

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4390

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Delegate Burkhammer

[Introduced January 15, 2026; referred to the
Committee on Health and Human Resources then
Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, as amended, 1931, by adding a new section,
2 designated §49-2-815, relating to the making the temporary payment to a kinship parent of
3 a subsidy equal to that of a foster parent.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN.

§49-2-815. Temporary increase in kinship payment subsidy.

1 (a) Temporary increase in subsidy amount. — Notwithstanding any other provision to the
2 contrary, a kinship parent is eligible for a temporary increase in the subsidy amounts equal to that
3 of the foster parent subsidy if at the time of initial placement:

4 (1) The kinship parent passes a background check, through the WV Cares Program, which
5 the Department of Human Services shall submit within five days of the initial date of placement;

6 (2) The kinship placement passes an initial home screening to identify and to correct fatal
7 life safety issues; and

8 (3) The Department of Human Services shall assign the kinship parent to a child placing
9 agency to assist them with obtaining certification as a foster parent and compliance with all other
10 aspects of certification.

11 (b) Time frame for temporary increase. — The temporary increase in subsidy amounts
12 becomes payable to the kinship parent within 30 days of the initial kinship placement and will
13 continue for a period of no more than six months at the temporary rate to allow the kinship parent
14 to become certified. If the kinship parent is unable or unwilling to become certified at the end of the
15 six-month period, the temporary increase will be removed and is no longer payable.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to require that a kinship parent be paid a subsidy equal to that of a foster parent in specified circumstances and set forth the timeframe for such payment.

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