

BHAM Montana Legislative Update – April 13, 2025

The Legislators work for the people of Montana. It's imperative that you stand up and make your voice heard!

To participate virtually in any of the committee hearings, click this link and sign up:

<https://www.legmt.gov/participate/>

You can review all of the bills BHAM is tracking [HERE](#).

Create a new Health Facilities Department:

[HB851](#) (Fitzpatrick) would create a new department that would transfer administration of all state-owned health facilities plus the Medicaid and non-Medicaid services provided by private mental health, substance use disorder, and developmentally disabled community providers to a new department. This bill passed the House and will be heard on Monday, April 14th at 3:00 p.m. in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee.

Healthcare is a continuum of care, and the creation of another silo would decrease the quality of care that patients receive. **BHAM strongly opposes this bill.**

Medicaid Rate Reimbursement:

[HB419](#) (Bedey). This bill will allow DPHHS to review cost reports for Medicaid providers in senior and long-term care, mental health, substance use disorder and intellectual developmentally disabled programs every other year. Medicaid providers are already 5 years behind costs in reimbursement. This bill will be heard in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Hearing on Monday, April 7th at 3:00 p.m. **BHAM strongly supports this bill and encourages advocacy efforts to move it forward with the understanding that cost reporting adjustments need to occur every two years.**

Budget Bill:

[HB 2](#) passed Senate Finance and Claims on April 8th and will be heard probably on Friday on the Senate Floor. **BHAM strongly supports HB2, Part B as it exists now and urges no removals.**

Interim Behavioral Health Study

[SJ 37](#) (Lenz) Interim survey of behavioral health services in Montana will be heard on Wednesday, April 16th at 3:00 p.m. in the Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety Committee. **BHAM supports this study.**