



# ACCESS STRATEGIES

## *Legislative Update*

March 11, 2024

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### Bills on Budget, Taxes and Pay Raises Pass Late in Session

The legislature passed its biggest bill, the bill for the state budget for the fiscal year that will begin in July, in the final hours of the legislative session after much back-and-forth negotiation between the House of Delegates and the Senate over the past two weeks. At least a few legislators expressed strong disappointment with the resulting compromise on Senate Bill 200 for shortchanging Medicaid waiver programs, but they were left with some hope that the legislature might fix that during a special session in May.

At the beginning of the legislative session in January, Gov. Jim Justice proposed a general revenue budget of \$5,222,841,436. The House of Delegates had wanted to get at least \$4,996,828,751, but the compromise between the House and the Senate was almost \$230,000

less than that – \$4,996,598,939. That’s just for the general revenue portion of the budget, which is the primary focus of budget negotiations, but when other money – mainly federal funds – are considered, the total proposed budget is \$19,226,328,283.

A situation that became known late in February complicated the negotiations. That was a threat from the federal government that it might “claw back” \$465 million in federal pandemic relief funds from the state for not spending enough on education. Since then, legislators worked on putting more money into education, largely with surplus funds, but because of the uncertainty about satisfying the federal government’s demand, the legislature is planning to finish budget work in a special session in May. Last week, Gov. Jim Justice said he would be willing to go along with that plan.

“The general revenue section of the budget is substantially different to that of the budget that passed out of the Senate last Friday,” Senate Finance Chairman Eric Tarr, R-Putnam, told his colleagues about the budget compromise Saturday evening with a little more than two hours left in the 60-day regular legislative session.

“The major changes were made in negotiations with the House,” he said. “The largest change in this budget is the addition of the average 5 percent pay raise for employees in general revenue and lottery [funding]. Spending authority for these raises is granted in the state road fund, special revenue, federal and federal block grant funds.”

*“The largest change in this budget is the addition of the average 5 percent pay raise for employees in general revenue and lottery [funding]. Spending authority for these raises is granted in the state road fund, special revenue, federal and federal block grant funds.” – Sen. Eric Tarr*

The only questions Tarr received came from Sen. Mike Caputo, D-Marion, who wanted to know if money would be available for many workers to get expected pay raises.

“It’s going to be up to the governor if he’s going to decide to move enough money over there and where he’ll take it from,” Tarr responded.

The Senate then voted 31 to zero at 9:55 p.m. to approve the compromise on the budget bill. But it received a rougher reception in the House.

Delegate Michael Hite, R-Berkeley, said he was upset that the compromise version cut out \$11 million that had been in the budget for the Aged and Disabled Waiver (ADW) program, \$11 million for the Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Waiver program and an amount he didn’t specify for individuals with traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

“We often talk in here about the most vulnerable in our society,” he said. “Well, I don’t know any category more vulnerable than IDD or ADW or TBI. There are reasons that they are on the waiver line-items, and they are in crisis right now. They have been in crisis. [The Department of] Human Services has testified several times saying that they are in crisis.”

Hite said the lack of adequate funding has made it impossible to attract direct care workers into the field.

“You can’t get people to take care of these individuals anymore,” he said. “We’re giving pay raises for certain individuals, and we get that done. But this we can’t this get done for some reason. Not only can we not get it done, but we cut it. Ladies and gentlemen, this is unacceptable. I don’t care if it came from the House or the Senate or the governor. This is unacceptable. I don’t know why we listened to these testimonies in committee if we’re not going to do anything about it. I would hope and pray that, when we come back in May, we fix this and fix it right.”

Delegate Evan Worrell, R-Cabell, said he agreed with Hite.

“The legislature commissioned a rate study this past year, and it came back that we need to raise rates,” he said. “I told you all before putting \$10 million or \$11 million into the ADW program would essentially save the state over \$200 million in long-term care costs in nursing homes. These are at-risk individuals. Not only did they take the \$11 million out that this body put in, but they said we’re going to cut more. It was already in the budget for IDD to have \$100 million, and now, it’s knocked down to \$97 [million].”

Like Hite, Worrell said he was frustrated.

*“At some point, something has to be done. We got to stand up somewhere.” –  
Delegate Evan Worrell*

“I’m just tired of this,” he said. “We keep talking about this. I’m telling you right now agencies closed last year. You will have less agencies to take care of these populations in the coming year. At some point, something has to be done. We got to stand up somewhere.”

When Delegate John Williams, D-Monongalia, asked how much the Medicaid program is being cut, House Finance Chairman Vernon Criss, R-Wood, said the legislature put \$918,031,087 into the current year’s budget, but is allocating only \$845,095,205 – a difference of \$72,935,882 – for Medicaid in the next year’s budget.

That troubled Williams, who said, “As it comes to Medicaid, I’m incredibly concerned that we’re cutting by \$73 million when we get a four-to-one match off of that. I don’t think leaving any money on the table from the federal government is a good idea.” (Note: it generally has been stated that West Virginia gets three dollars in federal money for every dollar the state puts into Medicaid.)

Williams said he shared the concerns of Hite and Worrell. “Why don’t we inject some money in our communities?” he asked. “It’s essentially a jobs program that’s going to help take care of our seniors.”

Delegate Paul Espinosa, R-Jefferson, then asked Criss if it’s likely the legislature will reconsider the allocations for Medicaid in May. Criss replied, “If I have the latitude to be able to

recommend to the governor to take a look at some of these items, I would say yes. I think that we should have the opportunity to do that once we know that the claw-back is behind us.” He added that legislators also will have another two-and-a-half months of revenue to consider by then.

Espinosa responded that he shared the concerns the other delegates expressed, but he judged the compromise budget bill to be “responsible.”

Upon questioning from Delegate Larry Rowe, D-Kanawha, Criss also said some Medicaid funding was reduced from the budget the House had proposed because the Senate had not passed House Bill 5647 that would have raised a tax on managed care organizations with the aim of bringing in three times the tax’s revenue in federal matching funds. The House passed the bill on a vote of 93 to two on February 23, but after it went to the Senate, it never moved in the Senate Finance Committee.

Rowe noted that the managed care organizations favored the tax, so he asked if it seemed likely that the Senate would be willing to approve that tax in May.

“We’ll have to discuss that in May,” Criss replied.

Before the House voted on the bill, Delegate Todd Kirby, R-Raleigh, said he was upset over how much stress legislators went through to get about \$100 million put into the budget to cover pay raises for teachers, while another line-item for the Department of Economic Development went from \$22 million in the current year’s budget to \$815 million in the new budget.

“You could make a very modest cut to \$815 million and take care of all of the issues that have been raised across this room tonight and still have half a billion dollars left over,” he said.

Delegate Kayla Young, D-Kanawha, complained that too much in the budget bill changed late in the day.

“This process does not work well,” she said. “No one is getting what they want here, except the Senate. We aren’t at all, so I’m a no on this budget. And there’s less money for childcare in this budget, so I’m still a no.”

*“This process does not work well. No one is getting what they want here, except the Senate.” – Delegate Kayla Young*

The House passed the compromise version of Senate Bill 200 on a vote of 73 to 25 at 11:30 p.m. Saturday – just half an hour before the end of the session. The no votes came from 15 Republicans and 10 Democrats. Rowe was the only Democrat to vote for the bill.

The compromise on the budget came together only after the Senate earlier in the evening passed House Bill 4883 to provide pay raises for workers whose salaries are specified in state code. They include State Police personnel and employees of public schools. The State Police personnel would get raises of \$2,460 in annual pay. Teachers would get increases of \$2,460 in

annual pay. School service personnel would get a \$140 boost in monthly pay. Other state workers' pay increases are accounted for elsewhere in the general fund budget.

The compromise budget also was possible only after the Senate approved House Bill 4880 to phase out the state income tax on Social Security income. That occurred shortly after 8:00 p.m. when the Senate approved an amendment to the bill and then passed it.

“This amendment would return the bill to the form which the Senate received it from the House of Delegates,” Tarr said. “It provides for a graduated exemption from West Virginia personal income taxes due on Social Security by providing a three-year phase-in of an exemption beginning January 1, 2024. There will be a 35 percent reduction in the amount of personal income tax due on Social Security. This will be increased on January 1, 2025, to 65 percent with a total elimination on January 1, 2026.”

The phase-out is for couples who file jointly with income exceeding \$100,000 and for single people and married people filing separately with income exceeding \$50,000. In 2019, the legislature passed a bill that provided for a similar three-year phase-out of the tax for those with lower incomes. The tax was eliminated for them by January 1, 2022.

Senate Minority Leader Mike Woelfel, D-Cabell, said the legislation is overdue.

“What we’ve had for far too long in this state is siphoning some of that money that has been earned by the worker, siphoning some of that money in the form of a state income tax and running the government with it, putting it into the general fund,” he said. “That was a perverted use of that money. That money was earned by each of those workers, so I just want to say thank you on behalf of everyone that is on Social Security in our state and that will benefit from this because the time has come for us to eliminate this onerous tax on money that’s simply flowing back to the person who earned it.”

*“What we’ve had for far too long in this state is siphoning some of that money that has been earned by the worker, siphoning some of that money in the form of a state income tax and running the government with it, putting it into the general fund.” – Sen. Mike Woelfel*

The Senate voted 32 to zero to pass House Bill 4880.

Earlier in the session, the Senate had a different version of the pay raise and Social Security tax cut bills that would have tied them to certain triggers in the state economy. It was only on the final day that the Senate backed down from that position.

Another issue that held up a compromise on the budget was disagreement over Senate Bill 841 to change unemployment benefits. As it originally passed in the Senate, the bill would have increased the amount in weekly benefits recipients would get in the first four weeks of unemployment, but then the amount would drop every four weeks after that. The House had suspended action on the bill until Saturday, when delegates amended the bill to freeze the wages at which employers are taxed for unemployment at about \$9,500 and made other changes.

“This bill keeps the weeks the same,” Delegate Clay Riley, R-Harrison, told his colleagues. “It keeps the threshold the same for our employers so you’re not raising taxes. It keeps the average salary the same...and it keeps the weekly benefits the same as the people are receiving now.”

Although the House passed the bill at 7:36 p.m., not everyone who voted for it liked it.

“As far as improving West Virginia’s workforce participation, this bill reminds me of a three-day-old fish,” Delegate Larry Kump, R-Berkeley, said. “It stinks. Nevertheless, and in the short-term, while this legislation doesn’t do much, I don’t think in the short-term it does any harm, but it might do a little good. So, I’m going to hold my nose and tremble and vote yes.”

*“As far as improving West Virginia’s workforce participation, this bill reminds me of a three-day-old fish.” – Delegate Larry Kump*

The House voted 66 to 31 at 7:36 p.m. Saturday to pass the amended version of Senate Bill 841.

When that version of the bill returned to the Senate, Sen. Eric Nelson, R-Kanawha, urged his colleagues to accept it because it would stabilize the state unemployment trust fund.

“It’s there for the certainty of those that are unfortunate and lose a job, and then it’s there for the predictability for our employers,” he said.

But Sen. Mike Caputo, R-Marion, denounced the bill.

“Workers have a lot of pride, and nobody wants to be laid off. They want to work,” he said. “Let’s make sure these benefits are there for them when that unfortunate circumstance happens to that family. Let’s slow this bill down. I know it’s going to pass, but I just got to say that I think it’s a horrible, horrible idea to move so quickly on a piece of legislation that could affect so many lives in the state that we love.”

The Senate voted 24 to seven to pass the bill at 10:15 p.m.

## Altered Version of Vaccination Bill Passes

Among the bills that got through the West Virginia Legislature in the final hours of the 60-day regular session is one that would relax the state’s strict vaccination requirements for students, but it didn’t go as far as a version that was recently in play.

As it passed, House Bill 5105 would remove vaccination requirements for students in virtual public schools. It also would allow private and parochial schools to establish their own policies on vaccinations. However, the Senate removed a provision that would have allowed

parents to get their public school children exempted from the required vaccinations for specified diseases simply by sending the school a letter claiming they had a religious objection.

Throughout the bill's passage through the legislative process, medical professionals criticized it. One of the strongest criticisms came just before the Senate passed the bill – from one of the two physicians in the Senate. (The other, Senate Majority Leader Tom Takubo, R-Kanawha, was absent at the time.)

As chairman of the Senate Health and Human Resources Committee, Sen. Mike Maroney, R-Marshall, had the duty of presenting House Bill 5105 to his colleagues, but he didn't end by encouraging them to pass the bill, as he normally would.

*“I personally do not urge passage, but your Health Committee urged passage of this bill.” – Sen. Mike Maroney*

“I personally do not urge passage, but your Health Committee urged passage of this bill,” he said.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Trump, R-Morgan, then asked, “As I read this legislation, it does not in any way relax

or change the vaccine requirements for children who are enrolled in brick-and-mortar public schools in this state. Is that correct?”

“That is absolutely correct,” Maroney, who is a radiologist, said. “It does not affect that whatsoever.”

Senate Minority Leader Mike Woelfel, R-Cabell, objected to the bill and referred to how a vaccine essentially eliminated polio as a common childhood disease several decades ago.

“We could entitle this bill the ‘Make Polio Great Again Act of 2024,’” he said. “We’ve had these vaccinations for children for 60 years to protect them against measles, whooping cough, polio, et cetera.”

Woelfel told a story about a childhood friend who was at the end of the line to get the polio vaccine one day when the supply of the vaccine ran out. Before he could get the vaccine another day, he contracted polio and had to drag around one leg for the rest of his life.

Woelfel said the irony of this bill is that the kids who might suffer are those whose parents want religious freedom. “Their own healthy, vulnerable children may – I say may – pay the price by suffering severe injury or death,” he said.

Further, Woelfel suggested that unvaccinated kids who participate on travel sports teams might pick up infections in other states from other unvaccinated children. “They’re going to bring back measles,” he said. “They’re going to bring back whooping cough to their religious school, and it’s no laughing matter. It’s not an episode of the ‘Brady Bunch’ where everybody gets the measles. Whoever made that comment early in the session needs a frontal lobotomy because this is as serious as a heart attack.”

Finally, he read a letter from a constituent, a pediatrician, who has seen children die from diseases that could have been prevented by immunization. Woelfel said she recently saw one child die of whooping cough.

Before the Senate voted on House Bill 5105, Maroney gave an impassioned speech against it.

“Vaccines are a victim of their own success,” he said. “We go from tens of millions dying every year in the world to 700,000 is where we’re at today that were preventable deaths.... So, the generation now that is promoting this type of legislation, they didn’t have to be the moms that were scared to death where their kids went, who their kids played with. They didn’t have to fight to get in line for the vaccines. Vaccines were their own worst enemy. They’ve been too good.... We come close to losing herd immunity every day.”

Maroney cited rubella, also known as German measles, as an example of how dangerous certain diseases can be.

“Half of the kids that get German measles have a very mild fever and a very mild rash – nothingness,” he said. “The other half have no symptoms at all, but they have active disease. So, why would we have a vaccine for that? Well, because the last epidemic of German measles in the United States...caused 21,000 abortions. It caused 5,000 neonatal deaths and 30,000 severely mentally and physically handicapped kids being born. As a matter of fact, rubella – German measles – that epidemic was in 1964 to ’65. It was about 15 months – 12.5 million people had the disease in the United States. It’s such a threat to a pregnant lady that that disease itself was one of the leading causes that led to the legalization of abortion.”

If the bill becomes law, Maroney said, he would urge West Virginia pregnant women to get checked for rubella because there’s an 85 percent chance it could cause in utero death, spontaneous abortion or elective abortion – “because your kid doesn’t have a chance to live outside of the womb” – or many other consequences. He called rubella a silent killer.

“There’s not one person sitting in this room right this minute who knows more about this topic than I do, even though you think you do,” Maroney said. “That’s about the only thing I’ll say that about, and I’m not arrogant. I’m truthful.”

Saying he was embarrassed to be a part of the process of passing the bill, he said, “It’s a bad bill for West Virginia. It’s a step backwards. There’s no question – no question – there’ll be negative effects to families, to children and

immunocompromised adults, not to mention the costs. We don’t have enough money for medicine right now. People can’t afford their drugs.... People can’t afford the cost of insurance. What do you think insurance is going to do? When you add people that choose not to get vaccines in our same insurance pool, guess what? We all get to pay higher insurance rates.”

*“It’s a bad bill for West Virginia. It’s a step backwards.” – Sen. Mike Maroney*



Concluding his speech, Maroney said, “I took an oath to do no harm. There’s zero chance I could vote for this bill.”

No supporter of the bill asked to speak about it.

The Senate then voted 20 to 12 to pass House Bill 5105. The votes against it came from nine Republicans and all three of the Senate’s Democrats. That was at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday.

At 10:10 p.m., the House voted 70 to 29 to pass that amended version of the bill. The no votes came from 19 Republicans and 10 Democrats. Delegate Hollis Lewis of Kanawha County was the only Democrat to vote for it.

The bill’s passage quickly made national news. The Associated Press ran a story about it as early as 10:33 p.m. Saturday, less than half an hour after the bill passed. ABC News and other news organizations soon picked up that story.

## Raw Milk Sales Get Legislature’s Approval

A bill to expand sales of raw milk in West Virginia is headed to Gov. Jim Justice to consider signing into law after the House of Delegates gave final approval to it on Saturday afternoon.

In 2016, the legislature approved a limited form of raw milk sales by permitting herd-sharing. That requires a person buying the raw milk to have an ownership interest in the animal producing the milk. House Bill 4911 would eliminate that herd-sharing requirement and allow raw milk sales if the milk is labeled as “unpasteurized raw milk” and carries a warning about the risk of foodborne illness.

Although he voted for the bill, Sen. Ryan Weld, R-Brooke, referred to House Bill 4911 as “The Listeria Comeback Tour Act” on Friday. Before the Senate approved the bill on a vote of 28 to five, it removed a clause about providing immunity from liability.

On Saturday, the House voted 95 to one to pass the bill in the amended form it came in from the Senate. The only delegate to vote against it was Steve Westfall, R-Jackson.

## Bill to Control Certain Drugs Passes

One of the last bills to complete the legislative process during this year’s regular session is Senate Bill 679, which would regulate select plant-based derivatives, including hemp-derived cannabinoid products, and kratom. The House of Delegates approved the final version of the bill just nine minutes before the session ended at midnight Saturday night.

Several hours earlier, the Senate accepted a compromise version of the bill before amending it further. One item of contention between the House and the Senate was whether the

Alcohol Beverage Control Administration should have a role, in addition to the Department of Agriculture and the Tax Department, in the regulation of the bill's provisions. The Senate wanted the ABCA to be involved, but the House removed it.

The Senate on Saturday afternoon accepted a compromise version of the bill with language for the ABCA, the Department of Agriculture and the Tax Department to cooperate in developing a statewide plan and regulations for enforcement of the bill's provisions. The Senate voted 31 to zero on that version of the bill.

With time slipping away that evening, the House voted 57 to 39 at 11:51 p.m. to accept the version of the bill with the ABCA back in it.

Also on Saturday, the legislature approved House Bill 5014, which would appropriate \$1 million for West Virginia University's Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute to help fund its focused ultrasound clinical trial to treat obesity and post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans. That program recently received national attention when it was featured in two segments of "60 Minutes" on CBS-TV. The new project is scheduled to start in April.

House Bill 5014 also would provide \$4 million to a budget line-item for the Hospital Grants and Research Programs to support research at other hospitals.

## Medically Assisted Suicide Prohibition Clears Legislature

With less than two hours to go in the regular session, the West Virginia Legislature approved House Joint Resolution 28 to put on the November ballot a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit medically assisted suicide or euthanasia in the state. It might have completed the legislative process sooner, but the Senate insisted on including a provision to clarify that the proposed amendment would not affect capital punishment in case West Virginia ever would restore the death penalty for certain crimes.

As the Senate debated the resolution late Saturday, Senate Minority Leader Mike Woelfel, D-Cabell, wondered why that provision was inserted into what he considered to be a pro-life proposal.

"In other words, we're going to respect the dignity of life at life's end, and not allow assisted suicide," he said. "Why in the world would we have the death penalty referred to in this? Do you consider the death penalty a pro-life issue?"

*"Why in the world would we have the death penalty referred to in this? Do you consider the death penalty a pro-life issue?" – Sen. Mike Woelfel*

Senate Finance Chairman Eric Tarr, R-Putnam, replied, "It's more about confusion of the issue on the ballot."

"Well, I'm confused right now," Woelfel said. "Explain to me how the death penalty is pro-life?"

*“The question on this issue is not about whether it’s pro-life or not.” – Sen. Eric Tarr*

“The question on this issue is not about whether it’s pro-life or not,” Tarr said. “It also clarifies that capital punishment is not medically assisted suicide. That’s the reason for the language.”

“Well, of course, capital punishment is not medically assisted suicide,” Woelfel said. “In the capital punishment situation, the person wants to live. In the medical suicide situation, the person wants to die.”

Tarr responded, “I would agree, and we want to make sure that nobody else would be confused about that when they read it on the ballot.”

Woelfel concluded by saying he supported the resolution but not mentioning capital punishment in it.

At 8:03 p.m., the Senate voted 28 to four to pass the resolution. The four senators who opposed it included two Republicans and two Democrats.

Two hours later, at 10:07 p.m., the House voted 88 to 10 to accept House Joint Resolution 28 with the Senate’s change. All the votes against it came from Democrats. The only Democrat to vote for the resolution was Delegate Ric Griffith of Wayne County.

## Bill to Permit Teaching Alternative Theories Survives

Senate Bill 280, which began as a bill to permit teachers to discuss intelligent design as an alternative to the theory of evolution, got through the legislative process late on Saturday after going through some changes and several long debates.

In its final version, the bill would prohibit public school officials from preventing classroom teachers from discussing alternate theories about how the universe was created or life came to exist. Much of the debate over the bill focused on whether it would introduce religious beliefs into science classes.

As the House debated the bill, Delegate Joey Garcia, D-Marion, complained that it lacked guardrails for what teachers could say in class.

“Any beliefs to indoctrinate children could be put out there,” he said. “There are so many things that could be done without any ability to stop a teacher from saying things to impressionable youth.”

But Delegate Brandon Steele, R-Raleigh, said he wasn't worried about the effects the bill might have on students.

"I believe in a God that created the universe," he said. "The more that science discovers about our natural world, the closer we get to realizing the old sources are being confirmed over and over and over again."

*"I believe in a God that created the universe. The more that science discovers about our natural world, the closer we get to realizing the old sources are being confirmed over and over and over again."  
– Delegate Brandon Steele*

Steele added, "That discussion, those questions, shouldn't be suppressed."

Also defending the bill, Delegate David Kelly, R-Tyler, said the bill would not require teachers to say anything specific because it is permissive. "A teacher may answer the question, or not," he said.

With less than four hours left in the legislative session, the House accepted a motion to cut off debate and then voted 89 to nine to pass Senate Bill 280. At 10:42 p.m., the Senate voted 29 to one to pass the version of the bill approved in the House. That completed its legislative journey.

## School Discipline and Other Bills Fall Short of Passage

Among the bills that failed to get through the legislative process are a student discipline bill, one labeled the "Women's Bill of Rights," and another that could have led to obscenity convictions for librarians.

Senate Bill 614 was intended to give teachers more control over handling disruptive students. After the Senate amended the bill a final time at 10:18 p.m., it failed to come up again in the House of Delegates.

The lead sponsor of the bill is Senate Education Chairwoman Amy Grady, R-Mason, who is an elementary school teacher. On the West Virginia MetroNews program "Talkline" today, she expressed her disappointment, said she felt betrayed by House leaders and said she would refuse to run their bills in the future if they were not more cooperative.

The legislature had two versions of the Women's Bill of Rights – Senate Bill 601 and House Bill 5243. Each would have put into law definitions of such sex-based terms as "male" and "female." Supporters contended it would protect women, such as in settings that are meant to be single sex only, but opponents said it would not establish any rights for women, despite its name.

House Bill 4654, which would have removed an exemption for libraries and museums from a law against the display or dissemination of obscene material to minors, stirred much debate before the House passed it on February 16, but in the Senate, it never came up in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The House attempted to revive the bill's provisions by amending

them into another bill to prohibit use of artificial intelligence to produce child pornography, but that bill also failed to get through the legislative process.

Yet another bill that failed to survive is Senate Bill 152, which would have required every public school and state college and university classroom to display the national motto – “In God We Trust.” The House and Senate approved different versions of the bill. The Senate amended the bill one last time on Saturday evening, but the House never took it up again.

A bill to prohibit drivers from lingering in the left lane of highways, Senate Bill; 441, also failed when the House and Senate failed to reach a compromise on it. The Senate wanted a violation to be a primary offense, while the House wanted it to be a secondary offense, meaning a driver could be cited for it only if pulled over for another offense. A conference committee worked out a compromise version, but the House voted 52 to 46 to reject it.

In addition, time ran out for House Bill 4956, which would have required health benefit plan coverage for medically necessary dental procedures that result from cancer treatment. It would have been called the Oral Health and Cancer Rights Act.

House Finance Chairman Eric Tarr, R-Putnam, said the Senate amended the provisions of House Bill 5310 into House Bill 4956.

*“It would permit a health insurance provider to cover the cost of internet service to an individual to provide them telehealth if that turns out to be cheaper overall in the expense.” – Sen. Eric Tarr*

“It would permit a health insurance provider to cover the cost of internet service to an individual to provide them telehealth if that turns out to be cheaper overall in the expense,” he said. “It’s not mandatory by any means. It also mandates that each health care insurer shall report utilization data to

an employer in the case of employer-sponsored insurance coverage but shall not include that regarding internet traffic.”

The Senate passed that version on a vote of 32 to zero at 8:40 p.m. Saturday and asked the House to concur, but the House never took the bill up again.

## Number of Governor-signed Bills Remains at 38

By late this afternoon, the number of bills from the current legislative session that Governor Jim Justice had signed into law had increased to 38. Another 32 bills were awaiting a decision from him. So far, he has not vetoed any bills or allowed any bill to become law without his signature.

Here is a link to the bills Justice has signed:

[http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill\\_Status/ActionsbyGov.cfm?year=2024&sessiontype=RS&btpe=pe=bill](http://www.wvlegislature.gov/Bill_Status/ActionsbyGov.cfm?year=2024&sessiontype=RS&btpe=pe=bill).

## Almost 300 Bills Pass

According to the West Virginia Legislature’s website, legislators pass 280 bills during the regular session that ended on Saturday – 123 House bills and 157 Senate bills. Here is the list:

<b>Bill</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
<u>SB 2</u>	Authorizing DEP to promulgate rules	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 17</u>	Authorizing Department of Health to promulgate legislative rules	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 31</u>	Authorizing Department of Human Services to promulgate legislative rules	Approved by Governor 2/16/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage -</b> (February 5, 2024)
<u>SB 36</u>	Authorizing Department of Homeland Security to promulgate legislative rules	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 50</u>	Authorizing Department of Revenue to promulgate legislative rules	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 60</u>	Authorizing DOT to promulgate legislative rules	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 142</u>	Clarifying deadline to file annual report for companies authorized to do business in WV	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>146</u>	Creating adult education taskforce	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>147</u>	Adding definition of "ammunition" for purposes of obtaining state license to carry concealed deadly weapon	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>148</u>	Establishing auto-renewal program for wildlife licenses	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>149</u>	Relating to municipalities required to be represented on county authority boards	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>159</u>	Prohibiting persons convicted of certain crimes against minors from holding positions on boards of education	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>164</u>	Relating generally to trespassing	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>166</u>	Updating contested elections procedures	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>170</u>	Relating to compensable diseases of certain firefighters covered by workers' compensation	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>171</u>	Prohibiting county commissions from adopting authorization that exceeds state law regarding agriculture operations	Approved by Governor 2/23/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 13, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>172</u>	Revising requirements of local school improvement councils	Approved by Governor 3/7/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 26, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>173</u>	Modifying certain guidelines for motor vehicle dealers, distributors, wholesalers, and manufacturers	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>190</u>	Modifying definition of sexual contact	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>200</u>	Budget Bill	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>217</u>	Authorizing state and subdivisions to negotiate price for construction when all bids received exceed maximum budget	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>219</u>	Relating to Uniform Controlled Substances Act	Communicated to House	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>222</u>	Exempting WV veterans from certain fees and charges at state parks	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>240</u>	Increasing fees charged by sheriff	To Governor 3/5/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting



			Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>261</u>	WV Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Program of 2024	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>262</u>	Clarifying procedure for administrative dissolution of corporations by Secretary of State	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>269</u>	Excluding test strips from definition of drug paraphernalia	Approved by Governor 2/2/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage -</b> (January 26, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>280</u>	Allowing teachers in public schools to discuss scientific theories	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>300</u>	Relating to organization of Office of Inspector General	Approved by Governor 2/19/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage -</b> (February 8, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>318</u>	Modifying process of when parental rights are terminated	Approved by Governor 2/20/24 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage -</b> (May 9, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>325</u>	Relating to distribution of drugs to safety net providers and contract pharmacies	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>331</u>	Eliminating cap on maximum amount of money in county's financial stabilization fund	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>354</u>	Relating to the WV Advanced Energy and Economic Corridor Authority	Approved by Governor	<b>Effective Ninety Days from</b>

		2/23/2024 - House Journal	<b>Passage</b> - (May 14, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>370</u>	Updating Public Employees Grievance Board procedure that certain decisions be appealed to Intermediate Court of Appeals	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>378</u>	Prohibiting smoking in vehicle when minor 16 or under is present	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>400</u>	Creating limited waiver from certificate of public convenience and necessity requirement for certain water or sewer services projects	Approved by Governor 3/4/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage</b> - (February 22, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>428</u>	Establishing appeals from administrative rulings are to be filed with Intermediate Court of Appeals	Approved by Governor 2/20/2024 - House Journal	
<u>SB</u> <u>429</u>	WV Farm Use Vehicle Tag Placement Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>430</u>	WV Rent-to-Own Act	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>438</u>	Modifying roster requirements of authorizing entities	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>439</u>	Authorizing certain 911 personnel to be members of Emergency Medical Services Retirement System under certain circumstances	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>445</u>	Reducing certification periods and renewal fees for EMS personnel	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>451</u>	Directing Prosecuting Attorneys Institute to make training available to certain new prosecuting attorneys	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>452</u>	Designating certain water and wastewater facilities as emergency project	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>453</u>	Requiring pricing and payment transparency from pharmacy benefits managers contracting with PEIA	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>461</u>	Relating to county economic opportunity development districts	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>462</u>	Updating definitions of certain terms used in Personal Income Tax Act	Approved by Governor 2/8/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage - (January 29, 2024)</b>
<u>SB</u> <u>466</u>	Requiring State Board of Education develop Safety While Accessing Technology education program	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>475</u>	Relating to recovery residences	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>477</u>	Prohibiting public disclosure of personal information on internet	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting

			Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>482</u>	Relating to rule-making authority of Ethics Commission	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>483</u>	Amending Corporation Net Income Tax Act	Approved by Governor 2/8/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage -</b> (January 29, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>487</u>	Requiring periodic review of professional development for teachers and education staff	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>503</u>	Protecting belief-based student organizations from certain types of discrimination	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>504</u>	Relating to felony offense of sexual intercourse, intrusion, or contact with student	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>507</u>	Relating to repeal of WV EDGE	Approved by Governor 2/29/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage -</b> (May 20, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>529</u>	Including Salem University in PROMISE Scholarship program	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>530</u>	Removing requirement for counties to draft and adopt zoning ordinances	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>533</u>	Allowing EMS agencies to triage, treat or transport patients to alternate destinations	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>539</u>	Creating cold case database	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>540</u>	Updating WV coordinate systems	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>542</u>	Amending procedure for filling vacancies in certain county offices having more than three commissioners	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>543</u>	Relating to research and economic development agreements for state institutions of higher education	Approved by Governor 2/20/2024 - Senate Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 9, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>544</u>	Raising threshold for bid requirement of municipal public works projects	Approved by Governor 3/7/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 27, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>547</u>	Authorizing legislative rules for Higher Education Policy Commission	Approved by Governor 2/22/2023 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage</b> - (February 12, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>548</u>	Clarifying appellate jurisdiction of Intermediate Court of Appeals	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>551</u>	Modifying requirements related to levy of service fees	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>557</u>	Relating to compensation for firefighters required to work holidays	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>568</u>	Creating multi-tiered system for school absenteeism	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>574</u>	Supplemental appropriation to DOT, Division of Highways	Approved by Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>578</u>	Clarifying offense of burglary	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>583</u>	Relating to employer liability and damages in civil actions involving commercial motor vehicles	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>587</u>	Enabling State Fire Commission to propose legislative rules	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>600</u>	Revising criteria for receiving reenlistment or retention bonus	Approved by Governor 3/7/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 26, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>602</u>	Cardiac Emergency Response Plan Act	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>603</u>	Solid Waste Management Act	Approved by Governor 3/5/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage</b> - (March 1, 2024)

<u>SB</u> <u>605</u>	Requiring electronic funds transfer of retirement contributions by participating employers	Approved by Governor 2/28/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 16, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>606</u>	Relating to Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement System	Approved by Governor 2/28/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 16, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>607</u>	Clarifying Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System surviving spouse benefits	Approved by Governor 2/28/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 16, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>610</u>	Clarifying authority of Water Development Authority in certain circumstances	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>613</u>	WV Residential Mortgage Lender, Broker and Servicer Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>623</u>	Requiring DMV to provide images of certain individuals to Secretary of State for voter identification purposes	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>624</u>	Cancelling voter registration records for individuals no longer WV residents	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>628</u>	Declaring certain claims as moral obligations of the state	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>631</u>	Prohibiting municipalities from disconnecting water service for nonpayment of stormwater fees	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>632</u>	Relating to Dangerousness Assessment Advisory Board multi-disciplinary study group	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>643</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Education, School Building Authority	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>644</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Commerce, Division of Forestry, and Geological and Economic Survey	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>649</u>	Clarifying per diem compensation for certain judges recalled to service	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>650</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Higher Education Policy Commission, Fairmont State University	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>652</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Health Facilities	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>653</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to School Building Authority, School Construction Fund	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>656</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Division of Human Services	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature



<u>SB</u> <u>657</u>	Expiring funds from Excess Lottery Revenue Fund to General Revenue	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>658</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Administration, Public Defender Services	Approved by Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage -</b> (February 23, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>661</u>	Expiring funds from Lottery Net Profits to General Revenue Surplus	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>663</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Division of Administrative Services, Criminal Justice Fund	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>665</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Division of Health	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>667</u>	Creating Physician Assistant Compact	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>668</u>	Increasing amount of certain controlled substances persons may purchase annually	Approved by Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage -</b> (May 23, 2024)
<u>SB</u> <u>679</u>	Regulating certain plant-based derivatives, hemp-derived cannabinoid products, and Kratom	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>681</u>	Revising service obligation for certain doctoral medical degree programs	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting

			Governor's signature
<u>SB 683</u>	Amending definition of "alternative fuel" under motor fuel excise tax	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 687</u>	Clarifying Legislative Auditor's scope of authority	Effective ninety days from passage	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 690</u>	Establishing WV Agritourism Commission	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 695</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Energy Assistance, TANF, and Child Care and Development	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 696</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Homeland Security, Division of Emergency Management	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 697</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Consolidated Medical Service Fund	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 698</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Division of Human Services	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 699</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Child Support Enforcement Fund	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>700</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Miscellaneous Boards and Commissions, Hospital Finance Authority	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>701</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Education, School Construction Fund	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>702</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Laboratory Services Fund	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>703</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Homeland Security, WV State Police	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>704</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to PSC, Motor Carrier Division	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>705</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to PSC	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>707</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Commerce, Division of Natural Resources	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>708</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Agriculture, WV Spay Neuter Assistance Fund	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>709</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Arts, Culture and History, National Coal Heritage Area Authority	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>710</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to State Board of Education, Aid for Exceptional Children	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>712</u>	Reducing minimum age for State Police cadet	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>714</u>	Transferring duties and licensing from Board of Osteopathic Medicine to Board of Medicine	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>722</u>	Revising examination of records relating to limited video lottery	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>730</u>	Clarifying compensation for county tax collector	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>732</u>	Requiring cooperation between law-enforcement agencies and military authorities	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>751</u>	Creating online charitable raffles	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>752</u>	Authorizing Department of Agriculture to complete certain land transfers	To Governor 3/5/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>755</u>	Providing safeguards for online sales of tobacco products	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>768</u>	Providing exception for sharing of confidential child welfare records	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>778</u>	Amending certain qualifying offenses to enhance sentences of repeat offenders	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>782</u>	Defining deadlines for local permits and extensions for property development or improvement	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>786</u>	Relating to massage therapy establishments	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>790</u>	Changing reference to Curator of Department of Arts, Culture, and History to Cabinet Secretary	Approved by Governor 2/28/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage - (February 19, 2024)</b>
<u>SB</u> <u>802</u>	Updating consumer credit and protection laws on certain agricultural vehicles and equipment	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>803</u>	Updating definitions for assessment of real property	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting

			Governor's signature
<u>SB 806</u>	Removing certain required reports to Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 820</u>	Requiring automatic enrollment of substance abuse disorder population into managed care	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 824</u>	Increasing membership of WV Motorsport Committee	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 826</u>	Creating exemption from bond or security requirement of banking institutions holding certain funds for county commissions	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 827</u>	Providing for regional distribution and dismantling centers	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 834</u>	Increasing number of members for Motor Vehicle Dealers Advisory Board	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 837</u>	Reorganizing offices of Public Defender Corporations to conform to circuit reconfiguration	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB 841</u>	Setting amount of unemployment taxes and benefits	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>SB</u> <u>844</u>	Redesignating Educational Broadcasting Authority as Educational Broadcasting Commission	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>850</u>	Updating Consumer Credit and Protection Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>858</u>	Clarifying filing requirements and deadlines in property tax cases	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>864</u>	Clarifying reporting requirements of Grant Transparency and Accountability Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>865</u>	Changing reference to Curator of Department of Arts, Culture, and History to secretary	To Governor 3/11/2024 - Senate Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>866</u>	Designating State Treasurer as chairperson of WV Investment Management Board	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>868</u>	Supplementary appropriation to Department of Commerce, Geological and Economic Survey	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>871</u>	Supplementary appropriation to Department of Veterans' Assistance, Veterans' Facilities	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>872</u>	Relating to county fire service fees	House Message received	Completed Legislation

			awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>873</u>	Schedule for tax installment payments	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>874</u>	Relating to WV Division of Multimodal Transportation	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>875</u>	Relating to certain insurance coverage provided by BRIM	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>876</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Health and Human Resources, Health Facilities	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>SB</u> <u>877</u>	Supplementing and amending appropriations to Higher Education Policy Commission	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4026</u>	Authorizing the Department of Administration to promulgate a legislative rule relating to state owned vehicles	Approved by Governor 2/14/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage -</b> (February 2, 2024)
<u>HB</u> <u>4086</u>	Authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Commerce to promulgate legislative rules	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4110</u>	Authorizing certain miscellaneous agencies and boards to promulgate legislative rules	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature



<u>HB</u> 4190	Relating to the establishment of an alert system for missing cognitively impaired persons	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 4233	Non-binary not permitted on birth certificates	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 4252	Uniform Recognition and Enforcement of Canadian Domestic Violence Protective Orders Act	Approved by Governor 2/8/2028 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (April 30, 2024)
<u>HB</u> 4274	Renaming the Department of Health and Human Resources	Approved by Governor 1/26/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage</b> - (January 22, 2024)
<u>HB</u> 4297	Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 4305	Relating to granting in-state resident status to economic development participants	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 4350	Relating to appointment of candidates after filing period	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 4376	Relating to surgical smoke evacuation	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 4399	Creating the equitable right to expungement	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting

<u>HB</u> <u>4431</u>	Permitting the cremation of unidentified remains.	House Message received	Governor's signature Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4552</u>	To ensure party affiliation is consistent with candidate's voter registration	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4594</u>	Relating to extending managed care.	Approved by Governor 2/29/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage -</b> (February 13, 2024)
<u>HB</u> <u>4667</u>	Prohibiting syringe services programs from distributing listed smoking devices	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4700</u>	Banning certain persons from sport wagering activities	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4709</u>	Relating to vocational and technical education programs	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4721</u>	Require Surveyors to offer to record surveys of property	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4756</u>	Creating a state Alzheimer's plan task force	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>HB</u> <u>4768</u>	Relating to increasing the number of out-of-state medical students receiving in-state tuition rates who agree to practice for a specific time within West Virginia.	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4782</u>	Preventing municipalities from targeting protected businesses with planning and zoning ordinances more restrictive than those placed upon other businesses.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4786</u>	Delivery Network Company (DNC) Insurance Model Act	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4793</u>	Relating to distilled liquor	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4801</u>	Relating generally to the banking authority of the State Treasurer's Office	Approved by Governor 2/23/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage -</b> (February 8, 2024)
<u>HB</u> <u>4809</u>	Health Care Sharing Ministries Freedom to Share Act	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4812</u>	Capping amount of moneys to third party vendors who collect business and occupation taxes on behalf of cities	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4814</u>	Relating to extending the reporting and sunset dates of the State Advisory Council on Postsecondary Attainment Goals	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4822</u>	Creating the Certified Sites and Development Readiness Program	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting

			Governor's signature
<u>HB 4829</u>	Relating to employment of service personnel and removing the requirement for a high school diploma or general education development certificate.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4830</u>	To address the professional development of teachers.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4832</u>	Relating to state superintendent's reports regarding the finances of school districts	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4837</u>	Clarifying the duty of banks to retain and procure records	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4838</u>	Require county boards of education to provide long-term substitute teachers, upon hiring, with certain information	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4845</u>	To prohibit swatting	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4850</u>	Removing the sunset clause from Oil and Gas Personal Property Tax	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4860</u>	Providing that a general education teacher may not be responsible for accommodation logs	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>HB</u> <u>4863</u>	Patriotic Access to Students in Schools Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4874</u>	Relating to fatality and mortality review team	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4880</u>	Relating to personal income tax social security exemption	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4882</u>	Extending in-state tuition rates to all members and veterans of the National Guard, reserves, and armed forces as well as their spouses and dependents	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4883</u>	Relating to increasing annual salaries of certain employees of the state	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4911</u>	Relating to the sale of raw milk	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4919</u>	Relating to the Promise Scholarship	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4933</u>	Relating to Medicaid dental coverage	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>4940</u>	A squatter cannot be considered a tenant in WV.	House Message received	Completed Legislation

			awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4945</u>	Relating generally to the Hope Scholarship Program	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4951</u>	To facilitate the interstate practice of School Psychology in educational or school settings	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4967</u>	Relating to the administration of the Voluntary Remediation and Redevelopment Act to provide new liability protections for persons and companies who wish to purchase and redevelop former industrial properties.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4971</u>	Relating to Critical Materials Manufacturing Tax	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4975</u>	Relating to establishing a foster parent information system	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4976</u>	Providing the contact information of the Inspector General on the agencies and boards websites of the executive departments	Approved by Governor 2/29/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 14, 2024)</b>
<u>HB 4984</u>	Relating to repealing tax credit for employing former employees of Colin Anderson Center	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 4986</u>	Relating to computer science and cybersecurity instruction for adult learners	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>HB</u> 4998	Modifying penalties for third offense shoplifting	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 4999	Creating exception to spousal privilege	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 5006	Relating to the administration of the A. James Manchin Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan	Approved by Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 19, 2024)
<u>HB</u> 5013	Relating to Timber Management	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 5014	Supplementing and amending appropriations to West Virginia University General Administration Fund	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 5017	Relating to mobile food establishment reciprocity.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 5019	Relating to surrender and return of license not required for disqualifying or downgrading a driver's license	Approved by Governor 2/29/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 15, 2024)
<u>HB</u> 5024	Relating to exempting non-grantor trusts administered in this state from the personal income tax.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> 5045	Related to the administration of the West Virginia Water Pollution Control Act, and Underground Carbon Dioxide Sequestration and Storage	Approved by Governor 2/29/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage</b> - (May 13, 2024)

<u>HB</u> <u>5056</u>	Relating to substitute service personnel positions	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5057</u>	To raise the threshold for nominal referral fees from \$25 to \$100.	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5084</u>	Require retailers to verify identification and age upon purchase of vape products	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5091</u>	West Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5105</u>	To eliminate the vaccine requirements for public virtual schools.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5117</u>	Relating generally to waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5122</u>	Relating to civil service for deputy sheriffs	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5128</u>	Directing transfer of moneys into fire protection funds at the end of each year	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5151</u>	Relating to defining term fictive kin	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation



			awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5153</u>	Relating to revising, updating and streamlining the requirements governing the West Virginia Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Scholarship.	Approved by Governor 2/29/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 13, 2024)</b>
<u>HB 5157</u>	Relating to contingent increase of tax rate on certain eligible acute care hospitals	Approved by Governor 2/29/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage - (February 14, 2024)</b>
<u>HB 5158</u>	Relating to making technical corrections to the special education code	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5162</u>	Establish a program to promote creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5170</u>	Increasing the size of matching grants for local economic development from \$30,000 to \$50,000.	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5175</u>	Eliminate funding for the Center for Nursing and transfer its duties and authorities to the Higher Education Policy Commission.	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5178</u>	Requiring car dealerships in this state to utilize a search engine to determine if buyers of vehicles have valid motor vehicle insurance.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5188</u>	Relating to awards and benefits for duty related disability in the municipal police officers and firefighters retirement system	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>HB</u> <u>5213</u>	To allow Gold Star spouses to receive one free Gold Star vehicle registration for personal use.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5232</u>	The Business Liability Protection Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5238</u>	Mandating that all courts provide adjudication for juvenile offenders for traffic violations to the Division of Motor Vehicles	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5252</u>	Requiring certain minimum experience for the director or coordinator of services class title involving school transportation.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5261</u>	Relating to the definition of small arms for purposes of taxation	Approved by Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective July 1, 2024</b>
<u>HB</u> <u>5262</u>	Relating generally to teacher's bill of rights	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5267</u>	Relating to the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System	Approved by Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 19, 2024)</b>
<u>HB</u> <u>5268</u>	Relating to the enhanced recovery of oil and natural gas in horizontal wells	To Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5273</u>	Relating to the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System and clarifying payment upon death of member with less than 10 years of contributory service	Approved by Governor 3/6/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective Ninety Days from Passage - (May 19, 2024)</b>

<u>HB</u> <u>5294</u>	Revising state law regulating farm wineries	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5295</u>	Authorizing a private outdoor designated area to simultaneously host multiple qualified permit holders	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5298</u>	Relating to prohibiting a candidate who failed to secure the nomination of a political party in a primary election from seeking the same elected office as an affiliate with a different political party in the subsequent general election	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5317</u>	Making it permissive for commercial motor vehicles registered in this state to pass an annual inspection of all safety equipment to be consistent with the federal motor carrier safety regulations	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5326</u>	Relating to prohibition of unfair real estate service agreements	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5332</u>	Excepting persons previously commissioned as a notary public from requirement to have a high school diploma or its equivalent in order to be recommissioned as a notary public	Approved by Governor 2/8/2024 - House Journal	<b>Effective from passage - (February 2, 2024)</b>
<u>HB</u> <u>5338</u>	Relating to Safe Harbor for Cybersecurity Programs	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5347</u>	Relating to establishing a program for emergency medical services personnel to become certified paramedics	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature

<u>HB</u> <u>5348</u>	Changing the name of the “Raleigh County Recreation Authority” to the “Raleigh County Parks and Recreation Authority”	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5349</u>	West Virginia Truth in Food Labeling Act	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5395</u>	Relating to judicial review of Board decisions	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5405</u>	Providing additional professional development and support to West Virginia educators through teacher and leader induction and professional growth.	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5430</u>	Relating to per diem compensation and expenses of newly elected or appointed judicial officers receiving education and training prior to taking the oath of office.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5432</u>	To move the essential functions of the Information Services and Communications Division into the Office of Technology.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5435</u>	Establishing the registered apprenticeship to associate of applied science program to be administered by the Council for Community and Technical College Education	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5510</u>	Clarify law regarding the crime of witness tampering	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB</u> <u>5514</u>	Enhancing training requirements for county boards of education members.	House Message received	Completed Legislation

			awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5520</u>	Relating to juvenile competency	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5528</u>	Relating to the renewable energy facilities program	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5540</u>	Relating to fentanyl prevention and awareness Education (Laken's Law)	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5549</u>	Relating to allowing license plates to be obtained from alternative sources when the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation is unable to produce them	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5561</u>	Relating to permitting the electronic execution of trusts.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5569</u>	Requiring an appraiser to pay for a background check required by the AMC as a condition of being added to the AMCs panel of appraisers.	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5582</u>	Modifying exceptions for real estate appraisal licensure.	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5583</u>	Permitting the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting

	of a size or weight of vehicles or nondivisible load exceeding the maximum specified		Governor's signature
<u>HB 5594</u>	Exempting the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine, West Virginia University and Marshall University from contracts, agreements, or memorandums of understanding with spending units in state government with exceptions.	Completed legislative action	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5604</u>	Relating to procurement by state spending units	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5617</u>	Authorizing the Public Service Commission to promulgate rules for maintenance, flushing, flow testing, and marking of fire hydrants owned by water utilities	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5632</u>	Relating generally to West Virginia Real Estate License Act	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5650</u>	Allow suspended school personnel to enter school property functions open to the public	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5662</u>	Relating to adding "person in a position of trust" to certain crimes	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5668</u>	Creating the Responsible Gaming and Research Act	House Message received	Completed Legislation awaiting Governor's signature
<u>HB 5690</u>	Creating a West Virginia Task Force on Artificial Intelligence	House received Senate message	Completed Legislation awaiting

HB Relating to the upper Ohio Valley Trail  
5696 Network

House Message  
received

Governor's  
signature

Completed  
Legislation  
awaiting  
Governor's  
signature

*This Legislative Update is produced by Jim Wallace in partnership with Access Strategies.*