6 million to the Fire Protection Fund to be distributed by county commissions based on population, \$3 million to the County Fire Protection Fund, and \$3 million to the Growth Fire Protection Fund to be distributed at the state level.
- The [Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and PEIA](#) will hear from the [new PEIA Director Brian Cunningham](#).
- There also will be a general meeting for legislators involving the topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI). The meeting will be at the Culture Center Theater on Monday from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

We expect another busy interim period so please be on the lookout for additional information next week. If you have any questions, please contact [me](#). Thanks.

Tony