

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2026
FIRST DAY

Charleston, West Virginia, Wednesday, January 14, 2026

Pursuant to section eighteen, article six of the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, which prescribes that the Legislature shall convene annually on the second Wednesday in January, the Senate assembled in its chamber in the state capitol in the City of Charleston, West Virginia, on this fourteenth day of January, 2026, for the second annual sixty-day session of the eighty-seventh Legislature, and at 12:04 p.m. was called to order by the President, the Honorable Randy E. Smith.

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 Tom Willis, a senator from the fifteenth district.

The following communication was reported by the Clerk:

The Senate of West Virginia
Charleston

MIKE STUART
STATE SENATOR
7TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT



STATE CAPITOL, ROOM W-223
1900 KANAWHA BLVD. EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0800
304-357-7939

October 8, 2025

BY FIRST CLASS MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Randy Smith, Lieutenant Governor
Office of the Senate President
Room 229M, Building 1
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: Confirmation by the United States Senate to a Senior Post in the Trump Administration and the position of General Counsel of the United States Department of Health and Human Services; Resignation as Judiciary Chair and Member of the West Virginia State Senate

Lieutenant Governor and Senate President Smith,

Earlier this year, I was honored to be nominated by President Donald J. Trump to serve in a senior post within his Administration and to be the General Counsel for the United States Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS"). After a lengthy process (emphasis on "lengthy"), on October 7, 2025, the United States Senate confirmed my nomination and, earlier today, President Trump signed my commission as General Counsel to HHS today. As a result, I hereby submit my resignation as a member of the West Virginia State Senate, which such resignation shall be effective at 12:01 a.m. on the 9th day of October, 2025.

As I leave the State Senate, I am excited by my new role and the impact I can have as the General Counsel of HHS. There is virtually no aspect of American life or any American family not impacted on a daily basis by HHS. The mission of HHS is to enhance the health and well-being of all Americans by providing effective human services and advancing scientific research. As General Counsel of the Department, I'll be the third ranking member of HHS with more than 60,000 employees, nearly 600 lawyers, and nearly one-third of the federal budget. The agencies comprised within HHS include some of the most important in the federal government including the Food and Drug Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Administration for Children and Families, the Advanced Research Projects Agency for Health, the Agency for Health Care Research and Quality, the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, the Office

MIKE.STUART@WVSENATE.GOV

The Honorable Randy Smith, Lieutenant Governor
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of Refugee Resettlement, the Indian Health Service, and many other critical agencies. I'll be deeply engaged with critical programs including Medicare, Medicaid, the Rural Health Transformation Program, vaccines and immunization policies, negotiation of pharmaceutical prices, child welfare programs, policies and practices affecting minor children and unaccompanied minors at the border, public health policies, and literally hundreds of other critical priorities.

I am proud of my record in the State Senate and even more proud of the great people I represent. I sponsored big legislation over my term in the State Senate. Some legislation passed. Others did not despite many of those proposals being popularly embraced by the people of West Virginia. I fought to reduce regulatory burdens by sponsoring legislation to move our vehicle inspection stickers from a one to a two year period; for aggressive efforts to combat the normalization of illegal drugs, the opiate scourge, and a vape shop explosion that exploits confusion in federal and state drug policies and harms our children; for greater protections for first responders and law enforcement who serve so heroically in the line of duty; to protect victims of crime while toughening laws against the perpetrators of crime; for common sense, business building civil justice reforms; for a better economy and business climate in which West Virginia families and companies may thrive; for essential child welfare reforms; for student athlete safety including greater transparency by the WVSSAC and universal first-in-the-nation adoption of soft shell helmet covers for youth football and other safety measures in all youth sports to protect our children; for greater government transparency and lobbying reforms; for PSC reforms and transparency efforts in the interests of West Virginia rate payers; and for protecting and advancing West Virginia's vast energy resources. I urge you and the Senate to continue to consider these important initiatives.

The era of "soft on crime" needs to be a vestige of the past that is laid waste on the trash heap of history. It is time for West Virginia to reintroduce capital punishment as a response to the most heinous of crimes centered on the principles of retribution, deterrence, and incapacitation. Anyone murdering a first responder or law enforcement officer in the line of duty should face the most serious punishments. There are other despicable and unconscionable crimes for which the punishment should be equitable to the severity of the offense. The people support it. You need to pass it.

West Virginia's greatest growth industry shouldn't be vape shops. The people of our good state deserve a vibrant growing economy but they don't deserve the fastest growth to be vape shops on every corner of every community in our state. Beyond the public nuisance of flashing neon lights in residential areas, these shops exploit our children and their safety through the sale of unregulated, unapproved, often dangerous, and illegal intoxicating Chinese products. It is a crisis in our schools. It is a crisis among our children. It is a crisis for our culture.

Our child welfare system remains a devastating failure. Its failure is a reflection on all of us. Incremental piecemeal solutions are merely an albatross of leadership neglect. Our child welfare system must strive to preserve family unity whenever possible, pursue separation of children and parents only when clearly necessary, and reunify families as quickly as possible.

The Honorable Randy Smith, Lieutenant Governor
October 8, 2025
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Some argue “the real fix” would come at too high a cost. I say the cost of failing to fix the system is a cost we truly can’t afford. That cost would be insurmountable. We have talked and debated our child welfare system for too long. Talk is cheap. Talk won’t help one child or a single family. We need action. Fixing our broken child welfare system must be the highest priority.

As I depart the State Senate, I caution you and my fellow State Senators against the undue and often corruptive influence of the “lobbyist driven complex,” an alliance of special interests, hired brokers and power elites that exhibit far too much influence under the “Golden Dome,” often distorting the legislative process, and threatening the ability of the Legislature to forge a bold new more prosperous future for all West Virginians. It does matter who is paying and who is getting paid to pass good and bad legislation. Lobbyist reforms and measures to strengthen government transparency are essential to honest government, for building true economic prosperity for the people of West Virginia, and for the growth of West Virginia’s economic promise.

It has been my honor to fight for the good people of my Senate District. West Virginia’s Seventh District encompasses Boone, Lincoln, Logan and southern Kanawha Counties. I represent a district comprised of people that helped build West Virginia but one that in the past few decades has faced significant challenges. I love these people. To me, they are family. Even in my new role, I will continue to fight for their better, brighter future.

We live in highly polarized times. Our differences and disagreements are not only by partisan divide but, increasingly, within political parties. We cannot allow petty intra-party differences or petty pursuits of personal ambition to diminish opportunities for progress. Division is the surest foundation for ultimate defeat. Good ideas are not defined by strictly defined segments within political parties nor are they merely the domain of those who talk the loudest. Good ideas are blind to origination. Good ideas often demand strong leadership and the sacrifice of allegiance. Good ideas are those defined purely as those in the best interests of the people of West Virginia.

I want to thank you for your confidence in allowing me to serve as the Senate Judiciary Chair. I also want to thank all my fellow and former members of the State Senate for their support during this confirmation process and for their friendship during my term of Senate service, the many committed volunteers that worked so hard to help in my historic landslide victory and election to the Senate, and all of our State Senate staff including Senate Clerk Lee Cassis and those in the Senate Judiciary Committee who work so hard and are so dedicated to the service of the Senate and the people of West Virginia. I want to give a special acknowledgement to Dustin Moore who has been a loyal, committed friend and valued advisor. Finally, none of this would have been possible without the tremendous support of my family including my wife, Katrina, and my amazing daughters, Bella and Audrey. To each of you, thank you from the very depths of my heart.

As I turn my full attention and entire focus to my new role as a senior member of the Trump Administration and my work in the nation’s capital, I shall live temporarily in Washington, D.C. but my heart shall always remain in West Virginia. West Virginia is home and it shall always remain so.

The Honorable Randy Smith, Lieutenant Governor
October 8, 2025
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Finally, I ask that you and members of the State Senate please keep me in your prayers as I work to faithfully represent the good citizens of West Virginia and the American people in service to the nation.

God Bless you and may God Bless the great people of my beloved State of West Virginia.

My very best,



Michael B. Stuart
State Senator (7th District)

Executive Communications

The following communication from His Excellency, the Governor, was reported by the Clerk:



Patrick Morrissey
Office of the Governor

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2025 OCT 30 A 7:53

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA
SECRETARY OF STATE

October 29, 2025

The Honorable Kris Warner
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Secretary Warner:

Pursuant to W. Va. Code § 3-10-5, I have this day appointed Zachery Maynard, Lincoln County, West Virginia, as a Senator representing the Seventh Senate District, to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of the Honorable Michael B. Stuart from this day through the remainder of the unexpired term of said office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Morrissey".

Patrick Morrissey
Governor

cc: President of the Senate
Speaker of the House of Delegates
Clerk of the Senate
Clerk of the House of Delegates
Ethics Commission

The several oaths of office prescribed by the Constitution were administered by the Honorable Lee Cassis, Senate Clerk, on October 31, 2025.

The following communication was reported by the Clerk:

The Senate of West Virginia
Charleston

DONNA J. BOLEY
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE
3RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT



STATE CAPITOL, ROOM W-206
1900 KANAWHA BLVD. EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0800
304-357-7905

January 8, 2026

The Honorable Randy E. Smith
President of the West Virginia Senate
Room 229M, Building 1
State Capitol Complex
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear President Smith,

It is with a heavy, but grateful, heart that I submit to you my resignation from the West Virginia Senate, effective immediately. After 41 years as a member of the Senate, I have decided it is time for me to retire from public service and focus on my health and my family full time.

It has been the honor of my life to represent Pleasants County and the Third Senatorial District for more than 40 years. I would not have been able to do that without the support of my constituents, who chose to elect me 11 times. To all of you, the words "thank you" are not enough. I will be forever grateful and proud to have been your voice in Charleston, and I enjoyed my time in service to you.

I thank you, President Smith, for your kindness and for being an example of "family first." Although I will miss my fellow Senators and the Senate staff, especially my loyal and dedicated assistant of 25 years, Carolyn Dawson, I know that it is time for me to put my family first and to enjoy many more good years with my children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

May God bless you all in this new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna J. Boley".

Donna J. Boley
President Pro Tempore

cc: The Honorable Patrick J. Morrisey, Governor
The Honorable Lee Cassis, Clerk
Chairman Josh Holstein, West Virginia Republican Party

On the call of the roll, the following answered to their names:

Senators Azinger, Barrett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, M. Maynard, Z. Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President).

Thirty-two members having answered to their names, the President declared the presence of a quorum.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the Clerk was authorized to notify the House of Delegates and Governor that the Senate has assembled, with a quorum present, and is ready to proceed with the business of this session.

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

At the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, Senator Barrett offered the following resolution from the floor:

Senate Resolution 1—Authorizing the appointment of permanent and per diem employees for the Second Regular Session of the Eighty-Seventh Legislature and payment of their compensation.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the resolution was taken up for immediate consideration, reference to a committee dispensed with, and adopted.

At the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, Senator Smith (Mr. President) offered the following resolution from the floor:

Senate Resolution 2—Creating a Select Committee on School Choice for the second regular session of the Eighty-Seventh Legislature.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the resolution was taken up for immediate consideration, reference to a committee dispensed with, and adopted.

The Senate proceeded to the sixth order of business.

On motions for leave, severally made, the following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read by their titles, and referred to the appropriate committees:

By Senator Smith (Mr. President):

Senate Bill 1—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5B-12-1, §5B-12-2, §5B-12-3, §5B-12-4, §5B-12-5, §5B-12-6, and §5B-12-7, relating to establishing the Small Business Growth Act; defining terms; creating the Small Business Growth Program to be administered by the Department of Commerce; establishing program procedures and requirements; providing application procedures and requirements; providing for the certification of capital investment authority; establishing insurance premium tax credit; providing tax credit claimant and recapture procedures; prohibiting certain investments; and requiring annual reporting.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 2—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §48-32-101, §48-32-102, §48-32-103, §48-32-104, §48-32-105, §48-32-106, §48-32-107, §48-32-108, §48-32-109, §48-32-110, and §48-32-111, relating to the Uniform Child Abduction Prevention Act; providing short title; defining terms; providing for communication and cooperation among courts; identifying parties who may seek relief; setting forth jurisdictional requirements; identifying required contents of petition; providing factors for determination of risk of abduction; identifying measures to prevent abductions; providing requirements in court order; identifying child removal warrant procedures; setting forth duration of abduction prevention orders; and providing for uniformity in application of law.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 3—A Bill to amend and reenact §50-1-8, §50-1-9, §50-1-9a, and §51-2A-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to allowing the Supreme Court of Appeals discretion to create uniform pay scales for all levels of judicial support staff.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 4—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-5-30, relating to crimes against the public justice; creating a 25-foot barrier around first responders; and creating criminal penalties.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 5—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-21-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to exempting West Virginia campus police officer retirement income from personal income tax after specified date.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 6—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-25 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring legal injunctions and legal actions involving the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission to be filed in either Wood County or Kanawha County.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 7—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-6B-3 and §11-6B-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the Homestead Property Tax Exemption; and increasing the amount of the exemption for homeowners.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 8—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §17-31-1, §17-31-2, §17-31-3, §17-31-4, and §17-31-5, relating to requiring the Commissioner of Highways to develop a formula for allocating road funds among

districts for the benefit of the counties; making legislative findings; requiring the commissioner to solicit and consider public comments; requiring the commissioner to include certain factors in the formula; and requiring the commissioner to submit the formula to the Legislature for approval as a legislative rule.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 9—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-2-9c, relating to required courses of instruction; and requiring all public schools located within this state to give age-appropriate instruction on the Holocaust.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 10—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-1-2a, relating to prohibiting schools from starting an instructional day any earlier than 7:45 a.m.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 11—A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-4-10a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing classroom teachers who first became members of the Teachers Retirement System on or after July 1, 2015, the opportunity to sell up to 10 of their unused days of personal leave back to the county board in exchange for monetary compensation paid on or before June 30; and providing that once the days are forfeited they are no longer available to the classroom teacher.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 12—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §5A-3-64, relating to establishing the Public/Private Small Business Enhancement Program to encourage small business development and growth; providing definitions; providing for rule-making authority; providing for exemptions for construction; and providing for a sunset date.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 13—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2B-2, §15-2B-3, §15-2B-5, §15-2B-6, §15-2B-9, and §15-2B-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to DNA that is maintained for law-enforcement purposes in West Virginia; providing updates for the policy of maintaining DNA; defining terms; requiring DNA collection from all persons convicted of felonies and certain misdemeanors; requiring DNA collection from all persons charged by indictment or information of any felony offense after a grand jury has returned an indictment or prosecution by indictment has been waived; adding qualifying offense of domestic battery; specifying testing methods; authorizing emergency rules; requiring legislative rules; specifying expungement in certain circumstances; and providing failure to expunge or reasonably delay expungement will

not invalidate an identification, warrant, probable cause to arrest, or arrest based upon a database match.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 14—A Bill to amend and reenact §32-4-406 and §32-4-407a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §32-7-701, §32-7-702, §32-7-703, §32-7-704, §32-7-705, §32-7-706, §32-7-707, §32-7-708, §32-7-709, §32-7-710, §32-7-711, and §32-7-712, relating to authorizing victim restitution and creating a restitution assistance fund for victims of securities violations; providing a short title; providing definitions; creating the Securities Restitution Operating Fund; providing for the manner and procedures for applications for restitution assistance; providing the manner and procedures for the payment of restitution assistance awards; detailing the situations in which restitution is prohibited; providing for subrogation; providing for a lien on recovery and refunds of excessive restitution amounts; providing for the suspension of claims; exempting the restitution awards from attachment or intercept; authorizing the Auditor to promulgate rules regarding the restitution program; providing an effective date; permitting the Auditor to transfer three percent of securities fees collected to the Securities Restitution Operating Fund; and authorizing the awarding of restitution in an administrative assessment.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 15—A Bill to amend and reenact §22-11B-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to protecting coal and gas minerals from carbon capture practices; and establishing requirements when designing carbon sequestration projects to isolate any existing or future production from the commercially valuable mineral, including the coal or oil and gas estate, from the carbon dioxide plume.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 16—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-802a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to creating the Child Protection Investigations Reform Act; and requiring notification to a person accused of child abuse or neglect of the person's rights in connection with an investigation conducted by the Department of Human Services.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 17—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §1-9-1 and §1-9-2, relating to creating the State Sovereignty Act of 2026; providing a short title; and setting forth rejection of foreign entities' jurisdiction in the state.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 18—A Bill to amend and reenact §55-7-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to employment protections for employees who utilize reasonable and proportionate force in defending themselves or others; and providing that such person may use deadly force against an attacker in their place of employment, without a duty to retreat, if the

person reasonably believes that he or she or another is in imminent danger of death or serious bodily harm from which he or she or another can only be saved by the use of deadly force against the intruder or attacker.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 19—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §37-1-5a, relating to the purchase of or acquisition of title to real property by certain aliens or foreign entities; providing definitions; clarifying when purchase or acquisition is prohibited; creating exceptions; authorizing enforcement and creating civil penalties by the Attorney General; authorizing rule-making authority; and providing for severability.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 20—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §24-9-1, §24-9-2, §24-9-3, and §24-9-4, relating to providing for the creation of the Stable Energy Rates Protection Act.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 21—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-2-25f, relating to allowing students, coaching staff, and athletic trainers to participate in non-school athletic activities.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 22—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §15-1B-1a, relating to the West Virginia National Guard; providing a short title and findings; providing definitions; and requiring an official declaration of war or an action to call forth the state militia by the United States Congress before members of the West Virginia National Guard may be released from state control to participate in active-duty combat.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 23—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-6A-5a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to pollution control facilities tax treatment; clarifying that wind power projects are not pollution control facilities for certain purposes; and providing that wind power projects be taxed as real property.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 24—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §5D-1-24, relating to establishing the West Virginia Intrastate Energy

Use Act; designating which environmental regulation of coal, oil, and natural gas extracted and used within West Virginia is exclusively regulated by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection; legislative authority; and providing definitions related to these energy sources.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 25—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §22-37-1, §22-37-2, §22-37-3, and §22-37-4, relating to creating the West Virginia Coal Marketing Program; providing for the purpose of the program; creating funding for the program; requiring the Governor to report on the program to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance; providing for rules; and providing for an effective date.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 26—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-3-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to exemptions for compulsory immunization requirements; removing reporting requirements; revising medical exemption process; eliminating position of State Immunization Officer; permitting religious exemption to mandatory vaccination requirements; permitting philosophical exemption to mandatory vaccination requirements; and permitting injunctive relief for violations of this section.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Barrett:

Senate Bill 27—A Bill to amend and reenact §55-2-6, §55-2-7, and §55-2-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to limitation of certain actions; and reducing time within which to bring actions to recover on written and oral contracts, certain bonds, and recognizances.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Barrett:

Senate Bill 28—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2A-21 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to using accrued leave to acquire additional credited service toward retirement; clarifying that a leave day equals eight hours' leave; and granting members entering retirement system after July 1, 2015, the option to use leave days to acquire additional service for retirement.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 29—A Bill to amend and reenact §51-1-10a, §51-2-13, §51-2A-6, §51-9-4, and §51-11-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to salaries and retirement benefits of judges; increasing annual salary of justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit court judges, family court judges, and judges of the Intermediate Court of Appeals; providing for employee contribution into judicial retirement system; and suspending contribution of employer into judicial retirement system until certain condition met.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 30—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-7-3, §61-7-6, and §61-7-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing those persons 18 to 20 years old to be able to carry a concealed deadly weapon without a permit, as is presently allowed for those persons 21 years and older.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 31—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §5-10-22o, relating to providing an enhanced retirement benefit for certain retirees under the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement Act.

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

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 32—A Bill to amend and reenact §31A-8-12, §31A-8A-5, §31A-8D-4, and §31C-10-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to banking; and precluding establishment of a branch bank or the acquisition or merger of a bank or a credit union by a bank or credit union unless they are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 33—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-6-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring legislators and staff who hold a current concealed carry permit to register with the Capitol Police an intent to carry concealed firearms within the Capitol buildings.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 34—A Bill to amend and reenact §60A-4-401, §60A-4-407, and §60A-4-407a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to controlled substances; creating mandatory three-year sentence for possession of Schedule I or II substances, except cannabis; providing exceptions for persons incidentally exposed to the substances or who are forced to possess the substances; conditional discharge for first offense; and release with non-extraditable warrant.

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

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 35—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §62-15C-1, §62-15C-2, §62-15C-3, §62-15C-4, and §62-15C-5, relating to limiting the liability of employers in cases where convictions for certain crimes are expunged; requiring creation of a database record showing offenses were expunged; requiring courts to cross-reference database for expungements; providing that an employer is not liable to furnish health insurance or health care costs to persons whose records are expunged for drug addiction-related offenses or drug addiction-related diseases; and providing exceptions.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 36—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-64A-1, §16-64A-2, §16-64A-3, and §16-64A-4; and to repeal §16-64-1, §16-64-2, §16-64-3, §16-64-4, §16-64-5, §16-64-6, §16-64-7, §16-64-8, §16-64-9, and §16-64-10, relating to syringe exchange services programs; defining terms; making syringe exchange service programs unlawful; setting date for closure of existing programs; permitting harm reduction services to continue to operate provided no syringe services are provided; allowing for an administrative timeframe for referral; requiring the imposition of fees for noncompliance; and permitting injunctive relief.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 37—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-7-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to dangerous weapons; clarifying limitations on a concealed carry permit; providing exceptions; and providing a severability clause.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 38—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §12-3-21, relating to establishing the revocation of authority for spending by an agency in support of a challenge to West Virginia law; and providing for exceptions.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 39—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-7a and §18-2-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18-2-7h, relating to public school student health; requiring a heart health program whereby each child enrolled in the public schools in grades three through six is to actively participate in nutrition and aerobic exercise classes for 12 weeks straight at any point during the instructional term; specifying what the program is to include; requiring program to be aligned with state health standards; addressing selection of the program; allowing the nutrition and aerobic exercise education to be in the form of a book, DVD, CD, online, or another form of technology; requiring each school that includes any of grades three through six to ensure time is allowed during the school day to meet certain aerobic exercise, education, and information tracking requirements; requiring each school that includes any of grades three through six ensure certain accountability measure data; allowing school districts to issue a request for proposals to contract with qualified service providers on a per-student rate to provide certain nutrition and aerobic exercise programs and/or products; and specifying accountability measures the programs must include.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 40—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-10-8 and §30-10-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing reciprocity for veterinarians who are licensed in other states to practice veterinary medicine; providing the process and requirements; providing

reciprocity to veterinary technicians who are licensed to practice in other states; and providing the process and requirements for that reciprocal license.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 41—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-36-1, §18-36-2, and §18-36-3, relating to permitting students to take the Classical Learning Test as an alternative to the traditional ACT and SAT exams; providing for definitions; providing for post-secondary and higher education admissions and financial aid; and providing for college preparation assessments.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 42—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §30-5-37, relating to pharmacists; authorizing ivermectin without a prescription; clarifying liability and disciplinary action for pharmacists; authorizing rules; and establishing severability.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 43—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-2R-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the rape and incest exception to obtain an abortion in West Virginia.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 44—A Bill to amend and reenact §19-35-2, §19-35-5, and §19-35-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the sale of homemade food items; defining terms; authorizing production and sale of homemade food items under certain circumstances; establishing conditions for exemption from licensure, permitting, inspection, packaging, and labeling laws; providing required notices to consumer; defining manner of providing notices; exempting certain products from the scope of this provision; and permitting local health departments and the Department of Agriculture to investigate and cease production or sale of food items reported to have caused a foodborne illness.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Thorne:

Senate Bill 45—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-1A-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing for reduced property valuation for certain farmland.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 46—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-2-47, relating to State Board of Education; requiring a moment of silence at the beginning of each school day; forbidding teachers from making suggestions as to the nature of the reflection that students may engage in during the moment of silence; and providing for the Attorney General to defend the provisions of this section.

Referred to the Committee on Education; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Thorne:

Senate Bill 47—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-8A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §61-8A-6, relating to prohibiting drag shows from being performed in front of minors; and prohibiting drag shows in public places, such as schools and libraries.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 48—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-2-3 and §24-2-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to powers and duties of the Public Service Commission; and providing that an electric utility rate or fee increase that is not in effect by November 20 in any year may not take effect earlier than April 1 of the subsequent year.

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

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 49—A Bill to amend and reenact §31-15A-17c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permissible expenditures by the Water Development Authority from the Infrastructure Fund; modifying the upper limit of funds which may be transferred to sub account; raising the cap on total project costs for certain facilities for use of Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account funding; and allowing the authority to grant infrastructure grant money from the Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account to certain projects for the upgrading of a water facility or wastewater facility to reduce maintenance costs, operations costs, or waterline leakages.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 50—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13A-6a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing that all coal severance tax shall be provided to the county that produced the coal.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 51—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18-2-47, relating to the State Board of Education and required courses of education; providing that a course on human growth and development related to pregnancy and human development inside the womb be

mandatory from grade three; clarifying methods of instruction; providing that this curriculum be known as the Baby Olivia Act; creating rule-making authority; authorizing the Attorney General to enforce the Baby Olivia Act; and creating civil penalties.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 52—A Bill to amend and reenact §11A-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the sheriff to send notices to the owners of record and to each resident or occupant of real property prior to selling the property for which property taxes have not been paid.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 53—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5G-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing greater access to unused buildings for public charter schools; requiring the county board or public entity to allow the charter school sufficient time to establish the school; providing that the facility is not required to hold the building if the charter school application is denied; and allowing the authorizer of the charter school to release the building in the event the school is unable to open.

Referred to the Select Committee on School Choice.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 54—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-29 and §61-2-29a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to abuse or neglect of incapacitated adults; providing definitions; creating criminal penalties; and removing the element of malice in felony charges of certain caregiver actions resulting in death of an incapacitated adult.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 55—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-5-17a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to establishing a criminal offense for knowingly, willfully, and forcibly obstructing or hindering a home incarceration supervisor or a social service worker while they are lawfully acting in their official capacity and the obstructing or hindering causes their death; establishing criminal penalty therefor of imprisonment in a state correctional facility for 15 years to life; and providing definitions.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 56—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §9-5-34, relating to requiring the Department of Human Services to allow reimbursement for remote ultrasound procedures and remote fetal nonstress tests utilizing established CPT codes for these procedures when the patient is in a residence or other off-site location from the patient's provider and the same standard of care is met.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 57—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-3-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to property exempt from taxation; and exempting from ad valorem property tax all property used for divine worship, including parts of those properties that are used for educational and other charitable purposes.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 58—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-5A-3 and §17C-5A-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to the Division of Motor Vehicles' Safety and Treatment Program and Alcohol and Drug Test and Lock Program; adding grievance and appellate procedures and judicial review for individuals who have participated in the program; authorizing the commissioner to promulgate an emergency rule; prohibiting minimum driving time, minimum mileage, and driving frequency requirements of Division of Motor Vehicles' Alcohol and Drug Test and Lock Program system; prohibiting removal of program participant for failure to meet certain program requirements; and directing the commissioner to reinstate former program participants for failing to meet such requirements, at no cost to the program participant, upon participant's meeting specified criteria.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 59—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-3 and §3-2-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to residency requirements for people entitled to vote and people eligible to register to vote; requiring that a person be a legal resident of the state, county, or municipality in which he or she offers to vote; requiring that a person be a legal resident of the state or county in which he or she applies to register to vote; and defining the term "legal resident".

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 60—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-16-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to container labeling of nonintoxicating beer and nonintoxicating craft beer; permitting certain brewers, brewpubs, manufacturers, and resident brewers to make private labels for existing beer brands available for purchase; providing for label requirements; and providing for pricing and purchasing restrictions.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 61—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-41 and §3-9-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to expressly prohibiting the acceptance of illegal ballots cast in any election; and providing criminal penalties for intentionally and knowingly accepting an absentee ballot that does not comply with state requirements for absentee voting.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 62—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §19-36-7, relating to recognizing the constitutional authority of the

Commissioner of Agriculture to intervene and supersede in matters that negatively affect agritourism; specifying the implementation of such authority; and requiring annual report to the Legislature.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 63—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5G-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18-5G-18, relating to creating the Sustaining Opportunities for Academics in Rural Schools Act.

Referred to the Select Committee on School Choice; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 64—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-11-2 and §3-11-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the resolution passed by the Legislature for proposed constitutional amendments to include the language to be included on official ballots to be voted at the election at which such amendments are submitted to the voters of the state.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 65—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-42-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to professions and occupations; and providing that the definition of "contractor" in the West Virginia Contractor Licensing Act does not include persons who perform drywall services.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 66—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-5-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying the declaration of a state of preparedness; alleviating the two classes of state of preparedness for simplicity; and providing one level of a state of preparedness similar to having only one level for a state of emergency.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 67—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5G-3 and §18-5G-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18-5G-18, relating to public charter schools; modifying criteria public charter school must meet pertaining to tuition; authorizing public charter school employment of personnel to perform services relating to managing participation in a retirement system or insurance plan; providing that the school district of the student's county of residence becomes responsible to track the students for all purposes when the student is withdrawn from a public charter school and returns to the public school district of that county; authorizing public charter school teachers to proctor state assessments whether the teachers are certified or licensed or not; allowing members of a public charter school governing board to be removed by a vote of the governing board; allowing a public charter school to submit to its authorizer a proposed amendment to any information in its application at any time; allowing an institution of higher education to apply to an authorizer to

establish virtual or on-campus public charter microschoools; and allowing any public charter school to partner with learning pods and microschoools to provide instruction to those learning pods and microschoools.

Referred to the Select Committee on School Choice.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 68—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31A-10-1, §31A-10-2, and §31A-10-3, relating to the creation of the Voluntary Portable Benefit Account Act; providing for a short title; creating definitions; and providing for enactment of the article for the creation of voluntary portable benefit accounts.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 69—A Bill to amend and reenact §18B-1-1e of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring higher education institutions to accept the Classic Learning Test.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 70—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5-34-1 and §5-34-2, relating to protecting state and local government systems and data, and their ability to protect citizens' data and access to government systems, from cyberattacks and surveillance by adverse foreign interests by prohibiting the use or procurement of any software, application, or artificial intelligence tool that is owned by any entity located in a designated foreign adversary nation.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 71—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding seven new sections, designated §5-16-7h, §9-5-34, §33-15-4y, §33-16-3ii, §33-24-7z, §33-25-8w, and §33-25A-8z, relating to requiring coverage for certain conditions; requiring coverage treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections; requiring coverage for treatment of pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome; requiring a prior authorization to be obtained; and requiring that a physician demonstrate that all other treatments have been exhausted.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 72—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-1-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health; requiring medical professionals to report to the Bureau for Public Health all injuries and side effects from vaccines and produce an annual report for the Legislature; requiring medical professionals that deliver vaccines to receive educational materials from the Bureau for Public Health about negative side effects from vaccines and to be formally trained every five years; and requiring the commissioner

to make available a mechanism for individuals, including parents, to report adverse impact from vaccines.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 73—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-1A-10 and §19-19-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to appraisal of property; providing definitions; and clarifying the non-agricultural status of solar farms.

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

By Senator Thorne:

Senate Bill 74—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-6-1c, relating to establishing the criminal offense of obstructing a highway or other passageway; defining "obstruct"; and establishing penalties for violation of section.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 75—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-21-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to pension benefits exempt from income taxation; and providing that all first responders, including those retiring to West Virginia, be exempt.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 76—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing an exemption from the state severance tax for coal sold to coal-fired power plants located within the State of West Virginia.

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

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 77—A Bill to amend and reenact §33-3-33 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §15A-11-11a, relating to fire department recruitment and retention; creating Fire Service Recruitment and Retention Fund; establishing that the purpose of the fund is to provide grants for recruitment and retention purposes; requiring the State Fire Commission to create a grant program; establishing considerations for awarding grants; providing definitions; providing for rulemaking; requiring State Fire Commission verify eligibility of volunteer fire departments with Legislative Auditor; raising policy surcharge to one percent; and allocating disbursements to various funds.

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

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 78—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31A-8H-1, §31A-8H-2, §31A-8H-3, and §31A-8H-4, relating to

prohibiting financial institutions from discriminating against firearms businesses; providing definitions; clarifying exceptions; creating civil penalties; authorizing an injured party to file civil action; authorizing the Attorney General to file civil actions and clarifying actions required if the action prevails; providing a statute of limitations on civil actions; and providing for an effective date.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 79—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-13NN-1, §11-13NN-2, §11-13NN-3, §11-13NN-4, §11-13NN-5, §11-13NN-6, §11-13NN-7, §11-13NN-8, §11-13NN-9, §11-13NN-10, and §11-13NN-11, relating to establishing a road or highway infrastructure improvement projects or coal production and processing facilities tax credit for taxpayers subject to the tax imposed by West Virginia code; specifying a short title; specifying legislative findings and purpose for new credit; defining terms; specifying the amount of the credit, application of credit, and carry forward of unused credit; requiring filing of application for road or highway infrastructure improvement project credit as condition precedent to claiming credit; specifying procedure for application for certification, contents of application and limitation on maximum amount of credits which can be approved; specifying computation of qualified investment in coal production and processing facilities; allowing transfer of credits to successors; providing for forfeiture of unused tax credits and redetermination of credit allowed; providing penalties for failure to maintain records of qualified property; and establishing an effective date.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 80—A Bill to amend and reenact §9-8-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to identity authentication; and requiring a photograph of the user on EBT cards.

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

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 81—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-9-2b, relating to permitting investigators in the State Tax Division to carry concealed weapons.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 82—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-29-1, §11-29-2, §11-29-3, §11-29-4, §11-29-5, and §11-29-6, relating to establishing a tax on the production of electricity from wind and solar collection; setting the rate of this tax and providing collection procedures; establishing how to distribute those collected taxes to volunteer fire departments through the counties; listing requirements to qualify to receive funds from these collected taxes; providing for enforcement and penalties; listing exemptions; and establishing fines and accumulation of interest on late payment.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 83—A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-4-7a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to reducing the number of days for which completion of employment in any one school year substitute teachers, except retired teachers and other retired professional educators employed as substitutes, accrue seniority exclusively for the purpose of applying for employment as a permanent, full-time professional employee and for which that number of days or more of employment is prorated and vests as a fraction of the school year.

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

By Senator Thorne:

Senate Bill 84—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §62-1A-12, relating to search and seizure; clarifying when a surveillance or game camera may be placed on private land; providing an exception; and providing definitions.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 85—A Bill to amend and reenact §55-2-6, §55-2-7, and §55-2-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to limitation of certain actions; and reducing time within which to bring actions to recover on written and oral contracts, certain bonds, and recognizances.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 86—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 the Bank Protections for Eligible Adults from Financial Exploitation; providing findings, purpose, and intent to provide immunities to certain persons for government disclosure of information when financial exploitation of an eligible adult is suspected; 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 proscribing immunities for depository institutions, broker-dealers, and investment advisors.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 87—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-35-1, §30-35-2, §30-35-2a, §30-35-3, §30-35-4, §30-35-5, §30-35-6, §30-35-7, §30-35-8, §30-35-10, and §30-35-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §30-35-15, relating to licensing for dietitians and nutritionists; providing definitions; defining the scope of practice; and establishing the requirements for a qualified supervisor.

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

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 88—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §22-5-21, relating to providing for regulatory oversight and authority governing community air monitoring programs; ensuring proper standards for data collection and evaluation through use of accurate scientific methods are used; providing definitions, including defining community air monitoring programs with exceptions; providing for circumstances when the Department of Environmental Protection may use the collected data and for what purposes; limiting the use of said data by the department and other persons; providing that the data may not be used directly for regulating pollutants under the Clean Air Act; providing that the data may not be used to issue a fine, penalty, or notice of violation against the operator of a stationary source; providing that the data may not be used as evidence in an administrative, regulatory, judicial enforcement action or proceeding against the operator of a stationary source or as the basis for an permitting action; and providing for rule-making authority.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 89—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-7A-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the State Teachers Retirement System; providing that members of the State Teachers Retirement System shall be considered absent from service as a teacher or nonteacher while serving as an officer with a statewide professional teaching association, or who have served in that capacity; and providing that retirants, who served in that capacity while members, shall be considered to have been absent from service as a teacher by reason of that service.

Referred to the Committee on Pensions.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 90—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-35 and §3-2-31 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prohibiting voters not affiliated with a major political party from voting the ballot of that political party in a primary election.

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

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 91—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §30-1-28, relating to prohibiting spending authority for money used by a board or commission that retains a labor position.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 92—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18A-4-2d, relating to enhanced pay for teachers; setting out legislative findings; defining terms; providing for market pay enhancement for teacher salaries in certain circumstances; providing for certification to State Auditor; setting out distribution of funds; requiring reporting; making funds subject to personal income tax; providing funds are in excess of minimum salary schedule; making enhancement not subject to state grievance process; and providing for rulemaking.

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

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 93—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §55-7-33, relating to damages for medical monitoring; establishing requirements for an order for payment of medical monitoring expenses; and providing that an increased risk of disease is not a compensable basis for damages in any civil action.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Hamilton:

Senate Bill 94—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding four new sections, designated §17-28-13, §17-28-14, §17-28-15, and §17-28-16, relating to the Robert C. Byrd Corridor H Highway Authority; providing for legislative findings; continuing authority and providing for composition of authority members; providing for ex officio, nonvoting members and voting members; providing for terms of membership; providing for meeting and quorum requirements; providing that members are not compensated; reimbursing members for expenses; providing for certain powers and duties; and requiring annual reporting to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance.

Referred to the Committee on Economic Development; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Hamilton:

Senate Bill 95—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §19-40-1, §19-40-2, §19-40-3, and §19-40-4, relating to creating the West Virginia Farm Equipment Repair Pilot Program; stating legislative findings; providing definitions; allowing the Commissioner of Agriculture, when a need is identified by one of the specified entities, to authorize a farm equipment repair pilot program in which a career and technical education center, comprehensive high school, or the community and technical college works with businesses to establish and facilitate a program to ensure that instructors are provided with the educational or technologies required to make localized repairs to farm equipment and train students for future jobs in the program; limiting number of pilot programs to five; allowing program to be set up in a community partnership-style arrangement and to be initiated by first meeting with the commissioner to collaborate and form a plan of implementation, operation, and scope that will result in a functional effort and startup model; allowing certain agreements to be included in the deliverable, result-based items included in the strategic plan of implementation; prohibiting repair providers and businesses from being required to disclose any proprietary training, tools, or software to participate in the pilot programs; allowing pilot program to be facilitated under guidelines set forth by the commissioner alongside educational partners; and requiring the commissioner, in collaboration with the West Virginia Board of Education and the Higher Education Policy Commission, to propose legislative rules for promulgation.

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

By Senator Hamilton:

Senate Bill 96—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-4D-1, §16-4D-2, §16-4D-3, and §16-4D-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to automated external defibrillator devices; stating findings; revising definitions; modifying automated external defibrillator registration requirements; eliminating requirement to designate medical director; and clarifying limitation on liability.

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

By Senator Hamilton:

Senate Bill 97—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §19-40-1, §19-40-2, §19-40-3, §19-40-4, §19-40-5, §19-40-6, §19-40-7, §19-40-8, and §19-40-9, relating to creation of the Equipment Right to Repair Act; creating a short title; defining terms; establishing jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Agriculture; establishing requirements; establishing limitations; providing for rulemaking; establishing violations; imposing civil penalties; authorizing civil actions, penalties, and injunctive relief; and providing for applicability and effective date of article.

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Hamilton:

Senate Bill 98—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-8-2b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to elections; and requiring a political action committee to disclose the names and addresses of its contributors to the Secretary of State.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 99—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-1-201, §49-2-101, §49-2-809, §49-2-813, and §49-11-101 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to child welfare; defining terms; stating that protective services include both an investigative track and a family assessment track; requiring the Bureau for Social Services to establish a system of differential response and use appropriate screening tools to respond to reports received by centralized intake that complies with relevant law; and clarifying statistical index data and data retention requirements.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 100—A Bill to amend and reenact §60A-4-401 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to amending the penalty of simple possession of marijuana from a misdemeanor crime to a civil violation; and amending the penalties from those of a misdemeanor crime to a civil violation.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 101—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-8-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18-8A-5, relating to homeless children; clarifying the duties of the attendance director and assistant; creating position of homeless education coordinator in certain counties; and establishing duties required by a homeless education coordinator.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 102—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5D-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring every county public school system to conduct an annual countywide survey of public school students to determine their non-school eating patterns and the availability of nutritious food to them when schools are closed; requiring each county board to collect and compile information regarding availability of food resources in the county during non-school days and distribute this information to all students; requiring each county board to provide its survey, a summary of its activities, and any findings or recommendations the county school board has related thereto to the West Virginia Office of Child Nutrition; and removing authority for each public school to include in its crisis response plan an assessment and plan to feed students during noninstructional or nontraditional remote learning days and public virtual school students that includes emergency situations that may require innovative ways to deliver food to student homes.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 103—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §55-7-33, relating to actions for injuries; creating a private cause of action for the deprivation of a right granted by the state constitution or by state law; creating penalties; and providing for court costs and certain fees.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 104—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §22A-1-10a, relating to state mine inspectors; providing a \$4,000 raise; and providing an effective date.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 105—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-11-28, relating to restricting public access to criminal history records of certain individuals; establishing procedures to petition for the restriction of access to criminal history records; defining offenses for which restriction of access to records is not available; and setting exceptions for restriction of access to records.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 106—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17-2A-4c, relating to authorizing the West Virginia Commissioner of Highways to offer locality pay to Division of Highways employees working in certain jurisdictions.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 107—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §33-15F-1, §33-15F-2, §33-15F-3, §33-15F-4, §33-15F-5, and §33-15F-6, relating to fertility care; requiring medical insurance providers to include infertility services in

their policies; providing findings; providing for determination of infertility; providing prohibited and permissible limitations on coverage; requiring rulemaking; establishing an effective date; and defining terms.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 108—A Bill to amend and reenact §15A-4-13 and §49-2-906 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §28-5C-3, relating to requiring that free feminine hygiene products be provided to female prisoners in jails, regional jails, or state correctional facilities and to female juveniles in juvenile detention.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 109—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §16B-17-21, relating to clarifying that racial discrimination includes discrimination based on certain hair textures and hairstyles historically associated with a particular race; and defining a term.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 110—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §23-4D-1, §23-4D-2, §23-4D-3, §23-4D-4, §23-4D-5, and §23-4D-6, relating to creating the West Virginia Black Lung Program; granting entitlement for pain and suffering for occupational pneumoconiosis; providing that 10 years' exposure as a miner is a conclusive presumption of entitlement to pain and suffering benefits; providing for calculation of benefits; setting forth tax credit for benefits; imposing additional severance tax and tax on generation of electricity by solar and wind devices; creating the State Black Lung Fund; requiring the Governor and Legislature to cooperate with other states to attempt to recoup the federal excise tax on coal; and requiring proposal of rules by the Insurance Commissioner and Tax Commissioner.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 111—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §21-5A-1, §21-5A-2, §21-5A-3, §21-5A-4, §21-5A-5, §21-5A-6, §21-5A-7, §21-5A-8, and §21-5A-9, relating to reestablishing prevailing wages for certain state government contracts; declaring policy; defining terms; requiring contractors to ascertain rates and to include rates in contract specifications; requiring annual determinations of prevailing wage rates; establishing procedures to file objections to prevailing wage rate determinations; providing for hearings, judicial review, and appeal; requiring mandatory provisions in contracts and subcontracts; providing for posting of rates and recordkeeping; establishing criminal penalties for violations of the act; and limiting the scope of the law to post-enactment contracts.

Referred to the Committee on the Workforce; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 112—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-2-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to voting rights of formerly incarcerated individuals; and restoring suffrage for a person incarcerated for a felony conviction upon release.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 113—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding two new sections, designated §5-10-22o and §18-7A-26z, relating to providing a cost-of-living provision for certain persons retired under the Public Employees Retirement System and the Teachers Retirement System.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 114—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §21-5J-1, §21-5J-2, §21-5J-3, §21-5J-4, §21-5J-5, §21-5J-6, §21-5J-7, §21-5J-8, §21-5J-9, and §21-5J-10, relating to creating a paid parental leave pilot program; providing findings and purpose; providing definitions; providing for paid parental leave and requirements for claiming benefits; requiring employer to continue group health insurance coverage for employee; providing for employment benefits and seniority position upon return from leave; providing benefits not to accrue during period of leave; authorizing the Department of Labor to survey employers; requiring department to report to Joint Committee on Government Organization; authorizing emergency rule-making authority; and providing a sunset date.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 115—A Bill to repeal §21-5G-1, §21-5G-2, §21-5G-3, §21-5G-4, §21-5G-5, §21-5G-6, and §21-5G-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to worker affiliation with a labor organization.

Referred to the Committee on the Workforce; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 116—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-8-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to home-schooled children; establishing Raylee's Law; prohibiting authorization of home instruction if there is a pending child abuse or neglect investigation against a custodial parent or guardian with whom the child to be home schooled resides, or against a person instructing the child, that is initiated by a schoolteacher or other school personnel; requiring the county superintendent to establish a policy to inform the superintendent when a report of suspected child abuse or neglect is made; and requiring the county superintendent to request case status confirmation from the Department of Human Services and to substantiate the abuse or neglect complaint.

Referred to the Committee on Education; and then to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 117—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding two new articles, designated §11-18-1, §11-18-2, §11-18-3, §11-18-4, §15-1L-1, §15-1L-2, §15-1L-3, §15-1L-4, §15-1L-5, §15-1L-6, §15-1L-7, §15-1L-8, and §15-1L-9, relating to creating a

program to reward citizens for information on drug trafficking; providing findings and intent; defining terms; creating an excise tax on opioid antagonists and test strips; creating a special revenue account; providing a short title; setting out a purpose; establishing a program for providing rewards for pertinent information; placing the program with the West Virginia State Police; giving the Secretary of Homeland Security jurisdiction over the program; setting out privacy requirements; providing for exclusions; authorizing funding; requiring an application; exempting the reward from taxation and other legal processes; and providing for rulemaking.

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

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 118—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.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 119—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-5-13a and §24-1-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding two new sections, designated §3-5-6f and §24-1-3a, relating to the Public Service Commission; eliminating appointment process for commission members; providing for expiration date of terms of appointed members; providing that commission members be elected to nonpartisan six-year terms; providing for staggered terms in initial election; providing for regular election procedures; and providing for appointments to fill vacancies.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 120—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-21-12o, relating to authorizing a personal income tax deduction applicable to qualified tipped wages; providing that qualified tips reported to the taxpayer's employer may be deducted from federal adjusted gross income; defining terms; and providing effective date.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senators Garcia and Woelfel:

Senate Bill 121—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-11-2 and §3-11-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring full text of proposed Constitutional amendments be included on official ballots to be voted at the election at which such amendments are submitted to the voters of the state.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 122—A Bill to repeal §18-2-25e of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to repeal of athletic eligibility of transfer students.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 123—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-25c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring an ambulance, if available, at any middle school or high school football game under the control, supervision, and regulation of the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission; and providing that if the ambulance is required to leave due to being called away on an emergency, the game can continue.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 124—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-41 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring in grades three through six at least annual age-appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention; requiring in grades three through six at least annual instruction in personal safety and assault prevention; providing exception; requiring annual notice to parent or guardian at least one week prior to personal safety and assault prevention instruction; requiring in grades seven through 12 at least annual age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention and sexual violence prevention; and making requirements of section voluntary for public charter schools and nonpublic schools.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 125—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18B-4-11, relating to requiring state intuitions of higher education, to the extent feasible, to provide to their students without charge, and in a manner that protects student confidentiality, transportation to and from a local hospital for a trained health care provider to administer a sexual assault forensic medical examination kit where a student seeks support after experiencing sexual violence.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 126—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-9-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to criminal offenses of preventing or obstructing election activities; specifying that listed offenses may be committed by force, or by intimidating language, or physical acts; establishing offense of preventing or attempting to prevent election officer, election worker, or other person assisting in holding election, counting votes, or certifying and returning election results from discharging duties; establishing offense of preventing or attempting to prevent election being held; establishing offense of obstructing or attempting to obstruct holding of election; establishing offense of preventing or attempting to prevent a voter from attending election or freely exercising right of suffrage; establishing offense of preventing or attempting to prevent election official or election worker from entering or exiting polling place; establishing

criminal penalties for listed offenses; and eliminating offense of refusal to assist in preventing intimidation, disorder, or violence at poll.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 127—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto two new sections, designated §5-10-22o and §18-7A-26z, relating to providing a \$1,000 cost-of-living adjustment to certain retirees of the Public Employees Retirement System and the State Teachers Retirement System; and providing for the pro rata distribution of the cost-of-living adjustment to certain beneficiaries.

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

By Senator Charnock:

Senate Bill 128—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §21-5J-1, relating to creating the West Virginia Workplace Security Act; making certain acts unlawful; and prescribing means of enforcement and penalties for violations.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 129—A Bill to amend and reenact §5-22A-2, §5-22A-3, §5-22A-4, §5-22A-9a, and §5-22A-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §5-22A-5, relating to termination of the Design-Build Board; and making technical and conforming amendments to allow the continued use of the design-build project delivery method.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 130—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-9H-1, §16-9H-2, §16-9H-3, §16-9H-4, §16-9H-5, §16-9H-6, and §16-9H-7, relating to the creation of an e-cigarette and e-cigarette liquid directory; regulating the distribution and sale of e-cigarettes and e-cigarette liquid; requiring manufacturers to obtain market authorization from the United States Food and Drug Administration prior to the sale of e-cigarettes or e-cigarette liquids; providing manufacturers notice and the opportunity to be heard before removal from the directory; prohibiting the sale of e-cigarettes or e-cigarette liquid not listed on the directory; requiring unannounced compliance checks for retailers and wholesalers of electronic cigarettes; prescribing fines and penalties; requiring foreign manufacturers to designate an agent for service of process; designating the Secretary of State as an agent for service of process for resident manufacturers; and providing enforcement and rule-making authority to the Tax Commissioner and the Alcohol Beverage Control Administration Commissioner.

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

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 131—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-13NN-1, §11-13NN-2, §11-13NN-3, §11-13NN-4, §11-13NN-5, §11-13NN-6, §11-13NN-7, §11-13NN-8, §11-13NN-9, §11-13NN-10, and §11-13NN-11, relating to establishing a road or highway infrastructure improvement projects or coal production and

processing facilities tax credit for taxpayers subject to the tax imposed by West Virginia code; specifying a short title; specifying legislative findings and purpose for new credit; defining terms; specifying the amount of the credit, application of credit, and carry forward of unused credit; requiring filing of application for road or highway infrastructure improvement project credit as condition precedent to claiming credit, specifying procedure for application for certification, contents of application, and limitation on maximum amount of credits which can be approved; specifying computation of qualified investment in coal production and processing facilities; allowing transfer of credits to successors; providing for forfeiture of unused tax credits and redetermination of credit allowed; providing penalties for failure to maintain records of qualified property; and establishing an effective date.

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

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 132—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-14D-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the retirement benefit multiplier of the Deputy Sheriff Retirement System Act from two and one-half percent to three percent of the member's final average salary multiplied by the member's years of credited service.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 133—A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to teaching experience requirement for teacher certification renewal and attainment of permanent certification.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 134—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-20-2, §30-20-3, §30-20-4, §30-20-7, §30-20-8a, §30-20-13, and §30-20A-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to changing name of West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy to West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy and Athletic Training.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 135—A Bill to amend and reenact §62-1C-1a and §62-1C-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to pretrial release generally; clarifying right to pretrial release; clarifying maximum bail amount for charges for multiple misdemeanor offenses; defining terms; establishing that defendant has right to select method of securing bail; clarifying that personal recognizance bonds shall include an unsecured monetary amount; prohibiting magistrate from setting cash only or property only bail; authorizing judicial officer to impose reasonably necessary conditions to assure defendant will appear as required, including releasing defendant on his or her own recognizance; clarifying that a magistrate may not release a defendant charged with a felony offense on his or her own recognizance on initial appearance; providing circumstances when a bail bond is not appropriate; providing circumstances when a magistrate has discretion to set a cash only bond; and making technical corrections.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 136—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17B-3-14, relating to providing reports on mental or physical disabilities, or disorders, to the Division of Motor Vehicles to determine an individual's medical competency to retain their driver's license; and providing that this section shall be known as McKayla, Miranda, and Philip's Law.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 137—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to criminal penalties for murder of the second degree; and parole eligibility for the crime of murder in the second degree.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 138—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2-33 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to awards and benefits to dependents of State Police officers; and 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.

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

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 139—A Bill to amend and reenact §57-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the testimony of spouses in a criminal case.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 140—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the penalty for voluntary manslaughter.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 141—A Bill to amend and reenact §20-18-2 and §20-18-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement; increasing the accrued benefit of members of the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System who retire on or after January 1, 2029; and providing for additional funding of the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System.

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

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Bill 142—A Bill to amend §51-1-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to regulation of procedure in all courts of record; and providing a procedure when judges may be recused in legal proceedings if a party's lawyer or the law firm of a party's lawyer has contributed to a judge's campaign.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 143—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §12-4C-1, §12-4C-2, §12-4C-3, §12-4C-4, and §12-4C-5, relating to investments by the state; providing a short title; providing definitions; clarifying investment opportunities for the Board of Treasury and State Retirement Fund; and establishing rules.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Barrett:

Senate Bill 144—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-6B-3 and §11-6B-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §11-8-6e, relating to taxation; providing for a phased-in increase in the homestead exemption; providing that change to exemption is contingent on passage of constitutional amendment; and repealing limitation on levy rates resulting in property tax increase.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 145—A Bill to amend and reenact §29-21-13a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to attorneys appointed to represent indigent persons in criminal, juvenile, and abuse and neglect cases, and attorneys appointed to serve as guardians ad litem in the state courts; increasing compensation paid by Public Defender Services; and requiring Public Defender Services to annually provide report summarizing certain legal services provided by guardians ad litem.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 146—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §36-3A-1, §36-3A-2, §36-3A-3, §36-3A-4, §36-3A-5, §36-3A-6, §36-3A-7, §36-3A-8, and §36-3A-9, relating to creating the Uniform Unlawful Restriction in Land Records Act.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 147—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §47-18A-1, §47-18A-2, §47-18A-3, §47-18A-4, §47-18A-5, §47-18A-6, §47-18A-7, and §47-18A-8, relating to establishing the Uniform Antitrust Pre-Merger Notification Act; providing short title; defining terms; requiring pre-notification of a merger of certain businesses to the Attorney General; requiring the Attorney General to keep confidential certain documents and providing exceptions thereto; allowing reciprocity between the Attorney General and certain other state attorneys general for sharing of confidential documents; authorizing the Attorney General to pursue civil penalties for any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this act; requesting courts to promote uniformity between states when applying and construing this act; and providing that the provisions of this act apply only to those mergers filed on or after the effective date of the act.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 148—A Bill to amend and reenact §33-3-14d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to distributions from funds collected from a premium tax on fire insurance and casualty insurance policies; clarifying requirements of distributions from funds collected from a premium tax on fire insurance and casualty policies; directing that 10 percent of funds collected from a premium tax on fire insurance and casualty insurance policies currently paid to the Teachers Retirement System be deposited in the Municipal Pensions Security Fund to be distributed by the Municipal Pensions Oversight Board in certain circumstances; and decreasing the time in which a municipal policeman's or fireman's pension and relief fund may fail to comply with investment provisions before it may be required to invest with the state Investment Management Board in order to continue to receive funds from a premium tax on fire insurance and casualty insurance policies.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 149—A Bill to amend and reenact §5-10-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing certain contracted counsel for executive agencies to purchase years of service in the Public Employees Retirement System.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 150—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-3-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to property exempt from taxation; and exempting from personal property taxation private passenger automobiles that are 25 years old or older.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 151—A Bill to amend and reenact §9-5-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to exempting the cash value of a life insurance policy from Medicaid eligibility calculations.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 152—A Bill to amend and reenact §31-15A-17c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permissible expenditures by the Water Development Authority from the Infrastructure Fund; modifying the upper limit of funds which may be transferred to sub account; raising the cap on total project costs for certain facilities for use of Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account funding; and allowing the authority to grant infrastructure grant money from the Critical Needs and Failing Systems Sub Account to certain projects for the upgrading of a water facility or wastewater facility to reduce maintenance costs, operations costs, or waterline leakages.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 153—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-113 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to drop-in child care services; and requiring background checks for drop-in child care services.

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

By Senator Grady:

Senate Bill 154—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-8C-2a, relating to the filming of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct; creating a new criminal offense of manipulating a photograph, image, video clip, movie, or similar recording containing sexually explicit conduct by the insertion thereof of a visual image of an actual minor so as to create the appearance that it is a minor engaged in the sexually explicit conduct; defining terms; clarifying that the offense is separate and distinct from any other offense set forth in the code; and establishing criminal penalties.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Grady:

Senate Bill 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; 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.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 156—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13MM-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the motor vehicle property tax adjustment refund and streamlining the rebate process; providing a refund instead of a tax credit; and clarifying the reimbursement process of the tax refund.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 157—A Bill to amend and reenact §62-1C-1, §62-1C-1a, §62-1C-2, and §62-1C-17b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §62-1C-3 and §62-1C-4, relating to bail; defining bail; providing factors to be applied by judicial officer for certain bail determinations; providing for judicial review of bail determinations; providing for mandatory or discretionary pretrial release by category of charged offense; providing for discretionary pretrial release pending appeal from conviction; requiring hearing for defendant who remains incarcerated after initial appearance relating to misdemeanor; authorizing defendant to select form of bail unless restricted by judicial officer; providing for cash bail, recognizance, use of bail bondsman, and other forms of bail pursuant to rules promulgated by Supreme Court of Appeals; setting maximum cash bail for misdemeanors; requiring release on recognizance for certain misdemeanors except for good cause shown; specifying misdemeanors not eligible for recognizance; requiring certain information be provided to court with respect to recognizance; providing signature requirements for recognizance; authorizing judicial officer to require justification of surety; providing for minimum assessed value of real property; providing for pretrial release of indigent defendants; providing requirements for unapproved surety; providing net worth requirements of surety; prohibiting judicial officer from recommending relative as surety; authorizing bail to cover multiple charges; providing for receipts; authorizing additional conditions of pretrial release; authorizing judicial officer to modify conditions of release; requiring presence of prosecuting attorney and defense counsel at certain hearings; repealing provisions regarding fixing amount of bail and bail covering two or more charges; repealing provisions regarding recognizance, requirements for signers or surety company, release upon own recognizance, and indigent persons; and making technical corrections.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 158—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend the code by adding 11 new sections, designated §61-2-2a, §61-2-2b, §61-2-2c, §61-2-2d, §61-2-2e, §61-2-2f, §61-2-2g, §62-7-4, §62-7-5, §62-7-6, and §62-7-6a; and to repeal §61-11-2 and §62-3-15, relating to the Patrolman Cassie Marie Johnson Memorial Act and the death penalty for first degree murder; providing for procedures, standards, and findings applicable to imposition thereof in certain instances including aggravating and mitigating circumstances; sentencing; providing automatic review of the death penalty by the Supreme Court of Appeals; providing for forensic DNA testing of biological material in death penalty cases; providing for execution of the death sentence by lethal injection; providing for delivery of sentence of death to officer retaining custody of person so sentenced; providing for transmission of indictment, order of conviction, sentence, and judgment entered thereon to the warden of the state correctional facility; transferring of person sentenced to death to the state correctional facility; execution; providing presence of certain persons be requested for the execution; providing for certification that sentence of death has been executed; and providing for disposition of the body.

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

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 159—A Bill to amend and reenact §16B-17-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Human Rights Act; and creating veteran status as a protected class.

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

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 160—A Bill to amend and reenact §27-5-1, §27-5-1b, §27-5-2, and §27-5-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §27-5-2b; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §27-5A-1, §27-5A-2, and §27-5A-3, relating generally to the creation of mental hygiene regions by the Supreme Court of Appeals; clarifying that mental hygiene evaluations and proceedings may be conducted by video technology; removing licensed professional counselors and licensed independent social workers as approved examiners for mental hygiene evaluations; creating a temporary observation release for mental hygiene respondents; clarifying that chief medical officer releases requiring approval of circuit court only apply to forensic patients; requiring hearings for any commitment period of longer than 90 days and prohibiting any person from being civilly committed to longer than 120 days without a hearing to determine whether the individual continues to meet commitment criteria; removing obsolete language regarding transcripts of proceedings to circuit court of county of residence; restructuring the mental hygiene commissioner system by authorizing new mental hygiene regions and full-time mental hygiene commissioners employed by the Supreme Court of Appeals; authorizing mental hygiene proceedings and evaluations by video and requiring facilities to provide technology that meets Supreme Court of Appeals specifications; authorizing statewide coverage for mental hygiene evaluations and permitting a mental hygiene commissioner to exclude evaluator testimony based on the West Virginia Rules of Evidence; and requiring each certified community mental health center to ensure that at least one examiner is available to provide uniform and continuous coverage in each region, including afterhours, weekends, and holidays.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 161—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31-17B-1, §31-17B-2, §31-17B-3, §31-17B-4, §31-17B-5, §31-17B-6, and §31-17B-7, relating to establishing the Uniform Mortgage Modification Act; providing short title; defining terms; providing the applicability of this article to certain mortgage modifications and providing exceptions thereto; providing that certain existing terms and conditions of a mortgage continue to be in effect when other specified terms are modified without altering the loans secured priority against the property for which the loan is held; requesting courts to promote uniformity between states when applying and construing this act; providing that this act does limit and modify certain provisions of the Global and National Commerce Act and providing an exception thereto; and providing that the provisions of this act apply only to those mortgage modifications made on or after the effective date of the act.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Grady:

Senate Bill 162—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-5-22f, relating to requiring the West Virginia Board of Education to promulgate a legislative rule in consultation with the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy that governs concussion protocol, education, and training to prevent concussions and the development of a Concussion Education Prevention and Response Plan; allowing the West Virginia Board of Physical Therapy to provide a draft rule; specifying who the rule applies to; requiring initial rule to comply with certain concussion-related code section; allowing recommendation for code section to be amended or repealed; requiring rule to specify individuals who are to receive concussion-related education; and requiring a school to adopt a Concussion Education, Prevention, and Response Plan in accordance with the rule.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 163—A Bill to amend and reenact §29A-1-2, §29A-3-11, and §29A-3-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the submission of legislative rules; requiring the inclusion of economic impact statements with certain proposed legislative rules; authorizing the request of economic impact statements; and defining "economic impact statement".

Referred to the Committee on Economic Development; and then to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 164—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §4-16-1, §4-16-2, §4-16-3, §4-16-4, §4-16-5, and §4-16-6, relating to establishing the Joint Commission on Government Efficiency; stating the commission's purpose; creating the commission's composition, duties, and powers; establishing that commission is to have no appropriation of funds; requiring commission report to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance; and providing a sunset provision.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Thorne:

Senate Bill 165—A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-3-14e, §19-13-1, §19-13-2, §19-13-3, §19-19-1, §19-19-2, §19-19-4, and §19-19-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying the Right to Farm Act relating to residential agricultural operations and the regulation of honey bees; fees collected for highway beautification to promote pollinators; and including tropilaelaps mites to the definition of honey bee pests.

Referred to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 166—A Bill to amend and reenact §18C-9-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the West Virginia Invests Grant Program; and extending the West Virginia Invests Grant Program eligibility requirements to include associate degrees or certificates in a post-secondary program for emergency medical services.

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

By Senator Smith (Mr. President):

Senate Bill 167—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-8-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to meetings of local levying bodies; and clarifying when municipalities may conduct late meetings and file late reports.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 168—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-13-5a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to public utilities tax; and exempting residential consumers of tangible personal property from public utilities.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Bill 169—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-21-27, relating to expenses associated with child care.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 170—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2B-2a and §18-9D-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing a county board of education participating in the operation of a multicounty vocational center to withdraw; allowing any county board participating in a multicounty vocational center to determine that a career technical education program be part of the local high school; and modifying provisions pertaining to construction of a comprehensive vocational facility by a county board served by a multicounty vocational technical facility.

Referred to the Select Committee on School Choice; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 171—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-36-1, §18-36-2, §18-36-3, §18-36-4, and §18-36-5, relating to the creation of the West Virginia Released Time Education Act; providing for a short title; creating definitions; providing for released time excusal policies; providing credit for released time courses; and providing for remedies.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 172—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new chapter, designated §11C-1-1, §11C-1-2, §11C-2-1, §11C-2-2, §11C-2-3, §11C-2-4, §11C-2-5, §11C-2-6, §11C-2-7, §11C-2-8, and §11C-3-1, relating to establishing a digital currency backed by gold held within the West Virginia Bullion Depository.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Rose:

Senate Bill 173—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-2R-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding two new sections, designated §16-2R-10 and §16-2R-11, relating to the prohibiting of abortifacients; defining terms; creating criminal penalties; providing for revocation of medical license in certain circumstances; creating civil cause of action; providing exceptions to applicability; and requiring continuing education.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 174—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-12-2, §61-8-9, and §61-11-18 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, requiring registration as sex offender for those convicted of newly created felony offense of indecent exposure to certain minors; declaring that indecent exposure requires exposing one's nude penis, vagina, or anus; authorizing a person convicted of third offense indecent exposure for purposes of sexual gratification to be both fined and imprisoned; creating enhanced penalties for second and subsequent violations; creating the

criminal offense of indecent exposure in front of minors; removing breast-feeding exemption as unnecessary due to definition clarification; defining terms; establishing criminal penalties for the new offense; and declaring that the felony offenses of indecent exposure are qualifying offenses for the purpose of recidivist sentencing enhancements.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 175—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designed §61-6-18a, relating to the prohibition against camping in public areas without consent; defining terms; providing that camping in public places without the effective consent of the officer or agency having the legal duty or authority to manage the public place is a misdemeanor; providing for criminal penalties upon conviction thereof; providing for the issuance of a warning citation for a first offense; providing that person's intent may be established through specified actions; providing for community service; providing that state or local law, rules, or ordinances prohibiting camping in public areas meeting certain requirements are not preempted by this section; and requiring officer to provide information prior to issuance of citation unless there is an imminent threat to public health or safety.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Fuller:

Senate Bill 176—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-45 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to extending non-traditional instruction days for instructors from five days to 10 days to count toward the 180 required days of school instruction.

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

By Senator Fuller:

Senate Bill 177—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §8-14-25, relating to providing all certified law-enforcement officers tuition-free education up to the highest rate for higher education in this state.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 178—A Bill to amend and reenact §17-2A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to prepare and present, annually, to the Legislature a comprehensive highway paving plan establishing routine repaving of all normally asphalt-surfaced roads.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 179—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-5-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to federal correctional institutions; and adding federal correctional institutions to the list of correctional facilities in which it is a criminal offense to deliver anything unlawfully to a person in custody or confined therein.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 180—A Bill to amend and reenact §59-3-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §6-15-1, §6-15-2, and §6-15-3, relating to legal advertisements; creating the State Central Legal Advertising website; establishing the State Auditor as the administrator and creator of the website; permitting alternate publication timelines if also publishing on the State Central Legal Advertisement website; providing for rule-making authority; and setting an effective date.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 181—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-1-5a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prohibiting municipalities participating in the home rule program from establishing nondiscrimination ordinances that include protected classes in addition to what is designated in state statute.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 182—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-6-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to annexation by minor boundary adjustment.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 183—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-8A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing bona fide schools, public libraries, and museums from the list of exemptions from criminal liability relating to distribution and display to minor of obscene matter.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 184—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-6-18a, relating to prohibiting public camping; defining terms; prohibiting camping in public places; providing that person's intent established through specified actions; providing that violation of article constitutes a misdemeanor; providing for fine; requiring bus ticket to be offered; providing for community service; addressing preemption; and requiring officer to provide information prior to issuance of citation unless there is an imminent threat to public health or safety.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 185—A Bill to amend and reenact §6-3-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to appointment of more than one chief deputy by the sheriff.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 186—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-21-3, §11-21-4g, §11-21-18, §11-21-30, §11-21-40, §11-21-51, §11-21-71a, and §44D-1-108 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as

amended, relating to the personal income tax; and exempting non-grantor trusts administered in this state from the personal income tax.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 187—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-4-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing for a recall process of a prosecutor under certain circumstances.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 188—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to changing the length of term of the state political party committee chair.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 189—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §30-44-1, §30-44-2, §30-44-3, §30-44-4, §30-44-5, §30-44-6, §30-44-7, §30-44-8, §30-44-9, §30-44-10, §30-44-11, §30-44-12, §30-44-13, §30-44-14, §30-44-14a, §30-44-14b, §30-44-15, §30-44-16, and §30-44-17, relating generally to certified professional midwives; providing for definitions; setting forth the license required to practice; providing requirements for the license; providing for the license renewal and reinstatement; establishing temporary permits; detailing the contents of the license or certificate; providing for continuing education; clarifying the use of titles; providing for the denial, revocation, or suspension of license; listing exceptions; establishing prohibitions and penalties; creating an injunction or other relief against unlawful acts; providing for regulations governing the practice of midwifery; defining established medical tests, legend drug formulary, and medical devices; creating a drugs legend; creating a medical tests legend; providing for midwife responsibilities; providing for confidentiality; and providing for immunity.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 190—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-10b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §61-2-10c, relating to clarifying the criminal offense of malicious assault, unlawful assault, and battery on law-enforcement officers, correctional employees, and emergency medical service personnel; providing definitions; and establishing penalties.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 191—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-4-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring a petition of qualified voters for a once defeated amendment to be reconsidered.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 192—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-3-27a, relating to establishing the offense of assault upon a service animal; and creating criminal penalties.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 193—A Bill to amend and reenact §36-12-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Uniform Real Property Transfer on Death Act; and setting forth the requisite capacity requirements for a transfer on death deed.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 194—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13MM-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to disabled veteran taxpayers; and clarifying the definition of a "disabled veteran taxpayer".

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 195—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the penalty for second degree murder.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 196—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-19d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to changing the minimum amount of insurance that county boards of education must maintain in order for the specified limitation of liability to apply; and requiring that the insurance purchased be obtained from a company licensed to do business in this state.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 197—A Bill to amend §61-8D-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to child abuse; and adding attempt to the criminal offense of sexual abuse by a parent, guardian, custodian, or person in a position of trust to a child.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 198—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §20-2-63, relating to exempting certain persons from fees for hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses and permits; providing that fees for hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses and permits are waived for certain volunteer firefighters; including eligibility requirements; requiring compliance with all other requirements to obtain license; and granting rule-making authority.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 199—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §20-2-65, relating to waivers of fees for emergency responders disabled in the line of duty for hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses; establishing procedures and requirements for requesting the waiver; and permitting the promulgation of rules by the Division of Natural Resources.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 200—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-11-18 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §61-2-10c; and to repeal §19-20-24, relating to police dogs and other public safety animals; creating offenses related to willfully causing physical injury, serious physical injury, or death to public safety animals; allowing for defense of public service animals; providing an exemption; defining terms; establishing criminal penalties; and specifying that the felony offenses set forth are qualifying offenses for recidivist sentencing purposes.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 201—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-8-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to cruelty to animals; creating and defining the felony offense of cruelty to animals; modifying and clarifying applicability of the section; defining terms; and creating criminal penalties.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 202—A Bill to amend and reenact §18B-10-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to exempting certain military veterans and their spouses and dependents from the payment of tuition and fees at state institutions of higher education.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 203—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-3-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring county boards of education, county superintendents, employees of county boards of education, and the West Virginia Public Employees' Grievance Board to give substantial deference to the State Superintendent's interpretations of school law or State Board of Education rules; and providing exceptions to substantial deference requirement.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 204—A Bill to amend and reenact §21A-2C-1, §21A-2C-2, §21A-2C-3, §21A-2C-4, §21A-2C-5, and §21A-2C-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to renaming the Military Incentive Program and extending this program to all veterans; updating definitions; naming WorkForce West Virginia as the only agency administering this program; and establishing rulemaking.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 205—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-3, §61-2-4, and §62-12-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the penalties and parole eligibility requirements for homicide by increasing the minimum and maximum term of imprisonment for second degree murder and voluntary manslaughter; increasing the minimum period of imprisonment prior to parole eligibility for individuals convicted of second degree murder and voluntary manslaughter; and increasing the minimum period of imprisonment prior to parole eligibility for individuals sentenced to life imprisonment.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 206—A Bill to amend and reenact §5-10-20 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, authorizing sheriffs who are members of the public retirement system to retire upon attaining the age of 62 with eight or more years of service.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 207—A Bill to amend and reenact §11A-1-17 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to sheriff's commission for collection of taxes.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 208—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §15-1B-28, relating to exempting certain classified military records from public release.

Referred to the Committee on Military.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 209—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-9H-1, relating to the creation of the Vape Regulation and Enforcement Act; providing for definitions; and empowering the Alcohol Beverage Control Administration to regulate the sale of vapes and vape cartridges.

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

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 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 §16-29-9, §16-29-10, and §16-29-11, relating to Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability; definitions; requiring departments to prepare performance plans and performance reports; and submitting reports.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 211—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-1-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the authority of the Public Service Commission; providing limitations on the jurisdiction on electric utilities by the Public Service Commission; requiring rate adjustment recommendations be forwarded to the Legislature; and establishing rate adjustments require specific bill approval by the Legislature.

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

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 212—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16B-22-1, §16B-22-2, §16B-22-3, §16B-22-4, §16B-22-5, §16B-22-6, and §16B-22-7, relating to creating the Whistleblower Protection Fund Act; providing the short title; establishing its findings and purpose; establishing the fund; providing the fund's sources of funding; requiring the Office of the Inspector General to administer the fund; setting forth reporting requirements; and establishing an effective date.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 213—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §24-2-1s, relating to providing the Public Service Commission jurisdiction over internet service providers; stating legislative findings; defining term; specifying duties and authority of commission; authorizing fines; and allowing rulemaking.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 214—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-5-13e, relating to the creation of the Community School Funding Formula Revision Act.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 215—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-36-1, relating to education; and creating the West Virginia Constitutional Schools Act of 2026.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 216—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-28-2 and §18-28-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to education; clarifying attendance, health, and safety regulations; and creating the Restoring Private Schools Act of 2026.

Referred to the Select Committee on School Choice.

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 217—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-5-13e, relating to the creation of the Community School Funding Formula Revision Act.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 218—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-5-13e, relating to schools; creating a Community School Support Fund; providing legislative findings; requiring the State Superintendent of Schools to take certain actions to set aside \$5 million for fund; and clarifying the application process for assistance from the fund.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 219—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-5-13e, relating to schools; creating a moratorium on school closings and consolidation; providing legislative findings; providing a purpose; establishing the Board of Education to take certain actions; requiring the Board of Education provide a report; and providing a time frame.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 220—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission; changing a solar photovoltaic energy facility to an on-site energy facility; and setting forth provisions required by the commission to be in power purchase agreements between public entities and customers.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 221—A Bill to amend and reenact §5B-11-1, §5B-11-2, §5B-11-3, and §5B-11-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the King Coal Highway Economic Advisory Board Act; renaming the West Virginia Advanced Energy and Economic Corridor Authority the King Coal Highway Economic Advisory Board; modifying legislative findings for creation of advisory board; reducing membership of advisory board to 11 members; modifying requirements for members of advisory board; and modifying powers and duties of the advisory board.

Referred to the Committee on Economic Development; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 222—A Bill to amend and reenact §22-31-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding four new sections, designated §22-31-3, §22-31-4, §22-31-5, and §22-31-6, relating to public water systems; eliminating the Public Water System Supply Study Commission; improving and protecting supply from public water systems; planning, reporting, and communications of such systems, public service districts, and the Public Service

Commission; providing for definitions; requiring plans and telemetry data for tank levels in public water systems; requiring public water systems issue quarterly reports and submit to independent review in certain circumstances; requiring public service districts to assign a communications officer; and requiring the Public Service Commission to present on the shortage of water plant workers and managers.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 223—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-13a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the creation of the Community School Parents' Choice Act; ensuring that parents of students in schools under consideration for closure and consolidation shall be provided with a means to prevent closure or consolidation; and providing for a 10-year sunset date.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 224—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-9D-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the creation of the Support for Neglected Schools Act.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 225—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §16-7-12, relating to prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or distribution of cultivated meat products; defining term; establishing prohibition; providing for penalties; providing for food establishment permit suspension process; clarifying lack of prohibition on research related to cultivated meat products; providing for rulemaking; and establishing effective and sunset dates.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 226—A Bill to amend and reenact §19-14-2 and §19-14-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the West Virginia Commercial Feed Law; clarifying a definition; and providing an exemption from obtaining a commercial feed distributor permit.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 227—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31E-17-1701, §31E-17-1702, and §31E-17-1703, relating to creating the Nonprofit Transparency and Accountability Act; putting forth legislative findings; and requiring that all nonprofit organizations that receive any part of their total operating funds from public sources, whether state or federal, shall be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests and bear the responsibility to respond to these requests under the same requirements as a public body.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 228—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §49-2-815, relating to the establishment of a pilot program for the use of mobile devices in child abuse and neglect investigations; setting forth effective date; setting forth requirements for system; setting forth term of pilot program; and requiring reporting.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 229—A Bill to amend and reenact §22-5-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §22-5-2, §22-5-3, §22-5-4, §22-5-5, §22-5-6, §22-5-7, §22-5-8, §22-5-9, §22-5-10, §22-5-11, §22-5-11a, §22-5-11b, §22-5-11c, §22-5-12, §22-5-13, §22-5-14, §22-5-15, §22-5-16, §22-5-17, §22-5-18, §22-5-19, and §22-5-20, relating to establishing the Fueling Modern Life Act; stating legislative findings; providing a title; and establishing state policy relating to carbon dioxide.

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

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 230—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §24-2J-1 and §24-2J-2, relating to requiring that all electricity providers give their customers a choice in the style of meter installed on their homes, businesses, or rental units.

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

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 231—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-67-1, §16-67-2, §16-67-3, §16-67-4, and §16-67-5, relating to value-based payment requirements; providing legislative intent; defining terms; establishing value-based measures; creating timelines for implementation; and setting out authority.

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

By Senator Fuller:

Senate Bill 232—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §30-20B-1, §30-20B-2, §30-20B-3, §30-20B-4, §30-20B-5, §30-20B-6, and §30-20B-7, relating to the creation of the West Virginia Secondary School Athletic Trainer and Career Technical Education Program Act; providing for a short title; providing for findings and a purpose; providing for establishment of the five-year program; providing for career and technical education programs; ensuring compliance with WVSSAC regulations; providing for workforce recruitment and financial incentives; and providing for a timeline and effective date.

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

By Senator Fuller:

Senate Bill 233—A Bill to amend and reenact §21-5-5c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to deception examiners; and clarifying the qualifications required to be licensed as a Class I and Class II psychophysiological detection of deception examiner.

Referred to the Committee on the Workforce.

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 234—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-25 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission Reform Act; giving public charter schools control, supervision, and regulation of all extracurricular activities of the students in their schools; allowing public charter schools to delegate control, supervision, and regulation of interscholastic athletic events and band activities to the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission; providing that the commission is composed of the athletic directors, or their representatives, of certain secondary schools; modifying commission rule-making procedures; requiring rules to include a school classification system based on a competitive balance formula which includes the number of transfers a school has received and other factors; providing that the commission is to become a state agency; providing that commission funds from dues paid and from any event sponsored by the commission are public funds; requiring that executive director of the commission be appointed by the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate; requiring commission rules to provide for executive director to investigate and make decisions on all violations of rules and questions of dispute regarding any sports activities governed by the commission and to include provisions ensuring adequate due process; providing that any disagreement with the executive director's decision can only be brought before the Intermediate Court of Appeals; providing for organized groups of certain nonpublic school students to participate in the extracurricular activities under commission control, supervision, and regulation; removing one of the requirements for homeschool students, Hope Scholarship Program participants, microschool students, and learning pod students to be eligible for extracurricular activities of secondary schools and modifying fees that can be charged to these students; and providing for certain existing commission rules to continue in effect.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 235—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-9H-1, §16-9H-2, §16-9H-3, §16-9H-4, §16-9H-5, §16-9H-6, §16-9H-7, §16-9H-8, §16-9H-9, and §16-9H-10, relating to regulating locations, operating requirements, and property standards for smoke shops and vape shops; establishing safe advertising that does not appeal to minors; setting standards for inspections; fines for violations; and appeals.

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

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 236—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-3B-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to trespassing on premises of an institution of higher education.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 237—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §16-3-4d, relating to prohibiting mandates for vaccines.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 238—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-12-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to general powers of municipalities; and allowing municipalities to complete work previously requested to the Division of Highways, with a provision for payment.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 239—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-113 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the ratio of children in family child care facilities.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 240—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18A-4-4a, relating to approving overtime pay for teachers.

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

By Senator Clements:

Senate Bill 241—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-11A-1, relating to prohibiting those listed on the state sex offender database from entering public school facilities and attending public school activities and events; requiring parent-teacher conferences for those persons to be conducted off school grounds; and allowing the State Board of Education to promulgate rules.

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

By Senator Clements:

Senate Bill 242—A Bill to amend and reenact §21-14-2 and §21-14-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Division of Labor; providing definitions for plumbing work; and requiring the Commissioner of Labor to propose separate rules for plumbers who work in a residential dwelling or in a commercial building or facility.

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

By Senator Phillips:

Senate Bill 243—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-13NN-1, §11-13NN-2, §11-13NN-3, §11-13NN-4, §11-13NN-5, §11-13NN-6, §11-13NN-7, §11-13NN-8, and §11-13NN-9, relating to establishing disaster repair and recovery effort tax credit for taxpayers subject to the severance and business privilege tax in certain circumstances; providing a short title; setting out legislative findings and purpose; defining terms; specifying the amount of the credit; providing for the application of credit and carryforward of unused credit; requiring filing of application for disaster repair and recovery effort tax credit as condition precedent to claiming credit; specifying procedure of application for certification, contents of application, and limitation on maximum amount of credits which can be approved; allowing transfer of credits to successors; providing for forfeiture of unused tax credits; providing legislative and emergency rulemaking; and establishing an effective date.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Clements:

Senate Bill 244—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-13MM-8a, relating to clarifying the county to which ad valorem taxes should be paid when the seat of a well is in a different county than the location of the property from which the well draws.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Clements:

Senate Bill 245—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §22C-9-7b, relating to requiring a declaration of pooled unit to be filed with the clerk of the county commission in which all wells in a unit are to be drilled; requiring information in the declarations; requiring declaration of pooled unit when unit boundary penetrated by wellbore and information necessary for same; requiring amended declaration of pooled unit in certain circumstances; requiring operator provide certain information regarding acreage upon request; and establishing process for lessor or royalty owner to cure non-compliance with requirements, including bringing civil action.

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

By Senator Clements:

Senate Bill 246—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-9A-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the school aid formula; and establishing a minimum net enrollment of 1,200 students for each county.

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

By Senator Clements:

Senate Bill 247—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-29-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to responsibility for reimbursement of training costs for law-enforcement employees who leave original jurisdiction of employment for employment in another law-enforcement agency in this state.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Clements:

Senate Bill 248—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-13NN-1, §11-13NN-2, §11-13NN-3, §11-13NN-4, §11-13NN-5, and §11-13NN-6, relating to creating the Return to West Virginia Tax Credit Act; providing for a title, findings, and purpose; providing for a nonrefundable credit against state personal income taxes; providing a definition; providing for limitations and eligibility requirements of the credit; authorizing legislative rule; authorizing the Tax Commissioner to create forms and require documentation; providing for effective and expiration dates of the credit; and requiring reporting.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 249—A Bill to repeal §17C-16-1, §17C-16-2, §17C-16-3, §17C-16-4, §17C-16-5, §17C-16-6, §17C-16-7, §17C-16-8, and §17C-16-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the elimination of mandatory state inspections of motor vehicles.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Joint Resolution 1—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending article IX thereof, by adding a new section, designated section 14, relating to permitting the Legislature to redraw and/or combine counties every 100 years as it deems fit; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Tarr:

Senate Joint Resolution 2—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia amending section 22, article III thereof, relating to the right to keep and bear arms; prohibiting restriction of this amendment by state or local government; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Charnock:

Senate Joint Resolution 3—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia amending section 1b, article X thereof, relating to exempting honorably discharged veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States from ad valorem property taxation on the full amount of assessed value of a primary residence and all personal property; numbering and designating the proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Joint Resolution 4—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia amending section three, article VI thereof, relating to term limits for members of the Senate and House of Delegates; limiting senators to three consecutive terms; limiting delegates to six consecutive terms; establishing beginning date of term limitations; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Woelfel:

Senate Joint Resolution 5—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; expunging 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.

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

By Senators Garcia and Woelfel:

Senate Joint Resolution 6—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending section four, article VII thereof, relating to term limits for constitutional officers; providing that no person shall serve more than two consecutive terms in any one of the offices of Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, or Attorney General; setting effective date; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Joint Resolution 7—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia amending article III thereof by adding a new section, designated section 23, relating to the right to reproductive freedom with protections for health and safety; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Morris:

Senate Joint Resolution 8—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending section three, article IX thereof, relating to county organization and sheriffs; modifying term limits for sheriffs; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Joint Resolution 9—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending section one, article IV thereof, relating to the right to vote in elections held in West Virginia; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Bartlett:

Senate Joint Resolution 10—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia amending section four, article VII thereof, relating to preventing any individual from serving in the office of Secretary of State, Auditor, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, or Attorney General for more than three consecutive terms; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Barrett:

Senate Joint Resolution 11—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending section one-b, article X thereof, relating to phased in homestead exemption increases; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Joint Resolution 12—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of West Virginia, amending article X thereof, by adding thereto a new section, designated section 1d, relating to the elimination of the taxation of business inventory; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Rose:

Senate Joint Resolution 13—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending article XII, Section 2, relating to legislative review and approval of education policies; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

By Senator Roberts:

Senate Joint Resolution 14—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending section 47, article VI thereof, relating to authorizing the incorporation of religious denominations; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

Senator Rucker offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 3—Recognizing the importance of strengthening the United States' medical supply chains with trusted trading partners.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Chapman offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 4—Expressing support for West Virginia's law-enforcement professionals.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Oliverio offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 5—Designating January 14, 2026, as Foster Care Child Welfare Day at the Capitol.

At the request of Senator Oliverio, unanimous consent being granted, the resolution was taken up for immediate consideration, reference to a committee dispensed with, and adopted.

The Senate proceeded to the twelfth order of business.

Remarks were made by Senator Phillips.

The Senate proceeded to the thirteenth order of business.

The President announced the appointment of Senator Taylor, of the County of Taylor, as President *pro Tempore* of the Senate;

And,

Senator Queen, of the County of Harrison, as the majority whip of the Senate.

The President then announced the resignation of Senator Chapman, of the County of Ohio, as Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

The President next announced changes in standing committees and appointments to select committees of the Senate for this eighty-seventh Legislature, and, at the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, the complete list was ordered printed in the Journal as follows:

STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

2026

AGRICULTURE

Senators Hart (*Chair*), Thorne (*Vice Chair*), Deeds, Hamilton, Queen, Rose, Rucker, Tarr, and Woelfel.

BANKING AND INSURANCE

Senators Azinger (*Chair*), Morris (*Vice Chair*), Barrett, Chapman, Charnock, Fuller, Oliverio, and Garcia.

CONFIRMATIONS

Senators Charnock (*Chair*), Azinger, Barrett, Rose, Taylor, Weld, and Woelfel.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Senators Jeffries (*Chair*), Morris (*Vice Chair*), Barrett, Charnock, Clements, Hamilton, Z. Maynard, Oliverio, Phillips, Thorne, Weld, Woodrum, and Woelfel.

EDUCATION

Senators Grady (*Chair*), Clements (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Bartlett, Deeds, Fuller, Hart, Oliverio, Roberts, Tarr, Taylor, and Garcia.

ENERGY, INDUSTRY, AND MINING

Senators Rose (*Chair*), Queen (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Charnock, Fuller, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Z. Maynard, Phillips, Taylor, and Garcia.

ENROLLED BILLS

Senators Woodrum (*Chair*), Fuller (*Vice Chair*), Jeffries, M. Maynard, Roberts, and Woelfel.

FINANCE

Senators Barrett (*Chair*), Roberts (*Vice Chair*), Clements, Grady, Hamilton, Jeffries, Martin, M. Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Takubo, Thorne, Woodrum, and Woelfel.

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

Senators Morris (*Chair*), Woodrum (*Vice Chair*), Barrett, Charnock, Hamilton, Helton, Jeffries, M. Maynard, Z. Maynard, Phillips, Rose, Rucker, Thorne, and Woelfel.

HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Senators Helton (*Chair*), Deeds (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Bartlett, Grady, Martin, M. Maynard, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Takubo, Taylor, Willis, and Garcia.

INTERSTATE COOPERATION

Senators Oliverio (*Chair*), Helton (*Vice Chair*), Bartlett, Queen, Taylor, Willis, and Garcia.

JUDICIARY

Senators Willis (*Chair*), Bartlett (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Chapman, Charnock, Deeds, Fuller, Hart, Helton, Martin, Z. Maynard, Rose, Rucker, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, and Garcia.

MILITARY

Senators Weld (*Chair*), Fuller (*Vice Chair*), Bartlett, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Tarr, Taylor, Willis, and Woelfel.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Senators Hamilton (*Chair*), Deeds (*Vice Chair*), Hart, Jeffries, Morris, Queen, Rose, Tarr, Woodrum, and Garcia.

PENSIONS

Senators Oliverio (*Chair*), Bartlett (*Vice Chair*), Barrett, Clements, Hamilton, Takubo, Tarr, Thorne, Willis, and Woelfel.

RULES

Senators Smith (*Chair*), Martin (*Vice Chair*), Barrett, Chapman, Grady, M. Maynard, Rucker, Taylor, and Woelfel.

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Senators M. Maynard (*Chair*), Taylor (*Vice Chair*), Clements, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Z. Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Rucker, and Garcia.

WORKFORCE

Senators Roberts (*Chair*), Woodrum (*Vice Chair*), Deeds, Fuller, Hamilton, Queen, Rose, Tarr, Thorne, Weld, and Woelfel.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL CHOICE

Senators Rucker (*Chair*), Taylor (*Vice Chair*), Azinger, Clements, M. Maynard, Roberts, Rose, Thorne, and Woelfel.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND MENTAL HEALTH

Senators Helton (*Chair*), Fuller (*Vice Chair*), Deeds, Takubo, Tarr, Weld, and Woelfel.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12:35 p.m., the Senate recessed until 6:30 p.m. today.

The Senate reconvened at 6:32 p.m. and, at the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, returned to the third order of business.

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

House Concurrent Resolution 1—Extending an invitation to His Excellency, the Governor, to deliver an address to the Legislature and raising a Joint Assembly therefor.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, reference of the resolution to a committee was dispensed with and it was taken up for immediate consideration.

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

Whereupon, pursuant to the provisions of House Concurrent Resolution 1, the President appointed as Senate members of the committee to wait upon His Excellency, the Governor, and escort him into the Hall of the House of Delegates, the following:

Senators Taylor, Martin, and Garcia.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

House Concurrent Resolution 2—Amending Rule 31 of the Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Delegates.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, reference of the resolution to a committee was dispensed with, and it was taken up for immediate consideration.

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

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

The hour of 7 p.m. having arrived, that being the time set for the joint assembly to hear the address of His Excellency, the Governor, the Senate recessed until 5 minutes after adjournment of the joint assembly. Members of the Senate then repaired in a body to the hall of the House of Delegates.

(NOTE: For formal procedure in the joint assembly and the address of His Excellency, the Governor, the Honorable Patrick Morrissey, see the Journal of the House of Delegates for this day.)

The joint assembly having been dissolved, at 8:18 p.m., the Senate returned to its chamber and resumed its regular session.

Executive Communications

Senator Smtih (Mr. President) presented the following communication from His Excellency, the Governor, submitting the executive budget and annual budget bill, which was received and read by the Clerk:



Patrick Morrisey
Office of the Governor

January 14, 2026

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE NO. 1
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

The Honorable Randy Smith
West Virginia Senate
State Capitol
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear President Smith:

I herewith submit, pursuant to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, a budget and budget bill for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patrick Morrisey".

Patrick Morrisey
Governor

Subsequently, Senator Smith (Mr. President) laid before the Senate the aforementioned annual budget bill,

By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel (By Request of the Executive):

Senate Bill 250—A Bill making appropriations of public money out of the Treasury in accordance with section 51, article VI of the Constitution.

Which was read by its title and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

On motion of Senator Martin, at 8:19 p.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 11 a.m.

SENATE CALENDAR

**Thursday, January 15, 2026
11:00 AM**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

S. R. 3 - Recognizing importance of strengthening US medical supply chains

S. R. 4 - Expressing support for WV law-enforcement professionals

ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regular Session 2026

Thursday, January 15, 2026

9 a.m.	Finance	(Room 451M)
1 p.m.	Health & Human Resources	(Room 451M)