

Governor Laura Davisson has the following message from Dr. Bradley Henry, Chair - WVACP Health and Public Policy Committee. He would like to pass on updates from the [West Virginia State Medical Association](#) related to health related bills in the WV Legislature, which are currently under review. Each bill can be viewed by clicking on the individual links below.

CHIP (managed care) bill moves through Senate amendment stage.

Allowing WVCHIP flexibility in rate setting

[SB 641](#) – Has moved through amendment stage Tuesday without amendments, unties provider reimbursement in the West Virginia's CHIP program from the PEIA payment schedule. (CHIP has been under the administrative umbrella of the Department of Health and Human Resources for the past several years. Prior to that, it was located in the Department of Administration, home to the Public Employees Insurance Agency, hence, the tie to PEIA reimbursement.) Like most of DHHR's Medicaid programs, plans are to move CHIP to managed care.

The bill is at passage stage Wednesday.

Medicaid-record-on-a-card bill goes to House Finance

[SB 2978](#) - *The purpose of this bill is to create a pilot program within the Department of Health and Human Resources to implement smart health cards for individuals receiving Medicaid healthcare benefits. The smart health card pilot program would (1) promote interoperability of electronic medical record systems between public and private providers, and the Department; (2) increase the quality of care received by Medicaid recipients, and reduce waste, fraud, and abuse within the Medicaid program; (3) reduce unnecessary and redundant medical procedures, including diagnostic testing, and prevent prescription drug abuse by improving real-time availability of electronic medical records and reports from disparate healthcare systems; (4) reduce administrative burdens and improve payment system efficiency for health care providers accepting payments from the Medicaid program; (5) expand patient ownership of, and access to, his or her individual medical records in a personal cloud-based portal; and (6) improve security protections against identity theft and other unlawful uses of personal health information.*

When this bill was considered by the House Health Committee, neither the Department of Health and Human Resources or representatives of the West Virginia Health Information Network would endorse it. It envisions a pilot

project of 100,000 Medicaid members with all their medical records on cards similar to credit cards. The stated effort is to reduce waste, but initial cost to the stage would be about \$11 million. Don't expect it to get out of finance.

Bills moving through Senate Health

Bill reimburses free clinics for adult dental services

[SB 229](#) - *The purpose of this bill is to require the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health to create a pilot program, by June 1, 2020, to provide reimbursement for dental care for adults at free and charitable clinics.* While free clinics currently provide dental services, they don't receive reimbursement. This bill allows them to receive reimbursement for certain procedures performed for adults. An accompanying bill, which was not considered, provides for Medicaid reimbursement for adult dental services. The estimated cost in state dollars is \$11 million, upping the match to \$66 million with federal dollars included.

The bill now goes to Finance.

Bill removes waiting period for tubal ligations

[SB 716](#) - *Requiring DHHR pay for tubal ligation without 30-day wait between consent and sterilization.* Current law requires a 30-day wait between consent and performing sterilization. Physicians say this often prevents them from performing the surgery when a child is delivered.

Solons take another strike at provider taxing managed care organizations

[SB 719](#) - *The purpose of this bill is to impose a tiered tax on HMOs in a manner that will permit the maximization of federal matching dollars for use in the state Medicaid program.* The legislature has been attempting to impose a provider tax on managed care organizations for at least the past couple of years. The tax is estimated to generate \$40 million a year. The problem is that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services haven't yet approved the tax. This bill extends the deadlines and changes some of the tax projections in the bill.

The bill now goes to the Finance Committee.

Senate bills introduced

[SB 747](#) - By Sen. Maroney and Takubo
Requiring Bureau for Public Health develop Diabetes Action Plan
Health and Human Resources

[SB 748](#) - By Sen. Maroney and Takubo

The purpose of this bill is to increase awareness of the availability of palliative care services, to define palliative care, to require the Advisory Coalition on Palliative Care and the Bureau for Public health to prepare the content of educational materials regarding palliative care services and the interdisciplinary team. The bill requires the Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification to list information regarding palliative care services on its web page.

Health and Human Resources

[SB 749](#) - By Sen. Maroney, Stollings and Takubo

Requiring Fatality and Mortality Review Team share data with CDC

Health and Human Resources

The following information was received from the [West Virginia State Medical Association](#) located at 2018 Kanawha Boulevard E. Charleston, WV 25311.