

# WVIA

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

April 4, 2025

### Lawmakers Approach Finish Line

Today is Day 52 of the 60 Day Regular Session which concludes at midnight Sat. April 12. We've past "Cross-Over" day which means the Senate is exclusively reviewing only House bills while the House is focusing solely on Senate bills. This does not include the budget or supplementary appropriation bills. Bills will be moving swiftly through committees and floor sessions so please be on the lookout for Updates and Calls to Action. The most important takeaways from this week are listed below.

### Key Bills Placed on the House "Inactive" Calendar

Several key bills this week were placed on the House's "Inactive" Calendar prior to the "Cross-Over" deadline which means these bills will not advance this session. Of course, it's possible these topics may surface in other bills, so we remain alert of all potential developments. Of the bills placed on the Inactive Calendar:

- [HB 2409](#) –Dealing with state-antitrust laws and hospital cooperative agreements under the West Virginia Health Care Authority –*House "Inactive" Calendar*.
- [HB 3518](#) – Implementing a Medicaid expansion "trigger" which would have terminated Medicaid Expansion population coverage if federal FMAP (Federal Medical Assistance Percentage) funding is reduced. *House "Inactive" Calendar*

Additionally, several other bills faced rejection during this session, failing to advance after being defeated either in Committee or during House Floor votes, including:

- **CON REPEAL HB 2007:** defeated in the House Health Committee on Feb. 24 by a narrow vote of 13-12 (13 opposed, 12 in favor). As we previously reported, last week, there was a motion to discharge the bill which would have revived the bill from the House Health Committee and put to a vote by the full House. After a lengthy procedural debate, the motion to discharge failed 74-16. This was the Governor's bill.
- **CON EXEMPTION for small format, micro hospitals HB 3487:** defeated in the House Health Committee on March 27 on a Voice Vote.
- **CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION SB 460:** defeated on the House Floor on March 24 by a vote of 56-42. This was the Governor's bill. The [Executive Order 7](#) he issued on Jan. 14, 2025, relating to religious exemptions is still in effect.

## Active Bills of Interest

Heading into the final week of the Regular Session, the WVHA Legislative Team is managing several bills of interesting impacting hospitals and health care delivery from a financial, clinical, regulatory and operational perspective. These include the following active bills of interest by committee reference:

- [SB 718](#) – Hospital Transparency/Reporting (Financial Disclosure etc.) – ***House Health***
- [SB 833](#) - Prior authorization gold card process – ***House Health***
- [SB 606](#) –Notification of breast density –***House Health***
- [SB 517](#) – Reporting injuries and side effects from vaccines – ***House Health***
- [SB 526](#) - Pharmacist Prescribing Authority Act – ***House Health***
- [SB 761](#) – Involuntary hospitalization re: substance use disorder – ***House Health***
- [SB 723](#) - Clinical inpatient medical treatment centers for substance use disorder – ***House Health***
- [SB 726](#) - Relating to medication-assisted treatment programs – ***House Health***
- [SB 939](#) – Relating to testing for substance use disorder – ***House Health***
  
- [SB 655](#) – Immunity for mental health providers involved in mental hygiene checks – ***House Judiciary***
  
- [SB 810](#) - Requirements for administration of anesthesia – ***House Floor***
  
- [HB 2011](#) – Supplemental Appropriation to Medicaid for current Fiscal Year – ***Senate Floor***
  
- [HB 2402](#) –Access to a minor’s medical record – ***Senate Health***
- [HB 2349](#) - LARC to patients receiving methadone and suboxone – ***Senate Health***
  
- [HB 2347](#) - Mental hygiene regions – ***Senate Judiciary***
- [HB 3014](#) - Hospital Police Force Liability Protection – ***Senate Judiciary***

## Other Measures Complete Legislative Action or Advancing Through Process

The WVHA Legislative Team is tracking numerous additional bills advancing through the Legislature, beyond [SB 458](#) which has already completed legislative action. This is the Governor’s bill implementing the Universal Professional and Occupational Licensing Act of 2025. The WVHA endorses the legislation as it marks a vital advancement in tackling the healthcare staffing shortages confronting West Virginia hospitals. The Act's provisions to streamline licensing processes across state lines will significantly enhance our ability to recruit qualified healthcare professionals to serve West Virginia communities. By removing unnecessary bureaucratic barriers while maintaining high standards of care, this legislation strikes the right balance between ensuring quality and increasing access. Some other bills are making their way through the process including:

- [SB 482](#) - Certified Professional Midwife Licensing – ***House Floor***
- [SB 565](#) - Relating generally to practice of optometry – ***House Health Committee***
- [SB 632](#) - Relating to surprise billing of out-of-network ambulance services - ***House Finance Committee***

- [SB 719](#) - Relating to age minor can consent to medical decisions/services – *House Judiciary Committee*
- [HB 2410](#) - Safeguard the Right-To-Try Cutting-Edge Medicine Act –*Senate Judiciary*
- [HB 3092](#) – Financial assistance available for a prescription drug – *Senate Health Committee*
- [HB 3150](#) - Health Science and Medical Student Loan Programs -*Senate Health Committee*

## State Budget Negotiations Continue

This week, both the Senate and House advanced their versions of the SFY2026 budget from the Finance committees. The House and Senate budget proposals were each constructed differently. The House version was built off budgets passed by the Legislature in recent years, following previously established financial trends. The Senate budget was built off what the governor's administration submitted, making some adjustments. While key differences exist between the two proposals, advancing HB 2026 and SB 300 represent the first steps in development of the final SFY2026 budget.

- **HB 2026** proposes spending approximately \$5.1 billion in base funding with an additional allocation of \$129 million in surplus if the money is there at the conclusion of the current fiscal year. This leaves nearly \$67 million of revenue unspent. This is a deviation from the budget presented by Governor Morrisey that proposed spending all \$5.3 billion in expected revenue collections. House representatives indicated they achieved reduced spending in many departments by cutting approximately 2% of salaries in areas where long-term vacancies have existed, updating the school-aid formula and reducing funds to West Virginia University. In terms of Medicaid spending, the majority of funds allocated from general revenue were reduced by 1% while a few line items like the Traumatic Brain Injury waiver program saw more substantial cuts. WVHA is working collaboratively with BMS to address concerns about the decrease in funding to advocate for full funding to the programs.
- **SB 300** is more closely aligned with the Governor's introduced version of the budget. Although some differences exist, the Senate proposes to spend all \$5.3 billion in expected revenue and few variances exist in the Medicaid budget. Some of the Senate's priorities are represented by a \$36 million allocation to a personal income tax reduction reserve fund, \$50 million in spending if the year ends with a surplus on an economic development loan program and \$50 million in potential surplus for roads. The Senate Finance Committee discussed earlier claims by the Governor that a \$400 million shortfall was anticipated and how budget surplus was used to fill gap.

In the coming days, legislators will shuttle the budget proposal between the two chambers, working toward a likely agreement. Updates will be provided as budget negotiations progress.

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

Tony