



February 2026

## Legislative Session Opens February 9 - Key Bills

The 2026 Wyoming Legislature Budget Session convenes on February 9, and our legislative tracking shows significant healthcare-related legislation already in the pipeline. Here's what Wyoming hospitals need to know as lawmakers gather in Cheyenne.

### Medicaid Reimbursement Initiatives

Several bills directly address hospital financial sustainability through enhanced Medicaid reimbursement:

- HB 63 - Medicaid Reimbursement for Nursing Homes (Clouston, Posey, Barlow): While focused on nursing homes, this reimbursement increase could impact hospital-affiliated skilled nursing facilities.
- SF 4 - Medicaid Rate Increase for EMS Services (Labor Committee): Enhanced EMS reimbursement supports the emergency medical services that hospitals rely on for patient transfers and rural emergency response.

### Transparency and Regulatory Issues

- SF 57 - Transparency in Hospital Service Pricing (Brennan, Boner, Dockstader): This bill warrants close attention as it may impose new pricing disclosure requirements on hospitals. WHA will monitor this legislation to ensure any transparency measures are practical and don't create undue administrative burdens.
- SF 5 - Hospital Bankruptcy Proceedings (Labor Committee): Given the financial challenges facing rural hospitals nationwide, this legislation may establish new frameworks for hospital bankruptcy processes in Wyoming.

### Healthcare Access and Workforce

- SF 6 - Eligibility for Medicaid Criteria (Labor Committee): Changes to Medicaid eligibility could significantly impact hospital patient volumes and uncompensated care levels.
- SF 10 - Contracts for Holding and Treating Mentally Ill Detainees (Judiciary Committee): This bill addresses capacity issues for mental health treatment, which often impacts hospital emergency departments.
- SF 23 - Outpatient Examination and Commitment Length (Schuler, Crago, Heiner): WHA has designated this as a "Support" bill, suggesting alignment with hospital interests regarding mental health patient management.

### Other Bills of Interest

- HB 80 - Identification Cards Renewal for Care Facility Residents (Jarvis, Campbell, Clouston): This bill streamlines ID renewal for long-term care residents.
- HB 13 - Ivermectin No Prescription Required (Brown, Allemand, Angelos): Could impact hospital pharmacies and medication protocols.
- SF 48 - Stem Cell Freedom Act (Barlow, Brennan, Clouston): May affect hospital research and treatment capabilities.

### WHAT LEADERS CAN DO

- Review the full bill list and identify legislation affecting your facility's specific services
- Connect with your legislators before February 9 to discuss local priorities

- Share real-world examples of how Medicaid reimbursement gaps or regulatory burdens affect your operations
- Monitor communications for action alerts and testimony opportunities
- Coordinate with our staff if your facility wants to provide testimony on specific bills

#### TIMELINE TO WATCH

The budget session runs for four weeks, with bill introduction deadlines coming quickly. Committee hearings will begin in earnest during the second week of February. We will provide weekly legislative updates throughout the session.

## Revisions to the Special Focus Facility (SFF) Program

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is committed to protecting nursing home residents in the poorest performing nursing homes and holding these facilities accountable. To that end, CMS is strengthening the Special Focus Facility (SFF) program by addressing the following:

- **SFF Selection Criteria:** CMS is revising the focus area for selection to emphasize the prevalence of falls among the resident population when considering facilities for SFF selection. In addition to health inspection scores, State Agencies may consider facility falls staffing data when selecting new SFFs.
- **Graduation from the SFF Program:** The criteria for successful program completion will be revised and clarified to foster rapid and sustained improvements for SFFs and to mitigate "yo-yo" noncompliance.
- **Enforcement:** More severe, escalating enforcement remedies will be imposed on SFF program facilities that demonstrate continued noncompliance and little or no effort to improve performance. Further, oversight will be strengthened by reducing survey predictability.
- **Termination Criteria:** An added criterion clarifies that facilities cited with Immediate Jeopardy deficiencies on any two surveys while in the SFF program may face discretionary termination from the Medicare and/or Medicaid programs.
- **Post-Graduation:** A three-year post-graduation monitoring period will track graduates for sustained compliance. Facilities that relapse into poor performance may face enhanced enforcement options.

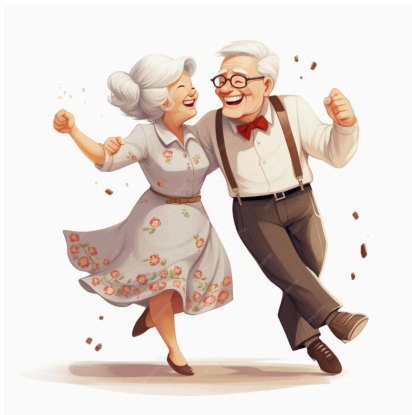
[Read the Bulletin Here](#)



**Puppy Party at Rawlins Rehab and Wellness**



**St. Johns Health Sage Living  
"Tunes With Tots"**



**Wyoming Retirement Center is looking for donations to have a Senior Prom. Looking for age-appropriate formal wear (dresses, skirts, dress tops, dress pants, ties, suspenders and bowties)**



**Morning Star Care Center Residents visited the Pioneer Museum in Lander Wyoming**

## **Dates to Remember**

**May 20-21, 2026  
Spring Meeting  
Best Western Sheridan  
Sheridan, Wyoming**

**September 9-10, 2026  
Annual Meeting**

Little America Hotel & Resorts  
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Save  
the  
Date



Wyoming Hospital Association | 2005 Warren Ave | Cheyenne, WY 82001-3725 US

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