

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 738**

By Senator Willis

[Introduced February 4, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Military; and then to the  
Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §15-1B-15, relating to the National Guard; providing definitions; clarifying  
3 eligibility for the TRICARE program; authorizing reimbursement when certain  
4 requirements are met; requiring policies and guidelines; clarifying funding; and providing  
5 an effective date.

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

**ARTICLE 1B. NATIONAL GUARD.**

**§15-1B-15. National guard servicemember's medical readiness act.**

1 (a) This section is known and may be cited as the "West Virginia National Guard  
2 Servicemember's Medical Readiness Act".  
3 (b) The West Virginia national guard TRICARE premium reimbursement program is  
4 created within the military department.

5 (c) As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, "eligible recipient" means  
6 an individual who is:

7 (1) A member of the West Virginia National Guard; and

8 (2) Eligible for TRICARE reserve select or TRICARE dental program coverage.

9 (d) The military department may award reimbursement grants to an eligible recipient who  
10 meets the reimbursement application requirements established by the adjutant general for  
11 reimbursement of one or both of the following:

12 (1) A premium paid for individual coverage for an eligible recipient through the TRICARE  
13 reserve select program; or

14 (2) A premium paid for individual coverage for an eligible recipient through the TRICARE  
15 dental program.

16 (e) If any portion of the premiums eligible for reimbursement in this section are later paid  
17 for, reimbursed, or otherwise provided to an eligible recipient by the federal government, then that  
18 portion shall cease to be reimbursed by the TRICARE premium reimbursement program

19 established in this section.

20 (f) The adjutant general shall adopt and publish written policies and guidelines to effectuate  
21 the purposes of this section.

22 (g) This act is not an appropriation of funds, and funds must not be obligated or expended  
23 pursuant to this section unless the funds are specifically appropriated by the general  
24 appropriations act.

25 (h) This act takes effect July 1, 2026, the public welfare requiring it.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to clarify eligibility for the TRICARE program; authorize reimbursement when certain requirements are met; require policies and guidelines; and clarify funding.

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