

MEMORANDUM

TO: Hailey Bibbee, Administrative Associate
FROM: Marybeth Beller, Faculty Senate Liaison to Legislative Affairs Committee
DATE: November 21, 2024
RE: Committee Report

The Legislative Affairs Committee will meet on December 2, at 11:00 in Teams.

Our current concerns lie with proposed PEIA increases and Governor-Elect Morrissey's indications that he favors privatization, which will likely mean more money being reallocated from public education to home schooling and charter schools. It may also mean the privatization of PEIA and other state organizations.

PEIA is proposing the following increases for state agencies (includes higher education), to take effect July 1, 2025:

- Premium of 14% (average state employee increase will be \$31.50/month)
- Deductible of 40%
- In-patient copay increases to \$250
- Outpatient copay increases to \$250
- Massage Therapy copay to \$30/\$35
- Emergency Room copay to \$200
- Prescription copay to double. Currently \$10/\$25 for generic - will become \$20/\$50 for generic
- Spousal surcharge of \$350 on average

These increases will affect non-Medicare retirees as well.

In the West Virginia Legislature, the Republican majority gained two seats in the House of Delegates, for a 91-9 majority. In the Senate, the Republicans gained one seat, for a 32-2 majority. Delegate Hanshaw is likely to remain Speaker of the House. The Senate has not yet settled on a new president.

December Interim meetings of the Legislature are scheduled for the 8th – 10th.

The Legislature will reconvene January 8, 2025 but only for one day, in order to give the new governor more time to put his cabinet and budget proposal together. It will then adjourn and resume the session full-time on February 12th, when session will continue for 60 days.