

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

Senate Bill 1036

**FISCAL
NOTE**

By Senator Helton

[Introduced February 20, 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 §49-13-1, relating to creating the Sustainable Child-Serving Workforce and
 3 Foster Care Modernization Act; and providing for foster care rate modernization and
 4 workforce stabilization.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 13. SUSTAINABLE CHILD-SERVING WORKFORCE & FOSTER CARE

MODERNIZATION

ACT.

§49-13-1. Foster Care Rate Modernization and Workforce Stabilization.

1 (a) The Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services, shall rebase basic,
 2 special, and therapeutic foster care rates using current cost data and implement an automatic
 3 annual adjustment based on a recognized index such as the Employment Cost Index (ECI) for
 4 Health Care & Social Assistance or the CPI-Medical index.

5 (b) Therapeutic foster care and child-placing agency administrative rates shall be adjusted
 6 to reflect current costs and include incentive payments for retention and placement stability.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Sustainable Child-Serving Workforce & Foster Care Modernization Act.

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