

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2025 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 845

By Senator Willis

[Introduced March 20, 2025; referred
to the Committee on the Judiciary; and then to the
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §15-1B-15, relating to the national guard; providing definitions; clarifying
3 eligibility for the TRICARE program; authorizing reimbursement when certain
4 requirements are met; requiring policies and guidelines; clarifying funding; and providing
5 an effective date.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 1B. NATIONAL GUARD.

§15-1B-15. National guard servicemember's medical readiness act.

1 (a) To ensure and facilitate the medical readiness of the State's National Guard soldiers
2 and airmen, this section is known and may be cited as the "West Virginia National Guard
3 Servicemember's Medical Readiness Act".

4 (b) The West Virginia national guard TRICARE premium reimbursement program is
5 created within the military department.

6 (c) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "eligible recipient" means
7 an individual who is:

8 (1) A resident of this state and who is a member of the West Virginia National Guard; and

9 (2) Eligible for TRICARE reserve select or TRICARE dental program coverage.

10 (d) The military department may award reimbursement grants to an eligible recipient who
11 meets the reimbursement application requirements established by the adjutant general for
12 reimbursement of one or both of the following:

13 (1) A premium paid for individual coverage for an eligible recipient through the TRICARE
14 reserve select program; or

15 (2) A premium paid for individual coverage for an eligible recipient through the TRICARE
16 dental program.

17 (3) A premium paid for family coverage for an eligible recipient through the TRICARE
18 reserve select program or the TRICARE dental program; *Provided*, that, the reimbursement shall

19 only be in the amount of the premium paid for individual coverage.

20 (e) If any portion of the premiums eligible for reimbursement in this section are later paid
21 for, reimbursed, or otherwise provided to an eligible recipient by the federal government or any
22 other state program, then that portion shall cease to be reimbursed by the TRICARE premium
23 reimbursement program established in this section.

24 (f) The adjutant general shall adopt and publish written policies and guidelines to effectuate
25 the purposes of this section.

26 (g) This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds must not be obligated or expended
27 pursuant to this section unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general
28 appropriations act.

29 (h) This section becomes effective on July 1, 2025, the public welfare requiring it.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify eligibility for the TRICARE program; authorize reimbursement when certain requirements are met; require policies and guidelines; and clarify funding.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.