

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 1003**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Senator Helton

[Introduced February 19, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Health and Human Resources;  
and then to the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article,  
 2 designated §9-11-1, §9-11-2, and §9-11-3, relating to requiring the Secretary of the  
 3 Department of Human Services to establish a “home first” mental health framework;  
 4 creating regional pediatric mental health hubs; providing for immediate behavioral  
 5 coaching for parents of children under the age of 12; and providing for funding of these  
 6 services.

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

**ARTICLE 11. PARENTAL SUPPORT & PEDIATRIC ACCESS.**

**§9-11-1. The "Home-First" Mandate.**

1 It is the policy of this state that no child under the age of 12 may be removed from their  
 2 home for mental health reasons solely because community-based resources were unavailable.  
 3 The State shall prioritize funding for in-home clinical support.

**§9-11-2. Regional Pediatric Resource Hubs.**

1 The Secretary of Human Services state shall establish three Regional Pediatric Mental  
 2 Health Hubs (Northern, Southern, and Central). Each hub shall:  
 3 (1) Maintain a real-time directory;  
 4 (2) Maintain a live map of every available pediatric counselor and their current wait time;  
 5 (3) Provide "Bridge" Coaching: While a child is on a waitlist for a doctor, the state shall  
 6 provide the parent with a behavioral health coach within 48 hours to help manage the crisis at  
 7 home; and.  
 8 (4) Establish secure telehealth kiosks in rural county health departments so parents  
 9 without high-speed internet can access specialists in Morgantown or Charleston.

**§9-11-3. Funding the future.**

1 The Legislature shall divert five percent of funds currently spent on "Out-of-State  
 2 Residential Placement" to the Pediatric Resource Fund to pay for these in-home services.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to establish a "Home-First" mental health framework and create Regional Pediatric Mental Health Hubs

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