

HB 4025

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2026 REGULAR SESSION

ENROLLED

FILED
2026 MAR 27 P 4:13
OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

Committee Substitute

for

House Bill 4025

BY DELEGATE HANSHAW (MR. SPEAKER)

[Passed March 14, 2026; in effect 90 days from
passage (June 12, 2026)]

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1 AN ACT to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,
2 designated §5F-2-10, relating to exempting new hires and promoted employees within the
3 Department of Health Facilities, Department of Human Services, and the Department of
4 Health from the classified civil service system and the state grievance procedures
5 beginning on July 1, 2026; providing legislative findings; providing the secretaries of the
6 Department of Health Facilities, Department of Human Services, and the Department of
7 Health the authority to designate certain employees under the classified civil service
8 system and provide certain employees access to the grievance procedures when
9 necessary to comply with federal law; and prohibiting departments from making
10 employment decisions based on nepotism, favoritism, or other unethical practices.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. TRANSFER OF AGENCIES AND BOARDS.

§5F-2-10. Transfer of new hires and promoted employees within Departments of Health Facilities, Human Services, and Health to classified exempt system.

1 (a) The Legislature hereby finds that to attract and retain employees in the Department of
2 Health Facilities, Department of Human Services, and the Department of Health, the secretaries
3 of these departments and heads of the agencies, boards, and commissions therein require
4 additional flexibility in the promotion, transfer, layoff, removal, discipline, and compensation of
5 state employees within these departments.

6 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code or any rule to the contrary, beginning on
7 July 1, 2026, all employees of the Department of Health Facilities, Department of Human
8 Services, and the Department of Health shall be exempt from the state grievance procedures as
9 set forth in §6C-2-1 *et seq.* of this code and from the classified civil service system under §29-6-
10 1 *et seq.* of this code except that:

11 (1) All employees of the Department of Health Facilities, Department of Human Services,
12 and Department of Health who are currently members of the classified civil service system shall
13 retain their status as long as they remain in their current position; and

14 (2) All employees of these departments who currently have recourse to the state grievance
15 procedures will continue to have access to the state grievance procedures as long as they remain
16 in their current position;

17 (3) Any employee of these departments that leaves his or her position and remains a state
18 employee within any of the departments or divisions governed by §5B-1-2, §5B-2-1, §5B-2i-4,
19 §5F-2-8, §5F-2-9, or §29-1-1a of this code shall, at that time, be transferred to the classified
20 exempt service system as defined in §29-6-2(g) of this code and be exempted from the state
21 grievance procedures as set forth in §6C-2-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

22 (4) The secretary of each of these departments shall have the authority to designate
23 certain employees' status under the classified civil service system and grievance procedures as
24 may be deemed necessary to comply with federal law, federal regulation, or the requirements for
25 receipt of federal funding or assistance.

26 (c) Subsection (b) of this section shall not apply to any position appointed by the Governor.

27 (d) Nothing in this section shall exempt these departments from the provisions of this code
28 prohibiting nepotism, favoritism, discrimination, or unethical practices related to the promotion,
29 transfer, layoff, removal, discipline, and compensation of state employees.

Enr CS for HB 4025

The Clerk of the House of Delegates and the Clerk of the Senate hereby certify that the foregoing bill is correctly enrolled.

Clerk of the House of Delegates

Clerk of the Senate

Originated in the House of Delegates.

In effect 90 days from passage.

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OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

Speaker of the House of Delegates

President of the Senate

The within is approved this the 27th
Day of March, 2026.

Governor

PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR

MAR 25 2025

Time 3:30pm