



Quotes, Notes & Anecdotes

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2026 West Virginia Legislature Passes Bills Affecting the Department of Administration

The West Virginia Legislature introduced 2,777 bills during the 2026 Legislative Session, with 1,693 introduced by the House and 1,084 introduced by the Senate. Overall, 306 bills successfully completed legislative action (153 Senate bills and 153 House bills). Of those, the governor vetoed 12 bills, 10 became law without the governor's signature, and the remaining 284 were signed into law.

Bills affecting the Department of Administration include:

SB 251: Department of Administration Rules

This bill authorizes the Department of Administration to promulgate legislative rules related to the following:

- Creates a rule to establish permitting fees and deadlines

for the governor's "One-Stop Shop Permitting Program"

- Continues cyber reporting requirements and procedures for the Office of Technology and Chief Information Security Officer
- Continues a Board of Risk and Insurance Management (BRIM) rule related to homeowner's mine subsidence coverage
- Extends and updates the rule for BRIM's Public Entities Insurance Program, which provides liability insurance coverage and property insurance coverage to eligible and qualified political subdivisions, charitable or public service organizations, and emergency medical service agencies
- Eliminates an outdated BRIM rule related to the Preferred Medical Liability and High-Risk Medical Liability Program



Photo Courtesy of W.Va. Legislative Photography

Fleet Management Division

HB 5613: Fleet Management and Telematics

This bill enhances the oversight and efficiency of state vehicle usage by authorizing the Fleet Management Division to adopt telematics systems for tracking and managing state-owned vehicles, improves reporting requirements for state spending units, and removes an obsolete legislative audit requirement.

West Virginia Office of Technology (WVOT)

HB 5638: Cybersecurity Program Requirements

This legislation removes unnecessary reporting requirements that impose a burden on agencies. It also clarifies the authority of the state's Chief Information Security Officer (CISO) and assures standards are maintained to protect sensitive information and

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Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office



Photo courtesy of HD Media

Employees of the grounds crew of the General Services Division (GSD) helped prepare the Capitol Campus for hundreds of visitors for the Rhododendron Roll on March 28, 2026. Their duties included pressure washing, grass mowing, working with First Lady Denise Morrisey to decorate the Governor's Mansion, and building Easter carts to serve as a photo backdrop. GSD employees Chad Velez and Emma Parker dressed as Mr. and Mrs. Bunny to take photos with young visitors.

Administration Agencies Invited to Participate in Annual Governor's Internship Program

West Virginia state agencies are encouraged to consider hosting an intern this summer through the 2026 Governor's Internship Program.

Agencies interested in becoming a host for the Governor's Internship Program must have a staff member apply at *intern.wv.gov*. Once they have applied, they will get access to a database of college students who have a 3.0+ GPA, have completed at least one year of undergraduate study, and are West Virginia residents attending a college/university in or out of state. Host agencies will be responsible for interviewing and selecting their own intern(s). This process ensures that each agency can select an intern whose skills best fit the needs of the position and the agency. Host agencies must pay interns at least minimum wage and assign them meaningful work related to their field of study. Interns generally work for nine to 13 weeks throughout the summer. Nonprofit organizations and private businesses may host interns as well.

Applications are being accepted until June 15, 2026.

More information can be found at *intern.wv.gov*. Questions regarding the program or the application process can be directed to Andrea Thompson at *Andrea.D.Thompson@wv.gov/304-558-0220*, or Mary Jane Ayoob at *MaryJane.Ayoob@wv.gov/304-414-0868*.

Purchasing Division's Willis Featured in NASPO Video Series



The National Association of State Procurement Officials (NASPO) recently celebrated Women in Procurement, highlighting female leaders' roles in strengthening, innovating, and leading public procurement. The initiative featured video spotlights on leaders who offered career advice and showcased women's impact on building resilient, strategic government procurement teams.

Purchasing Director and General Counsel Samantha Willis was among the women chosen to be featured in a video segment posted on NASPO's Facebook page, focusing on the crucial role women play in the efficiency, fairness, and strategic direction of state purchasing.

Willis shared her journey into procurement and offered thoughtful advice on how the next generation of women entering the field can find their voice, build confidence, and lead with impact.

Watch the video here: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/17yUvNNHtb/>

Department of Administration Observes Annual Public Service Recognition Week

The Department of Administration will observe Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) during the week of **May 4-8, 2026**. This national campaign honors public employees who serve in federal, state, county, and municipal government. As part of PSRW, the department is pleased to recognize its employees who have achieved 20 years or more of public service, in increments of five.

Thank you to these employees for their hard work, dedication, and many years of service to the state of West Virginia.

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Alysia Miller *CPRB*
 Dan Morris *CPRB*
 Sara Poe *CPRB*
 Frank Whittaker *Purchasing*
 Tierra Gable *Aviation*
 Thomas Miller *PEIA*
 Mary Burkey *WVOT*
 Jamie Cartwright *WVOT*
 David Douglas *WVOT*
 Gilbert Richard *WVOT*
 David Roberts *WVOT*
 Meghan Shears *WVOT*
 Shannon Workman *WVOT*
 Steven Bradbury *RED*

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Carmen Looney *Finance*
 Kay Walden *Finance*
 Emily Fleck *BRIM*
 Heather Atkins *PDS*
 Lisa Conley *PDS*
 Mary Jane Ayoob *DOP*
 Thomas Allen *WVOT*
 Derrick Day *WVOT*
 Michael Ebert *WVOT*
 Diane Fletcher *WVOT*
 Ryan Jett *WVOT*
 Donna Lipscomb *WVOT*
 Joshua Tinnel *WVOT*

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Terasa Miller *CPRB*
 Tara Lyle *Purchasing*
 Heather Abbott *WVOT*
 Christopher Bailey *WVOT*
 Jerry Digman *WVOT*
 William Holmes *WVOT*
 Rebecca Owens *WVOT*
 Larry Sutters *WVOT*
 Brett Clutters *RED*

40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Mark Isabella *DOP*



PEIA Rolls Out New Website, Reminds Employees of Open Enrollment Deadline

The West Virginia Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA) has created a new website for easier and faster use.

“PEIA’s redesigned website is a forward-thinking investment to provide our members with a reliable and user-friendly digital experience,” said Director Brent Wolfingbarger. “As the public’s expectations for quality online services continue to grow, this upgrade positions PEIA to better meet our members’ evolving needs.”

The new website has a more modern feel and is easier to navigate. It is also accessible, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In addition to the new website, PEIA would like to remind policyholders the open enrollment period for Plan Year 2027 ends on May 15, 2026. During open enrollment, you can change your health plan; add, drop, or change coverage for yourself and your dependents without a qualifying event; and make changes to your Mountaineer Flexible Benefits, if applicable.

To make changes to your benefits online, go to peia.wv.gov, scroll down, and click the “Manage My Benefits” button. Online changes must be finalized no later than May 15, 2026. Enrolled members may also request a transfer form, or ask any other questions, by calling 1-877- 676-5573. The Plan Year 2027 Benefit Guide is available online at <https://peia.wv.gov/plan-booklets-publications>.

PEIA members should be aware of the following changes in the upcoming plan year:

- Plan A is now Gold
- Plan B is now Silver
- Plan C is now Gold High Deductible
- Plan D is now WV Bronze High Deductible and is only for West Virginia residents

Please note that Plan D has transitioned to a lower-cost, higher-deductible option to provide members with more choices. Key details regarding this change include:

- **Action Required:** Members currently enrolled in Plan D must select a new plan during Open Enrollment. Existing Plan D enrollment will not automatically carry over.
- **Financials:** Premiums for the new WV Bronze High Deductible plan have decreased by 34%, and the plan now includes a \$500 employer-funded Health Savings Account (HSA).

More information can be found on the PEIA website at <https://peia.wv.gov/>.

Administration Employees Celebrate Their Graduates

This is the season to celebrate the academic achievements of the children and family members of Department of Administration employees who are graduating. Below we honor the graduates sent in by our employees:

Elisabeth Arthur (*Personnel*) Daughter, Reagan Arthur, graduates from Herbert Hoover High School. She plans to attend the Savannah College of Art & Design in Savannah, Ga., majoring in interior design.

Shelley Brightwell (*BRIM*) Son, John Brightwell, graduates from George Washington High School.

Jessica Carl (*Purchasing*) Niece, Mackenzie Kessel, graduates from Cabell Midland High School.

Michelle Chandler (*Purchasing*) Son, Thomas Chandler, graduates from George Washington High School with a 4.0. He is planning a career in the technology field.

Elizabeth Cooper (*CPRB*) Daughter, Hope Perdue, graduates from Riverside High School.

Derrick Day (*Technology*) Son, Eli Day, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering from West Virginia University. He plans to continue his education and pursue an MBA from WVU.

Jennifer Fields (*Purchasing*) Daughter, Emiley Piscopo, graduates with an Associate of Science degree in respiratory therapy. She plans to work for CAMC.

LeeAnn Halstead (*PEIA*) Granddaughter, Annabelle Halstead, graduates with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife and Fisheries Management from West Virginia University.

Brian Holmes (*Personnel*) Son, Benjamin Holmes, graduates from Nitro High School. He plans to attend Marshall University on an academic scholarship and will study engineering.

Ryan Jett (*Technology*) Son, Samuel Jett, graduates from Stanford University School of Engineering with a Master's in Computer Science with a specialization in Systems. He plans to take a research position at Stanford.

Sara Jones (*Cabinet Secretary's Office*) Son, Andrew Laurance Jones, graduates from George Washington High School and Collaborative Program at West Virginia State University. He plans to attend Marshall University majoring in biomedical engineering.

Ada Kennedy (*General Services*) Son, Evan R. Kennedy, graduates from Saint Albans High School. He plans to attend West Virginia University majoring in engineering.

Stephanie MacLellan (*PEIA*) Daughter, Cailyn MacLellan, graduates from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, N.Y., with a Bachelor of Science (Summa Cum Laude, Honors Program Scholar, Honors in Major).

Laura Mann (*Personnel*) Son, Drew Mann, graduates from Winfield High School. He will be attending Marshall University, majoring in exercise science as he pursues his goal of becoming a cardiac perfusionist.

Teresa Miller (*CPRB*) Daughter, Terynn Lynn Miller, graduates from George Washington High School. She plans to attend West Virginia University.

Tom Riddell (*Technology*) Wife, Marnie Kerby-Ballinger, graduates with her Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) from the University of Charleston.

Lisa Scarberry (*CPRB*) Daughter, Janessa Scarberry, graduates from Ripley High School. She will attend Washington State College of Ohio to obtain both an Associate of Science and degrees in Physical Therapy Assisting and Massage Therapy. She plans to further her education to become a physical therapist.

Susan Michelle Trail (*PEIA*) Son, Nathaniel Trail, graduates from Saint Albans High School. He plans to study criminal justice.

The Department of Administration would also like to congratulate the following employees:

Bob Ross (*Purchasing*) graduates with an Associate of Applied Science in Business Management and a Certificate in Applied Science in Business Management from Eastern West Virginia Community and Technical College.

Katrina Hamdan (*PEIA*) graduates with an Associate in Business Administration from BridgeValley Community & Technical College. She plans to complete an Associate in Accounting and Bookkeeping.

Amanda Kelley (*Technology*) graduates from BridgeValley Community & Technical College.

Angelina Villanueva (*Purchasing*) graduates with a master's degree from Marshall University.



National Magazine Names New River Gorge Best Underrated Travel Destination

The West Virginia Department of Tourism has announced that the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve has been named a Best Underrated Travel Destination by U.S. News & World Report Magazine.

“I am proud to see West Virginia rightfully at the top of this important list,” said Gov. Patrick Morrisey. “The New River Gorge National Park and Preserve showcases some of the best outdoor adventure and charming small towns the Mountain State has to offer. West Virginia isn’t just winning the Backyard Brawl, we are leading the nation. We look forward to welcoming more outdoor enthusiasts to Almost Heaven than ever before.”

The New River Gorge National River was designated as the nation’s newest national park, the New River Gorge National Park & Preserve, in December 2020. From world-class outdoor recreation like whitewater rafting, rock climbing and miles of hiking trails, to the southern hospitality of uncrowded mountain towns, the country’s 63rd national park is the perfect place for families to experience Almost Heaven.

“The New River Gorge earned the top spot for its dramatic scenery, world-class rafting opportunities and unique perspective on Appalachian history,” said Senior U.S.

News & World Report Travel Editor Elizabeth Von Tersch. “The destination offers an outdoorsy experience similar to more frequented parks without the crowds.”

The Best Vacations rankings highlight top destinations for travelers across a wide range of categories. U.S. News & World Report travel editors evaluate more than 1,500 destinations, scoring them on multiple factors, including reader votes within each category. Following last year’s recognition of St. Simons Island, Georgia, the New River Gorge now leads the list of must-visit hidden gems.

“I’m thrilled to hear this news and continue to be incredibly proud of the growing national recognition West Virginia receives,” said West Virginia Department of Tourism Secretary Chelsea Ruby. “Being named number one on lists like this reflects the hard work of our department, our wonderful partners around the state, and Gov. Morrisey, whose vision and commitment makes achievements like this possible.”

The Mountain State continues to be featured in top-tier travel publications, including Fodor’s, Garden & Gun, Good Housekeeping, Southern Living, Travel + Leisure, promoting West Virginia as a premier year-round travel destination.

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modernize state systems by clarifying the authority of the CISO. In place of the annual report, agencies will participate in a more beneficial and robust cybersecurity review with the West Virginia Office of Technology to provide real-time feedback, solutions, and engagement.

Public Employees Insurance Agency (PEIA)

HB 4610: The Safeguard the Right-To-Try Cutting-Edge Medicine Act

This legislation expands access to individualized treatments for patients with terminal or debilitating illnesses. It protects the use of personalized therapies and reduces barriers to provide patients and doctors more flexibility in pursuing treatment options.

HB 4965: Patient-Centered Treatment Flexibility

This law allows a patient who has received prior authorization from the Public Employees Insurance Agency for treatment of a medical condition to potentially receive an alternative covered treatment for the same condition without additional prior authorization, provided that the alternative treatment is medically appropriate and does not exceed the cost of the originally authorized treatment.

HB 5430: Reforming Pharmaceutical Benefits

This law provides the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) with additional oversight of Pharmacy Benefit Managers and requires the OIC to conduct a study of the cost to dispense outpatient prescription drugs in West Virginia.



QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Last month, we asked Department of Administration employees “What’s the best advice you’ve ever received at work?” Below are some of the answers we’ve received. To see a complete list of responses, visit <https://sites.google.com/wv.gov/wvdoa-internal/question-of-the-month>.

- If you do not know the answer, find someone who does and ask them.
- Don’t let someone else determine your worth!
- While you should get along with your coworkers, they aren’t your family.
- Train people well enough so they can leave, treat them well enough so they don’t want to.
- Take a deep breath before sending that email.
- One thing you can always count on working for state government: change.
- Don’t be afraid to ask.
- Never back down from a challenge.
- The only people who don’t make any mistakes are the people who don’t do anything.
- Stay in your lane.
- Speak to every individual as if your response will be written in the newspaper for all to see.
- Choose your words wisely.
- In all interactions, be professional, courteous, and smile always.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

WELCOME! ... The Department of Administration is pleased to welcome **Johnathan Bill** and **Faythe Means** (CPRB); **John Jones** (Finance); **Roger Hudnall** (General Services); and **Matthew Rollins** and **William Wright** (Technology).

BEST WISHES ... to **Susan Miller** (Grievance Board); **Bobbie Wisniewski** (Personnel); **John McGinn** (Public Defender Services); **Rebecca Ferrell**, **Christopher Johnson**, and **Juan Timmons** (Technology), who recently resigned from our department.

HAPPY RETIREMENT! ... After years of hard work and dedication, we would like to wish **Larry Sutters** (Technology) the very best during his retirement.

EMPLOYEE QUESTION OF THE MONTH ... This month, we want to know “If you had to give a 30-minute presentation on something completely unrelated to your job with zero preparation, what would the topic be?” To answer this question, visit <https://bit.ly/3Qy6BEY>.

GOT NEWS? ... Share YOUR good news with all of your department co-workers! Email Samantha.S.Knapp@wv.gov with detailed information so we may include it in the next issue of the newsletter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in MAY

Below is a list of Department of Administration employees celebrating their birthdays during the month of May:

AVIATION	Stephen McConihay	GEN.SRVS.	Zander Belcher	REAL ESTATE	Brett Clutters
BRIM	Bret Hart		Troy Campbell	SEC.ADMIN.	Shelley Whitehill
	Niki Miller-Casdorph		Robin Casto	TECHNOLOGY	Frank Barone
	Donna White		Eric Cutlip		Samuel Booker
	Woodrow White		Michelle Lusk		Eric Cannetti
CPRB	Debra Asbury		Harold McVay		Cindi Cvechko
	Caroline Brady		William Pate		Frank Del Giudice
	Jessica Cain		Frank Sinkora		Jerry Digham
	James Ferris		Franklin Stone		Diane Fletcher
	Sara Poe		Jeffery Swisher		Jason Fox
	Hannah Potter	PERSONNEL	Cal Colangelo		Ryan Jett
	Melody Scott		Lisa Lorence		Christina Lanham
	Robert Sheff		Nicole Michaelis		Elias Majdalani
	Leslie Young		Christy Romeo		Cara Marchal
FINANCE	Candace Colagrosso	PEIA	Brandy Early		Douglas Martin
	Trent Kirk		Helen Gantt		Cody McClanahan
	Tera O'Connor		Robin Tyler		Brent Northcutt
	Kay Walden		Brent Wolfingbarger		Robin Roberts
	Kelly Williams	PURCHASING	Teresa Cutlip		William Stepp
	Maria Yoakum		David Pauline		Edwin Trader
FLEET	Michele Cunningham		Mark Totten		Rachel Trahan
	James Parsons		Toby Welch		Jarrod Wells
					Andrew Zicafoose

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