

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 4853

By Delegates Worrell, Burkhammer, Chiarelli, Clark,
and Petitto

[Introduced January 28, 2026; referred to the
Committee on Health and Human Resources]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding two new sections
 2 designated §16B-3-22 and §16B-3-23, relating to hospitals; and establishing protocols for
 3 providing trauma informed care to patients.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 3. HOSPITALS AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.

§16B-3-22. Trauma Informed Care.

1 Hospitals shall develop protocol to provide trauma informed care to patients who have
 2 experienced; a miscarriage, abuse, neglect, or other stressful events, which will include:

3 (1) Providing training and continuing education on how best to provide trauma informed
 4 care. In developing training hospitals may consult with licensed mental health professionals,
 5 medical associations, and patient advocacy groups.

6 (2) Compile resources to provide to patients;

7 (A) Contact information for local or statewide mental health services;

8 (B) Guidance on grief and emotional recovery;

9 (C) Crisis support hotlines; and

10 (D) Information on peer or community support groups.

§16B-3-23. The Butterfly Protocol.

1 (a) A hospital shall develop and implement a Butterfly Protocol for patients who have
 2 experienced a miscarriage.

3 (b) The Butterfly Protocol shall, include;

4 (1) Placing a discreet visual symbol, such as a small butterfly, on the patient’s chart or
 5 electronic medical record to alert staff; and

6 (2) Training for the staff on the meaning of the symbol, to check for the symbol in the
 7 patient’s record or chart, and how to provide trauma informed care to patients with this symbol in
 8 their record.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish protocol for hospitals to provide patients with

trauma informed care.

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