

September 5, 2025

Legislative Interim Meetings to begin Sunday

The <u>West Virginia Legislature</u> will convene for interim meetings at the State Capitol beginning this Sun., Sept. 7 through Tue., Sept. 9. This is part of the legislature's scheduled interim meeting dates for 2025, which also includes sessions each month through the remainder of the year. The legislative calendar has been relatively calm lately, but we're anticipating increased activity beginning this weekend.

Key Health-Related Committees to Watch

- Joint Standing Committee on Health a discussion of provider enrollment and
 uniform credentialing. West Virginia hospitals have been reporting provider
 enrollment challenges across many insurance types, including state-regulated
 insurance plans Medicaid Managed Care and PEIA. Michelle Coon, Vice President
 of Managed Care for Vandalia Health will present the hospital industry's challenges
 with this issue on behalf of WVHA. There will also be a presentation on cooperative
 agreements which was the subject of legislation introduced during the 2025 Regular
 Session.
- Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources
 Accountability updates from the Cabinet Secretaries of the Department of Human Services, Department of Health, and Department of Health Facilities.

PEIA Special Session Possibility

There remains significant discussion about a potential Special Session focused on PEIA (Public Employees Insurance Agency) reform. Governor Morrisey has regularly talked about the likelihood of a special session that could include changes to PEIA, which is anticipated to experience cost growth of about \$50 million a year over the next few years. Lawmakers have expressed reservations about whether the proposals warrant immediate attention. The Governor has proposed a four-point plan to "fix" PEIA, which includes: removing coverage eligibility for spouses who are offered health insurance through their own employer; and establishing a PEIA fraud unit, among other areas. This week at the PEIA Finance Board Meeting, PEIA's financial trends have been reported as stable during regular updates, though the long-term sustainability concerns remain a priority for legislative action. No official Special Session Call has been issued as of this writing.

The interim meetings will provide an important opportunity for legislators to discuss these health and insurance issues ahead of any potential special session call from the Governor. Please be on the lookout for legislative updates. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanks.

Tony