

# WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

## 2026 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

### Senate Bill 1047

FISCAL  
NOTE

By Senators M. Maynard and Z. Maynard

[Introduced February 21, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on the 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 §16-9H-1, §16-9H-2, §16-9H-3, §16-9H-4, §16-9H-5, §16-9H-6, §16-9H-7,  
 3 §16-9H-8, §16-9H-9, §16-9H-10, §16-9H-11, and §16-9H-12, relating to establishing the  
 4 Community Well-Being, Recovery Housing, and Family Stabilization Act.

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

**ARTICLE 9H. COMMUNITY WELL-BEING, RECOVERY HOUSING, AND FAMILY  
 STABILIZATION.**

**§16-9H-1. Short title.**

1 This article shall be known and may be cited as the Community Well-Being, Recovery  
 2 Housing, and Family Stabilization Act.

**§16-9H-2. Legislative findings and purpose.**

1 (a) The Legislature finds that:

2 (1) Individuals experiencing homelessness, substance-use disorder, mental illness, or  
 3 repeated public-space violations often have unmet behavioral-health needs;

4 (2) Criminalization of homelessness, addiction, mental illness, or poverty increases  
 5 instability and recidivism;

6 (3) Long-term recovery housing produces improved outcomes;

7 (4) Peer-driven and trauma-informed recovery models are effective;

8 (5) Pregnant women and mothers with children require specialized recovery housing;

9 (6) Public property must remain safe and accessible;

10 (7) Community Behavioral Health Centers are appropriate providers;

11 (8) A statewide, public-health-oriented approach is necessary.

12 (b) The purpose of this article is to:

13 (1) Establish a non-criminal warning and referral system;

14 (2) Integrate CBHCs with recovery housing.

- 15           (3) Establish recovery housing standards;
- 16           (4) Support family recovery housing;
- 17           (5) Protect constitutional rights.

**§16-9H-3. Definitions.**

- 1           (1) "Department" means the Department of Human Services.
- 2           (2) "CBHC" means Community Behavioral Health Center.
- 3           (3) "Recovery housing" means structured, substance-free residential housing promoting  
 4 recovery.
- 5           (4) "Long-term recovery program" means nine months or longer.
- 6           (5) "Family recovery housing" means housing serving pregnant women or mothers with  
 7 children.
- 8           (6) "Public property" means property owned or controlled by the state or political  
 9 subdivision.

**§16-9H-4. Non-criminal warning and referral process.**

- 1           The non-criminal warning and referral process is as follows:
- 2           (a) First encounter: verbal warning and referral.
- 3           (b) Second encounter: written warning and referral.
- 4           (c) Third encounter: mandatory referral to CBHC.
- 5           (d) No arrest, citation, or incarceration permitted.

**§16-9H-5. Public-property camping; non-criminal enforcement.**

1           Violations relating to public-property camping shall be addressed only through the process  
 2 set forth in §16-9H-4 of this code.

**§16-9H-6. Recovery housing program standards**

- 1           (a) Recovery housing program standards shall be established based on the following  
 2 criteria:
- 3           (1) Long-term, phase-based structure.

