

WVHA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 11, 2025

Final Hours of 2025 Regular Session

Today is Day 59 of the 60-Day Session – which ends at midnight Sat., April 12th. Although the session hasn't finished, we want to share a few updates. Much of the 2025 Regular Session has involved protecting hospitals and health systems from proposed legislation imposing significant financial, clinical, regulatory, and operational burdens—and the challenge continues in these final hours of the session. Our strategy this session continues: “defense” above all else. Here's the current situation at a glance:

- As we've noted, the WVHA fought off CON Repeal this session and other CON related bills that received attention in the Legislature and with the Governor. The main action included the House Health Committee narrowly **defeating** [HB 2007](#), the Certificate of Need (CON) Repeal by a vote of 13-12 vote (13 opposed to the bill, and 12 in favor) on February 24. We remain vigilant on this topic in the final hours of the session.
- Other notable hospital and health care bills that were not advanced this session *as of 4/11/25*:
 - [SB 718](#) – Hospital Transparency/Reporting (Financial Disclosure etc.) – turned into an interim study resolution through [House Concurrent Resolution \(HCR\) 100](#)
 - [HB 2409](#) – Cooperative agreements and state anti-trust (part of the HCR 100).
 - [SB 675](#) - 340B Drug Pricing Transparency
 - [HB 2789](#) – Unconscious patients in the ICU - turned into [House Resolution \(HR\) 13](#)
 - [HB 2631](#) - To require all medical providers to orally explain all medical treatments and procedures
 - [HB 2672](#) – Notice to all former or current patients
 - [HB 3328](#) – Require hospitals with no ASL interpreter on staff provide technology
 - [HB 3518](#) – Medicaid expansion trigger
 - [SB 159](#) - Prohibiting certain medical exams on anesthetized patients
 - [SB 460](#) – Childhood Immunization
 - [SB 606](#) – Notification of breast density
- Some of the bills still active *as of 4/11/25*
 - [SB 482](#) – Certified Professional Midwife Licensing
 - [SB 526](#) - Pharmacist Prescribing Authority Act
 - [HB 2347](#) - Mental hygiene regions
 - [HB 2402](#) – Access to a minor's medical record
 - [HB 2349](#) - LARC to patients receiving methadone and suboxone
 - [SB 939](#) – Relating to testing for substance use disorder

Senate Health Committee Action on Immunization and Committee Chair Comments on Hospitals

Earlier this week, the Senate Health Committee amended [HB 2776](#) (dealing with Alpha-gal syndrome) to include provisions of [SB 460](#) which relates to vaccine exemptions. This is the bill that was voted down by the [House 42-56](#) on March 24. When HB 2776 hit the Senate Floor yesterday, the Senate Health Committee Chair Laura Wakim Chapman changed course, dropping the vaccination exemptions provision from the bill. The bill about alpha-gal syndrome, HB 2776, then passed unanimously. In the evening floor session last night, Chapman elaborated on her position to reverse course, and cited the financial interests of “big medicine and big drug companies” as reasons for the bill’s demise.

In her floor speech last night, Chapman also said that the health care bills that were introduced and advanced this session to the House failed because “the reforms eat into big medicine’s profit structure.” She went on to say that “hospital consolidations and acquisitions are keeping the people of West Virginia in the dark ages for health care. Through those monopolies, the health care profits have almost tripled, however, those profits have not helped West Virginians.” She said “collectively, our non-profit hospitals in West Virginia have brought in approximately \$11.5 billion in revenue in 2023 according to [ProPublica.org](#).” Other comments focused on executive compensation, health outcomes, health care costs and physician wait times. Among the bills she cited was [SB 718](#) related to hospital price transparency and financial disclosure which passed the Senate [22-12](#) but did not advance in the House. To hear the comments in full visit [here](#) and go to the 8:38:39 mark.

Hospital / Health Care related bills of note - **completed legislative action as of 4/11/25**

- [SB 325](#) - Authorizing Department of Health to promulgate legislative rules (*including Hospital Licensure rules pertaining to surgical smoke evacuation systems; and extension of a Critical Access Hospital legislative rule pertaining to the Rural Emergency Hospital model*)
- [SB 336](#) - Authorizing Department of Homeland Security to promulgate legislative rules (*including legislative rules related to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners*)
- [SB 369](#) - Authorizing miscellaneous boards and agencies to promulgate legislative rules (*including legislative rules related to licensure of Certified Respiratory Therapists*)
- [SB 458](#) - Universal Professional and Occupational Licensing Act
- [SB 565](#) - Relating generally to practice of optometry
- [SB 810](#) - Requirements for administration of anesthesia
- [HB 3444](#) - Relating to inflammation of the eyes of newborns
- [SB 8](#) - Providing additional sites and devices for newborn safe surrender
- [SB 291](#) - Extending time frame for pharmacies to register from annually to biennially
- [SB 537](#) - Establishing WV Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program
- [HB 2129](#) - Creating the Parents Bill of Rights
- [HB 2354](#) - Banning certain products from food in West Virginia
- Other bills on their way to completing legislative action as of this writing:
 - [SB 833](#) - Prior auth gold card process
 - [HB 3014](#) - Hospital Police Force Liability Protection

Key Health Care bills of note - **did not advance this session as of 4/11/25**

- [SB 167](#) - Permitting care of patient by telemedicine across state line
- [SB 515](#) - Involuntary hospitalization for substance use

- [SB 517](#) – Reporting injuries and side effects from vaccines
- [SB 557](#) - Relating to licensing by WV Board of Medicine
- [SB 594](#) - Right to try individualized treatments
- [SB 632](#) - Relating to surprise billing of out-of-network ambulance services
- [SB 655](#) - Immunity for mental health providers involved in mental hygiene checks
- [SB 719](#) - Relating to age minor can consent to medical decisions/services
- [SB 723](#) - Relating to clinical inpatient medical treatment centers for substance use disorder
- [SB 726](#) - Relating to medication-assisted treatment programs
- [SB 761](#) – Involuntary hospitalization of a dependent or spouse experiencing substance use disorder
- [SB 917](#) - Limiting civil liability for academic medical centers and teaching hospitals
- [SB 921](#) – Creating WV Medical Services Oversight and Support Act
- [SB 925](#) – Creating needs-based assessment for EMS
- [HB 2044](#) - Allow an entity enrolled in PEIA to leave PEIA and have a 5-year window to return
- [HB 2130](#) - Relating to setting the rate the PEIA shall pay for services
- [HB 2166](#) –Behavioral Health Workforce Education
- [HB 2174](#)– Licensure of Birthing Centers
- [HB 2370](#) – Mental health professionals making application for involuntary hospitalization
- [HB 2410](#) - Safeguard the Right-To-Try Cutting-Edge Medicine Act
- [HB 2473](#) – MCO Tax
- [HB 2704](#) – Reimbursement/transportation process for post mental health involuntary commitment
- [HB 3087](#) same as [HB 3067](#) - Prohibiting white bagging
- [HB 3092](#) - Relating to financial assistance available for a prescription drug
- [HB 3150](#) - Health Science and Medical Student Loan Programs
- [HB 3452](#)- Advanced Career Education (ACE) classes

As we approach the closing hours of the session, please note: all outcomes remain on the table. We'll continue monitoring developments closely.

This includes the State Fiscal Year 2026 Budget in [HB 2026](#). Yesterday, the House passed a \$5.317 billion general revenue budget bill that was characterized as a compromise with the Senate. The Governor initially proposed a \$5.323 billion budget. Over the course of the past couple of weeks, the House and Senate have bounced budget frameworks back and forth. The Senate will now take up the budget bill prior to the conclusion of the session at midnight Saturday. WVHA will be reviewing this latest budget in detail so please be on the lookout for any additional information.

We'll distribute a *Preliminary Wrap-Up* of the Session following its conclusion and then develop a more comprehensive *Summary* in the weeks ahead. We've also scheduled a member-wide *Webinar* for Thu. May 1st beginning at Noon highlighting key bills of interest. Please be on the lookout for this information.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact [me](#). Thanks.

Tony