

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4391

By Delegate Burkhammer

[Introduced January 15, 2026; referred to the

Committee on the Judiciary]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §49-4-611, relating to the imposition of a time limitation on disposition
3 decisions in child abuse and neglect proceedings.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE	4.	COURT	ACTIONS.
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§49-4-611. Time limitations for disposition decisions in abuse and neglect proceedings.

1 Notwithstanding any other provision of this code to the contrary, a disposition decision, as
2 set forth in § 49-4-604(c) of this code, shall be rendered by the court no later than 12 months after
3 the date of the ratification of the initial petition.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to impose a deadline for disposition decisions in child abuse and neglect cases to 12 months from the ratification of the initial petition.

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