

WVHA

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

March 7, 2025

Legislative Session: First Third Complete

Today is Day 24 of the 60 Day Regular Session with over 2000 bills introduced in the Legislature. The deadline for House bills to be introduced is March 18 and the Senate is March 24. Key takeaways from the past week:

Status of CON Repeal and Childhood Immunization bills

Lawmakers did not act this week on any legislation involving Certificate of Need (CON) Repeal or Childhood Immunizations, but the WVHA team remains focused on both issues as they continue to be discussed during the legislative session.

- **CON:** Following the narrow rejection of the House CON Repeal bill (HB 2007) by the House Health Committee last week, and with the Senate version by the Governor ([SB 453](#)) still pending in the Senate Health Committee, we continue to monitor legislative developments closely. We're also monitoring initiatives related to Governor Morrisey's ongoing commitment to fighting for CON Repeal, whether through legislative action or alternative approaches. Stand by for more information as we approach the halfway point next week.
- **Immunizations:** As for Childhood Immunization legislation ([SB 460](#)), there was no committee action this week in the House Health Committee. There's already been a hearing in committee and the bill was advanced to the markup and passage stage. The bill, introduced on behalf of the Governor, would allow exemptions to the state's school vaccinations if parents or legal guardians object on legal grounds. To qualify for the exemption, families would submit an annual written statement requesting a religious or philosophical exemption about required vaccines. The bill also would make it easier to get an exemption for medical reasons. A coalition of physicians, nurses and other health care providers continue to work through the [West Virginia Immunization Network](#) and other stakeholders to advocate against the legislation.

Governor's Universal Professional Licensing bill up for passage in the Senate

This week, the Senate Government Organization Committee advanced [SB 458](#), the Governor's bill dealing with the Universal Professional and Occupational Licensure Act. The bill would allow for universal licensing reciprocity in West Virginia for occupations and professions governed by Chapter 30 of State Code, including health care professional licensing Boards. The bill states that professional boards grant licenses to individuals who have been licensed in another state for at least a year under certain circumstances.

During testimony earlier this week, West Virginia Board of Medicine Executive Director Mark Spangler raised concerns about the possibility the bill would require West Virginia to accept licenses from physicians from other states who were able to be licensed in their former states but who might not have completed their residency training.

The bill was modified to address those concerns and now it would require a person licensed to practice medicine, podiatric medicine or osteopathic medicine without clinical supervision in West Virginia after successfully completing a graduate medical education program be approved by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, or the Council on Podiatric Medical Education or Colleges on Podiatric Medicine. The bill is now pending on the Senate Floor for further consideration.

Concerning hospital bills pending in the Legislature

Several bills introduced so far raise concerns for hospitals, impacting their financial stability, clinical practices, regulatory compliance, and day-to-day operations. We're continuing to review bills daily and weighing in with legislators. Some of these bills are noted below.

- **Hospital Transparency Bills**
 - [SB 675](#) - 340B Drug Pricing Program transparency and reporting of data to the Board Pharmacy (*Senate Government Organization Committee*)
 - [SB 718](#) – Hospital Price Transparency, including third-party discount, and ownership transparency (*Senate Health Committee*)
 - [HB 2173](#) – Requiring a hospital to disclose price and fee information for certain health care services (*House Health Committee*)
 - [HB 2409](#) – Hospital Transparency Act focusing on consumer-friendly list of shoppable services, among other provisions (*House Health Committee*)

- **Patient Care Related Bills**
 - [HB 2631](#) - Informed Consent (House Health) and similar bill [HB 2672](#) (*House Health Committee*)
 - [HB 2789](#) - Unconscious patients in ICU (*House Health Committee*)
 - [SB 159](#) - Anesthetized patients (*Senate Judiciary Committee*)

- **Medical Records Bills**
 - [HB 2402](#) – Providing access to a minor's medical record (*House Judiciary Committee*) and Same as bill [SB 286](#) Providing access to a minor's medical record (*Senate Judiciary Committee*)

Behavioral Health bills of interest

The Legislature remains committed to enhancing the state's behavioral health infrastructure, with multiple bills proposed to tackle challenges including mental hygiene protocols and involuntary commitment procedures. Some of the bills we're following include:

- [HB 2347](#) - Mental hygiene regions (*House Judiciary 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*)

Other bills on the radar

Below is a small sampling of other bills on the radar that are advancing or have been introduced:

- [HB 2743](#) – To continue and expand the tax on Medicaid Managed Care Organizations which provides revenue generation for health care funding in the State (*House Floor*)
- [HB 3014](#) - Hospital Police Force Liability Protection (*House Judiciary Committee*)
- [HB 3087](#) same as [HB 3067](#) - Prohibiting white bagging (*House Health Committee*)
- [SB 606](#) – Relating to notification of breast density (*Senate Floor*)

Reminder: Hospital Day at the Legislature and other activities March 12-14

Reminder of our Advocacy Events next week. If you have questions about any of the events, please contact [me](#) or [Whitney Cherry](#).

- **Wednesday, March 12** - Health Care Providers Legislative Reception 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. at the West Virginia Culture Center
- **Thursday, March 13** - Hospital Day at the Legislature Breakfast 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. at the West Virginia Culture Center with Featured Speakers Senate Health Committee Chair Laura Chapman; and House Health Committee Chair Evan Worrell
- **Thursday, March 13** - Hospital Day at the Legislature at the State Capitol
- **Friday, March 14** – Hospital Day at the Legislature Wrap-Up Call 8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. with speakers Senator Tom Takubo and Delegate Matt Rohrbach

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

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