

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 5601

FISCAL
NOTE

By Delegate Green

[Introduced February 16, 2026; referred to the

Committee on House Government

OrganizationGovernment Organization]

1 **A BILL** making a supplementary appropriation from the Governor’s Office - Civil
 2 Contingent Fund to the Governor’s Office - Office of Resiliency for deposit into the West
 3 Virginia Disaster Recovery Trust Fund; and amending the Code of West Virginia, 1931,
 4 as amended, by adding a new section designated §29-31-7a, relating to disaster case
 5 management grants administered through the West Virginia Disaster Recovery Trust
 6 Fund; requiring competitive award; establishing eligibility requiring a brick-and-mortar
 7 presence and operational capacity in West Virginia; requiring coordination with Long-
 8 Term Recovery Organizations; setting reporting and accountability requirements; and
 9 providing an effective date.

10 **Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:**

11 **ARTICLE 1. SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION FOR**
 12 **DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT.**

13 **SECTION 1. Appropriation; transfer; required deposit to trust fund.**

14 **Whereas,** The Governor submitted the Executive Budget Document to the Legislature,
 15 including the State Fund, General Revenue; and

16 **Whereas,** The Legislature finds that a public purpose exists to strengthen long-term
 17 disaster recovery for West Virginians through professional disaster case management
 18 services coordinated with local recovery partners; therefore,

19 **Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia,** That the items of appropriation set
 20 forth below are hereby made for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026:

21 **TITLE II – APPROPRIATIONS.**

22 **Section 1. Appropriations from General Revenue.**

23 **7 – Governor’s Office – Civil Contingent Fund**

24 *(W. Va. Code Chapter 5)*

25 **Fund 0105 FY 2026 Org 0100**

26 1. **Local Economic Development Assistance (R) (Appropriation 81900)** is hereby
 27 **decreased by \$1,000,000.**

28 **5 – Governor’s Office – Office of Resiliency**

29 *(W. Va. Code Chapter 5)*

30 **Fund 0101 FY 2026 Org 0100**

31 1. **Office of Resiliency (R) (Appropriation 18600)** is hereby **increased by \$1,000,000.**

32 **Provided,** That the entire \$1,000,000 increase provided in this section shall be **deposited**
 33 **and credited** by the State Resiliency Officer into the **West Virginia Disaster Recovery**
 34 **Trust Fund** established pursuant to §29-31-6 of this code and administered pursuant to
 35 §29-31-7 of this code, and shall be **separately accounted for** and **used exclusively** for the
 36 disaster case management purposes set forth in §29-31-7a, as added by this bill.

37 **ARTICLE 2. DISASTER CASE MANAGEMENT GRANTS**
38 **THROUGH THE DISASTER RECOVERY TRUST FUND.**

39 **SECTION 2.** The Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, is amended by adding
40 thereto a new section, designated §29-31-7a, to read as follows:

41 **§29-31-7a. Disaster case management grants; competitive awards; West**
42 **Virginia presence; coordination with Long-Term Recovery Organizations.**

43 **(a) Purpose.** – The Legislature finds that disaster recovery timelines commonly extend
44 for months and years and that households often require hands-on support to access
45 federal, state, local, philanthropic, and nonprofit recovery resources. Therefore, the
46 purpose of this section is to authorize the State Resiliency Officer to use moneys
47 deposited into the West Virginia Disaster Recovery Trust Fund for **professional disaster**
48 **case management services** to assist affected West Virginians in both **declared** and
49 **undeclared** disaster events, consistent with the priorities and conditions applicable to
50 the Disaster Recovery Trust Fund.

51 **(b) Definition.** – For purposes of this section, “disaster case management” means time-
52 limited, structured support to disaster-impacted households, including: (1) intake and
53 needs assessment; (2) development of a recovery plan; (3) assistance applying for and
54 appealing FEMA or other disaster determinations; (4) navigation of housing, repair,
55 essential-needs, and benefit programs; (5) coordination of referrals and documentation;
56 and (6) transition from crisis response to stable recovery.

57 **(c) Competitive grant process required.** –

58 (1) The State Resiliency Officer shall award grants **competitively** to one or more eligible
59 organizations to provide disaster case management services in West Virginia.

60 (2) The State Resiliency Officer may award grants on a statewide, regional, or disaster-
61 event basis and may renew or extend awards based on performance and continued
62 need.

63 (3) The State Resiliency Officer may require cost reasonableness, standardized
64 reporting, and outcome-based performance measures as conditions of award.

65 **(d) Eligibility; West Virginia brick-and-mortar presence and operational capacity.** –

66 (1) To be eligible for a grant under this section, an organization shall demonstrate all of
67 the following:

68 **(A) A bona fide physical office location (brick-and-mortar presence) in West Virginia,**
69 available for public-facing service delivery or program administration;

70 **(B) Operational capacity in West Virginia,** which shall include, at a minimum, the ability
71 to deploy and supervise case managers serving West Virginia households, including
72 WV-based staff or contractors and established service-delivery systems; and

73 **(C) Experience providing disaster recovery services, human services case**
74 **management, or closely related recovery navigation services, as determined by the**
75 **State Resiliency Officer.**

76 (2) **An organization is not required to be headquartered in West Virginia to be eligible**
77 **under this section: Provided, That** it satisfies the physical presence and operational
78 capacity requirements of subdivision (1) of this subsection.

79 **(e) Coordination with Long-Term Recovery Organizations. –**

80 (1) A grantee shall coordinate its disaster case management activities with local or
81 regional **Long-Term Recovery Organizations (LTROs)**, long-term recovery groups,
82 unmet needs committees, VOAD partners, or substantially similar recovery coalitions
83 serving the affected area.

84 (2) The State Resiliency Officer shall require documentation of coordination as a
85 condition of award, which may include memoranda of understanding, letters of
86 coordination, referral pathways, meeting participation, or other evidence acceptable to
87 the State Resiliency Officer.

88 **(f) Allowable uses; staffing. –** Funds awarded under this section may be used for case
89 management staffing and supervision, training, travel for deployment within West
90 Virginia, outreach and intake, client documentation systems, and other direct program
91 costs necessary to deliver disaster case management services: **Provided, That** funds
92 may not be used for unrelated general fundraising or activities not connected to disaster
93 case management delivery in West Virginia.

94 **(g) Reporting; accountability; records. –**

95 (1) Grantees shall report at least quarterly, in a form prescribed by the State Resiliency
96 Officer, including:

97 **(A)** households served and counties served;

98 **(B)** types of assistance accessed (including FEMA and other programs);

99 **(C)** estimated dollars leveraged or benefits accessed for households, where practicable;

100 **(D)** timeliness measures and case outcomes; and

101 **(E)** coordination activities with LTROs.

102 (2) Grantees shall maintain records for inspection and audit and shall comply with any
103 applicable state grant requirements and the disbursement conditions applicable to the
104 Disaster Recovery Trust Fund.

105 **(h) Relationship to existing trust fund law. –** Moneys expended under this section shall
106 be administered as disbursements from the West Virginia Disaster Recovery Trust Fund
107 and shall remain subject to the priorities and conditions of **§29-31-7** of this code,
108 including prioritization for low-income households and geographic areas.

109 **(i) Effective date. –** This section is effective upon passage.