

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 212**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Senator Helton

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Government Organization; 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 §16B-22-1, §16B-22-2, §16B-22-3, §16B-22-4, §16B-22-5, §16B-22-6, and  
3 §16B-22-7, relating to creating the Whistleblower Protection Fund Act; providing the short  
4 title; establishing its findings and purpose; establishing the fund; providing the fund's  
5 sources of funding; requiring the Office of the Inspector General to administer the fund;  
6 setting forth reporting requirements; and establishing an effective date.

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

**ARTICLE 22. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION FUND ACT.**

**§16B-22-1. Short title.**

1 This article shall be known as and may be cited as the Whistleblower Protection Fund Act.

**§16B-22-2. Findings and purpose.**

1 (a) The Legislature recognizes the importance of ensuring ethical practices in clinical  
2 inpatient medical treatment centers; office-based, medication-assisted treatment programs; and  
3 opioid treatment programs, as defined in §16B-13-2 of this code.

4 (b) The Legislature further recognizes that whistleblowers play a crucial role in exposing  
5 misconduct in these facilities that jeopardizes patient care and safety.

6 (c) It is essential to create a system that encourages individuals to report unethical or illegal  
7 activities without fear of retaliation.

**§16B-22-3. Establishment of the Whistleblower Protection Fund.**

1 (a) There is hereby created a special fund within the State Treasury to be known as the  
2 "Whistleblower Protection Fund", which shall be an interest-bearing account.

3 (b) The Inspector General, or his or her designee, shall use the fund to support advertising  
4 efforts that promote the reporting of unethical practices in the facilities named in §16B-33-2 of this  
5 code.

**§16B-22-4. Sources of funding.**

1 The fund shall consist of:

- (1) Appropriations by the Legislature;
- (2) Donations from individuals and organizations;
- (3) Grants from federal or state programs that support public health initiatives; and
- (4) Any other sources of funding.

## §16B-22-5.

## Fund

## administration.

(a) The Office of the Inspector General shall administer and maintain the fund.

(b) The Inspector General, or his or her designee, shall develop and implement a public  
ness campaign to inform the public about the importance of whistleblowing and the  
ions available to whistleblowers.

(c) The public awareness campaign may include, but is not limited to:

(1) Advertisements;

(2) Informational materials;

(3) Social media outreach; and

(4) Promotions and outreach programs.

**§16B-22-6.**

## **Reporting.**

The Office of the Inspector General shall provide an annual report to the Joint Standing Committee on Health detailing:

(1) The campaign activities funded by the Whistleblower Protection Fund in that year,

(2) The number of reports made, and

(3) The outcome of those reports.

**§16B-22-7.**

## Effective

date.

This act shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to create the Whistleblower Protection Fund 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.