

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2026
SIXTH DAY

Charleston, West Virginia, Monday, January 19, 2026

The Senate met at 11:04 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by the Honorable Amy N. Grady, a senator from the fourth district.

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

Pending the reading of the Journal of Friday, January 16, 2026,

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

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

The Clerk presented the following communications from various state agencies as required by the provisions of law:

Accountancy, Board of (§30-1-12)

Administration, Department of (State Building Commission Fund) (§5-6-1)

Architects, Board of (§30-1-12)

Auditor, Office of the (Consolidated Budget Report) (§11-13A-5a)

Barbers and Cosmetologists, Board of (§30-1-12)

Chiropractic, Board of (§30-1-12)

Contractor Licensing Board (§30-1-12)

Counseling, Board of Examiners in (§30-1-12)

Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Commission for the (§5-14-9)

Dentistry, Board of (§30-1-12)

Development Office (Neighborhood Investment Program) (§11-13J-4a)

Economic Development Authority (Combined Financial Statements) (§31-15-29)

Environmental Protection, Department of (Special Reclamation Fund Advisory Council) (§22-1-17)

Forestry, Division of (Logging Sediment Control Act) (§19-1B-13)

Forestry, Division of (Outdoor Heritage Conservation Fund) (§5B-2G-6)

Funeral Service Examiners, Board of (§30-1-12)

Geological and Economic Survey (§29-2-6)

Homeland Security, Department of (Community Corrections Act) (§62-11C-3)

Homeland Security, Department of (Justice Reinvestment Initiative) (§62-15-6a)

Homeland Security, Department of (Law-Enforcement Professional Standards Subcommittee/Program) (§30-29-3)

Housing Development Fund (Audited Financial Statements) (§31-18-24)

Human Services, Department of (Children's Health Insurance Program) (§5-16B-3)

Human Services, Department of (Sanctions Relating to Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program) (§9-9-11)

Human Services, Department of (Youth Service) (§49-2-1006)

Insurance Commissioner, Offices of the (Consumer Advocate) (§33-2-16)

Investment Management Board (Annual Report) (§12-6-14)

Investment Management Board (Audited Financial Statements) (§12-6-6)

Investment Management Board (Schedule of Investment Performance) (§12-6-6)

Landscape Architects, Board of (§30-1-12)

Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners (§30-1-12)

Miners' Health, Safety, and Training, Office of (§22A-1-4)

Motor Vehicles, Division of (Motor Vehicle Alcohol and Drug Test and Lock Program) (§17C-5A-3a)

Motor Vehicles, Division of (Safety and Treatment Program) (§17C-5A-3)

Natural Resources, Division of (§20-1-7)

Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board (§30-1-12)

Occupational Therapy, Board of (§30-1-12)

Optometry, Board of (§30-1-12)

Osteopathic Medicine, Board of (§30-1-12)

Personnel, Division of (§29-6-7)

Pharmacy, Board of (§30-1-12)

Physical Therapy, Board of (§30-1-12)

Professional Engineers, Board of Registration for (§30-1-12)

Professional Surveyors, Board of (§30-1-12)

Protective Services, Division of (Monthly Incident Report) (§15-2D-3)

Real Estate Appraiser Licensing and Certification Board (§30-1-12)

Real Estate Commission (§30-1-12)

Registered Nurses, Board of (§30-1-12)

Respiratory Care, Board of (§30-1-12)

Sanitarians, Board of (§30-1-12)

Special Investigations, Commission on (§4-5-2)

Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, Board of Examiners for (§30-1-12)

Tax Commissioner, State (Biennial Report) (§11-1-4)

Tax Division, State (Downstream Natural Gas Manufacturing Investment Tax Credit Review and Accountability Report) (§11-13GG-15)

Tax Division, State (Tax Expenditure Study) (§11-10-5s)

Treasurer, Office of the (Debt Capacity) (§12-6A-6)

Treasurer, Office of the (Debt Position Report) (§12-6A-6)

Treasury Investments, Board of (Annual Comprehensive Financial Report) (§12-6-6)

Treasury Investments, Board of (Audited Financial Statements) (§12-6C-15)

Veterinary Medicine, Board of (§30-1-12)

Water Development Authority (§22C-1-17)

The Senate proceeded to the sixth order of business.

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

By Senators Rucker and Rose:

Senate Bill 472—A Bill to amend and reenact §9-8-1, §9-9-3, §9-9-16, and §21A-2-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding three new sections, designated §21A-1-9, §21A-1-10, and §21A-1-11, relating to responsibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); transferring responsibility for TANF program to WorkForce West Virginia; transferring responsibility for SNAP to WorkForce West Virginia; establishing internal effective date for transfers; establishing state and WorkForce West Virginia consent and authorization to receive federal appropriations made pursuant to SNAP and TANF programs; clarifying title of executive and administrative head of WorkForce West Virginia; and making technical changes throughout.

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

By Senators Morris and Hamilton:

Senate Bill 473—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-3C-14a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to creating felony criminal penalties for using electronic communication devices to threaten crimes of violence.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 474—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-29-1 and §11-29-2, relating to the Truth in Taxation Act; defining terms; setting forth criteria for tax rates; and establishing notice and public hearing requirements.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senators Rucker, Charnock, Thorne, Morris, and Woodrum:

Senate Bill 475—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §29A-3-21, relating to legislative rules regarding chemicals of emerging concern; defining terms; providing that certain legislative rules shall not be more stringent or extensive in scope, coverage, or effect than any federal law or regulation on the same or a substantially similar topic; providing that certain legislative rules proposed in the absence of a federal law or regulation on the same or a substantially similar topic shall be based on the best available science and the weight of scientific evidence; providing exceptions; and providing an effective date.

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

By Senators Rucker and Roberts:

Senate Bill 476—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18B-23-1, §18B-23-2, and §18B-23-3, relating to creating the Selecting

Neutral Accreditors Act; providing for legislative findings; setting forth definitions; and providing for the selection of accrediting agencies and enforcement.

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

By Senators Rose, Helton, M. Maynard, and Rucker:

Senate Bill 477—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §30-5-37, relating to pharmacists dispensing Ivermectin; authorizing provision of Ivermectin with a collaborate pharmacy practice agreement; authorizing Ivermectin without a prescription upon federal regulations; clarifying liability and disciplinary action protections for pharmacists and health care providers; authorizing rules; establishing effective dates; and establishing severability.

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

By Senators Rose, Helton, M. Maynard, and Rucker:

Senate Bill 478—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §2-1A-1, §2-1A-2, §2-1A-3, §2-1A-4, §2-1A-5, §2-1A-6, §2-1A-7, §2-1A-8, and §2-1A-9, relating to establishing the Second Amendment Reaffirmation and Protection Act to protect the right to bear arms in the event that the National Firearms Act, the Gun Control Act, or the Firearm Owner's Protection Act are repealed or nullified; creating a triggering clause; listing a preemption clause; prohibiting state agencies from replacing, re-enacting, or simulating any unconstitutional federal firearm restriction; protecting individuals and businesses; creating a private right of action; and establishing enforcement restrictions and penalties for state law-enforcement agencies that violate this act.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senators Rose, Helton, M. Maynard, and Rucker:

Senate Bill 479—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §49-13-1, §49-13-2, and §49-13-3, relating to requiring hair follicle drug testing of substantiated child abusers before restoring unsupervised visitation rights; and requiring hair follicle drug testing of affected minors.

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

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 480—A Bill to amend and reenact §24C-1-2, §24C-1-2a, §24C-1-3, and §24C-1-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to underground facilities damage prevention.

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

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 481—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-29 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to elections; definitions; and changing "precinct" to "polling location".

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

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 482—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §17B-8-1, §17B-8-2, §17B-8-3, §17B-8-4, §17B-8-5, §17B-8-6, §17B-8-7, §17B-8-8, §17B-8-9, §17B-8-10, §17B-8-11, §17B-8-12, §17B-8-13, §17B-8-14, §17B-8-15, §17B-8-16, §17B-8-17, and §17B-8-18, relating to creating the West Virginia Driver Safety Modernization Act; providing legislative findings; definitions; age-based renewal and screening requirements for advanced age; establishing a medical review unit, due process, appeals and appeal, and authority of the medical review unit; providing for mandatory medical reporting, immunity, and confidentiality; permitting voluntary medical reporting and driver concern reports; confidentiality of medical information with limitation on use; requirement of periodic medical certification; providing for wrong way incident reporting and law-enforcement procedures; providing for temporary restrictions and review; reinstatement, license restrictions, and appeals; providing for senior mobility planning and safe-driving longevity resources and mature driver safety course incentive; requiring the Division of Highways to identify and evaluate all interchanges, ramps, and divided-highway access points where a wrong-way incident has occurred within the prior 10 years; and providing for interagency data-sharing for roadway safety and driver review, rule-making authority and legislative review.

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

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 483—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §6-15-1, §6-15-2, §6-15-3, §6-15-4, §6-15-5, §6-15-6, §6-15-7, §6-15-8, §6-15-9, §6-15-10, §6-15-11, §6-15-12, §6-15-13, §6-15-14, and §6-15-15, relating to the West Virginia Officials Training Program Act; providing a short title; setting out legislative findings and purpose; establishing a training program administered by the State Auditor; creating a new division of the West Virginia State Auditor's Office; setting out applicability; creating a tiered certification system; outlining program curriculum requirements and initiatives; listing training methods; creating a dashboard; permitting national cooperation and reciprocity; establishing funding; requiring state agency cooperation; requiring annual reports; permitting rulemaking; and transferring similar duties to the State Auditor.

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

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 484—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, §16-9H-10, §16-9H-11, §16-9H-12, §16-9H-13, §16-9H-14, §16-9H-15, §16-9H-16, §16-9H-17, and §16-9H-18, relating to the regulation of intoxicating, nicotine, and controlled retail products; creating the Intoxicating and Nicotine Retail Licensing and Public Safety Act; definitions; creating within the Alcohol Beverage Control Administration the Division of Regulated Products and Retail Compliance; providing for documentation sharing; with state and county coordination; county operating permits; inspection authority; local penalties; county enforcement of setbacks, advertising bans, window opacity, rules, and immediate suspension powers; product seizure authority; county-ABCA coordination framework; retailer responsibilities; and local appeals process.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 485—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §20-20-1, §20-20-2, §20-20-3, §20-20-4, §20-20-5, §20-20-6, §20-20-7, §20-20-8, §20-20-9, §20-20-10, §20-20-11, §20-20-12, and §20-20-13, relating to the West Virginia Behavior-based E-Bike and Multi-Use Trail Mobility Act; creating a short title, scope, and purpose; defining terms; setting operational classes; creating certain safety requirements; creating penalties and enforcement; permitting rulemaking; reporting requirements; and setting an effective date.

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

By Senator Thorne:

Senate Bill 486—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-27-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists; and adding the definition of "master aesthetician" to persons licensed under this article.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 487—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new chapter, designated §33A-1-1, §33A-1-2, §33A-1-3, §33A-1-4, §33A-1-5, §33A-1-6, §33A-1-7, §33A-1-8, §33A-1-9, §33A-2-1, §33A-2-2, §33A-2-3, §33A-2-4, §33A-2-5, §33A-2-6, §33A-2-7, §33A-2-8, §33A-3-1, §33A-3-2, §33A-3-3, §33A-3-4, §33A-3-5, §33A-3-6, §33A-3-7, §33A-3-8, §33A-3-9, §33A-3-10, §33A-3-11, §33A-3-12, §33A-3-13, §33A-3-14, §33A-3-15, §33A-4-1, §33A-4-2, §33A-4-3, §33A-4-4, §33A-4-5, §33A-4-6, §33A-4-7, §33A-4-8, §33A-4-9, §33A-4-10, §33A-5-1, §33A-5-2, §33A-5-3, §33A-5-4, §33A-5-5, §33A-5-6, §33A-5-7, §33A-5-8, §33A-5-9, §33A-5-10, §33A-5-11, §33A-6-1, §33A-6-2, §33A-6-3, §33A-6-4, §33A-6-5, §33A-6-6, §33A-6-7, §33A-6-8, §33A-6-9, §33A-6-10, §33A-7-1, §33A-7-2, §33A-7-3, §33A-7-4, §33A-8-1, §33A-8-2, §33A-8-3, §33A-8-4, §33A-8-5, §33A-8-6, §33A-8-7, §33A-8-8, §33A-8-9, §33A-8-10, §33A-8-11, and §33A-8-12, relating to the creation of the West Virginia Trails, Access, and Stewardship Act; providing for general provisions and legislative findings; creating the West Virginia Trail Authority; providing for statewide trail system and corridor standards; providing for wildlife, flood, and safety management; providing for the establishment of the West Virginia Trail Maintenance and Stewardship Fund; clarifying property rights, easements, and eminent domain; providing for whitewater non-interference; and providing for implementation, reporting, and transition.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 488—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §1-9-1, §1-9-2, §1-9-3, §1-9-4, §1-9-5, §1-9-6, §1-9-7, §1-9-8, and §1-9-9, relating to creating the West Virginia Council on Competitive Government; setting requirements for who is appointed to the council; listing meeting frequency; assigning duties to the council; and exempting the contracts entered into by the council from state purchasing requirements.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 489—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-2L-1, §18-2L-2, and §18-2L-3, relating to course-specific teaching; providing a short title; providing definitions; and establishing course-specific teaching permits.

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

By Senators Rucker, Roberts, and Rose:

Senate Bill 490—A Bill to amend and reenact §5B-2B-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §5B-12-1, §5B-12-2, §5B-12-3, §5B-12-4, and §5B-12-5, relating to the West Virginia Workforce Development Board; and approving short-term training programs for eligibility for federal Workforce Pell Grants.

Referred to the Committee on the Workforce.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 491—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §15-5D-1, §15-5D-2, §15-5D-3, §15-5D-4, §15-5D-5, §15-5D-6, §15-5D-7, and §15-5D-8, relating to enacting the West Virginia Volunteer State Guard Act; providing a short title; creating the guard; defining terms; limiting liability of members; providing for training and equipment; and giving rule-making authority.

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

By Senator Takubo:

Senate Bill 492—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-21-12o, relating to establishing an additional modification reducing federal adjusted gross income relating to taxes on tips and overtime; phasing out the reducing modification for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross incomes over a certain threshold; and providing that nonresidents are only eligible for a reducing modification attributable to services performed in the state.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Deeds:

Senate Bill 493—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §47-11D-5, relating to motion pictures; and requiring exhibitors of motion pictures who operate six or more theaters in more than one location in this state to provide open captioning during at least two showings per week of each motion picture that is produced and offered with open captioning; and requiring, when requested, audio description be provided for any motion picture that is produced and offered with audio description.

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

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 494—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding four new sections, designated §29-22-9b, §29-22-9c, §29-22-9d, and §29-22-9e, relating to authorizing the Lottery Commission to create new lottery tickets to fund specific purposes, such as the support of fire departments, emergency medical services, schools, and roads.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 495—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §22-37-1, §22-37-2, §22-37-3, §22-37-4, §22-37-5, §22-37-6, §22-37-7,

§22-37-8, §22-37-9, §22-37-10, §22-37-11, §22-37-12, and §22-37-13, relating to establishing the Outdoor Solid-Fuel Heating Appliance Act; defining terms; setting state-wide minimum standards for installation, operation, and enforcement of outdoor wood- and coal-burning appliances; providing rule-making authority to the Department of Environmental Protection; establishing enforcement mechanisms, penalties, and reporting requirements; and providing for an effective date.

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

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 496—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-21-12o, relating to modifications reducing the federal adjusted gross income related to retirement; providing rule-making authority; and setting forth an effective date.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 497—A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-10-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to vehicles exempt from payment of registration fees; and lowering the percentage of a service-connected disability required for exemption from 100 percent to 50 percent or greater.

Referred to the Committee on Military.

By Senators Rucker, Grady, Helton, Roberts, Rose, and Willis:

Senate Bill 498—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-8A-6, relating to pornography access for minors; providing a short title; providing definitions; requiring mandatory age verification; prohibiting circumvention and liability for violations; creating penalties; clarifying a legal defense and standard of proof; and providing severability.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senators Helton, Fuller, M. Maynard, Rose, and Rucker:

Senate Bill 499—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-4-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring toxicology tests to be performed after a fatal vehicle crash.

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

By Senators Helton, M. Maynard, Rose, and Rucker:

Senate Bill 500—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-12-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to sex offenders; and prohibiting sex offenders from residing 1,000 feet from schools, parks, or playgrounds.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator M. Maynard:

Senate Bill 501—A Bill to amend and reenact §17-2A-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to expanding digital mapping of roads in this state; permitting counties to request the Division of Highways to map all scenic and back roads within the county for tourism

purposes; establishing an application process for counties; establishing reporting and review; providing funding; requiring creation of a mobile application; and requiring road surface classification.

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

By Senators Taylor, Charnock, Helton, and Oliverio:

Senate Bill 502—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18B-23-1, §18B-23-2, §18B-23-3, §18B-23-4, §18B-23-5, §18B-23-6, §18B-23-7, §18B-23-8, §18B-23-9, and §18B-23-10, relating to women's collegiate athletics; creating a short title; providing legislative findings and purpose; creating definitions; establishing permanent protections for women's collegiate sports programs through endowment funding; providing for efficiency-based matching funds; establishing tax credits for private contributions; ensuring compliance with Title IX; providing for oversight and reporting; providing rule-making authority; and providing an effective date.

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

By Senators Taylor, Azinger, Bartlett, Helton, M. Maynard, and Rucker:

Senate Bill 503—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5-10-1, §5-10-2, §5-10-3, §5-10-4, §5-10-5, §5-10-6, and §5-10-7, relating to requiring the display of the national motto, "In God We Trust", in state office buildings; defining terms; requiring display in conspicuous public areas of state office buildings and within individual agency offices; establishing display specifications; limiting funding to private donations; authorizing administrative guidance; and providing an effective date.

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

By Senator Taylor:

Senate Bill 504—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-5H-1, §18-5H-2, §18-5H-3, §18-5H-4, §18-5H-5, §18-5H-6, §18-5H-7, §18-5H-8, §18-5H-9, §18-5H-10, and §18-5H-11, relating to protecting rural public schools; establishing heightened standards and procedures for the closure or consolidation of certain rural schools; providing legislative findings; defining terms; requiring rural school closure impact statements; requiring supermajority approval by county boards of education; requiring voter ratification or petition-triggered referenda; establishing mandatory student transportation time limits; restricting waiver authority; requiring mitigation plans; creating a rural school preservation funding weight; requiring State Board of Education approval; providing severability; and establishing an effective date.

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

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 505—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §9-2-14, relating to Medicaid coverage for postpartum health care.

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

By Senators Taylor and Smith (Mr. President):

Senate Bill 506—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-1-3k of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting county commissions to lease, rent, or permit the use of county-owned wireless towers or any portions thereof to any entity or entities meeting certain criteria, with equipment and systems meeting minimum requirements, and for purposes not prohibited; and prohibiting county commissions from levying charges for use of county-owned wireless towers or any portions thereof by public safety operations, the West Virginia Division of Highways, or any other state agencies provided the same requirements are met as for other applicants.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 507—A Bill to amend and reenact §55-7B-4 and §30-3-20 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to extending the statute of limitations for bringing actions for gender reassignment surgeries; and providing for additional damages in actions filed against surgeons for medical injuries from gender reassignment surgeries and the prescribing of medications related to gender reassignment procedures and therapies.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 508—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-13NN-1, relating to providing a tax credit for businesses in this state to cover up to 50 percent of the costs of the purchase of products that are produced or manufactured in West Virginia; and establishing limits.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 509—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §30-3-21, relating to prohibiting certain medical practices; prohibiting medical providers from performing pelvic, prostate, rectal, and breast exams on an anesthetized or unconscious patient except in specified circumstances; and establishing an effective date.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Joint Resolution 15—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia by amending article VI, section 18, relating to establishing that the Legislature assemble bi-annually; that session commence on the second Wednesday in each odd-numbered year; 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.

Senators Rucker, Azinger, Helton, M. Maynard, Roberts, and Rose offered the following resolution:

Senate Concurrent Resolution 2—Supporting and encouraging practices that exemplify religious freedom in public spaces.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Oliverio offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 6—Recognizing the invaluable service of West Virginia school custodians and the vital role they play in our public schools.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Oliverio offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 7—Proposing approval of United States H.R. 5966, Ohio River Restoration Program Act, to bring clean water, enhanced fish and aquatic wildlife, economic benefits, and expanded recreation opportunities to West Virginia.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1, Requesting DOH name certain transportation infrastructure.

On unfinished business, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk and referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The Senate proceeded to the twelfth order of business.

Remarks were made by Senator Chapman.

The Senate then proceeded to the thirteenth order of business.

Senator Smith (Mr. President) announced the appointment of Senator Weld to the Committee on Government Organization.

Under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of the Senate, the following senators were added as co-sponsors to the following bills and resolutions on January 16, 2026:

Senate Bill 1: Senators Morris, Helton, and Takubo;

Senate Bill 3: Senator Takubo;

Senate Bill 4: Senators Thorne and Takubo;

Senate Bill 7: Senators Morris and Takubo;

Senate Bill 11: Senators Morris and Takubo;

Senate Bill 28: Senators Morris and Takubo;

Senate Bill 29: Senators Morris, Thorne, and Takubo;

Senate Bill 30: Senator Thorne;

Senate Bill 31: Senator Takubo;
Senate Bill 33: Senator Helton;
Senate Bill 36: Senator Thorne;
Senate Bill 40: Senator Helton;
Senate Bill 42: Senator Helton;
Senate Bill 50: Senator Helton;
Senate Bill 61: Senator Rose;
Senate Bill 67: Senator Helton;
Senate Bill 76: Senator Helton;
Senate Bill 82: Senator Helton;
Senate Bill 85: Senator Takubo;
Senate Bill 86: Senator Takubo;
Senate Bill 132: Senator Morris;
Senate Bill 144: Senator Helton;
Senate Bill 164: Senator Thorne;
Senate Bill 209: Senator Thorne;
Senate Bill 396: Senator Queen;
Senate Bill 405: Senator Hamilton;
Senate Bill 413: Senator Thorne;
Senate Bill 432: Senators Grady and Hamilton;
Senate Bill 440: Senator Hamilton;
Senate Bill 443: Senator Hamilton;
Senate Bill 445: Senator Hamilton;
Senate Bill 447: Senators Hamilton, Phillips, and Queen;
Senate Bill 462: Senator Taylor;
Senate Bill 471: Senator Rose;

Senate Joint Resolution 2: Senator Thorne;

Senate Joint Resolution 11: Senator Queen;

And,

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1: Senator Hamilton.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 11:19 a.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 20, 2026, at 11 a.m.

SENATE CALENDAR

**Tuesday, January 20, 2026
11:00 AM**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- S. C. R. 2 - Supporting practices of freedom of religion in public spaces
- S. R. 6 - Recognizing invaluable service of WV school custodians
- S. R. 7 - Proposing approval for Ohio River Restoration Program Act

ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regular Session 2026

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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