

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Committee Substitute**

**for**

### **Senate Bill 1003**

By Senator Helton

[Reported February 24, 2026, from the Committee on  
Health and Human Resources]

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 creating regional pediatric mental  
3 health hubs; providing for immediate behavioral coaching for parents of children under the  
4 age of 12; and providing for funding of these 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 should 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 shall establish three regional pediatric mental health  
2 hubs (Northern, Southern, and Central). Each hub shall:

3 (1) Maintain a real-time directory for services in their area;

4 (2) Maintain a live map of every available pediatric counselor and their current wait time for  
5 services in their area;

6 (3) Provide bridge coaching to the parent that shall include providing the parent with a  
7 behavioral health coach within 48 hours of first contact to help manage the crisis at home during  
8 the time the child is on a waitlist for a physician appointment or is scheduled for a future  
9 appointment; and.

10 (4) Establish secure telehealth kiosks in county health departments so parents without  
11 high-speed internet can access specialty appointments.

**§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.