

WVHA **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

January 9, 2026

West Virginia Legislature to Begin Next Week

Next Wednesday, January 14, at 12:00 noon, marks the official start of the 2nd Session of the 87th West Virginia Legislature. The session will run through March 14. While we are moving into an election year, the start of the session is expected to proceed as usual with hundreds of bills being introduced, including legislation advanced by the West Virginia Hospital Association (WVHA) to sustain the fiscal viability of hospitals, reduce administrative burdens, maintain our robust public health policies, and strengthen our healthcare workforce. A couple of key events next week: Legislative interim meetings will take place Monday and Tuesday before Wednesday's session begins. The schedule is available [here](#). On Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., Gov. Patrick Morrisey will deliver his second State of the State address, where he will lay out the legislative priorities he wants to see lawmakers address throughout the rest of session.

2026 WVHA Legislative Agenda

The Association has established four core legislative priorities for the upcoming session:

- 1. Ensure Access to Care and Maintain Financial Viability** – Maintain adequate hospital payment rates through PEIA and Medicaid, protect the 340B prescription drug program from administrative overreach, oppose restrictions on facility fees for hospital outpatient services, and preserve the Certificate of Need program.
- 2. Streamline Regulatory, Administrative and Operational Processes** – Reduce regulatory burdens that divert resources from patient care by simplifying provider enrollment processes with state health plans, updating prior authorization requirements, and preventing duplicative state regulations that mirror existing federal mandates.
- 3. Strengthening Community Health** – Collaborate with policymakers on critical public health issues including behavioral health services, substance use disorder treatment, and preventive care programs. Specific initiatives include reinforcing

childhood immunization requirements, expanding behavioral healthcare options, and advancing coverage for scalp cooling systems during cancer chemotherapy treatment.

4. **Support and Protect our Healthcare Workforce** – Address workforce challenges by advocating for policies enabling out-of-state health profession students to receive in-state tuition rates and working with the Board of Medicine to streamline licensing and credentialing processes for healthcare providers.

To access the full Agenda visit [here](#) or for a detailed version click [here](#). Please be sure to visit the password-protected area of our [website](#) to access advocacy materials supporting the Agenda including talking points on key issues, background briefs and more.

2026 Legislative Advocacy Events

During the session, WVHA has scheduled three key advocacy events:

- Wednesday, February 11 – Healthcare Providers Legislative Reception at the Culture Center (5:30-7:30 p.m.). Members can network with legislators and discuss hospital and patient care priorities.
- Thursday, February 12 – Hospital Day at the Legislature, beginning with a Legislative Breakfast at the Culture Center (8:00-9:00 a.m.), followed by advocacy meetings throughout the day to present unified policy positions to lawmakers.
- Friday, February 13 – Member Wrap-Up Call (8:30-9:00 a.m.) to review outcomes and coordinate ongoing legislative strategy.

These events represent critical opportunities for WVHA members to engage directly with the Legislature on issues affecting West Virginia hospitals and patient care. Register for these events [here](#).

Your Engagement is Critical

In addition to working to advance policies that strengthen hospitals, our team—along with hospital leaders across the state—will work to defeat legislative proposals that could undermine our fragile healthcare delivery system. For example, we know that due to national shortages of healthcare providers, our ability to recruit and retain clinical staff in rural communities is especially challenging. Together, we can educate our legislators about how various proposals will not only hurt our hospitals but will also undermine one of the largest private employers in nearly every community across West Virginia.

The WVHA Legislative Team will keep you informed of the action through various communications including our regular *WVHA Legislative Updates* and any Call to Action and Alerts. Stay tuned to our communications as developments during session move swiftly. Visit the [Legislature's website](#) for lawmaker contact information and committee membership along with streaming video and audio. As the session gets underway, please be prepared to reach out to your local legislators about how a bill may impact your hospital, employees, and the care you are able to provide for families and friends in your community.

For questions regarding our legislative priorities, events, and other legislative activity, please feel free to contact me contact me at tgregory@wvha.org or by cell at (304) 545-0128. Thanks.

Tony