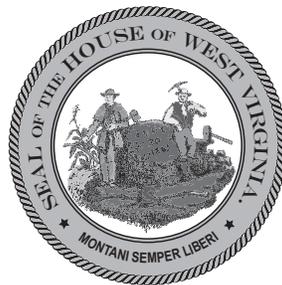


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February 5, 2026  
TWENTY-THIRD DAY



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Thursday, February 5, 2026

**TWENTY-THIRD DAY**

[DELEGATE HANSHAW, MR. SPEAKER, IN THE CHAIR]

The House of Delegates was called to order by the Honorable Roger Hanshaw, Speaker.

Prayer was offered and the House was led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of Wednesday, February 4, 2026, being the first order of business, when the further reading thereof was dispensed with and the same approved.

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, the House of Delegates proceeded to the Seventh Order of Business for the purpose of introducing a resolution.

**Resolutions Introduced**

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, reference of the resolution (H. R. 9) to a committee was dispensed with, and it was taken up for immediate consideration and adopted.

**By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Hornbuckle, Adkins, Akers, Amos, Anders, Anderson, Bell, Bridges, Brooks, Browning, Burkhammer, Butler, Campbell, D. Cannon, J. Cannon, Canterbury, Chiarelli, Clark, Clay, Cooper, Coop-Gonzalez, Criss, Crouse, Dean, Dillon, Dittman, Drennan, Eldridge, Ellington, Fehrenbacher, Ferrell, Flanigan, Fluharty, Foggin, Funkhouser, Garcia, Gearheart, Green, Hall, Hamilton, Hansen, Heckert, Hillenbrand, Hite, Holstein, Hornby, Horst, Hott, G. Howell, T. Howell, Jeffries, Jennings, Jordan, Kimble, Kump, Kyle, Leavitt, Lewis, Linville, Lucas, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Mazzocchi, McCormick, McGeehan, Miller, Moore, Parsons, Petitto, Phillips, Pinson, Pritt, Pushkin, Ridenour, Riley, Rohrbach, Roop, Shamblin, Sheedy, B. Smith, D. Smith, Statler, Stephens, Street, Toney, Vance, B Ward, G. Ward, Watt, White, Williams, Willis, Worrell, Young and Zatezalo:**

**H. R. 9** - "Honoring the life and public service of the Honorable Douglas John Skaff Jr. and expressing the condolences of the West Virginia House of Delegates on his passing."

WHEREAS, Doug Skaff, Jr. was a proud native of South Charleston, West Virginia, whose deep roots in the Kanawha Valley informed a lifetime of commitment to the betterment of his community and the State of West Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Doug was a graduate of West Virginia University and served as President of the Student Body, was the founder of the Mountaineer Maniacs, and co-founder of the WVUp All Night program; and

WHEREAS, He earned a bachelor's degree in marketing in 2000, a master's degree in industrial labor relations and business management in 2002, and an honorary degree in public service in 2012; and

WHEREAS, He first answered the call to public service in 2008, being elected to the House of Delegates to represent the 30th District, and later the 35th and 57th Districts, serving multiple terms characterized by energetic advocacy for economic development, energy initiatives, and the well-being of West Virginia families; and

WHEREAS, Doug rose to the position of Minority Leader of the House of Delegates, a role in which he demonstrated remarkable leadership, a keen legislative mind, and a unique ability to foster dialogue across the aisle in pursuit of the common good; and

WHEREAS, Beyond his legislative career, Doug was a dynamic businessman and entrepreneur, contributing to the state's economic landscape through his work in the building materials industry, Skaff family enterprises, and as a media executive, bringing the same passion to the private sector that he brought to the House Floor; and

WHEREAS, Doug was known for his infectious energy, his unwavering optimism, and his deep devotion to his family, being a loving husband to his wife, Marisa, a dedicated father to his three sons – Andrew, Elias, and Alexander; as a son to his parents, Doug, Sr, and Maryann, and brother to Teresa and Thomas; and

WHEREAS, His legacy will be remembered not only through the laws he helped craft but through the friendships he forged and the mentorship he provided to many who sought to serve the Mountain State; therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Delegates:*

That the House of Delegates hereby honors the life, service, and legacy of the Honorable Doug J. Skaff, Jr. and expresses its most sincere condolences to his family and friends; and, be it

*Further Resolved,* That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a certified copy of this resolution to be presented to the family of Doug Skaff, Jr. as a token of the high esteem in which his memory is held by the members of this body.

On the question of the adoption of the resolution, the yeas and nays were demanded, which demand was sustained. The yeas and nays having been ordered, they were taken (**Roll No. 49**), and there were—yeas 90, nays none, absent and not voting 9, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: J. Cannon, Dillon, Funkhouser, Jordan, Kump, McCormick, D. Smith, Vance and Zatezalo.

So, a majority of the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the resolution adopted.

Resolutions were introduced and severally referred as follows:

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, further reading of the resolutions was dispensed with and each resolution was considered as formally introduced and referred to the appropriate committees as indicated on the Chamber Automation System.

**By Delegates Heckert, Butler, Ferrell, Criss, Phillips, Foggin, Watt, Roop, Bridges and B Ward:**

**H. R. 10** —"Proposing approval of United States H.R. 5966, Ohio River Restoration Program Act, to bring clean water, enhanced fish and aquatic wildlife, economic benefits, and expanded recreation opportunities to West Virginia"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Rules.

**By Delegates G. Howell, Petitto, Adkins, Amos, Anderson, Bell, Brooks, Browning, Burkhammer, Butler, Campbell, D. Cannon, Canterbury, Chiarelli, Clay, Cooper, Criss, Crouse, Dittman, Drennan, Ellington, Fehrenbacher, Flanigan, Fluharty, Foggin, Funkhouser, Garcia, Green, Hansen, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Heckert, Hite, Holstein, Hornbuckle, Hornby, Horst, Hott, T. Howell, Jordan, Kimble, Kyle, Leavitt, Lewis, Linville, Lucas, Mallow, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Mazzocchi, McCormick, McGeehan, Miller, Moore, Parsons, Phillips, Pinson, Pritt, Ridenour, Riley, Rohrbach, Roop, Shamblin, Sheedy, D. Smith, Statler, Stephens, Toney, Vance, B Ward, G. Ward, Watt, White, Williams, Young and Zatezalo:**

**H. R. 11** —"Encouraging the West Virginia Division of Highways, in conjunction with the West Virginia Department of Tourism, to conduct a statewide K— 12 student design competition for a new West Virginia state highway route number shield as part of the celebration of the Nation's 250th Anniversary and the 100th Anniversary of the United States numbered highway system"; to the Committee on Rules,

And,

**By Delegates Dittman, Hamilton, Young, Petitto, T. Howell, White, Drennan, Moore, Kimble, Mazzocchi and Crouse:**

**H. R. 12** —"Declaring January 27, 2026, to be Sexual Violence Awareness Day in West Virginia"; to the Committee on Rules.

On motion for leave, a Joint Resolution was introduced and referred as follows:

**By Delegates Hornbuckle, Lewis, Garcia and Hansen:**

**H. J. R. 37** - " Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia amending article IV thereof by adding thereto a new section, designated section thirteen, relating to the possession, manufacture, and sale of cannabis by adults 21 years of age or older; the expungement of criminal records as it pertains to cannabis convictions; numbering and designating the proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment"; to the Committee on the Judiciary then Rules.

### **Committee Reports**

Delegate Akers, Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration:

**H. B. 4053**, To establish the blue envelope program,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4053** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by creating a new article and accompanying sections, designated 15-3G1, §15-3G-2, §15-3G-3, §15-3G4, §15-3G-5, and §15-3G-6, related to findings and establishing start date of the Blue Envelope Program; relating to establishing the "blue envelope" program; relating to establishing standards for storage, retention of information relating to a person's identity; relating to the prohibiting any person or entity from having the State Police verify any information contained on the envelope; and providing that No person or entity who in good faith follows and abides by the provisions of this article is liable for any civil or criminal penalty as the result of any act or omission in the furtherance thereof unless it is alleged and proven that the information disclosed was false and disclosed with the knowledge that the information was false,"

**H. B. 4179**, To create felony charge for individuals who assault police officers or police dogs,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4179** - "A Bill to repeal §19-20-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended relating to Causing death or injury to animals used by law-enforcement officials or by fire prevention or investigation officials; criminal penalties; and to amend and reenact §61-2-10b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the amend the criminal penalties for governmental representatives, health care providers, utility workers, law-enforcement officers, correctional employees and emergency medical service personnel; and to create §61-5-30 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended relating to creating the criminal penalties, fines, for the crime of Causing death or injury to animals used by law-enforcement officials or by fire prevention or investigation officials; and relating to creating the requirements and conditions for restitution and when it is owed when any trained dog or horse used by law-enforcement officials, the Department of Homeland Security or by fire prevention or investigation officials is harmed or killed including any veterinary bills, and replacement costs of any disabled or killed animal,"

**H. B. 4345**, Relating to the preservation of missing persons records and evidence,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4345** - "A BILL to amend and reenact §15-3D-3 and §15A-12-9 of the Code of West Virginia, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §15-3D-10, relating to preserving records and evidence in missing persons complaints that are unresolved after one year; creating definitions; mandating the creation of certain databases; requiring record and evidence retention; and requiring certain records be transmitted to the Fusion Center,"

**H. B. 4468**, Relating to confidentiality of court files and law-enforcement records,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4468** - "A BILL to amend and reenact §61-8B-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to confidentiality of court files and law-enforcement records; requiring the name and address of victims in criminal complaints of listed crimes is confidential; requiring redactions for disclosed criminal complaints; providing for waiver of confidentiality; providing exceptions for disclosures to certain governmental entities subject to the same confidentiality provisions; repealing provisions relating to court orders and subpoenas; and amending certain internal effective dates,"

**H. B. 4600**, Require all ballots for primary and general elections be received NOT LATER than the close of the polls on election day,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4600** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-3-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to voting by absentee; altering the timing of absentee voting periods to synchronize with early in person voting; and requiring absentee ballots mailed in to be received by 8:00 p.m. on the day of the election to be counted,"

And,

**H. B. 4893**, Increase the penalties for contempt of court in a magistrate court,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4893** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §50-5-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the penalties for contempt of court in magistrate court,"

With the recommendation that the committee substitutes each do pass.

Delegate Anderson, Chair of the Committee on Energy and Public Works, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Energy and Public Works has had under consideration:

**H. B. 4011**, Relating to facilitating the implementation of the certification of mass balance attribution by third party certifies to promote waste reduction practices by facilitating the use of recycled material in the feedstock for new products,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4011** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §22-15-2 and §22-15-5 the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to facilitating the implementation by DEP of the certification of mass balance attribution by a third party who certifies recycled content in products to promote waste reduction practices by facilitating the use of recycled material in the feedstock for new products; providing definitions of mass balance attribution, recycled material, recycled plastics, renewable biomass, and renewable chemical; requiring DEP to identify third party certification systems to be used for waste reduction programs through mass balance attribution; and providing for rulemaking,"

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Delegate Akers, Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration:

**H. B. 4749**, Relating to adding requirements to the foster child bill of rights,

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

### Messages from the Senate

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced the passage by the Senate, and requested the concurrence of the House of Delegates in the passage, of

**S. B. 155** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-3-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18A-3-2b, relating to allowing an adjunct teaching permit to be issued to an individual meeting certain specified requirements; permitting an individual with an adjunct teaching permit to be hired to fill a vacant teaching position, offer a new program or class, or to supplement a program currently being offered only if no other teacher holding certification in the subject area is available and accepts the position or assignment; providing that adjunct teacher permit is valid for one year and renewable if the teacher's performance meets a basic standard as determined by an evaluation; allowing adjunct teacher to be employed on a part-time or full-time basis; allowing the compensation to be any amount both the county board and the adjunct teacher agree to; providing that county board is not required to provide any type of employment benefit unless both the county board and the adjunct teacher agree to those benefits; requiring county board and the adjunct teacher enter into a contract; specifying what is to be included in the contract; allowing adjunct teacher to teach in any content area in which the individual is allowed to teach based on the individual's experience; requiring assignment of a teacher mentor; requiring adjunct teacher to complete certain training and education; prohibiting adjunct teacher from providing special education instruction; requiring each county board that employs an adjunct teacher to report certain information to the West Virginia Department of Education; requiring posting of adjunct teacher position; allowing notification of parents of a vacant adjunct teacher position; and requiring county board to announce any vacant adjunct teacher positions at its meetings"; which was referred to the Committee on Education.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced the passage by the Senate, and requested the concurrence of the House of Delegates in the passage, of

**Com. Sub. for S. B. 210** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16-29E-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding three new sections, designated §16-29E-9, §16-29E-10, and §16-29E-11, relating to modifying the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability's oversight provisions; defining terms; modifying the accountability requirements for certain state departments; requiring certain state departments to prepare performance plans and performance reports; and requiring annual legislative reports"; which was referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced the passage by the Senate, and requested the concurrence of the House of Delegates in the passage, of

**Com. Sub. for S. B. 532** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §30-9-2, §30-9-5, §30-9-7, §30-9-8, §30-9-10, §30-9-11, §30-9-16, and §30-9-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to certified public accountants; clarifying and updating definitions; modifying rule-making authority of the Board of Accountancy; updating education, examination, and experience requirements for certification; revising provisions on substantial equivalency practice privileges; and updating unlawful acts and disciplinary provisions applicable to licensees, firms, and substantial equivalency practitioners"; which was referred to the Committee on Finance.

### Bills Introduced

On motions for leave, bills were introduced and severally referred as follows:

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, further reading of the bills was dispensed with and each bill was considered as formally introduced and referred to the appropriate committees as indicated on the Chamber Automation System.

**By Delegates G. Howell, Ellington, Canterbury, Hornby, Dittman, Parsons, Rohrbach, Drennan, Shamblin, Jeffries and Maynor:**

**H. B. 5200** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5B-2P-1 and §5B-2P-2, relating to the creation of an Office of Entrepreneurship within the Office of the Secretary of State; to provide for a report to the legislature; to authorize an increase in full-time employees; to provide an appropriation; and to authorize rulemaking"; to the Committee on Government Organization then Finance.

**By Delegates Clay and Pritt:**

**H. B. 5201** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-3-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to traffic signs, signals and markings; providing the public 48 hours' notice of construction traffic changes; and providing an exception for emergency construction traffic changes"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

**By Delegate Linville:**

**H. B. 5202** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §22-36-1, §22-36-5, §22C-1-2, §22C-1-3, §22C-1-5, §22C-1-6, §22C-1-17, §22C-1-22, §22C-2-1, §22C-2-5, §24-1-1, §24-2H-8, §31-15A-4, §31-15A-9 and §31-15A-17c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §22C-1-7a, relating to permitting access to funding for public water utilities subject to the Public Service Commission's jurisdiction; providing definitions; providing legislative findings; permitting Water Development Authority to make loans and grants to public utilities, including non-governmental public utilities, pursuant to loan agreements; establishing rights and remedies with respect to enforcing loan agreement with public utilities; establishing powers of Water Development Authority with respect to non-governmental public utilities; authorizing rulemaking with respect to Water Development Authority; requiring maintenance of public utilities; permitting public utilities to lease, grant, or convey to the Water Development Authority any real property or interests; establishing procedures related to collection of money due to the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund; establishing requirements to ensure adequate cash and working capital related to funding; authorizing rulemaking; directing funding consideration for certain for-profit project sponsors under certain circumstances; permitting access to Distressed Utilities Account for public utilities under certain circumstances; and directing the Water Development Authority to make loans or grants from the Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account to a project sponsor under certain circumstances"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

**By Delegates Chiarelli, Crouse, McGeehan, Moore, Rohrbach, Phillips, Hornby, Butler, Holstein, Funkhouser and Maynor:**

**H. B. 5203** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to forbidding a municipality from issuing an ID for the purposes of voting in a municipal election"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegate Lewis:**

**H. B. 5204** - "A Bill to amend and reenact the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-8-1b, relating to establishing the Child Captivity Prevention Act, to assure home schooled children moving to the state are not subject to abuse or neglect; providing for notice to Department of Human Services; providing for an in-home visit; and assuring confidentiality and due process"; to the Committee on Education.

**By Delegates Stephens, Campbell, Pritt and Bell:**

**H. B. 5205** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-2-47; and to amend said code by adding four new sections, designated §18-5-55, §18-5-56, §18-5-57, §18-5-58, and §18-5-59, all relating to the creation of the West Virginia Balance Act; providing for artificial intelligence standards; setting forth definitions; setting forth a county board of education policy for the use of artificial intelligence; creating definitions for artificial intelligence; providing resources for a student with a technology-related learning difficulty; and creating an AI sandbox course"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

**By Delegates Ferrell, Phillips, T. Howell, Brooks, Hall and Shamblin:**

**H. B. 5206** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-6-26, relating to unlawful panhandling and solicitation; exempting fire departments; and providing misdemeanor penalties"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Ferrell, Crouse, Eldridge, Sheedy, McGeehan, Chiarelli, T. Howell, Mallow and Akers:**

**H. B. 5207** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §7-10-2, §7-10-4, §19-20-22, and §61-8-19, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding four new sections, designated §7-10-1a, §19-20-12a, §61-8-19d, and §61-8-19e, relating generally to providing increased protections for the welfare of domestic animals; requiring facilities for the care of stray, abandoned, and surrendered animals and providing for access by the public; defining terms; updating the duties of humane officers; defining an owner's duty of care for companion animals; requiring an owner to confine unspayed female dogs in estrus; increasing the penalty for a second offence of cruelty to animals; defining the criminal offenses of unlawful confinement of domestic animals and hoarding of animals; establishing criminal penalties; and providing for mental health treatment in certain circumstances involving hoarding of animals"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Anders, Kump and Dillon:**

**H. B. 5208** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §49-13-1, §49-13-2, §49-13-3, §49-13-4, §49-13-5, §49-13-6, §49-13-7, §49-13-8, §49-13-9, §49-13-10, §49-13-11, and §49-13-12, relating to child protective services; establishing the Child Protective Services Due Process and Child Protection Act; clarifying that child abuse and neglect matters are governed exclusively by this article; requiring heightened burdens of proof; mandating sworn testimony; prohibiting administrative or 'safety plan' removals; guaranteeing the right to counsel; establishing clear evidentiary standards; protecting against poverty-based removals;; creating penalties for misconduct; and providing transparency and oversight"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Eldridge, Holstein, Mazzocchi, Chiarelli, McGeehan, Kimble, Worrell, Dittman, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Akers and Maynor:**

**H. B. 5209** - "A Bill A BILL to amend and reenact §15-2C-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend and reenact the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding

a new article, designated §15-17-1, §15-17-2, §15-17-3, and §15-17-4, relating to the creation and administration of an animal abuse registry"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker) and Hornbuckle**

**[By Request of the Executive]:**

**H. B. 5210** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §22-36-1, §22-36-3, §22-36-4, §22-36-5, §22C-1-3, §22C-1-4, §22C-1-5, §22C-1-6a, §22C-1-8, §22C-2-1, §22C-2-3, §22C-2-4, §22C-2-5, §24-2H-1, §24-2H-3, §24-2H-4, §24-2H-5, §24-2H-6, §24-2H-7, §24-2H-8, §31-15A-1, §31-15A-2, §31-15A-3, §31-15A-10, §31-15A-13, and §31-15A-17, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding eight new sections, designated §22C-1-5a, §24-2H-3a, §24-2H-3b, §24-2H-3c, §24-2H-4a, §24-2H-7a, §31-15A-3a, and §31-15A-9a, relating to comprehensive reform of the state's water infrastructure systems; granting the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection administrative authority over the West Virginia Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund and the Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund; renaming the Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council the Water Development and Infrastructure Council; eliminating the Water Development Authority Board and shifting its responsibilities to the Water Development and Infrastructure Council; allowing private utilities to be eligible for low-interest loans through the Water Development Authority, so long as the issuance of loans to public utilities are prioritized; renaming the Distressed and Failing Utilities Improvement Act the Distressed and Failing Water and Wastewater Utilities Improvement Act; requiring mandatory reporting to municipal governing bodies and county commissions; requiring initial and renewed training for municipal governing bodies and county commissions overseeing public water and/or wastewater utilities; designating water and wastewater regions across the state; authorizing utilities to enter into Regional Cooperative Agreements, which shall include and encourage shared resources, and which should afford the participating utilities with benefits, such as relaxed regulatory requirements; creating a voluntary Early Intervention Pilot Program which shall afford six to 10 public water and wastewater utilities with an opportunity to address critical matters before the utilities end up on the distressed and failing utilities watch list; modifying the process for placing public water and wastewater utilities on the watch list for water and wastewater utilities; establishing a mandatory improvement period for public water and wastewater utilities on the watch list for distressed and failing utilities; authorizing the Public Service Commission to order utilities which are exempt from being ordered to acquire a distressed or failing utility to enter into a memorandum of understanding to ensure that the distressed or failing utility continues to properly function while the Public Service Commission identifies an alternative acquiring utility; codifying the Consolidation Committee on the Water Development and Infrastructure Council, which allows for considering whether voluntary consolidation would improve an infrastructure project; establishing new guidelines for the use of state funds, which addresses when a public water or wastewater utility seeking funding is in substantial noncompliance with state regulations; requiring guidelines for determining when to fund projects that include line extensions, and authorizing public water utilities to obtain use contracts with potential new customers before obtaining funding; allowing public water and wastewater utilities to seek a waiver of a preliminary engineering report prior to obtaining a recommendation to seek funding; requiring the Water Development Authority to work with public water and wastewater utilities to rectify any issues which may prevent the utility from being eligible for state funding for infrastructure projects; and updating definitions in accordance with the changes made throughout"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

**By Delegates Moore, Jeffries, Chiarelli, Leavitt, Phillips, Linville, Dittman and Drennan:**

**H. B. 5211** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-34 and §17B-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to elections and driver's licenses and identification cards; clarifying

when a license or identification card is not valid to vote; and requiring certain identification cards to be stamped with an NC for noncitizen"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Ellington, Statler, Shamblin, Hornby, D. Smith, Toney, Campbell, Miller, Martin, Mallow and Jennings:**

**H. B. 5212** - "A Bill to repeal §18B-3D-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §18B-3D-1, §18B-3D-2, §18B-3D-3, §18B-3D-4, §18B-3D-5, and §18B-3D-6 of said code; to amend and reenact §18C-3-1 and §18C-3-3 of said code; to amend and reenact §18C-5-6 and §18C-5-7 of said code; to amend and reenact §18C-7-6 of said code; and to amend and reenact §18C-9-3 and §18C-9-5, all relating generally to higher education grants, scholarships, loans, and financial aid for postsecondary education programs, workforce development initiatives, and workforce grants; amending the learn and earn grant program to allow block grants and to redefine administrative costs; 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; amending the higher education grant program by allowing part-time enrollment and combining the higher education adult part-time student grant with the higher education grant; amending the higher education adult part-time student grant program by renaming and reorganizing it into the higher education workforce grant program; amending the PROMISE scholarship program requirements; amending the WV invests grant program requirements and redefining eligible post-secondary program; and making technical changes"; to the Committee on Education.

**By Delegate Heckert:**

**H. B. 5213** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §27-5-1b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to expanding the involuntary commitment process pilot program"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegate Heckert:**

**H. B. 5214** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-4-604 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to drug testing of parents who have had abuse and/or neglect claims substantiated against them prior to reunification"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegate Jeffries:**

**H. B. 5215** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §19-25-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to limiting landowner liability for the purpose of operation of all-terrain vehicles"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegate Jeffries:**

**H. B. 5216** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section §16-4C-8a; and to amend and reenact §33-25A-8d of said code; relating to community paramedicine programs; authorizing emergency medical services agencies to establish community paramedicine programs; defining program requirements; and permitting health insurance coverage for community paramedicine services"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Hillenbrand, Moore, Dittman, Akers, Holstein and Heckert:**

**H. B. 5217** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-6-4a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to write-in candidates; and providing for a filing fee for a write-in candidate"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Akers, Holstein, Ridenour and Heckert:**

**H. B. 5218** - "A Bill to amend §3-8-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, providing that the Secretary of State shall notify a respondent of an election law complaint, and that the respondent shall provide a response within 10 business days"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Moore and Ridenour:**

**H. B. 5219** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §3-2-2a, relating to defining residence for the purpose of registration and voting in West Virginia"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Moore, Akers and Ridenour:**

**H. B. 5220** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-37 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying persons permitted to be present in a polling place during an election period for non-voting activities that normally occur at that location"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Hillenbrand, Moore, Dittman and Heckert:**

**H. B. 5221** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-8-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to regulation and control of elections; increasing the civil penalties for failure to file required campaign finance reports, or filing grossly incomplete or grossly inaccurate campaign finance reports, from \$10 per day to a maximum of \$500 for the first violation, and \$1,000 per report for each subsequent violation; requiring notice to be provided to any political committees violating the filing requirements prior to assessing any civil fines; giving the Secretary of State authority to grant additional time for compliance not to exceed an additional 14 days; authorizing the Secretary of State to negotiate and enter into settlement agreements for payment of the civil penalty, including but not limited to, entering into an installment payment plan; and requiring the Secretary of State to refer any civil penalties that remain outstanding for a period greater than 30 days to a debt collection agency or similar other responsible agent for collection"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser and Akers:**

**H. B. 5222** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §59-1-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, providing for an increase service of process fees and fees in shipping and handling expenses for execution of service of process by certified mail upon any defendant and providing for certain exemptions for foreign veteran-owned businesses"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Akers and Heckert:**

**H. B. 5223** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-8-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring contact information for the chair of a political committee; and adding to the statement of organization an acknowledgment of legal compliance with campaign finance reporting requirements"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Martin, Heckert, Holstein and Ridenour:**

**H. B. 5224** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, to amend said code by adding a new article, designated §11-13NN-1, §11-13NN-2, §11-13NN-3, §11-13NN-4, §11-13NN-5, §11-13NN-6 and §11-13NN-7, relating to creating a personal income tax credit for

election officials in West Virginia; providing findings and purpose; providing definitions; providing nonrefundable tax credit for election officials against personal income tax in a taxable year; providing for a tax credit limitation of \$100 per election and \$200 per taxable year; providing that the tax credit for election officials must be used in the taxable year and cannot be carried forward; providing for documentation of eligibility for the tax credit; providing requirements for the documentation evidencing eligibility for the tax credit; providing that documentation must be sent to the Tax Commission and the Secretary of State; providing for reporting at certain time; providing for rule-making authority; and providing an effective date"; to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Martin, Heckert, Holstein and Ridenour:**

**H. B. 5225** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §61-16-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prohibiting any person to operate an unmanned aerial vehicle over a polling place on election day"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Moore, Ridenour, Heckert and Martin:**

**H. B. 5226** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-5-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, providing that in no case may a fee paid under this section be returned to the candidate"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Moore, Hillenbrand, Ridenour and Heckert:**

**H. B. 5227** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §59-1-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, providing for the amount the Secretary of State may charge under this section for a bad check fee; allowing the Secretary of State to waive late fees; providing for a veteran-owned business logotype"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Akers, Holstein, Ridenour, Heckert and Martin:**

**H. B. 5228** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-9-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying the definition of electioneering; describing certain prohibited electioneering information or activity; exempting from the definition of 'electioneering' certain activity and materials; permitting certain persons to enforce election laws and maintain law and order inside the prohibited zone; and permitting certain persons to seek assistance from law-enforcement officer"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser and Ridenour:**

**H. B. 5229** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §46-9-516a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to filing of a fraudulent financing statement; filing of an affidavit and notice to secured parties; investigative powers of the Secretary of State; and removing outdated provisions of code"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Moore, Shamblin, Dittman, Petitto, Pritt, Kyle, Hite, Jeffries, Phillips and Campbell:**

**H. B. 5230** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2-33 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to changing the awards and benefits to dependents of State Police officers who must take disability retirement to better match the awards and benefits of the dependents of State Police retirants who serve 20 years without disability retirement"; to the Committee on Finance.

**By Delegates Moore, Petitto, Pritt, Kimble, Hite, Jeffries, Phillips, Campbell and Drennan:**

**H. B. 5231** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-4A-1 and §3-4A-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring separate voting equipment to be used for training purposes only; and restricting use of voting equipment that has been tested and sealed prior to any election"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5232** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §30-29-16, relating to the establishment of the Police Partnering With Communities Act; providing for a short title; providing for legislative findings; defining terms; providing for the establishment of the Police Partnering With Communities Fund; and providing for an effective date"; to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.

**By Delegate Hornbuckle:**

**H. B. 5233** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16-19-3, §16-19-4, and §16-19-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to living anatomical gifts; providing definition; establishing who may make a living anatomical gift and for what purposes; and establishing requirements for obtaining consent of the donor to make the gift"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Moore, Funkhouser, Horst, Dittman, Shamblin, Petitto, Pritt, Kimble, Hite, Jeffries and Phillips:**

**H. B. 5234** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-3-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to absentee voting; and requiring certain information be included on a form and inserted into the envelope with an absentee ballot returned by a qualified absentee voter, which information is sufficient for election officials to confirm the voter's identity with a high degree of confidence without publishing the voter's personal information or signature image"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Moore, Dittman, Shamblin, Petitto, Pritt, Kyle, Hite, Jeffries, Phillips and Campbell:**

**H. B. 5235** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-15-9s of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to updating the back-to-school sales tax holiday amount"; to the Committee on Finance.

**By Delegates Moore, Dittman, Petitto, Pritt, Kimble, Hite, Phillips, Campbell and Drennan:**

**H. B. 5236** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §3-4A-13a, relating to electronic voting systems; requiring county commission inspections and secretary of state audits of ballot tabulation equipment to ensure compliance with state law prohibition against any connectivity to the internet; and requiring reports of the inspections and audits"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle, Lewis and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5237** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §21A-8-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to maintaining the solvency of the Unemployment Compensation Fund; providing a mechanism for the Governor to borrow funds from the Revenue Shortfall Reserve Fund for a limited period and deposit those funds into the Unemployment Compensation Fund if the balance of the Unemployment Compensation Fund drops below \$50 million"; to the Committee on Finance.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5238** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-25A-1, §16-25A-2, and §16-25A-3, relating to screening for adverse childhood experiences; providing for a definition and setting forth legislative findings; and setting forth terms for mandatory insurance coverage and school coverage"; to the Committee on Finance.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle, Lewis and Hansen:**

**H. B. 5239** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-4-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to raising the state minimum salary schedule for teachers; and raising the state minimum salary for teachers to \$50,000"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

**By Delegate Hornbuckle:**

**H. B. 5240** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-16-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing a temporary foreign brewers import license"; to the Committee on Government Organization then Finance.

**By Delegate Hornbuckle:**

**H. B. 5241** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §33-16-3g and §33-24-7b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend said code by adding 7 new sections, designated §5-16-7h, §16-5A-6, §33-15-4y, §33-16-3pp, §33-24-7z, §33-25-8w, and §33-25A-8z, all relating to insurance coverage for breast cancer screening"; to the Committee on Finance.

**By Delegate Hornbuckle:**

**H. B. 5242** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §33-13-25, §33-14-8, §33-15-1b, §33-15A-6, and §33-25-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend said code by adding new section, designated §33-16-11a, relating to prohibiting an insurer from declining or limiting coverage on a person under any life insurance policy, major medical coverage policy, disability insurance policy, or long-term care insurance policy solely due to the status of that person as a living organ donor"; to the Committee on Finance.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5243** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §60-4-3a and §60-7-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing a bar to purchase liquor from a distillery or a mini-distillery if it is within 10 miles of the distillery or mini-distillery and the liquor was made at the distillery or mini-distillery"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates McCormick, Dittman, D. Cannon, Kyle, Browning and Hornby:**

**H. B. 5244** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18B-3D-9, relating to allowing the baccalaureate state colleges and universities to implement the Learn and Earn Program for a two-year pilot period"; to the Committee on Education.

**By Delegate Hornbuckle:**

**H. B. 5245** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18C-1-4a, relating to creating the 'Governor's Cup Challenge' to provide scholarships for high school student-athletes who participated in high school athletic extracurricular activities but did not receive an athletic scholarship to an in-state institution of higher education, and who are pursuing an education at the institution"; to the Committee on Education.

**By Delegate Hornbuckle:**

**H. B. 5246** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-15a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the fines for conviction of assault or battery of athletic officials"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle and Lewis:**

**H. B. 5247** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18A-5-9, relating to establishing a pilot program to develop school-based mental and behavioral health services as an alternative to disciplinary action for disruptive student behavior"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle and Lewis:**

**H. B. 5248** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding two new sections, designated §18-2-47 and §18-5-55; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §18C-10-1, §18C-10-2, §18C-10-3, §18C-10-4, and §18C-10-5, relating to creating a statewide initiative to promote teacher preparation programs aimed at underrepresented groups; providing that the West Virginia State Board of Education will create an initiative for this purpose; providing that county boards of education in this state will create initiatives for this purpose; establishing a scholarship fund and providing for funding; providing for definitions; setting forth criteria for the scholarship; and enacting the scholarship"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle, Lewis and Hansen:**

**H. B. 5249** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-31-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to limiting the use of state funding under the Hope Scholarship Program for out-of-state private schools and providers"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5250** - "A Bill to amend §4-1-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to legislative business for members and designated employees; and clarifying that the legislature cannot impede the judiciary's duties to assure the fair administration of justice when it or a member of a legislative body is a party in a proceeding relating to legislative actions"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Pushkin, Hansen and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5251** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16B-17-2, §16B-17-3, §16B-17-4, §16B-17-8, §16B-17-9, §16B-17-13, §16B-18-3, §16B-18-5, §16B-18-6, and §16B-18-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to unlawful discriminatory practices in categories covered by the Human Rights Act and the Fair Housing Act; prohibiting discrimination based upon age and sexual orientation, or gender identity; and defining 'sexual orientation' and 'gender identity'"; to the Committee on Government Organization then the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5252** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §1-2-2a, relating to creating the Independent Redistricting Commission of the Joint Committee on Government and Finance; establishing the Redistricting Commission's purpose and composition; providing qualifications and appointment procedure for commission members; establishing a process for filling commission vacancies; establishing that commission members are not to receive compensation; providing for approved reimbursement of commission member expenses; providing for payment of necessary equipment and materials; requiring the commission to acquire appropriate information; requiring the commission to develop programs

and procedures to draw congressional and legislative redistricting plans on the basis of the federal census; to prepare congressional and legislative redistricting; requiring the commission plan and propose congressional and legislative districts; providing specific criteria that the redistricting office must observe in proposing district mappings; requiring the redistricting office to advertise a proposed draft map of districts to the public; requiring a period for public comment on the proposed redistricting plan; providing for members of the Legislature to make inquiries about the commission's methodology or proposed redistrict mapping; requiring the commission to publish a report and final proposals for district boundaries; requiring a recommended redistricting plan to the Legislature including identical bills for consideration by the House and Senate; requiring the full Legislature to vote on plan ratification; providing for subsequent submissions of plans and vote by Legislature; requiring that commission certify to the Secretary of State that its final proposal for district boundaries is in accordance with Constitutional and legal requirements; and prohibiting certain persons from influencing or attempting to influence district mapping proposals of the redistricting office; and providing for completion of the commission's work with certain exceptions"; to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.

**By Delegate Pushkin:**

**H. B. 5253** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2C-1, §15-2C-3, §15-2C-4 and §15-2C-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §15-2C-2a, relating to creating a domestic violence registry; providing a purpose; directing the Criminal Identification Bureau of the West Virginia State Police to establish and maintain the registry; providing for confidential inquiry of persons on the registry; establishing criteria for placement on and releasing information from the registry; requiring prosecuting attorneys to provide certain information; and defining terms"; to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.

**By Delegate Pushkin:**

**H. B. 5254** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding two new sections, designated §16-1-23 and §16-1-23a, relating to social determinants of health; establishing the Minority Health Advisory Team, including its composition and duties; authorizing a Community Health Equity Initiative Demonstration Project; authorizing the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health to establish a Community Health Equity Initiative Demonstration Project; establishing eligibility requirements; providing for the administration of the demonstration project; establishing requirements for a demonstration project plan and the selection of communities for participation; establishing reporting requirements; and establishing the date on which the demonstration project terminates"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

**By Delegate Pushkin:**

**H. B. 5255** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article designated §46A-6O-1, §46A-6O-2, §46A-6O-3, §46A-6O-4, §46A-6O-5, §46A-6O-6, §46A-6O-7, §46A-6O-8, §46A-6O-9, and §46A-6O-10, relating to placing upon the manufacturers of manufactured homes the duty to meet their obligations and responsibilities under the terms of the express warranties extended to the consumers in this state; and providing consumers additional remedies to enforce the warranties"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegate Pushkin:**

**H. B. 5256** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-10Q-2, §18-10Q-3, and §21-5C-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to repeal §18-10Q-4 and §18-10Q-5, relating to wages of persons with disabilities; initiating a State 'Employment First Policy' to facilitate integrated employment of disabled persons; providing legislative findings; establishing a taskforce to develop

a State Employment First Policy; providing for implementation of the State Employment First Policy; and removing the exemption from paying minimum wages to disabled persons working in nonprofit workshops"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5257** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-20-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing language requiring specific appropriations in order for the State Board of Education, State Department of Education, and the State Superintendent of Schools to provide education to children and adults housed in correctional facilities and regional jails"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5258** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-913 and §49-5-106 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding a new section, designated §49-2-914; relating to the juvenile justice reform oversight committee and averted costs reinvestment; creating a juvenile justice account and providing its purpose, funding and disbursements; requiring new data to be collected and compiled to allow calculation of juvenile recidivism and the outcome of programs and making this information available to the public"; to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5259** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16A-3-2 and §16A-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §16A-5-11, relating to the cultivation of medical cannabis; and allowing patients and their caregivers to cultivate medical cannabis for patients' personal consumption"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Eldridge, Flanigan, Pritt, Dean, Stephens, B. Smith, Hott, Statler, Worrell, Amos and Masters:**

**H. B. 5260** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16A-3-2, §16A-3-3, §16A-8-1, and §60A-9-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to medical cannabis; modifying allowable forms of medical cannabis to include edible form; specifying certain requirements applicable to medical cannabis dispensed in edible form; modifying the unlawful use of medical cannabis; relating to the controlled substance monitoring database; adding the reporting of dispensing medical cannabis to the controlled substance monitoring database; and relating to certain required information for controlled substances monitoring"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5261** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §60A-7-703 and §60A-7-705 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend the code by adding twelve new sections, designated §60A-7-702a, §60A-7-703a, §60A-7-703b, §60A-7-709, §60A-7-710, §60A-7-711, §60A-7-712, §60A-7-713, §60A-7-714, §60A-7-715, §60A-7-716, and §60A-7-717; and to repeal §60A-7-704, §60A-7-705a, §60A-7-706, §60A-7-707, and §60A-7 relating to forfeiture of contraband; establishing criminal forfeiture and the items and property subject to forfeiture; setting forth additional procedures for forfeiture; establishing dates; permitting a court to waive a conviction requirement; protecting innocent owners; permitting seizure of personal property with and without process; providing that there are no additional remedies and no joint and severable liability; establishing title; setting forth the disposition of forfeited property and proceeds; establishing prohibition on retaining property; establishing sales restrictions, return of property, damages, and costs;

permitting the transfer of forfeited property to the federal government; providing for preemption; and defining terms"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5262** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-24-11c, relating to providing a tax credit for obtaining certain certifications by the United States Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design green building rating system or the Green Globes Building Initiative green building rating standard; setting forth the amount of the credit; establishing who may take the credit; establishing the amount of the credit; establishing the criteria for taking the credit; providing rule-making authority; and defining terms"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5263** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §33-6B-3, §33-20-3 and §33-20-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the use of credit scores and reports for insurance ratings and declinations; prohibiting the number of inquiries reflected in a credit report or credit score report from adversely affecting an application for insurance; limiting the use of a credit score to banking institution credit scoring for casualty insurance rate filings; prohibiting reliance on information which is false or potentially false; and limiting the use of a credit score in casualty insurance rate filings"; to the Committee on Finance.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5264** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31D-18-1801, §31D-18-1802, §31D-18-1803, §31D-18-1804, and §31D-18-1805, relating to establishing workers cooperative corporations; providing a short title; providing legislative findings and purpose; defining terms; requiring certain articles and conditions for workers cooperative corporations; and providing criteria for their dissolution"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Pushkin and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5265** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-9A-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to calculation of the school aid formula based on net enrollment at alternative and year-round schools"; to the Committee on Education.

**By Delegate Pushkin:**

**H. B. 5266** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §9-5-34, relating to the West Virginia Medicaid program; and requiring West Virginia Medicaid managed care organizations to contract with any otherwise qualified provider"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then Finance.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle and Lewis:**

**H. B. 5267** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §15A-3-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring correctional facilities to assist juvenile and adult offenders to obtain a Social Security number and card, a birth certificate, and a driver's license"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle and Garcia:**

**H. B. 5268** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18B-23-1, §18B-23-2, §18B-23-3, and §18B-23-4, relating to creating the Mountaineer Games Sports League; establishing findings; establishing board of directors; creating duties and objectives for the board; establishing league affiliates; creating structure for

the divisions; and creating the Mountaineer Games Governor's Cup"; to the Committee on Education then Government Organization.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle, Lewis and Hansen:**

**H. B. 5269** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-13NN-1, relating to creating 'The Young Professional Tax Credits' for student loans; and allowing tax credits for student loans for graduates between ages 18 and 40, together with a refundable child care credit"; to the Committee on Finance.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle and Lewis:**

**H. B. 5270** - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-2-47, relating to requiring public high schools to have full-time athletic trainers"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle and Lewis:**

**H. B. 5271** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-4-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to granting full time employees of county boards of education three months of paid leave following the birth of a child, or the placement of a child in the home through adoption or foster care; and providing that the leave is in addition to any other leave available to the employee"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

**By Delegates Hornbuckle, Lewis and Hansen:**

**H. B. 5272** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §29-31-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the state resiliency and flood protection plan act; providing legislative findings; raising the amount of money for the Flood Fund to \$250 million; and allocating money to the Flood Fund from the Revenue Shortfall Fund and Tax Reserve Fund"; to the Committee on Government Organization then Finance.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Akers, Hillenbrand and Heckert:**

**H. B. 5273** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-8-5b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to campaign financial statements by candidates for municipal office; requiring candidates for municipal offices to file campaign financial statements with the county clerk; and requiring all financial reports for all elected offices to be published online by the filing officer within 48 hours of the close of the filing period"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Hillenbrand and Ridenour:**

**H. B. 5274** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §29-19-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to enforcement and penalties; and allowing the Secretary of State administer oaths and affirmations, issue subpoenas, involve the aid of the circuit court in the execution of its subpoena power, and request legal and investigative assistance from the Attorney General, when investigating a charitable organization, professional fund-raising counsel or professional solicitor"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Delegates Funkhouser, Akers, Ridenour and Martin:**

**H. B. 5275** - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-3-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to voting by absentee; and providing the circumstances that a qualified voter is authorized to vote an absentee ballot by mail"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Special Calendar****Third Reading**

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4606**, Relating to the meaning of residence for the purpose of bail; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 50**), and there were—yeas 92, nays 2, absent and not voting 5, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Lewis and Pushkin.

Absent and Not Voting: Jordan, Kump, McCormick, D. Smith and Vance.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for H. B. 4606) passed.

On motion of Delegate Akers, the title of the bill was amended to read as follows:

**“H. B. 4606** — A Bill to amend and reenact §62-1C-1a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to bail; requiring that judicial officers consider the residency status of a person charged with a criminal violation in determining bail and conditions of pretrial release; clarifying certain requirements for the a judicial officer in determining good cause under the section; clarifying that a magistrate may not release a defendant charged with a felony offense on his or her own recognizance; and clarifying that the determination of whether to release a person, fix bail or impose reasonable conditions of release requires a judicial officer to consider the person's status as a resident of West Virginia and/or of the United States of America.”

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

**H. B. 4696**, Authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to deposit funds granted pursuant to federal programs; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 51**), and there were—yeas 94, nays none, absent and not voting 5, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: Jordan, Kump, McCormick, D. Smith and Vance.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4696) passed.

On motion of Delegate Anderson, the title of the bill was amended to read as follows:

**H. B. 4696** — “A BILL to amend and reenact §22-2-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to deposit grant money available pursuant to federal programs into certain funds; authorizing the deposit of federal money from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the federal Safeguarding Treatment for the Restoration of Ecosystems from Abandoned Mines Act into the state Acid Mine

Drainage Abatement and Treatment Fund and the state Reclamation and Restoration Fund; and authorizing generally any other federal abandoned mine land reclamation money to be deposited into any other state abandoned mine land reclamation fund established under state law”.

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

### Second Reading

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4012**, Relating to reducing the regulatory burden on utility companies when constructing and maintaining electric power generation and transmission facilities within this state; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, the bill was postponed one day.

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4026**, Relating to expanding the requirements for integrated resource plans utility companies must file with the Public Service Commission; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4382**, Require collection agencies to provide 30 days notice prior to wage garnishments.; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4461**, Establishing limitations on billing practices of Internet or telecommunications providers that fail to provide subscribed customers service for five or more days; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4552**, Relating to the law-enforcement powers of correctional officers; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4570**, To make the posting of a summons in a conspicuous place on rental property acceptable service when a tenant is unavailable for personal service; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

And,

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4625**, Relating to quit claim deeds; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading.

### First Reading

The following bills on first reading, coming up in regular order, were each read a first time and ordered to second reading:

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4198**, E-Verify Safe Harbor Act,

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4522**, Banning Foreign backed spending on State Ballot Issues,

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4755**, Adding Aggravated Vehicular Homicide to the list of qualifying offenses,

And,

**Com. Sub. for H. B. 4982**, Make West Virginia Healthy Act of 2026.

### **Leaves of Absence**

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, leaves of absence for the day were granted Delegates Jordan, Kump, McCormick, D. Smith and Vance.

### **Miscellaneous Business**

Pursuant to House Rule 94b, forms were filed with the Clerk's Office to be added as a cosponsor of the following:

**H. B. 4076**: Delegates Leavitt and White;

**H. B. 4533**: Delegate G. Ward;

**H. B. 4536**: Delegate G. Ward;

**H. B. 4539**: Delegate G. Ward;

**H. B. 4540**: Delegate G. Ward;

**H. B. 4541**: Delegate G. Ward;

**H. B. 4590**: Delegate G. Ward;

**H. B. 4623**: Delegate G. Ward;

**H. B. 4725**: Delegate Kimble;

**H. B. 4742**: Delegate Foggin;

**H. B. 4749**: Delegates Heckert, Hornby, and Kimble;

**H. B. 4815**: Delegate Heckert;

**H. B. 4855**: Delegate T. Howell;

And,

**H. B. 4962**: Delegate Holstein.

At 11:38 a.m., the House of Delegates adjourned until 11:00 a.m., Friday, February 06, 2026.

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**HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
JEFFREY PACK, Clerk  
Building 1, Room M-212  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0470**



## **SPECIAL CALENDAR**

**Friday, February 6, 2026**

**24th Day**

**11:00 A.M.**

### **THIRD READING**

- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4026 - Relating to expanding the requirements for integrated resource plans utility companies must file with the Public Service Commission
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4382 - Require collection agencies to provide 30 days notice prior to wage garnishments.
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4461 - Establishing limitations on billing practices of Internet or telecommunications providers that fail to provide subscribed customers service for five or more days
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4552 - Relating to the law-enforcement powers of correctional officers
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4570 - To make the posting of a summons in a conspicuous place on rental property acceptable service when a tenant is unavailable for personal service
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4625 - Relating to quit claim deeds

### **SECOND READING**

- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4012 - Relating to reducing the regulatory burden on utility companies when constructing and maintaining electric power generation and transmission facilities within this state
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4198 - E-Verify Safe Harbor Act
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4522 - Banning Foreign backed spending on State Ballot Issues
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4755 - Adding Aggravated Vehicular Homicide to the list of qualifying offenses
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4982 - Make West Virginia Healthy Act of 2026

## **FIRST READING**

- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4011 - Relating to facilitating the implementation of the certification of mass balance attribution by third party certifiers to promote waste reduction practices by facilitating the use of recycled material in the feedstock for new products.
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4053 - To establish the blue envelope program.
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4179 - To create felony charge for individuals who assault police officers or police dogs
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4345 - Relating to the preservation of missing persons records and evidence
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4468 - Relating to confidentiality of court files and law-enforcement records
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4600 - Require all ballots for primary and general elections be received NOT LATER than the close of the polls on election day.
- H. B. 4749 - Relating to adding requirements to the foster child bill of rights
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4893 - Increase the penalties for contempt of court in a magistrate court

**HOUSE CALENDAR**

**Friday, February 6, 2026**

**24th Day**

**11:00 A.M.**

**SECOND READING**

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4477 - To give the Secretary of State authority to refer allegations of violations of election laws to West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute.

**FIRST READING**

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4640 - Relating to drugs and adding a provision relating to the scheduling of crystalline polymorph psilocybin approved by the Food and Drug Administration



# **WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES**

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**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026**

**HOUSE CONVENES AT 11:00 A.M.**

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**9:00 A.M. – FINANCE COMMITTEE ROOM 460M**

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**9:00 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGAL SERVICES**

**9:45 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

**10:00 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS**

**10:15 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS**

**1:00 P.M. – EAST WING COMMITTEE ROOM 215E**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE AND  
TOURISM**

**2:00 P.M. – EAST WING COMMITTEE ROOM 215E**

HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
JEFFREY PACK, Clerk  
Building 1, Room M-212  
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East  
Charleston, WV 25305-0470