

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2025  
FORTY-SIXTH DAY

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Charleston, West Virginia, Saturday, March 29, 2025

The Senate met at 11:02 a.m.

(Senator Smith, Mr. President, in the Chair.)

Prayer was offered by Bishop Joe Thomas, Nondenominational Fellowship Pentecostal Ministries, Charleston, West Virginia.

The Senate was then led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Honorable Jason Barrett, a senator from the sixteenth district.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Friday, March 28, 2025,

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, the Journal was approved and the further reading thereof dispensed with.

The Senate proceeded to the second order of business and the introduction of guests.

The Senate then proceeded to the third order of business.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for House Bill 2043**—A Bill to amend and reenact §20-2-5j and §61-10-34 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, to authorize the use of Unmanned aerial vehicles and dogs while hunting and describe their administration; and to add to the definition of "critical infrastructure" certain licensed or commercial livestock and poultry facilities to protect them from unauthorized Unmanned aerial vehicle surveillance or attack; all generally relating to the regulated use of Unmanned aerial vehicles in West Virginia airspace.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, reference of the bill to a committee was dispensed with, and it was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of



**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2052**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13W-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the tax credit for apprenticeship training; eliminating the requirement that the credit base be limited to wages paid to apprentices in the construction trades, specifying effective date; and making stylistic changes.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2121**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13MM-2 and §11-13MM-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing for a deceased disabled veteran real property exemption for widowed spouses.

Referred to the Committee on Military; and then to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 2145**—A Bill to amend and reenact §5A-3-4 and §5A-3-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to terminating the authority of the Director of the Purchasing Division to impose a certain annual fee upon vendors.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2205**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; by adding a new section, designated §24-2-1s, relating to certification by the Public Service Commission of advanced small modular and micro nuclear reactors; clarifying that the commission has authority and may issue and, as applicable, modify siting certificates and certificates of convenience and necessity for advanced small modular and micro nuclear reactors for the generation of electric power to the extent the authority is not preempted by federal law; and providing for rule making authority over the same to the extent the authority is not preempted by federal law.

Referred to the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2377**—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-809, §49-5-101, and §49-11-101 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §61-12B-1, §61-12B-2, §61-12B-3, §61-12B-4, §61-12B-5, §61-12B-6, and §61-12B-7 relating to child welfare; updating abuse and neglect reporting; permitting the Foster Care Ombudsman to have access to information related to proceedings involving child abuse or neglect; providing the public shall have access to reports of child abuse or neglect adding additional terms to the child welfare dashboard; providing for effective date; creating the Critical Incident Review Team; defining terms; setting forth responsibilities of the Critical Incident Review

Team; requiring reporting; providing the Critical Incident Review Team access to information and providing for confidentiality.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2399**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-1C-10 and §11-1C-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to changing frequency of landowner managed timberland certifications required to be made to the Division of Forestry to every five years; and specifying rulemaking authority for the State Tax Commissioner and the Division of Forestry.

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources; and then to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2456**—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-66-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the pregnancy support program; and distribution of funding to pregnancy help organizations.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 2484**—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-15-20 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the probationary appointment period for vacancies filled by the Firemen's Civil Service Commission from six months to one year.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 2736**—A Bill to amend and reenact §24C-1-2, §24C-1-2a, §24C-1-3, and §24C-1-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to Underground Facilities Damage prevention.

Referred to the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining; and then to the Committee on Government Organization.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for House Bill 2889**—A Bill to amend and reenact §32-4-402 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §32-4-402a, all relating to authorizing the Commissioner of the State

Auditor of West Virginia, or his or her designee, to conduct a fairness hearing for transactions involving the exchange of a security for one or more outstanding securities, claims or property interests, or partly for cash; expressly authorizing the Commissioner, or his or her designee, to conclude whether the conditions of the exchange are fair to all security holders participating in the exchange; providing an exemption for successful applicants from the registration requirements proscribed under Section 3(a)(1) of the Securities Act, 15 U.S.C. § 77c(a)(10) and §32-3-301 of this code; providing definitions; providing for an application process to set fairness hearings; proscribing timelines for the Commissioner, or his or her designee, to set fairness hearings and issue decisions; proscribing notice requirements; proscribing a filing fee and hearing fee caps; and authorizing the Commissioner to conduct fairness hearings via telephone conference, video conference, or any mode authorized by any rule or order of the Commissioner.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2963**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, by adding a new section, designated §31A-1-7, relating to the sale or transfer of all or substantially all of state bank's assets; requiring that the buyer or transferee be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;; authorizing interested persons to seek equitable relief to prohibit certain sales or transfers; clarifying that the prohibition on the sale or transfer of a West Virginia state chartered bank to buyers or transferors that are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation does not apply in certain circumstances.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 3001**—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-11-1 and §7-11-3, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, both relating to requiring county parks and recreation commissions to be established.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 3012**—A Bill to amend and reenact §29-22A-10 and §29-22A-10b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the racetrack video lottery and the distributions of video lottery net terminal and excess net terminal income to municipalities and counties.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 3080**—A Bill to amend and reenact §16B-17-9 and §16B-17-9a of the Code of West Virginia, establishing that an employer granting preference in hiring a military spouse does not violate the state Human Rights Act under certain circumstances.

Referred to the Committee on Military.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 3150**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18C-3-1 and §18C-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to higher education loan programs; amending the medical student loan program by amending definitions; clarifying amount of award and service commitment; revising interest rate determinations and time period for loan repayment; amending health sciences and mental health provider loan repayment programs by replacing scholarship language with loan repayment language, amending award preferences provisions, requiring the commission to pay awards directly to federal loan service providers, removing provisions regarding licensure as it relates to repayment, clarifying language regarding mental health provider student loan repayment program, clarifying language regarding the mental health provider student loan repayment fund; and making technical changes.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources; and then to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 3174**—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-19-17, §8-20-16, §16-13-22a, and §16-13A-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, relating to requiring municipalities and public service districts to determine the cost of adding potential customers to water service from the municipality or public service district; requiring municipalities and public service districts to apply through the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council for available funding; requiring municipalities and public service districts to extend service to potential customers who have paid required fees if a grant or grants are awarded to cover the fees for the service extension; and providing for funding and reimbursement of application costs to potential customers.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization; and then to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 3269**—A Bill to amend and reenact §5F-2-1, §31A-2-2, §31A-2-3, §31A-2-4, §31A-2-4a, §31A-2-4b, §31A-2-5, §31A-2-6, §31A-2-7, §31A-2-8, §31A-2-9, §31A-2-12, §31A-2-14, §31A-3-1 and §31A-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding two new sections, designated §5F-2-1b and §5F-2-9; relating to reorganizing Board of Banking and Financial Institutions, Division of Financial Institutions, and Lending and Credit Rate Board into independent division and boards of the executive branch beginning January 1, 2026; removing references to former Department of Banking; designating Board of Banking and Financial Institutions as chief executive body under reorganization structure; providing Division of Financial Institutions and Lending and Credit Rate Board with oversight and

supervision by Board of Banking and Financial Institutions; requiring Board of Banking and Financial Institutions to approve any policy decision, proposed budget, or personnel-related decision of Division of Financial Institutions; exempting Division of Financial Institutions from classified service system; establishing merit-based system for personnel administration for Division of Financial Institutions; authorizing commissioner to establish merit-based system; authorizing current employees to opt into classified-exempt system in writing; modifying qualifications for positions of commissioner and deputy commissioner; providing for reimbursement of travel expenses; providing uniformity in code to references of National Multistate Licensing System and Registry; providing requirements for commissioner's merit-based policy for employment positions; authorizing commissioner to employ additional staff; requiring commissioner to propose annual budget to Board of Banking and Financial Institutions; requiring ten percent of total revenue collected by commissioner be deposited into the General Revenue Fund of the State Treasury; authorizing commissioner to employ additional support staff; providing that balances of commissioner's assessment and examination fund" remaining at end of each fiscal year remain in the fund; requiring all fees not otherwise directed be deposited in commissioner's assessment and examination fund; requiring commissioner by rule to establish minimum standards and practices for the officers and directors of each financial institution under the jurisdiction, supervision and control of the commissioner; requiring reports to commissioner; requiring submission of plan to meet the minimum standards and practices for approval to commissioner and the Board of Banking and Financial Institutions; fixing compensation of the officers and directors of the financial institution pending compliance; providing that commissioner as chairman of the Board of Banking and Financial Institutions to vote only in instances of tie; requiring the Board of Banking and Financial Institutions to meet bi-monthly; and removing requirement that reimbursement of Board of Banking and Financial Institutions member expenses be determined per policies of Travel Management Unit of Purchasing Division.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization; and then to the Committee on Finance.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 3434**—A Bill to amend and reenact §60A-2-204, §60A-2-206, §60A-2-208, §60A-2-210, and §60A-2-212 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the controlled substance schedules and to clean-up errors identified in the code sections.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 3456**—A Bill to amend and reenact §15A-3-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §15A-3-4a, relating to the powers and duties of the commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation generally regarding Stevens Correctional Center; clarifying the authority of the commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation to manage, direct, control, and govern Stevens Correctional Center; authorizing the transfer of facilities, equipment, and assets of the Stevens Correctional Center to the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation; clarifying the debt liability of Stevens Correctional Center; authorizing the transfer of employees of the Stevens Correctional Center to the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation; and clarifying that the

Stevens Correctional Center is an institution managed by the commissioner of the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

**Eng. House Bill 3503**—A Bill to amend the code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §22-11-31, relating to the regulation by counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions of commercial horticulture under the Water Pollution Control Act; providing that regulations within the subject matter of the Water Pollution Control Act governing commercial horticulture by counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions are invalid and unenforceable; and providing limitations of causes of action against commercial horticulture operations brought by counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions within the subject matter of the Water Pollution Control Act.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the adoption by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the adoption of the following resolutions:

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 14**—Requesting the Division of Highways name Bridge Number: 41-077/00-043.59 (SB) (41A229), (37.78047, -81.22121) locally known as I-77 OVER CABELL RD, carrying IS 077 over WHITESTICK CRK/CABELL RD in Raleigh County, the "U.S. Navy S1c Curtis Hatcher Memorial Bridge."

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 30**—Requesting the Division of Highways name Bridge Number: 55-009/04-006.66 () (55A028), (37.66467, -81.60096) locally known as COON BRANCH BRIDGE, carrying CR 009/04 over LAUREL FORK in Wyoming County, the "Pastor Roger D. Stewart Memorial Bridge."

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 43**—Requesting the Division of Highways name Bridge Number: 16-055/00-011.96 () (16A134), (39.07833, -78.95205) locally known as MOOREFIELD INTERCHANGE, carrying WV 055 over US 48 (X) (Corridor H) in Hardy County the "Sgt. Ray 'Mutt' Sherman Memorial Bridge."

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 51**—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge number 53-032/003.45, locally known as the Peewee Pony Truss (SSPT), carrying CR 032 over Right Fork Reedy Creek in Wirt County, the "U. S. Army PFC Roy Lee Hill Memorial Bridge".

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 52**—Requesting the Division of Highways name Bridge Number: 40-064/00-044.47 () (40A075), (38.44092, -81.83320) locally known as I-64 NITRO INTERCHANGE BRIDGE, carrying IS 064 over WV25, CR25/30, N&S RR in Putnam County, the "Private Ronnie W. Matthews Memorial Bridge."

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 55**—Requesting the Division of Highways rename the section of road beginning at (37.765157, -80.466491) and ending at (37.787638, -



80.452570), known locally as the Seneca Trail, to the "Vance Brothers Six Military Veterans Highway" and have signs placed identifying it as such.

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 70**—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge number 044-14/00-9.87(44A198), at Lat/Long: 38.90043, -81.42299, locally known as Reedy Bridge, carrying WV 14 over Reedy Creek in Roane County, the "U. S. Revolutionary War Patriot Private Patrick Board Memorial Bridge".

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 77**—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge number: (55A106), (37.69680, -81.52925), locally known as the Laurel Fork Bridge, carrying Mabel Street over Glen Fork in Wyoming County, the "Jim Sigmon Family Memorial Bridge."

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 82**—Requesting the Division of Highways name Bridge Number: 13-036/03-000.30 () (13A193), (37.80392, -80.30595) locally known as CAN CREEK BRIDGE, carrying CR 036/03 over CAN CREEK in Greenbrier County, the "U.S. Army PFC Paul Ralph Bittinger, Sr. Memorial Bridge".

The preceding resolutions were referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the provisions of Joint Rule 31 were suspended in order to receive the following House concurrent resolutions naming transportation infrastructure introduced after the twenty-fifth day.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the adoption by that body and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the adoption of the following resolutions:

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 85**—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge number: 30-010/01-000.02 () (30A050), (37.55534, -81.96599) locally known as Wharnccliffe Box Beam, carrying CR 010/01 over Bens Creek in Mingo County, the "U.S. Army Corporal Lavern 'Mousey' Testerman Memorial Bridge".

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 86**—Requesting the Division of Highways name Bridge Number: 32-122/00-008.20 () (32A055), (37.53944, -80.66056) locally known as INDIAN CREEK BRIDGE, carrying WV 122 over INDIAN CREEK in Monroe County, the "U.S. Army PFC Robert F. Mann Memorial Bridge".

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 87**—Requesting the Division of Highways name a bridge bearing the Bridge Number: 43-021/00-000.06 () (43A071), (39.07742, -81.19013), locally known as DUTCHMAN BRIDGE (CSPG), carrying CR 021 over SOUTH FORK HUGHES RIVER in Ritchie County as the "Clark Brothers Memorial Bridge."

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 89**—Requesting the Division of Highways name Bridge Numbers: 26-002/00-018.04 (NB & SB) (26A014, 26A013), (39.90549, -80.75723) locally known as Lindsey Bridge & Lindsey Bridge SB, carrying WV 002 over Big Grave Creek in Marshall County, the "U.S. Army Spec 4 Kermit Harold Yoho Memorial Bridge".

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 91**—Requesting the Division of Highways name a portion of West Virginia Route 20 from the Upshur/Webster County Line GPS coordinates

38.730195, -80.387633 to Mount Zion Road GPS coordinates 38.699640, -80.393504, in Webster County, the "U.S. Army Sergeant Major Charles Grant Hoke Memorial Road".

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 93**—Requesting the Division of Highways name a portion of 4.3-mile bypass from Tuckers Run to Middle Fork on US 33, in Roane County, the "Scott Miller Bypass Road".

The preceding resolutions were referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

Senator Barrett, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 67**, Allowing motor vehicle racing on county or municipal roads under certain circumstances.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Barrett,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 67) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on Finance was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

Senator Stuart, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 158** (originating in the Committee on Education), Modifying eligibility requirements for serving as member of State Board of Education.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 158** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying eligibility and qualifications to serve as an appointed member of the State Board of Education; prohibiting certain political and other activities; and permitting certain political activities.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute for committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 158) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on the Judiciary was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

Senator Maynard, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 553**, Relating to offense of driving above speed limit on controlled access highway or interstate highway.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Azinger, as chair of the Committee on Banking and Insurance, unanimous consent was granted to dispense with the second committee reference of the bill contained in the foregoing report from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

At the further request of Senator Azinger, and by unanimous consent, the bill (S. B. 553) was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

Senator Barrett, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 677**, Increasing fees charged by Commissioner of Securities for each offering.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 677** (originating in the Committee on Finance)—A Bill to amend and reenact §32-2-202, §32-3-304a, §32-3-305, and §32-4-406 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to fee changes in the Uniform Securities Act; adjusting fees to be remitted to the State Auditor; placing submission requirements on certain issuers of securities; and adjusting fund distributions made by the State Auditor.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Barrett,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 677) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on Finance was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

Senator Barrett, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 701** (originating in the Committee on Natural Resources), Classifying forestry equipment for levy purposes.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 701** (originating in the Committee on Finance)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding one new section, designated §11-8-5a, relating to taxation; classifying forestry equipment as Class I property; recognizing forestry as a component of agriculture essential to this state's economy; defining forestry equipment; exempting the sale of forestry equipment from the consumers sales and service tax; and providing for effective dates.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute for committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Barrett,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 701) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on Finance was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

Senator Barrett, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 730** (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining), Establishing Forest Carbon Registry.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 730** (originating in the Committee on Finance)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §19-1D-1, §19-1D-2, §19-1D-3, and §19-1D-4, relating to the establishment of a Forest Carbon Registry under the administration of the Division of Forestry; providing for the registration of carbon offset agreements and projects affecting West Virginia forestlands; requiring the inclusion of geographic information system shapefiles for encumbered properties; assigning responsibility to purchasers and certain landowners to record such agreements or projects; establishing a deadline for recording; and imposing civil penalties for noncompliance.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute for committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Barrett,  
*Chair.*

Senator Stuart, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 745**, Strengthening and reforming lobbying requirements.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 745** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §6B-3-1, §6B-3-2, §6B-3-3, §6B-3-3a, §6B-3-4, §6B-3-5, §6B-3-7, §6B-3-9, and §6B-3-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding two new sections, designated §6B-2-12 and §6B-3-12, relating to enhancing transparency in lobbying; requiring Ethics Commission to develop searchable lobbyist registration and reporting system; revising lobbying registration and reporting requirements; increasing the lobbyist registration fees; requiring the commission to publish an electronic photograph and information about registered lobbyists; requiring wear of lobbyist identification badge on capitol grounds; increasing reporting thresholds for grass roots lobbying campaigns; updating document retention requirements; updating lobbyist duties; prohibiting lobbyist contingent fees; updating penalties; requiring compliance audits, and prohibiting lobbyists from offering or providing political campaign contributions.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 745) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on the Judiciary was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

Senator Stuart, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 828**, Clarifying requirements for persons employed by Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation include contracted vendor staff.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (S. B. 828) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on the Judiciary was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

Senator Stuart, from the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 848**, Enacting bank protections for eligible adults from financial exploitation.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 848** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31A-2C-1, §31A-2C-2, §31A-2C-3, §31A-2C-4, §31A-2C-5, §31A-2C-6, and §31A-2C-7, relating to enacting banking and financial services provider protections for eligible adults from financial exploitation; providing findings, purpose, and intent; providing definitions; permitting disclosure of eligible persons financial information to certain third parties and designated government agencies; authorizing depository institutions, broker-dealers, and investment advisors to delay, refuse, or prevent certain activities and transactions to prevent financial exploitation of an eligible adult; and providing that this article shall not serve as the basis for any private cause of action against depository institutions, broker-dealers, or investment advisors, or their employees, acting in good faith.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 848) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on the Judiciary was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

Senator Rose, from the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 883**, Providing director of WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training discretion and authority in certain appointments.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 883** (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining)—A Bill to amend and reenact §22A-1-8, §22A-1-9, §22A-1-11, §22A-1-12, §22A-1-13, §22A-4-5, §22A-6-3, and §22A-9-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing the Director of the West Virginia Office of Miners' Health, Safety, and Training discretion and authority in the appointment of surface mine inspectors, mine safety instructors, electrical inspectors, underground mine inspectors, and inspectors; requiring Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training report certain information to Board of Coal Mine Health and Safety; modifying certain age limit provisions regarding certain mine inspectors; and limiting tenure eligibility for certain mine inspectors.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,  
*Chair.*

Senator Rose, from the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 941** (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry and Mining)—A Bill to amend and reenact §19-21A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying certain authority regarding dams designed by the U.S. Conservation Service.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,  
*Chair.*

Senator Rose, from the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 942** (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining)—A Bill to amend and reenact §22A-2A-101, §22A-2A-308, §22A-2A-309, §22A-2A-310, and §22A-2A-401 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend the code by adding five new sections, designated §22A-2A-1002, §22A-2A-1003, §22A-2A-1004, §22A-2A-1005, and §22A-2A-1006; and to repeal §22A-2A-402, §22A-2A-403, §22A-2A-404, and §22A-2A-405, relating to modifying the requirements for diesel-powered equipment used in mines; authorizing legislative rules; removing site-specific testing; establishing regulatory limitations; clarifying approval standards; and establishing diesel equipment operating requirements and exemptions.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,  
*Chair.*

Senator Maynard, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 6**, US Army Major Jerome Lee Workman Memorial Bridge.

And,

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 16**, US Army SPC Johnny Long Memorial Bridge.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that they each be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,  
*Chair.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the resolutions (S. C. R. 6 and 16) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure were taken up for immediate consideration and considered simultaneously.

The question being on the adoption of the resolutions, the same was put and prevailed.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

Senator Maynard, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 9**, Becker Brothers, Eugene and Kermit Becker Memorial Bridge.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Senate Concurrent Resolution 9** (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge number 12-028/07-012.02 () (12A094), (39.12160, -79.21598) locally known as WEIMER BRIDGE, carrying CR 028/07 over NORTH FORK LUNICE CREEK in Grant County, the "U.S. Army PVT Eugene Becker and PFC Kermit Becker Memorial Bridge."

And,

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 17**, US Marine Corps PVT Arlie Haught Memorial Bridge.

And reports back a committee substitute for same with the following title:

**Com. Sub. for Senate Concurrent Resolution 17** (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge numbers 25-218/00-010.86 () (25A270), (39.58637, -80.23675), locally known as Basnettville Bridge, carrying County Route 17 over Paw Paw Creek in Marion County, the "U.S. Marine Corps PVT Arlie Haught Memorial Bridge".

With the recommendation that the two committee substitutes be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,  
*Chair.*



At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the resolutions (Com. Sub. for S. C. R. 9 and 17) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure were taken up for immediate consideration and considered simultaneously.

The question being on the adoption of the resolutions, the same was put and prevailed.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

Senator Maynard, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

**Com. Sub. for House Concurrent Resolution 78**, Urging the Commissioner of Highways to prioritize completion of I-73, the King Coal Highway.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,  
*Chair.*

The Senate proceeded to the sixth order of business.

Senator Woodrum and Rucker offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution 42**—Designating March 31, 2025, as West Virginia Nurses Day at the Legislature.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

The Senate proceeded to the eighth order of business.

**Eng. Senate Bill 197**, Limiting requirements for issuance of professional teaching certificate.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 197) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 506**, Relating to enhanced pay for certain teachers.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

**Eng. Senate Bill 517**, Requiring medical professionals to report injuries and side effects from vaccines to Bureau for Public Health.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 517) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 576**, Authorizing fixed odds racing in horse and dog racing.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Barrett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Fuller, Garcia, Hamilton, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, and Woelfel—24.

The nays were: Azinger, Bartlett, Deeds, Grady, Hart, Maynard, Roberts, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—9.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for 576) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 593**, Preserving voting data from electronic voting machines.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—31.

The nays were: Charnock and Takubo—2.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for 593) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect July 1, 2025.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for 593) takes effect July 1, 2025.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

At the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 761**, Creating Joel Archer Substance Abuse Intervention Act.

On third reading, coming up out of regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 761 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 761) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

At the request of Senator Garcia, and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senators Stuart, Helton, and Bartlett as to the passage of Engrossed Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 761 were ordered printed in the Appendix to the Journal.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 626**, Relating to qualifications of regional airport authority members.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: Thorne—1.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 626) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 663**, Creating Fair Access to Financial Services Act.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 707**, Providing increase in salary to WV Birth-to-Three contracted therapists and employees.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 707 pass?"

Senator Queen requested a ruling from the Chair as to whether he should be excused from voting under Rule 43 of the Rules of the Senate as his wife is a speech therapist.

The Chair replied that any impact on Senator Queen would be as a member of a class of persons and that he would be required to vote.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 707) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect July 1, 2025.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 707) takes effect July 1, 2025.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 718**, Relating to hospital transparency.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 722**, Creating WV Short Line Railroad Modernization Act.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 722 pass?"

Senator Martin requested a ruling from the Chair as to whether he should be excused from voting under Rule 43 of the Rules of the Senate as he could potentially benefit from the tax credit contained within the bill.

The Chair replied that any impact on Senator Martin would be as a member of a class of persons and that he would be required to vote.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: Tarr—1.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 722) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 724**, Relating to taxation.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 724) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Senate Bill 728**, Relating generally to transfer on death deed.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 728) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 739**, Relating to recovery residences.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 739) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 739) takes effect from passage.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 748**, Creating Safer Communities Act.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 748 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Taylor, Weld, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—25.

The nays were: Azinger, Martin, Maynard, Rose, Tarr, Thorne, Willis, and Woelfel—8.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 748) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 765**, Establishing Troops-to-Teachers Program.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 765 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 765) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 801**, Creating WV Public Waterway Access Act.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Taylor, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—30.

The nays were: Hamilton, Tarr, and Thorne—3.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 801) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.



**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 810**, Clarifying requirements for administration of anesthesia and chronic pain practice by certain licensed nurses.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 810) passed.

On motion of Senator Chapman, the following amendment to the title of the bill was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 810**—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-7-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying the qualifications required for the administration of anesthesia, permitting qualified registered nurse may administer anesthesia in cooperation with certain health care professionals; defining term; providing dentist holding specified permit may cooperate with certified registered nurse anesthetist; limiting liability; setting conditions in which a certified registered nurse anesthetist may perform acts; stating that certified registered nurse anesthetist does not have independent practice; setting forth approved titles; and requiring reporting.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 833**, Excluding pharmaceutical medication from prior authorization gold card process.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 833) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 833) takes effect from passage.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Senate Bill 837**, Eliminating WV Office of Equal Opportunity.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Senate Bill 837 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—29.

The nays were: Garcia, Oliverio, Willis, and Woelfel—4.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 837) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 874**, Permitting current home confinement officers to participate in Emergency Medical Services Retirement System.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 874) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect July 1, 2025.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 874) takes effect July 1, 2025.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 875**, Relating to container labeling of nonintoxicating beer and nonintoxicating craft beer.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 904**, Clarifying requirements for Commissioner of Bureau for Public Health.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—31.

The nays were: Grady and Weld—2.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 904) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Senate Bill 907**, Relating to high impact development projects.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—31.

The nays were: Hart and Willis—2.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 907) passed with its title.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. Senate Bill 940**, Relating to Water Pollution Control Act.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

**Eng. Senate Joint Resolution 16**, Homestead Exemption Increase Amendment.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its adoption.

On the adoption of the resolution, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the resolution (Eng. S. J. R. 16) adopted, as follows:

**Eng. Senate Joint Resolution 16**—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending section one-b, article X thereof, relating to homestead exemption increases; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

*Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia, two thirds of the members elected to each house agreeing thereto:*

That the question of ratification or rejection of an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia be submitted to the voters of the state at the next general election to be held in the year 2026, which proposed amendment is that section one-b, article X thereof, be amended to read as follows:

**ARTICLE X. TAXATION AND FINANCE. §1b. Property tax limitation and homestead exemption amendment of 1982.**

Ad valorem property taxation shall be in accordance with this section and other applicable provisions of this article not inconsistent with this section.

*SUBSECTION A — VALUE; RATE OF ASSESSMENT; EXCEPTIONS*

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution and except as otherwise provided in this section, all property subject to ad valorem taxation shall be assessed at 60 percent of its value, as directed to be ascertained in this section, except that the Legislature may, from time to time, by general law agreed to by two thirds of the members elected to each house, establish a higher percentage for the purposes of this paragraph, which percentage shall be uniform as to all classes of property defined in section one of this article, but not more than 100 percent of ~~such~~ the value.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, for July 1, 1982, and July 1 of each year thereafter, until the values may be fixed as a result of the first statewide reappraisal hereinafter required, assessments shall be made under the provisions of current statutory law, which is hereby validated for that purpose until and unless amended by the Legislature. Assessment and taxation in accord with this section ~~shall be deemed to be~~ is equal and uniform for all purposes.

*SUBSECTION B — DETERMINATION OF VALUE*

The Legislature shall provide by general law for periodic statewide reappraisal of all property, which reappraisal shall be related for all property to a specified base year which, as to each such reappraisal, shall be uniform for each appraisal for all classes of property and all counties. In such law, the Legislature shall provide for consideration of: (1) Trends in market values over a fixed period of years prior to the base year; (2) the location of the property; and (3) such other factors and methods as it may determine. ~~Provided, That~~ With respect to reappraisal of all property upon the base year of 1980, such reappraisals are deemed to be valid and in compliance with this section. ~~Provided, however, That~~ However, with respect to farm property, as defined, from time to time, by the Legislature by general law, the determination of value shall be according to its fair and reasonable value for farming purposes, as may be defined by general law.

The results of each statewide appraisal shall, upon completion, be certified and published and errors therein may be corrected, all as provided by general law. The first such statewide appraisal shall be completed, certified and published on or before March 31, 1985, for use when directed by the Legislature.

The Legislature shall further prescribe by general law the manner in which each statewide reappraisal shall be employed to establish the value of the various separately assessed parcels or interests in parcels of real property and various items of personal property subject to ad valorem property taxation, the methods by which increases and reductions in value subsequent to the base year of each statewide reappraisal shall be ascertained, and require the enforcement thereof.

*SUBSECTION C — GENERAL HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION*

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Constitution to the contrary, not less than the first ~~twenty thousand dollars~~ \$25,000 of assessed valuation of any real property, or of personal

property in the form of a mobile home, used exclusively for residential purposes and occupied by the owner or one of the owners thereof as his or her residence who is a citizen of this state and who is 65 years of age or older or is permanently and totally disabled as that term may be defined by the Legislature, shall be exempt from ad valorem property taxation, subject to ~~such~~ the requirements, limitations, and conditions as shall be prescribed by general law.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution to the contrary, the Legislature ~~shall have the authority to~~ may provide by general law for an exemption from ad valorem property taxation in an amount ~~not to exceed~~ not less than the first ~~twenty thousand dollars~~ \$25,000 of value of any real property, or of personal property in the form of a mobile home, used exclusively for residential purposes and occupied by the owner or one of the owners thereof as his or her residence who is a citizen of this state, and who is under 65 years of age and not totally and permanently disabled. Effective January 1, 2027, the Legislature has the authority to make any future modifications to the homestead exemption in general law. ~~Provided, That~~ Upon enactment of ~~such~~ the general law, this exemption shall only apply to ~~such~~ the property in any county in which the property was appraised at its value as of January 1, 1980, or thereafter, as determined by the Legislature, and this exemption shall be phased-in over ~~such~~ the period of time not to exceed five years from the date ~~such~~ the property was so appraised, or ~~such~~ longer time as the Legislature may determine by general law. ~~Provided, however, That~~ In no event ~~shall~~ is any one person and his or her spouse, or one homestead, ~~be~~ entitled to more than one exemption under these provisions. ~~Provided further, That~~ In addition, these provisions are subject to ~~such~~ the requirements, limitations, and conditions as shall be prescribed by general law.

The Legislature ~~shall have~~ has the authority to provide by general law for property tax relief to citizens of this state who are tenants of residential or farm property.

#### *SUBSECTION D — ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS ON VALUE*

With respect to the first statewide reappraisal, pursuant to this section, the resulting increase in value in each and every parcel of land or interest therein and various items of personal property subject to ad valorem property taxation over and above the previously assessed value shall be allocated over a period of ~~ten~~ 10 years in equal amounts annually. The Legislature may by general law also provide for the phasing in of any subsequent statewide reappraisal of property.

#### *SUBSECTION E — LEVIES FOR FREE SCHOOLS*

In equalizing the support of free schools provided by state and local taxes, the Legislature may require that the local school districts levy all or any portion of the maximum levies allowed under section one of this article which has been allocated to ~~such~~ the local school districts.

Within the limits of the maximum levies permitted for excess levies for schools or better schools in sections one and ten of this article, the Legislature may, in lieu of the exercise of such powers by the local school districts as heretofore provided, submit to the voters, by general law, a statewide excess levy, and if it ~~be~~ is approved by the required number of voters, impose ~~such~~ the levy, subject however to all the limitations and requirements for the approval of ~~such~~ the levies as in the case of a district levy. The law submitting the question to the voters shall provide, upon approval of the levy by the voters, for the assumption of the obligation of any local excess levies for schools then in force theretofore authorized by the voters of a local taxing unit to the extent of ~~such~~ the excess levies imposed by the state and so as to avoid double taxation of those local districts. The Legislature may also by general law reserve to the school districts ~~such~~ the portions of the power to lay authorized excess levies as it may deem appropriate to enable local school

districts to provide educational services which are not required to be furnished or supported by the state. If a statewide excess levy for the support of free schools is approved by the required majority, the revenue from such a statewide excess levy shall be deposited in the State Treasury and be allocated first for the local obligations assumed and thereafter for ~~such~~ the part of the state effort to support free schools, by appropriation or as the law submitting the levy to the voters shall require, as the case may be.

The defeat of any such proposed statewide excess levy for school purposes ~~shall~~ does not in any way abrogate or impair any local existing excess levy for ~~such~~ that purpose nor prevent the adoption of any future local excess levy for ~~such~~ that purpose.

*SUBSECTION F — IMPLEMENTATION*

In the event of any inconsistency between any of the provisions of this section and other provisions of this Constitution, the provisions of this section shall prevail. The Legislature shall have plenary power to provide by general law for the equitable application of this article and, as to taxes to be assessed prior to the first statewide reappraisal, to make ~~such~~ the laws retroactive to July 1, 1982, or thereafter.

*Resolved further*, That in accordance with the provisions of article eleven, chapter three, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, such amendment is hereby numbered "Amendment 1" and designated as the "Homestead Exemption Increase Amendment" and the purpose of the proposed amendment is summarized as follows: "The purpose of this amendment is to change the language relating to the amount of the Homestead Exemption from 'the first \$20,000' to 'not less than the first \$25,000' and to provide the Legislature to make further modifications to the Homestead Exemption in general law."

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*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

**Eng. House Bill 2387**, To repeal the class A1 Pistol stamp for hunting.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2411**, To provide and change graduation requirements and change duties relating to academic content standards.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—29.

The nays were: Hart, Maynard, Rucker, and Thorne—4.

Absent: Boley—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 2411) passed.

On motion of Senator Grady, the following amendment to the title of the bill was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2411**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring all West Virginia high school students to pass a minimum of one credit of computer science; defining computer science; allowing computer science credit to be earned in grades eight through twelve; establishing requirements for the classes; allowing computer science credit to substitute for one math credit or one personalized education plan credit; requiring the computer science credit to be approved for on credit in career technical education if the credit is relevant to the program of study; requiring computer science course if used to fulfil a math or science credit to be denoted as the equivalent of a high school math course or a high school science course, as applicable, on the student's transcript for certain purpose; requiring West Virginia Board of Education rules detailing how certain credit fulfillment is to be granted; requiring West Virginia Board of Education to make available to all public schools a list of course options that can meet the requirements for this computer science credit; and allowing the West Virginia Board of Education to adopt rules to administer the computer science credit provisions.

*Ordered*, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence therein.

The Senate proceeded to the ninth order of business.

**Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 531**, Relating to offenses of assault and battery on athletic officials.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 632**, Relating to surprise billing of out-of-network ambulance services.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 790**, Requiring quarterly reporting by certain water and wastewater utilities.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time.

On motion of Senator Rucker, the following amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

By striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:



## CHAPTER 8. MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

### ARTICLE 19. MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY WATERWORKS AND ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEMS.

#### §8-19-1a. Municipality or County Commission to Require Reporting and Training.

(a) The Legislature finds that municipal and county waterworks provide critical water utility services to West Virginians. Proper oversight by governing bodies and board member training are necessary to ensure financial accountability, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency.

(b) Any municipal governing body that is operating or has oversight of a waterworks system shall require that waterworks system to provide quarterly operational and financial reports to the governing body of the municipality.

(c) Any county commission with oversight of a waterworks system shall require that waterworks system to provide quarterly operational and financial reports to the county commission.

(d) *Continuing Education* – Any municipal governing body or county commission that is operating or has oversight of a waterworks system shall require all board members and senior managers of the municipal or county waterworks system to complete at least six hours of continuing education annually, focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best practices.

### ARTICLE 20. COMBINED SYSTEMS.

#### §8-20-1d. Municipality to Require Reporting and Training.

(a) The Legislature finds that combined municipal waterworks and sewerage systems provide critical utility services to West Virginians. Proper oversight by governing bodies and board member training are necessary to ensure financial accountability, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency.

(b) Any municipal governing body that is operating or that has oversight of a combined waterworks and sewerage system shall require the combined municipal waterworks and sewerage system to provide quarterly operational and financial reports to the governing body of the municipality.

(c) *Continuing Education* – Any municipal governing body that is operating or has oversight of a combined waterworks and sewerage system shall require all combined municipal waterworks and sewerage systems board members and senior management to complete at least six hours of continuing education annually, focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best practices.

## CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

### ARTICLE 13. SEWAGE WORKS AND STORMWATER WORKS.

#### §16-13-18b. Municipality to Require Reporting and Training.

(a) The Legislature finds that municipal sanitary boards provide critical wastewater utility services and may also provide stormwater service to West Virginians. Proper oversight by governing bodies and board member training are necessary to ensure financial accountability, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency.

(b) Any municipal governing body that is operating or that has oversight of a sewage or stormwater system supervised and controlled by a municipal sanitary board shall require the sanitary board to provide quarterly operational and financial reports to the governing body of the municipality.

(c) Continuing Education – A municipal governing body shall require all municipal sanitary board members and senior management to complete at least six hours of continuing education annually, focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best practices.

## **CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.**

### **ARTICLE 13A. PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICTS.**

#### **16-13A-1d. County Commission to Require Reporting and Training.**

(a) The Legislature finds that public service districts provide critical utility services to West Virginians, including water, sewer, and gas. Proper oversight by governing bodies and board member training are necessary to ensure financial accountability, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency.

(b) Any county commission that has created or established public service districts whose principal offices are within the county shall require every such public service district utility to provide quarterly operational and financial reports to the county commission.

(c) Continuing Education – Every county commission shall require all board members and senior managers of any public service district whose principal offices are within the county to complete at least six hours of continuing education annually, focusing on financial management, regulatory compliance, and operational best practices.

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 790), as amended, was then ordered to engrossment and third reading.

#### **Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 850, Creating Protecting Shareholders Act.**

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

#### **Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 869, Creating Corridor H Advanced Energy and Economic Corridor Authority.**

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading.

**Senate Bill 886**, Relating to Foster Child Bill of Rights.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 890**, Relating to auctioneers.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 892**, Relating to property valuation.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was referred to the Committee on Rules.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 916**, Recognizing authority of Agriculture Commissioner to intervene in matters that negatively affect agritourism.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading.

**Senate Bill 939**, Relating to testing for substance use disorder.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

**Eng. House Bill 2402**, Relating to providing access to medical records; providing access to a minor's medical record.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

**Eng. House Bill 2516**, To repeal antiquated and inoperative portions of code.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 3192**, To repeal obsolete, conflicting or inoperative provisions of code that pertain to higher education.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

The Senate proceeded to the tenth order of business.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 85**, Prohibiting use or sale of abortifacients.

On first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading.

**Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 585**, Relating to Cohen Craddock Student Athlete Safety Act.

On first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 911**, Relating to adjunct teaching permits.

On first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading.

The Senate proceeded to the twelfth order of business.

Remarks were made by Senator Maynard.

The Senate proceeded to the thirteenth order of business.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, a leave of absence for the day was granted Senator Boley.

Under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of the Senate, the following senators were added as co-sponsors to the following bills and resolution on March 28, 2025:

**Senate Bill 85:** Senator Bartlett;

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 531:** Senators Taylor and Helton;

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 701:** Senators Hamilton and Jeffries;

**Senate Bill 722:** Senator Hamilton;

**Senate Bill 724:** Senator Hamilton;

**Senate Bill 748:** Senator Hamilton;

And,

**Senate Joint Resolution 14:** Senator Hart.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12:39 p.m., the Senate adjourned until Monday, March 31, 2025, at 11 a.m.

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## **SENATE CALENDAR**

**Monday, March 31, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**

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### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 11:30 AM**

Consideration of executive nominations

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### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

S. R. 42 - Designating March 31, 2025, as WV Nurses Day

Com. Sub. for H. C. R. 78 - Urging the Commissioner of Highways to prioritize completion of I-73, the King Coal Highway

### **THIRD READING**

Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 506 - Relating to enhanced pay for certain teachers

Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 531 - Relating to offenses of assault and battery on athletic officials

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 632 - Relating to surprise billing of out-of-network ambulance services (original similar to HB3470, SB717)

Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 663 - Creating Fair Access to Financial Services Act

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 718 - Relating to hospital transparency

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 790 - Requiring quarterly reporting by certain water and wastewater utilities

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 869 - Creating Corridor H Advanced Energy and Economic Corridor Authority

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 875 - Relating to container labeling of nonintoxicating beer and nonintoxicating craft beer

Eng. S. B. 886 - Relating to Foster Child Bill of Rights

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 890 - Relating to auctioneers

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 916 - Recognizing authority of Agriculture Commissioner to intervene in matters that negatively affect agritourism

Eng. S. B. 940 - Relating to Water Pollution Control Act

Eng. H. B. 2387 - To repeal the class A1 Pistol stamp for hunting

Eng. H. B. 2516 - To repeal antiquated and inoperative portions of code.

Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 3192 - To repeal obsolete, conflicting or inoperative provisions of code that pertain to higher education

## **SECOND READING**

Com. Sub. for S. B. 67 - Allowing motor vehicle racing on county or municipal roads under certain circumstances

Com. Sub. for S. B. 85 - Prohibiting use or sale of abortifacients (original similar to HB2461)

Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 158 - Modifying eligibility requirements for serving as member of State Board of Education

S. B. 553 - Relating to offense of driving above speed limit on controlled access highway or interstate highway

Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 585 - Relating to Cohen Craddock Student Athlete Safety Act

Com. Sub. for S. B. 677 - Increasing fees charged by Commissioner of Securities for each offering

Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 701 - Classifying forestry equipment for levy purposes

Com. Sub. for S. B. 745 - Strengthening and reforming lobbying requirements

S. B. 828 - Clarifying requirements for persons employed by Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation include contracted vendor staff

Com. Sub. for S. B. 848 - Enacting bank protections for eligible adults from financial exploitation

Com. Sub. for S. B. 850 - Creating Protecting Shareholders Act

Com. Sub. for S. B. 911 - Relating to adjunct teaching permits

S. B. 939 - Relating to testing for substance use disorder

Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for H. B. 2043 - Relating to use of dog and/or drones for tracking or locating mortally wounded deer, elk, turkey, wild boar or bear

Eng. H. B. 2402 - Relating to providing access to medical records; providing access to a minor's medical record - (Com. amend. pending)

## **FIRST READING**

Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 730 - Establishing Forest Carbon Registry

Com. Sub. for S. B. 883 - Providing director of WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training discretion and authority in certain appointments

S. B. 941 - Clarifying authority regarding dams designed by US Conservation Service

S. B. 942 - Modifying requirements for diesel-powered equipment in mines

## **ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Regular Session 2025**

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#### **Monday, March 31, 2025**

9:30 a.m.	Education	(Room 451M)
9:30 a.m.	Government Organization	(Room 208W)