

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2026  
TWENTY-FIRST DAY

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Charleston, West Virginia, Tuesday, February 3, 2026

The Senate met at 11:05 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by Dr. Seth N. Polk, Lead Pastor, Cross Lanes Baptist Church, Cross Lanes, West Virginia.

The Senate was then led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Honorable Scott Fuller, a senator from the fifth district.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Monday, February 2, 2026,

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

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

The Senate then proceeded to the third order of business.

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

**Eng. House Bill 4036**—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-13-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to designated accessible parking for persons with a mobility impairment; increasing certain penalties for illegally parking, stopping, standing, or blocking access to a designated accessible parking space, or illegally creating, obtaining and use of special plates or windshield cards issued to mobility impaired persons; establishing a program to increase public awareness of the applicable law, criminal penalties, and the consequences of illegally parking, stopping, or standing in designated accessible parking spaces and illegally creating, obtaining, and using of special plates or windshield cards issued to mobility impaired persons.

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

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

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4138**—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-12-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing that any person convicted of a crime pursuant to §61-8B-1 *et seq.* shall be required to register pursuant to this article, including the current provisions relating to the crimes of sexual extortion and aggravated sexual extortion contained within §61-8B-6 of this code, shall be required to be registered pursuant to this article, and also relating to clarifying that a person convicted of the former §61-8B-6, relating to the offense of sexual assault of a spouse, which was repealed by an act of the Legislature during the 2000 legislative session, shall be required to continue to be registered pursuant to this article; also relating to requiring that a person convicted of a crime pursuant to §61-8-28a of this code, relating to nonconsensual disclosure of private intimate images, shall be required to be registered pursuant to this article; and also related to clarifying that a person convicted of any crime contained within §61-8-32 of this code, shall be required to be registered pursuant to this article.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4366**—A Bill to amend and reenact §48-27-209, §48-27-403, §48-28-4, §53-8-1 and §53-8-5 of the Code of West Virginia, as amended, relating to defining a military protective order for purposes of obtaining an emergency protective order; clarifying the use of a military protective order in the magistrate court system for obtaining an emergency protective order; clarifying when a law enforcement officer may report a potential violation of a military order; relating to defining a military protective order for purposes of obtaining a temporary personal safety order; and clarifying the use of a military protective order in the magistrate court system for obtaining a temporary personal safety order.

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

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

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

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 1**, Small Business Growth Act.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 1** (originating in the Committee on Finance)—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, §5B-12-7, and §5B-12-8, 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; requiring annual reporting; and providing an effective date.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Barrett,  
*Chair.*

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

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

**Senate Bill 48**, Relating to powers and duties of PSC.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 48** (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining)—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-2-3 and §24-2-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the powers and duties of the Public Service Commission; prohibiting the commission from approving a new rate or fee or a rate or fee increase for certain electric utilities to take effect between November 20 in any year and April 1 of the following year; and prohibiting such rates or fees from taking effect in such time period.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 48), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 440**, Increasing penalty for transporting telecommunication devices into jails.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 440** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-5-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to federal correctional institutions; 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; adding telecommunications device as a prohibited object that may be delivered or transported, or caused to be delivered or transported, into a correctional institution; updating and

expanding the definition of a telecommunications device; and amending, enhancing, and modifying criminal penalties related to crime of aiding escape and other offenses relating to adults and juveniles in custody or confinement.

**Senate Bill 543**, Requiring Bureau for Social Services to file legislative rule.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 543** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-121 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the Bureau for Social Services to file legislative rule by certain date; specifying certain policies to be filed as legislative rule; requiring the filing of amendments as a legislative rule in certain circumstances; and clarifying causes of action, immunities, and privileges available in civil suits.

And,

**Senate Bill 615**, Requiring persons with illegal immigration status be turned over to ICE.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 615** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §15-16-2a, relating to requiring law enforcement to notify federal agency regarding persons with illegal immigration status; and prohibiting laws to the contrary.

With the recommendation that the three committee substitutes do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E. Willis II,  
*Chair.*

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

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 467**, Allowing enforcement of Purple Heart parking spaces taken by non-Purple Heart recipients.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 467** (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-13-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to designating parking for Purple Heart recipients; penalties; and enforcement.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,  
*Chair.*

Senator Roberts, from the Committee on the Workforce, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Workforce has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 490**, Approving short-term training programs for eligibility for federal Workforce Pell Grants.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 490** (originating in the Committee on the Workforce)—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, §5B-12-5, and §5B-12-6, relating to the Workforce Pell Grant program; directing the West Virginia Workforce Development Board to assist the Governor in determining the eligibility of short-term workforce training programs for Workforce Pell Grants; defining terms; setting out federal criteria for determination of program eligibility; requiring reporting by institutions offering eligible programs; establishing duties of the Workforce Development Board; providing for consistency with applicable federal law; providing for rulemaking; and establishing an effective date.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Rollan A. Roberts,  
*Chair.*

Senator Morris, from the Committee on Government Organization, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Government Organization has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 583**, Creating emeritus physician license.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 583** (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §30-3-12a, relating to creating an emeritus physician license; and providing legislative rulemaking.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Morris, Jr.,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 583), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

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

**Senate Bill 586**, Modifying requirements for public water systems.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,  
*Chair.*

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

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 620**, Exempting certain physicians from specified traffic laws when responding to emergencies.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 620** (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-15-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding two new sections, designated §30-3-21 and §30-14-18, relating to authorizing physicians to operate Class A vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine to designate Class A vehicles of licensed medical providers as authorized emergency vehicles; establishing Physician's Authorized Emergency Vehicle Programs; requiring West Virginia Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine to propose rules for legislative approval with content requirements; and authorizing use of audible signal and red flashing warning lights, administrative penalties, and fees.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 620), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 622**, Extending mine safety technology tax credit.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Barrett,  
*Chair.*

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

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

**Senate Bill 685**, Creating Natural Resources Anti-Commandeering Act.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 685** (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §22-35-1, §22-35-2, §22-35-3, §22-35-4, §22-35-5, and §22-35-6, relating generally to creating the Natural Resources Anti-Commandeering Act; stating legislative findings and intent; prohibiting agencies of this state and political subdivisions or officers or employees thereof from knowingly and willingly participating in the enforcement of any federal act, law, order, rule, or regulation relating to coal, oil, gas, timber, or other extractive resources which do not exist under the laws of this state and prohibiting said agencies, subdivisions, and officers or employees from being compelled to participate in such enforcement; prohibiting assets or funds of the state from being used in activity assisting enforcement of any federal act, law, order, rule, or regulation relating to coal, oil, gas, timber, or other extractive resources which do not exist under the laws of this state; requiring and authorizing the West Virginia Attorney General to engage in certain legal challenges to any presidential executive order or a federal statute, agency order, law, rule, or regulation that he or she determines infringes upon the right to be free from the federal commandeering of natural resources and authorizing expenditure of funds therefor; requiring the Attorney General to publish certain guidance policies regarding resistance to federal commandeering and lawful measures for protecting state citizens from the consequences of federal commandeering; providing certain immunity; and authorizing reimbursement of certain attorney's fees.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 685), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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

**Senate Bill 686**, Providing exception to waste and trespass for certain coal estates.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 686** (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining)—A Bill to amend and reenact §37-7-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new chapter, designated §37D-1-1, §37D-1-2, §37D-1-3, §37D-1-4, §37D-1-5, §37D-1-6, §37D-2-1, §37D-2-2, §37D-2-3, §37D-2-4, §37D-2-5, §37D-2-6, and §37D-2-7, relating to modifying the conditions for lawful mining, extraction, or production of coal in this state regarding co-tenants to a coal estate; providing an exception to waste and trespass for certain coal estates; providing a short title; providing declarations of public policy and legislative findings; providing definitions; providing that, in cases where one or more owners consent to the lawful use or development of coal land, the operator's mining, use, or development of the coal estate is permissible, is not waste, and is not trespass; providing that nonconsenting co-tenants are entitled to receive a production royalty; requiring certain interests owned by unknown or unlocatable owners be reserved, reported, and deposited in a fund administered by the State Treasurer; providing a mechanism for surface owners to acquire title to certain severed coal interests; providing limitations of liability for certain nonconsenting co-tenants; preserving certain common law rights; requiring certain provisions be read in conjunction and not in conflict with the West Virginia Uniform Unclaimed Property Act; providing certain reporting requirements and administrative duties; creating the Unknown and Unlocatable Coal Interest Owners Fund, to be administered by the State Treasurer; permitting investment of moneys in the fund with the West Virginia Board of Treasury Investments; requiring payment of lawful claims of unknown and unlocatable interest owners; permitting deduction of certain expenses; requiring that certain funds be transferred to the Special Reclamation Fund; providing for certain notice requirements; providing for the crediting of certain amounts to an owner's account and payment of certain interest earned; and providing for rule-making authority.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 686), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The Senate proceeded to the sixth order of business.

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

**By Senators Z. Maynard, Azinger, Barnhart, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, M. Maynard, Martin, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Rose, Rucker, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Woodrum:**

**Senate Bill 716**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13JJ-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to firefighter tax credit; and reducing the participation requirement to receive the volunteer firefighter tax credit.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senator Oliverio:**

**Senate Bill 717**—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-22-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying disability and retirement benefits and procedures for municipal police and firefighters participating in municipal plans overseen by the Municipal Pensions Oversight Board; allowing for certain police and firefighters disabled in the line of duty to reassess retirement benefits as though he or she had reached retirement age prior to disability; and removing requirement that certain police and firefighters disabled not in the line of duty provide pension and relief fund with tax return once he or she has reached Social Security normal retirement age.

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

**By Senators Oliverio, Woodrum, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Fuller, Garcia, Morris, Phillips, Queen, Taylor, Weld, and Z. Maynard:**

**Senate Bill 718**—A Bill to amend and reenact §50-1-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the salaries of magistrates.

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

**By Senator Oliverio:**

**Senate Bill 719**—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-22A-33a and §18B-4-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System; clarifying campus police officers' ability to use leave days for retirement credit; and correcting statutory provisions pertaining to campus police officers' election to participate in the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System.

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

**By Senator Deeds:**

**Senate Bill 720**—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, §18-36-5, §18-36-6, §18-36-7, §18-36-8, §18-36-9, and §18-36-10, relating to the establishment of a Comprehensive Student and Family Support program; providing legislative findings and purpose; defining terms; designating the West Virginia Department of Education as the lead agency; establishing local coordinating teams; creating a state fund; authorizing rulemaking; requiring accountability, reporting, and audit; and making an appropriation.

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

**By Senator Azinger:**

**Senate Bill 721**—A Bill to amend and reenact §38-14-2, §38-14-3, §38-14-5, §38-14-7, and §38-14-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to updating the definitions and requirements for rental agreements of self-service storage facilities; recognizing unsigned rental agreements under certain circumstances; providing for notice of removal of personal property from the self-service storage facilities upon termination or non-renewal of the rental agreements; and establishing an effective date applicable to all rental agreements.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senators Hart and Chapman:**

**Senate Bill 722**—A Bill to amend and reenact §20-7-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to powers and duties of Natural Resources police officers; requiring Natural Resources officers to obtain consent of landowner or warrant prior to entering private property; and providing exceptions.

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

**By Senator Barnhart:**

**Senate Bill 723**—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-10-3 and §15-10-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarification of a law-enforcement agency and cooperation between law-enforcement agencies and personnel of bordering states.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senator Barrett:**

**Senate Bill 724**—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-5V-2 and §16-5V-6f of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to home confinement officers' participation in the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System; removing the requirement that home confinement officers be certified as law-enforcement officers to participate in the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System; and extending dates relating to eligible home confinement officers' participation election.

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

**By Senator Barnhart:**

**Senate Bill 725**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31-18G-1, §31-18G-2, §31-18G-3, §31-18G-4, §31-18G-5, §31-18G-6, §31-18G-7, §31-18G-8, §31-18G-9, and §31-18G-10, relating to creating the First Time Home Buyer Savings Account Act; providing a short title and legislative findings; defining terms; creating a first-time home buyer savings account; providing for subtractions from federal adjusted gross income; providing limits applicable to subtraction from federal adjusted gross income; establishing penalties for withdrawal of funds; requiring financial institution to provide account holder information certificate; requiring Tax Commissioner to propose rules to implement this article; and stating years to which this article applies.

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

**By Senators Barnhart and Woodrum:**

**Senate Bill 726**—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-37-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the 30 percent cap on municipal stabilization funds.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

**By Senator Barnhart:**

**Senate Bill 727**—A Bill to amend and reenact §31A-8D-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to bank merger by interstate branching; and providing clarity regarding the disclosure required when an out-of-state bank acquires a West Virginia state-chartered bank.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

**By Senator Rose:**

**Senate Bill 728**—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-7-1 and §7-7-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to compensation of elected county officials; and authorizing county commissions to increase the compensation of elected county officials.

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

**By Senators Rucker, Helton, Rose, and Tarr:**

**Senate Bill 729**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §9-5-34, relating to Medicaid program requirements; setting forth mandatory Medicaid program requirements; requiring the Bureau for Medical Services to seek necessary authority from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid to implement the program requirements; and setting forth effective dates.

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

**By Senators Rucker, Azinger, Helton, Rose, and Tarr:**

**Senate Bill 730**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §9-3-7, relating to program requirements of the Bureau for Family Assistance.

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

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 731**—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-3-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the elimination of hepatitis-b and meningitis as required vaccines.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

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

**Senate Bill 732**—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-802 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting audio recording during Child Protective Services investigations and interactions during visits.

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

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 733**—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, §24-9-4, §24-9-5, §24-9-6, §24-9-7, §24-9-8, and §24-9-9, relating to establishing the Energy Freedom and Fairness Act; providing a short title and legislative findings; defining terms; permitting retail freedom and competition for the purchase and sale of electric power for certain non-residential retail customers; providing procedures for the commission to establish eligible load capacity allowance; providing for the establishment of a subscription queue; providing notice requirements; providing utility rate transparency requirements for electric utilities; requiring the licensing of competitive service providers; requiring the commission prohibit unreasonable shifting of costs to ratepayers; requiring additional

commission oversight measures; providing the commission rule-making authority; and establishing annual reporting requirements.

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

Senators Tarr and Grady offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution 26**—Congratulating Hurricane High School on being the 2025 AAAA Boys State Soccer champions.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senators Smith (Mr. President), Taylor, Oliverio, Garcia, Rose, and Clements offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution 27**—Designating February 4, 2026, as West Virginia University Day at the Capitol.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

**Senate Resolution 20**, Recognizing and honoring victims of Agent Orange exposure during Vietnam War.

On unfinished business, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Barrett, 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, and on this question, Senator Martin demanded the yeas and nays.

The roll being taken, the yeas were: Azinger, Barnhart, Barrett, Bartlett, 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)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of those present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the resolution (S. R. 20) adopted.

**Senate Resolution 25**, Designating February 3, 2026, as Marshall University Day.

On unfinished business, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

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

The Senate proceeded to the eighth order of business.

**Eng. Senate Bill 536**, Relating to qualifications for serving on certain academic boards.

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

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barnhart, Barrett, Bartlett, 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)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 536) passed with its title.

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

**Eng. Senate Bill 556**, Modifying priority of insurance coverage for drivers of certain vehicles to make consistent with federal law.

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

Senator Tarr requested a ruling from the Chair as to whether he should be excused from voting under Rule 43 of the Rules of the Senate as he is a partner in an automobile dealership.

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

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barnhart, Barrett, Bartlett, 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)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 556) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Finance, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

**Eng. Senate Bill 556**—A Bill to amend and reenact §33-6-29 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the priority of insurance coverage for drivers of motor vehicles provided by entities engaged in the sale, repair, or servicing of motor vehicles.

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

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 573**, Relating to requirements for disclosures and recordkeeping by persons making mortgage loans.

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

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barnhart, Barrett, Bartlett, 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)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 573) passed with its title.

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

**Eng. Senate Bill 574**, Relating to bank merger by interstate branching.

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

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barnhart, Barrett, Bartlett, 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)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 574) passed with its title.

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

**Eng. Senate Bill 581**, Eliminating requirement that commissioner approve joint account forms used by banking institutions.

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

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barnhart, Barrett, Bartlett, 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)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 581) passed with its title.

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

**Eng. Senate Bill 582**, Relating to requirements for licensure as mortgage lender or broker.

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

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barnhart, Barrett, Bartlett, 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)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 582) passed with its title.

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

The Senate proceeded to the ninth order of business.

**Senate Bill 155**, Relating to adjunct teaching permits.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 210**, Modifying oversight provisions for Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 256**, Authorizing DEP to promulgate legislative rules.

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

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 532**, Relating to certified public accountants.

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

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

The Senate then proceeded to the twelfth order of business.

Remarks were made by Senator Phillips.

At the request of Senator Phillips, unanimous consent being granted, the Senate then stood in observance of a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Tyrone Lamyathong, a Logan County resident who was killed in action in Ukraine.

Thereafter, at the request of Senator Weld, and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senator Phillips were ordered printed in the Appendix to the Journal.

The Senate proceeded to the thirteenth order of business.

Under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of the Senate, the following senator was removed as a co-sponsor of the following bill on February 2, 2026:

**Senate Bill 662:** Senator Rose.

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 February 2, 2026:

**Senate Bill 1:** Senators Willis, Barnhart, Bartlett, and Azinger;

**Senate Bill 5:** Senator Barnhart;

**Senate Bill 7:** Senator Barnhart;

**Senate Bill 8:** Senator Barnhart;

**Senate Bill 11:** Senator Barnhart;

**Senate Bill 19:** Senator Barnhart;

**Senate Bill 40:** Senator Barnhart;

**Senate Bill 45:** Senator Barnhart;

**Senate Bill 48:** Senator Taylor;

**Senate Bill 80:** Senator Barnhart;

**Senate Bill 184:** Senator Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 209:** Senator Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 243:** Senator Rose;

**Senate Bill 424:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 447:** Senators Roberts and Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 462:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 483:** Senator Rucker;

**Senate Bill 531:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 586:** Senator Taylor;

**Senate Bill 587:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 615:** Senators Willis and Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 648:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 662:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 686:** Senator Phillips;

**Senate Bill 693:** Senator Morris;

**Senate Bill 700:** Senator Hamilton;

**Senate Bill 705:** Senator Deeds;

**Senate Bill 706:** Senator Rose;

**Senate Bill 707:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 708:** Senator Deeds;

**Senate Bill 709:** Senator Hamilton;

**Senate Bill 711:** Senator Hamilton;

**Senate Bill 712:** Senators Thorne and Deeds;

**Senate Joint Resolution 2:** Senator Chapman;

**Senate Joint Resolution 3:** Senator Chapman;

**Senate Joint Resolution 4:** Senator Chapman;

**Senate Joint Resolution 9:** Senator Chapman;

**Senate Joint Resolution 12:** Senator Chapman;

**Senate Resolution 23:** Senator Rucker;

**Senate Resolution 24:** Senator Rucker;

And,

**Senate Resolution 25:** Senators Hamilton, Grady, and M. Maynard.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 11:39 a.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 4, 2026, at 11 a.m.

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## **SENATE CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, February 04, 2026  
11:00 AM**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

S. R. 26 - Congratulating Hurricane High School on being 2025 AAAA Boys State Soccer champions

S. R. 27 - Designating February 4, 2026, as WVU Day

### **THIRD READING**

Eng. S. B. 155 - Relating to adjunct teaching permits

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 210 - Modifying oversight provisions for Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 532 - Relating to certified public accountants

### **SECOND READING**

Com. Sub. for S. B. 256 - Authorizing DEP to promulgate legislative rules

### **FIRST READING**

Com. Sub. for S. B. 1 - Small Business Growth Act

Com. Sub. for S. B. 440 - Increasing penalty for transporting telecommunication devices into jails (original similar to HB4857)

Com. Sub. for S. B. 467 - Allowing enforcement of Purple Heart parking spaces taken by non-Purple Heart recipients

Com. Sub. for S. B. 490 - Approving short-term training programs for eligibility for federal Workforce Pell Grants (original similar to HB4595)

Com. Sub. for S. B. 543 - Requiring Bureau for Social Services to file legislative rule (original similar to HB4617)

S. B. 586 - Modifying requirements for public water systems

Com. Sub. for S. B. 615 - Requiring persons with illegal immigration status be turned over to ICE

S. B. 622 - Extending mine safety technology tax credit