

# WVHA

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 14, 2025

### Midpoint of Legislative Session Coincides with Successful Hospital Day

We've reached the midway point of the 60 Day Regular Session with over [2000 bills](#) introduced in the Legislature. The deadline for House bills to be introduced is Tue., March 18 and the Senate is Mon., March 24.

WVHA marked Hospital Advocacy Week March 12-14, featuring Hospital Day at the Legislature on Thursday. More than 150 hospital leaders statewide joined the activities. Key events included a Hospital Day Legislative Breakfast with presentations from Senate Health Committee Chair Laura Wakim Chapman and House Health Committee Chair Evan Worrell. Hospital exhibits filled the upper Rotunda of the State Capitol. The week concluded with a virtual meeting featuring Senator Tom Takubo and House Deputy Speaker Matt Rohrbach. We appreciate our legislative leaders and all participants contributing to a successful Hospital Advocacy Week.

### House Health Committee discusses hospital price transparency

The House Health Committee this week held a hearing on [HB 2409](#), to require hospitals to disclose prices for certain items and services. WVHA testified the bill is duplicative of the current federal Price Transparency requirements for hospitals that went into effect in 2021. *The 2021 Hospital Price Transparency Rule*, mandated by CMS, requires hospitals to publicly post standard charges for all items and services in a machine-readable file, and also to display standard charges for 300 "shoppable" services in a consumer-friendly format. The bill essentially mirrors these and other requirements under federal rule but adds an additional layer of state oversight by the Department of Health Facilities with further penalties.

The WVHA noted the *federal No Surprises Act* also requires hospitals and other providers to share Good Faith Estimates with uninsured/self-pay patients for most scheduled services. WVHA also noted that on February 25, 2025, President Trump signed an executive order instructing the U.S. Departments of Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services to implement and enforce the Trump Healthcare price transparency regulations. The details of this new regulation have not been released.

The Committee advanced the bill to markup and passage stage, so we'll keep you posted on future action. There are several other "hospital transparency" bills in the Legislature including the following bills that WVHA has already weighed in on:

- [SB 675](#) – requiring covered entities like hospitals to report *340B Drug Pricing Program* savings, and other duplicative data already reported by hospitals and other providers –***Senate Government Organization Committee***
- [SB 718](#) – relating to Hospital Price Transparency, including third-party discount, and ownership transparency –***Senate Health Committee***
- [HB 2173](#) - Relating to requiring a hospital to disclose price and fee information for certain health care services –***House Health Committee***

## Concerning hospital bills pending in the Legislature

In addition to transparency bills, the WVHA is managing several bills impacting hospitals' financial stability, clinical practices, regulatory compliance, and day-to-day operations. Just a few of note:

- **Patient Care Related Bills**
  - [HB 2631](#) - Informed consent for medical treatments and similar bill [HB 2672](#) –*House Health Committee*
  - [HB 2789](#) - Requiring hospitals to administer a C-peptide or connecting peptide insulin to unconscious patients in the ICU - *House Health Committee*
  - [SB 159](#) - Prohibiting certain medical exams on anesthetized patients –*Senate Judiciary Committee*
  - [HB 3328](#) – Require hospitals with no ASL interpreter on staff provide technology for hearing or speech impaired patients to communicate –*House Health Committee*
  - [SB 606](#) – Relating to notification of breast density –*House Health Committee*
  - [SB 719](#) - Relating to age at which minor can consent to certain medical decisions and services – *pending Senate Floor*
  - [SB 594](#) - Relating to right to try individualized treatments - *Senate Floor*
- **Medical Records Bills**
  - [HB 2402](#) – Providing access to a minor's medical record – *Senate Health Committee* and same as bill [SB 286](#) – *Senate Judiciary Committee*

## CON Repeal, other related bills introduced

There's been no Committee activity regarding CON Repeal, but as of March 14, eight CON bills have now been introduced in the Legislature.

- [SB 453](#) – Governor's Bill to repeal CON – *introduced on 2/13 and pending Senate Health Committee*
- [HB 2007](#) – Governor's Bill to repeal CON – *introduced on 2/18 and rejected by the House Health Committee on 2/24*
- [HB 3308](#) - Relating to the termination of the authority's CON program – *introduced on 3/11 and pending in the House Health Committee*. Sponsors are: Anders, Kump, Worrell, Horst, Foggin, Ward, White, Coop-Gonzalez, Kimble, Dillon, Ridenour
- [HB 2046](#) – Require hospitals under CON to accept PEIA – *introduced on 2/12 and pending House Health Committee*. Sponsor is: Burkhammer
- [HB 2485](#) - Exempt an existing hospital under CON to move their facility up to 10 miles to a new location – *introduced on 2/17 and pending House Health Committee*. Sponsor is: Burkhammer
- [HB 2707](#) - Relating to exempting a neighborhood hospital from CON – *introduced on 2/20 and pending House Health Committee*. Sponsor is: Horst
- [HB 3250](#) - Relating to removing CON moratorium on opioid treatment facilities – *introduced on 3/7 and pending House Health Committee*. Sponsor is Pushkin
- [HB 3311](#) - Exempt counties with certain population growth from the CON process – *introduced on 3/11 and pending in the House Health Committee*. Sponsors are: W. Clark and Kump

## Childhood Immunization bill update

[SB 460](#) was unexpectedly added to the House Health Committee's Tuesday agenda this week, but when the meeting began, the Chairman announced that it had been removed. Physicians, nurses and other health care providers continue to work through the [West Virginia Immunization Network](#) and other stakeholders to advocate against the bill. We'll provide updates on any future developments.

## Bills on the Radar

- **Behavioral Health / Substance Use Disorder**
  - [HB 2347](#) - Mental hygiene regions (*Senate Judiciary Committee*)
  - [HB 2349](#) - To offer long-acting reversible contraception to patients receiving methadone and suboxone at the treatment facility for the methadone and suboxone (*House Health Committee*)
  - [HB 2370](#) - Mental health professionals making application for involuntary hospitalization (*House Health Committee*)
  - [HB 2704](#) - Reimbursement/transportation process for post mental health involuntary commitment (*House Health Committee*)
  - [SB 515](#) - Involuntary hospitalization for substance use (*Senate Substance Use Committee*)
  - [SB 723](#) - Relating to clinical inpatient medical treatment centers for substance use disorder (*Senate Finance*)
  - [SB 726](#) - Relating to medication-assisted treatment programs (*Senate Substance Use Committee*)
- **Medicaid**
  - [HB 2743](#) - To continue and expand the tax on Medicaid Managed Care Organizations which provides revenue generation for health care funding in the State (*Senate Finance Committee*)
- **Workforce**
  - [SB 458](#) - Universal Professional and Occupational Licensure Act (*House Government Organization Committee*)
  - [HB 2166](#) - Establishing the behavioral health workforce education initiative at the Higher Education Policy Commission (*House Finance Committee*)
  - [HB 3150](#) - Health Sciences and Medical Student Loan Programs (*House Education Committee*)
  - [SB 86](#) - Creating Unmatched Medical Graduate Advisory Council (*Senate Finance Committee*)
  - [SB 336](#) - Legislative rule to implement a statewide training program for sexual assault nurse examiners (*House Government Organization*)
  - [SB 369](#) - Legislative Rule to implement full practice authority for Certified Respiratory Therapists (*House Government Organization*)
- **Other Bills**
  - [SB 526](#) - Creating Pharmacist Prescribing Authority Act (*Senate Floor*)
  - [HB 3014](#) - Hospital Police Force Liability Protection (*House Judiciary Committee*)

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

Tony



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