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April 7, 2025 FIFTY-FIFTH DAY



Monday, April 7, 2025

FIFTY-FIFTH DAY

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

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

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

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of Friday, April 4, 2025, being the first order of business, when the further reading thereof was dispensed with and the same approved.

Messages from the Senate

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, with amendment and title amendment, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 2157, Provide one trip temporary vehicle permits to be purchased and printed online.

On motion of Delegate McGeehan, the House concurred in the following amendment of the bill by the Senate:

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure moved to amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

ARTICLE 7. SPECIAL STICKERS.

§17A-7-2. Operation of motor vehicles by dealers or other persons under special stickers; application and fees; expiration.

- (a) A member of the West Virginia State Police may at any detachment office, upon application therefor on a form prescribed by the commissioner, issue to a licensed dealer or any other person other than those specified in §17A-7-1 of this code, a paper sticker or decal to be affixed to the left side of the rear window of a motor vehicle or to the left rear of a vehicle which is not self-propelled. Such sticker or decal shall be of a size to be designated by the commissioner and shall be serially numbered and shall have provision thereon to indicate the date of issuance thereof.
- (b) A fee of \$10 per sticker shall be collected. The Division of Motor Vehicles may adjust the fee for each sticker every five years on September 1, based on the U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics most current Consumer Price Index: *Provided*, That an increase in such fee may not exceed 10 percent of the total fee amount in a single year. The fees will be dispersed as follows: Half shall be deposited in the State Road Fund and half shall be deposited in the special revenue account within the Division of Highways for the maintenance of the West Virginia welcome centers and rest areas along interstate highways in this state.

- (c) Such sticker or decal shall be The one-movement sticker authorized by this section is valid for 48 96 hours after its issuance for the operation of a vehicle, whether under its own power or while being towed, one time only over the streets or highways, and upon being once affixed to a vehicle or used for the one-time movement shall become invalid for subsequent use on that or any other vehicle.
- (d) The provisions of this section enacted in 2017 take effect on July 1, 2017. Any sticker issued pursuant to this section may be in the form of a sticker, decal, or other form prescribed by the commissioner.
- (e) The commissioner shall make one-movement stickers authorized by this section available for purchase online subject to the same requirements and fee set forth in this section: *Provided*. That the fee may be remitted to the division electronically and the sticker may be provided by the division in an electronic format.
- (f) A one-movement sticker issued pursuant to this article may not be used as evidence of ownership of a vehicle.

On motion of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, the title of the bill was amended to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2157—A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-7-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to one-movement stickers for vehicles; requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to make one-movement stickers available for purchase online; deleting obsolete language; doubling time period during which stickers are valid for one-time movement; prohibiting use of one-movement sticker as evidence of ownership of a vehicle; and authorizing commissioner to prescribe form of sticker.

The bill, as amended by the Senate, was then put upon its passage.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (Roll No. 396), and there were—yeas 95, nays none, absent and not voting 5, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: Anderson, Devault, G. Howell, Steele and Street.

So, a majority of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for H. B. 2157) passed.

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

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 2172, Relating to adding an athletic trainer to the Board of Physical Therapy.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 2233, Authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate legislative rules.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, with amendment and title amendment, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 2397, Prevent immediate family members from acting in a fiduciary capacity for the same governmental authority.

On motion of Delegate McGeehan, the House concurred in the following amendment by the Senate, with further amendment:

Delegate McGeehan moved to amend the bill by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

ARTICLE 5. FISCAL AFFAIRS.

- §7-5-4. Payment of money out of county treasury; signing of orders by mechanical or electrical devices; process when two or more designated signatories are family or household members; forgery; penalty.
- (a) No money shall Money may not be paid by the sheriff out of the county treasury except upon an order signed by the president of the county commission and clerk of the county court the county clerk, and properly endorsed. Provided, however. That In counties having a population in excess of 50,000 as shown by the last preceding federal census, such signatures and the signature of the sheriff authorizing the payment of such orders by a county depository may be made by means of such mechanical or electrical device as the county court may select. Such The mechanical or electrical device utilized for the making of the signatures of the president and clerk shall be safely kept in the office of the clerk of the county court county clerk so that no one shall have has access thereto except the members of the county court, and the clerk of the county court the county clerk, and such of their respective employees as may be authorized to access. thereto. Such The mechanical or electrical device for the making of the sheriff's signature of the sheriff shall be safely kept in the office of the sheriff sheriff's office so that no one shall have has access thereto except the sheriff and such of his or her deputies as may be authorized to have access. thereto
- (b) In the event that two or more individuals among the county commission president, sheriff, and county clerk, are family or household members, alternate signatories shall be designated, as follows:
- (1) The county commission shall vote to designate another county commissioner who is not a family or household member of any other required signatory to sign for the president;
- (2) The chief tax deputy shall sign for the sheriff. If the chief tax deputy is a family or household member of any other signatory, then the county commission shall vote to appoint a resident of the county to serve as a substitute signatory; and
 - (3) The county clerk is not subject to substitution.

- (c) As used in this section, "family or household member" has the same meaning as set forth in §48-27-204 of this code.
- (d) If any person, other than the persons authorized so to do shall sign to sign by this section, signs the name of the county commission president, of the county court, the clerk of the county court or the sheriff by the use of any such county clerk, or sheriff, using any mechanical or electrical device, or otherwise, on any warrant, order, or check, or utter or attempt knowingly utters or attempts to employ as true such the forged warrant, order, or check, knowing the same to be forged he shall be he or she is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be confined in the penitentiary not less fewer than two years and not more than 10 years.

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

H. B. 2397 — "A BILL to amend and reenact §7-5-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the process for designating signatories for certain expenditures from the county treasury by a county sheriff when two or more of the designated signatories are family or household members."

The bill, as amended by the Senate, and further amended by the House, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 397**), and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 2397) passed.

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

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, with amendment and title amendment, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 2709, Permitting a voter with a change of address to vote in his or her new precinct without having to cast a provisional ballot.

On motion of Delegate McGeehan, the House concurred in the following amendment of the bill by the Senate:

The Committee on Government Organization moved to amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

CHAPTER 3. ELECTIONS.

ARTICLE 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS AND DEFINITIONS.

§3-1-41. Challenged and provisional voter procedures; counting of provisional voters' ballots; ballots of election officials.

- (a) It is the duty of the members of the receiving board, jointly or severally, to challenge the right of any person requesting a ballot to vote in any election:
 - (1) If the person's registration record is not available at the time of the election;
- (2) If the signature written by the person in the poll book does not correspond with the signature purported to be his or hers on the registration record;
 - (3) If the registration record of the person indicates any other legal disqualification;
- (4) If the person fails to present a valid identifying document pursuant to section thirty four 34 of this article; or
- (5) If any other valid challenge exists against the voter pursuant to section ten 10, article three of this chapter.
- (b) Any person challenged shall nevertheless be permitted to vote in the election. He or she shall be furnished an official ballot not endorsed by the poll clerks. In lieu of the endorsements, the poll clerks shall complete and sign an appropriate form indicating the challenge, the reason thereof therefor, and the name or names of the challengers. The form shall be securely attached to the voter's ballot and deposited together with the ballot in a separate box or envelope marked "provisional ballots".
- (c) At the time that an individual casts a provisional ballot, the poll clerk shall give the individual written information stating that an individual who casts a provisional ballot will be able to ascertain under the free access system established in this section whether the vote was counted and, if the vote was not counted, the reason that the vote was not counted.
- (d) Before an individual casts a provisional ballot, the poll clerk shall provide the individual written instructions, supplied by the board of ballot commissioners, stating that if the voter is casting a ballot in the incorrect precinct, the ballot cast may not be counted for that election: *Provided*, That if the voter is found to be in the incorrect precinct, then the poll worker shall attempt to ascertain the appropriate precinct for the voter to cast a ballot and immediately give the voter the information if ascertainable.
- (e) Provisional ballots may not be counted by the election officials. The county commission shall, on its own motion, at the time of canvassing of the election returns, sit in session to determine the validity of any challenges according to the provisions of this chapter. If the county commission determines that the challenges are unfounded, each provisional ballot of each challenged voter, if otherwise valid, shall be counted and tallied together with the regular ballots cast in the election. The county commission, as the board of canvassers, shall protect the privacy of each provisional ballot cast. The county commission shall disregard technical errors, omissions or oversights if it can reasonably be ascertained that the challenged voter was entitled to vote.
- (f) Any person duly appointed as an Election Commissioner or clerk under the provisions of section-twenty-eight 28 of this article who serves in that capacity in a precinct other than the precinct in which the person is legally entitled to vote may cast a provisional ballot in the precinct in which the person is serving as a commissioner or clerk. The ballot is not invalid for the sole

reason of having been cast in a precinct other than the precinct in which the person is legally entitled to vote. The county commission shall record the provisional ballot on the voter's permanent registration record: *Provided*, That the county commission may count only the votes for the offices that the voter was legally authorized to vote for in his or her own precinct.

- (g) The Secretary of State shall establish a free access system, which may include a toll-free telephone number or an Internet website, that may be accessed by any individual who casts a provisional ballot to discover whether his or her vote was counted and, if not, the reason that the vote was not counted.
- (h) During the early in-person voting period, and in the case of a voter's address change within the county, the voter may vote in the precinct serving their new address without casting a provisional ballot if the voter shows proof of new address and the change is completed in the state-wide voter registration system by the county clerk prior to canvass.

ARTICLE 2. REGISTRATION OF VOTERS.

§3-2-31. Rules pertaining to voting after registration or change of address within the county.

- (a) A voter who designates a political affiliation with a major party on a registration application filed no later than the close of voter registration before the primary may vote the ballot of that political party in the primary election. Political parties, through the official action of their state executive committees, shall be permitted to determine whether unaffiliated voters or voters of other parties shall be allowed to vote that party's primary election ballot upon request.
- (b) A voter whose registration record lists one residence address but the voter has since moved to another residence address within the precinct shall be permitted to update the registration at the polling place and vote without challenge for that reason.
- (c) A voter whose registration record lists one residence address but the voter has since moved to another residence address in a different precinct in the same county shall be permitted to update the registration at the polling place serving the new precinct.—and The voter shall be permitted to vote as follows:
- (1) The voter may cast a challenged or provisional ballot at the new polling place if the voter's registration is found on the registration records within the county during the canvass and no other challenge of eligibility was entered on election day, the challenge shall be removed and the ballot shall be counted;
- (2) During the early in-person voting period, the voter may vote in the precinct serving their new address without casting a provisional ballot if the voter shows proof of new address and the change is completed in the state-wide voter registration system by the county clerk prior to canvass.
- (d) A voter whose registration record has been placed on an inactive status or transferred to an inactive file and who has not responded to a confirmation notice sent pursuant to the provisions of section-twenty-four, twenty-five or twenty-six 24, 25, or 26 of this article and who offers to vote at the polling place where he or she is registered to vote shall be required to affirm his or her present residence address under penalty of perjury, as provided in section-thirty-six 36 of this article.

ARTICLE 3. VOTING BY ABSENTEES.

§3-3-3. Early voting in person.

- (a) The voting period for early in-person voting is to be conducted during regular business hours beginning on the thirteenth 13th day before the election and continuing through the third day before the election. Additionally, early in-person voting is to be available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays during the early voting period.
- (b) Any person desiring to vote during the period of early in-person voting shall, upon entering the election room, clearly state his or her name and residence to the official or representative designated to supervise and conduct absentee voting. If that person is found to be duly registered as a voter in the precinct of his or her residence, he or she is required to sign his or her name in the space marked "signature of voter" on the pollbook. If the voter is unable to sign his or her name due to illiteracy or physical disability, the person assisting the voter and witnessing the mark of the voter shall sign his or her name in the space provided. No ballot may A ballot may not be given to the person until he or she signs his or her name on the pollbook.
- (c) When the voter's signature or mark is properly on the pollbook, two qualified representatives of the official designated to supervise and conduct absentee voting shall sign their names in the places indicated on the back of the official ballot.
- (d) If the official designated to supervise and conduct absentee voting determines that the voter is not properly registered in the precinct where he or she resides, the clerk or his or her representative shall challenge the voter's absentee ballot as provided in this article: <u>Provided</u>, That the clerk or his or her representative may not challenge the voter's absentee ballot if the voter has had an address change within the county, shows proof of new address, and the address change is completed in the state-wide voter registration system by the county clerk prior to canvass.
- (e) The official designated to supervise and conduct absentee voting shall provide each person voting an absentee ballot in person the following items to be printed as prescribed by the Secretary of State:
- (1) In counties using paper ballots, one of each type of official absentee ballot the voter is eligible to vote, prepared according to law;
- (2) In counties using punch card systems, one of each type of official absentee ballot the voter is eligible to vote, prepared according to law, and a gray secrecy envelope;
- (3) In counties using optical scan systems, one of each type of official absentee ballot the voter is eligible to vote, prepared according to law, and a secrecy sleeve; or
 - (4) For direct recording election systems, access to the voting equipment in the voting booth.
- (f) The voter shall enter the voting booth alone and there mark the ballot: *Provided*, That the voter may have assistance in voting according to the provisions of section four of this article. After the voter has voted the ballot or ballots, the absentee voter shall: Place the ballot or ballots in the gray secrecy envelope and return the ballot or ballots to the official designated to supervise and conduct the absentee voting: *Provided, however*, That in direct recording election systems, once the voter has cast his or her ballot, the voter shall exit the polling place.

- (g) Upon receipt of the voted ballot, representatives of the official designated to supervise and conduct the absentee voting shall:
 - (1) Remove the ballot stub;
- (2) Place punch card ballots and paper ballots into one envelope which shall not have any marks except the precinct number and seal the envelope; and
- (3) Place ballots for all voting systems into a ballot box that is secured by two locks with a key to one lock kept by the president of the county commission and a key to the other lock kept by the county clerk.

On motion of the Committee on Government Organization, the title of the bill was amended to read as follows:

Eng. House Bill 2709—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-41, §3-2-31, and §3-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting a voter with a change of address within the same county to vote in his or her new precinct under certain circumstances without having to cast a provisional ballot.

The bill, as amended by the Senate, was then put upon its passage.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (Roll No. 398), and there were—yeas 97, nays 1, absent and not voting 2, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Lewis.

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 2709) passed.

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

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, with amendment, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3313, Providing more opportunities for high school students in community colleges.

On motion of Delegate McGeehan, the House concurred in the following amendment of the bill by the Senate:

The Committee on Education moved to amend the bill on page 6, section 4, line 142, by striking out the words "one-year" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "two years".

The bill, as amended by the Senate, was then put upon its passage.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (Roll No. 399), and there were—yeas 97, nays none, absent and not voting 3, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: Barnhart, G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 3313) passed.

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

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3347, Supplemental Appropriation Administration Diamond Bldg.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3363, Supplemental Appropriation Public Defender.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3368, Supplemental Appropriation Administration Lease Rental Payment

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced concurrence in the amendment of the House of Delegates and the passage, as amended, of

Com. Sub. for S. B. 282, Modifying provisions for employment of retired teachers as substitutes in areas of critical need and shortage.

Delegate McGeehan asked and obtained unanimous consent to proceed to the Twelfth Order of business to consider bills on Third Reading.

Special Calendar

Third Reading

Com. Sub. for S. B. 50, Requiring municipal elections to be held on same day as statewide elections; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (Roll No. 400), and there were—yeas 96, nays 2, absent and not voting 2, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Adkins and Hall.

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 50) passed.

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

Com. Sub. for S. B. 500, Transferring audits of volunteer fire departments to Legislative Auditor. The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken **(Roll No. 401)**, and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 500) passed.

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

S. B. 615, Eliminating accelerated tax payment requirements; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (Roll No. 402), and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (S. B. 615) passed.

Delegate McGeehan moved that the bill take effect from its passage.

On this question, the yeas and nays were taken **(Roll No. 403)**, and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, two thirds of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (S. B. 615) takes effect from its passage.

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

S. B. 712, Relating to retirement provisions of systems managed by CPRB; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was called by the Clerk.

Upon unanimous consent, Delegate Criss moves to amend the committee amendment on page 3, by striking out lines 54 through 58 and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"On page 113, section 12b, line 41, following "date" by adding "provided in §51-9-1a of this code"; and

On page 113, section 12b, line 61, following "attained" by striking the remainder of paragraph (A) and inserting in lieu thereof "the applicable age as set forth in the definition of required beginning date provided in §51-9-1a of this code; or"."

The bill was then read a third time, as amended.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (Roll No. 404), and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (S. B. 712) passed.

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

Com. Sub. for S. B. 715, Relating to personally identifiable information of member, retirant, beneficiary, or alternate payee of retirement system; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (Roll No. 405), and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 715) passed.

Delegate McGeehan moved that the bill take effect from its passage.

On this question, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 406**), and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, two thirds of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 715) takes effect from its passage.

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

S. B. 716, Relating to failure to pay required contributions and interest payments for certain retirees who transfer between retirement systems; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (Roll No. 407), and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (S. B. 716) passed.

Delegate McGeehan moved that the bill take effect from its passage.

On this question, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 408**), and there were—yeas 98, nays none, absent and not voting 2, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: G. Howell and Steele.

So, two thirds of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (S. B. 716) takes effect from its passage.

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

Second Reading

Com. Sub. for S. B. 1, Requiring utility work and road paving coordination; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

On motion of Delegate DeVault, the amendment was adopted.

Delegates DeVault and Riley moved to amend the bill on page 1, section 8a, line 9, by deleting subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

- "(c) (1) Beginning on December 31, 2025 and due annually on or before that date thereafter, each utility shall provide a report that lists all projects planned by the utility, during the next two years including anticipated construction start and stop dates, that require digging or cutting into any paved road to the district office of the Division of Highways in which the paved road is located. The report shall also include identification of any grants that have either been received or applied for that may result in work that affects a paved road. The Division of Highways shall review and consider such reports in conjunction with the division's planning of projects and paving activity.
- (2) If the utility does not have plans to improve or replace any road asset under consideration in the next two calendar years, the said utility may submit a "no plans report" and opt out of the yearly report. Failure to comply with these reporting requirements may result in The Division of Highways to withhold issuing a "Right of Way Entry Permit" until the required report is submitted."
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 198**, Prohibiting creation, production, distribution, or possession of artificially generated child pornography; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

On motion of Delegate Akers, the amendment was adopted.

Delegate Akers moved to amend the committee amendment on page 2, section 1, line 1, by inserting the term "(a)" before the words "For the purposes of this article:"

And

On page 4, section 1, line 50, following the word "adults." By inserting a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Nothing in this article shall be construed to include a visual portrayal of an actual and identifiable person who was not a minor at the time the visual portrayal was created."

And

On page 6, section 3, lines 5 through 7 by striking subsection (b) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(b) It is sufficient for purposes of this section that the material visually portrays a minor, regardless of whether the subject's age is represented to be less than age 18 years old or whether the minor subject's actual identity can be ascertained."

And

On page 6, section 3, lines 8 and 9, by striking subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(c) A visual portrayal created in whole or in part by digital manipulation, artificial intelligence, or any other means may satisfy the requirements of this section."

On motion of Delegate Akers, the amendment was adopted.

The Committee on the Judiciary moved to amend the bill by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"ARTICLE 8. CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY, MORALITY AND DECENCY.

§61-8-28a. Nonconsensual disclosure of private intimate images; definitions; and penalties.

- (a) As used in this section:
- (1) "Disclose" means to publish, publicly display, distribute, deliver, circulate or disseminate by any means, including, but not limited to, electronic transmission.
- (2) "Image" means a photograph, videotape, motion picture film, digital recording or any product of any mechanical or electronic recording process or device that can preserve, for later viewing, a visual image.
- (3) "Intimate parts" means a person's genitalia, pubic area, anus or female post-pubescent breasts.
- (4) To "publicly disclose" means to disclose an image to one or more persons other than those persons whom the person depicted understood would view the image at the time it was captured.

- (5) "Fabricated intimate image" means an image of an identifiable depicted individual that was created by the use of artificial intelligence or other computer technology capable of processing and interpreting specific data inputs and depicts computer-generated intimate parts or the intimate parts of another human being as the intimate parts of the depicted individual.
- (b) No person may knowingly and intentionally disclose, cause to be disclosed or threaten to disclose, with the intent to harass, intimidate, threaten, humiliate, embarrass, or coerce, <u>a</u> <u>fabricated intimate image of another or</u> an image of another which shows the intimate parts of the depicted person or shows the depicted person engaged in sexually explicit conduct which was captured under circumstances where the person depicted had a reasonable expectation that the image would not be publicly disclosed.
- (c)(1) A person convicted of a violation of subsection (b) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not more than one year, fined not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$5,000, or both confined and fined.
- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision (1) of this subsection, a person convicted of a second or subsequent violation of subsection (b) of this section is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction thereof, shall be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not more than three years, fined not less than \$2,500 nor more than \$10,000, or both imprisoned and fined.
 - (d) The provisions of this section do not apply to:
 - (1) Images disclosed with the prior written consent of the person depicted;
- (2) Images depicting the person voluntarily exposing himself or herself in a public or commercial setting; or
- (3) Disclosures made through the reporting of illegal conduct or the lawful and common practices of law enforcement, criminal reporting, legal proceeding or medical treatment.
- (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to impose liability on the provider of an interactive computer service as defined by 47 U. S. C. §230(f)(2), an information service as defined by 47 U. S. C. §153(24), or telecommunications service as defined by 47 U. S. C. §153(53), for content provided by another person.

ARTICLE 8C. FILMING OF SEXUALLY EXPLICIT CONDUCT OF MINORS.

§61-8C-1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this article:

- (a) (1) "Minor" means any child under eighteen 18 years of age.
- (b) (2) "Knowledge" means knowing or having reasonable cause to know which warrants further inspection or inquiry.
- (c) (3) "Sexually explicit conduct" includes any of the following, whether actually performed or simulated:
 - (1) (A) Genital to genital intercourse;

- (2) (B) Fellatio;
- (3) (C) Cunnilingus;
- (4) (D) Anal intercourse;
- (5) (E) Oral to anal intercourse;
- (6) (F) Bestiality;
- (7) (G) Masturbation;
- (8) (H) Sadomasochistic abuse, including, but not limited to, flagellation, torture, or bondage;
- (9) (I) Excretory functions in a sexual context; or
- (10) (J) Exhibition of the genitals, pubic, or rectal areas of any person in a sexual context.
- (d) (4) "Person" means an individual, partnership, firm, association, corporation, or other legal entity: *Provided*, That this term does not apply to the provider of an interactive computer service as defined by 47 U. S. C. §230(f)(2), an information service as defined by 47 U. S. C. §153(24), or telecommunications service as defined by 47 U. S. C. §153(53), for content provided by another person.
 - (5) "Visual portrayal" means:
 - (A) A photograph;
 - (B) A motion picture;
 - (C) A digital image;
 - (D) A digital video recording;
- (E) Any other mechanical or electronic recording process or device that can preserve, for later viewing, a visual image of a person that includes, but is not limited to, computers, cellphones, personal digital assistance, and other digital storage or transmitting devices; or
- (F) Any media listed in this subdivision which was created, generated, or otherwise produced, in whole or in part, by any manner of manipulation, including, but not limited to, artificial intelligence.
 - (6) "Computer-generated child pornography" means:
- (A) Any visual portrayal of an identifiable minor that has been created, adapted, or modified to depict the minor as engaging in sexually explicit conduct; or
- (B) Any visual portrayal that appears to depict a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct if the visual portrayal is:
- (i) Created by the use of artificial intelligence or other computer technology capable of processing and interpreting specific data inputs to create a visual portrayal; and

- (ii) Indistinguishable from a minor.
- (7) "Identifiable minor" means any visual portrayal that depicts a minor who is identifiable from the matter itself or from information displayed with or otherwise connected to the matter, and that was created or altered by the use of artificial intelligence or other computer technology capable of processing and interpreting specific data inputs to depict the minor.
- (8) "Indistinguishable" as used with respect to a visual portrayal, means virtually indistinguishable, in that the visual portrayal is such that an ordinary person viewing the visual portrayal would conclude that the visual portrayal is of an actual minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. This definition does not apply to visual portrayals that are drawings, cartoons, sculptures, or paintings depicting minors or adults.

§61-8C-2. Use of minors in filming sexually explicit conduct prohibited; penalty.

- (a) Any person who causes or knowingly permits, uses, persuades, induces, entices or coerces such minor to engage in or uses such minor to do or assist in any sexually explicit conduct shall be is guilty of a felony when such person has knowledge that any such the act is being photographed or filmed used to create a visual portrayal. Upon conviction thereof, such person shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned in the penitentiary not more than ten 10 years, or both fined and imprisoned.
- (b) Any person who photographs or films such creates a visual portrayal of a minor engaging in any sexually explicit conduct shall be is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$10,000, or imprisoned in the penitentiary not more than ten 10 years, or both fined and imprisoned.
- (c) Any parent, legal guardian, or person having custody and control of a minor, who photographs or films creates a visual portrayal of such minor in any sexually explicit conduct or causes or knowingly permits, uses, persuades, induces, entices, or coerces such minor child to engage in or assist in any sexually explicit act shall be is guilty of a felony when such person has knowledge that any such act may be photographed or filmed is used to create a visual portrayal. Upon conviction thereof, such person shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned in the penitentiary not more than ten 10 years, or both fined and imprisoned.
- (d) It is not a defense under this section that the minor depicted has attained the age of at least 18 years old at the time of investigation and/or prosecution, as long as the visual portrayal of the minor used was originally taken or captured when the subject was less than 18 years of age.
- (e) It is not a defense under this section that the minor depicted is deceased at the time of investigation and/or prosecution, regardless of whether the minor depicted had attained the age of 18 years of age at the time of his or her death.

§61-8C-3. Distribution and exhibiting of material depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct <u>or computer-generated child pornography</u> prohibited; penalty.

(a) Any person who, knowingly and willfully, sends or causes to be sent or distributes, exhibits, possesses, electronically accesses with intent to view or displays or transports any material visually portraying visual portrayal of a minor engaged in any sexually explicit conduct or computer-generated child pornography is guilty of a felony.

- (b) It is not a defense to this section that a minor subject's identity and/or age cannot be ascertained. It is sufficient that the material visually portrays a minor, regardless of whether the subject's age is represented to be less than age 18 years old.
- (c) It is not a defense under this section that the visual portrayal was created, in whole or in part, by digital manipulation, artificial intelligence, or any other means.
- (d) It is not a defense under this section that the minor depicted has attained the age of at least 18 years old at the time of investigation and/or prosecution, as long as the visual portrayal of the minor was originally taken or captured when the subject was under the age of 18 years of age.
- (e) It is not a defense under this section that the minor depicted is deceased at the time of investigation and/or prosecution, regardless of whether the minor depicted had attained the age of at least 18 years of age at the time of his or her death.
- (b) (f) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section when the conduct involves fifty 50 or fewer images shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not more less than two years nor more than five years or fined not more than \$2,000 \$5,000 or both.
- (e) (g) Any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section when the conduct involves more than fifty 50 but fewer than six hundred 300 images shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than two three nor more than 15 years or fined not more than 15,000 10,000, or both.
- (d) (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of this section, any person who violates the provisions of subsection (a) of this section when the conduct involves six hundred 300 or more images or depicts violence against a child or a child engaging in bestiality shall, upon conviction, be imprisoned in a state correctional facility for not less than five nor more than fifteen 20 years or fined not more than \$25,000, or both.
- (e) (i) For purposes of this section each video clip, movie, or similar recording of five minutes or less shall constitute seventy-five $\underline{100}$ images. A video clip, movie or similar recording of a duration longer than five minutes shall be deemed to constitute constitutes seventy-five $\underline{100}$ images for every two minutes in length it exceeds five minutes.

§61-8C-3a. Prohibiting child erotica; penalties.

- (a) Any person age eighteen 18 or over who knowingly and intentionally produces, possesses, displays or distributes, in any form, any visual portrayals of minors who are partially clothed, where the visual portrayals are: (1) Unrelated to the sale of a commercially available legal product; and (2) used for purely prurient purposes, is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be confined in jail for not more than one year or fined not more than \$1,000, or both confined and fined.
 - (b) As used in this section only:
- (1) "Purely prurient purposes" means for the specific purpose of sexual gratification or sexual arousal from viewing the visual portrayals prohibited by this section; and

- (2) "Commercially available" means for sale to the general public.
- (3) A "minor" is a child under the age of sixteen years, or a person who is sixteen years of age or older but less than eighteen years old and who is mentally defective or mentally incapacitated.
- §61-8C-3b. Prohibiting juveniles from manufacturing, possessing, and distributing nude or partially nude images of minors; creating exemptions; declaring a violation to be an act of juvenile delinquency; and providing for the punishment thereof.
- (a) Any minor who intentionally possesses, creates, produces, distributes, presents, transmits, posts, exchanges, or otherwise disseminates <u>any computer-generated child pornography</u> or a visual portrayal of another minor posing in an inappropriate sexual manner or who distributes, presents, transmits, posts, exchanges, or otherwise disseminates a visual portrayal of himself or herself posing in an inappropriate sexual manner is guilty of an act of delinquency and, upon adjudication, disposition may be made by the circuit court pursuant to the provisions of §49-4-701 through §49-4-725 of this code.
- (b) As used in this section, <u>"posing in an inappropriate sexual manner" means exhibition of a bare female breast, female or male genitalia, pubic, or rectal areas of a minor for purposes of sexual gratification.</u>
- (1) "Posing in an inappropriate sexual manner" means exhibition of a bare female breast, female or male genitalia, pubic, or rectal areas of a minor for purposes of sexual titillation.
 - (2) "Visual portrayal" means:
 - (A) A photograph;
 - (B) A motion picture;
 - (C) A digital image;
 - (D) A digital video recording; or
- (E) Any other mechanical or electronic recording process or device that can preserve, for later viewing, a visual image of a person that includes, but is not limited to, computers, cellphones, personal digital assistance, and other digital storage or transmitting devices;
- (c) It shall be an affirmative defense to an alleged violation of this section that a minor charged with possession of the prohibited visual depiction portrayal did neither solicit its receipt nor distribute, transmit, or present it to another person by any means.
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of §15-12-1 *et seq.* of this code, an adjudication of delinquency under the provisions of this section shall not subject the minor to the requirements of that article and chapter.

§61-8C-3c. Confidentiality; exemption from prosecution.

(a) Nothing in this article shall be construed to prevent the lawful investigation and/or prosecution of the criminal offenses described in this article: *Provided*, That prohibited media or visual portrayal described in this article shall not be published to the public at any time.

- (b) It does not constitute an offense of the crimes set forth in this article when the following persons possess or distribute prohibited media or material, or visual portrayal while acting in the performance of their official duties:
- (1) Law enforcement officials, including those entities with specialized investigatory experience with whom law enforcement agencies regularly contract for the purpose of providing investigatory services and assistance;
 - (2) Prosecuting attorneys;
- (3) Attorneys acting as officers of the court and while acting in the performance of their official duties;
 - (4) Judges and magistrates;
 - (5) Jurors hearing a case involving an alleged violation of offenses in this article:
 - (6) Support personnel for the persons listed in this section; and
- (7) Any person acting in accordance and in compliance with a valid order issued by a circuit court of this state or the Supreme Court of Appeals.
- (c) The Supreme Court of Appeals is hereby requested to promulgate such rules, protocols, and forms which are necessary to regulate access to, use, and handling of prohibited media and visual portrayals described in this article, giving due consideration to the privacy rights of victims and the due process rights of defendants in criminal proceedings.
- (d)(1) Any person not listed in subsection (b) of this section who, in the course and scope of employment or business, views an image or images on a computer or electronic device that is or appears to be material visually portraying a minor engaged in any sexually explicit conduct shall immediately report the discovery of the image or images to a local or state law enforcement agency or the Cyber Tipline at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. The report must include the name and address of the owner or person claiming a right to possession of the computer or electronic device, if known, and as permitted by federal law. For purposes of this subdivision, such reporting may include furnishing the law enforcement officer with any image, information, or data that the person reasonably believes to be evidence of material visually portraying a minor engaged in any sexually explicit conduct, transmission of material visually portraying a minor engaged in any sexually explicit conduct, or an image, information, or data that is harmful to minors.
- (2) Except in a case of willful or wanton misconduct, compliance with subdivision (1) of this subsection is an affirmative defense to an alleged violation of this section."
- **S. B. 257**, Providing protection for property owner when someone visiting private cemetery causes damage to property; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

On motion of Delegate Akers, the amendment was adopted.

The Committee on the Judiciary moved to amend the bill on page 2, section 1, lines 37 through 41, by striking out the remainder of the Bill and inserting in lieu thereof:

- "(g) A private property owner shall not be held liable for any damage to a cemetery on their property when that damage is caused by individuals conducting familial or social visitations to the cemetery. *Provided*, that this limitation on liability shall not apply if the person conducting the visitation is an agent of the private property owner. Individuals conducting familial and social visitations to a cemetery contemplated by this section are liable for any damage they cause."
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 270**, Declaring sale and manufacture of firearms essential business during declared emergency; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

On motion of Delegate Masters, the motion was adopted.

Delegates Masters and Butler moved to amend the bill on page 3, section 19a, line 48, immediately following the word "activities", by striking the remainder of subdivision (9).

The Committee on the Judiciary moved to amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

"CHAPTER 15. PUBLIC SAFETY.

ARTICLE 5. DIVISION OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.

§15-5-19a. Possession of firearms during a declared state of emergency.

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the transport, storage, transfer, sale, commerce in, import and export of, distribution, repair, maintenance, and manufacture of firearms, ammunition, and related accessories and components, and other goods and services directly related to lawful firearm possession, use, storage, repair, maintenance, and training in the use of firearms, are declared to be "essential" businesses and services for the purposes of safety and security in times of declared emergency or any other statutorily authorized responses to disaster, war, acts of terrorism, riot or civil disorder, or emergencies of whatever kind or nature.
- (b) During a federal or state declared state of emergency, Except as provided in this section, no state agency, political subdivision, county, or municipality, or any elected or appointed official or employee thereof, may, under any governmental authority or color of law exercised as part of any statutorily authorized responses to disaster, war, acts of terrorism, riot or civil disorder, or as part of any federal or state declared state of emergency or preparedness of whatever kind or nature:
- (1) Prohibit or restrict the otherwise lawful possession, use, carrying, transfer, transportation, storage, sale, display, or other lawful use of a firearm or ammunition, any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or personal weapons other than firearms;
- (2) Seize, confiscate, or authorize the seizure or confiscation of any otherwise lawfully possessed firearm or ammunition, any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or otherwise lawful personal weapons other than firearms unless:

- (A) The person acting on behalf of or under the authority of the state, a county, or municipality is:
 - (i) Defending himself or herself or another from an assault; or
- (ii) Arresting a person in actual possession of a firearm or ammunition for a violation of law; or
 - (B) The firearm or ammunition is being seized or confiscated as evidence of a crime;
- (3) Require registration of any firearm or ammunition, any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or otherwise lawful personal weapons other than firearms;
- (4) Suspend or revoke a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon or provisional license to carry a concealed deadly weapon issued pursuant to §61-7-1 *et seq.* of this code except as expressly authorized in that article;
- (5) Willfully refuse to accept an application for a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon or provisional license to carry a concealed deadly weapon, provided the application has been properly completed in accordance with §61-7-1 *et seq.* of this code;
- (6) Close or limit the operating hours of any entity engaged in the lawful selling or servicing of any firearm, including any component or accessory, ammunition, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or personal weapons other than firearms, unless the closing or limitation of hours applies generally within the jurisdiction of commerce;
- (7) Close or limit the operating hours of any indoor or outdoor shooting range; <u>or any entity engaged in providing firearms safety training or firearms safety instructor courses, classes, or programs, or</u>
- (8) Place restrictions or quantity limitations on any entity regarding the lawful sale or servicing of any firearm or ammunition, any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or personal weapons other than firearms; or
- (9) Suspend, restrict, or prohibit otherwise lawful hunting or fishing activities, unless the suspension, restriction, or prohibition is consistent with travel restrictions or restrictions on public access to state lands or waters that apply equally with other travel or public access restrictions to state lands or waters within the jurisdiction.
- (b) (c) The prohibitions of subdivision (1), subsection (a) of this section $\S15-5-19a(b)(1)$ do not prohibit the state or an authorized state or local authority from ordering and enforcing an evacuation or general closure of businesses in the affected area during a declared state of emergency.
- (c) (d)(1) If a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon or provisional license to carry a concealed deadly weapon has been issued to a person pursuant to §61-7-4 of this code, and if the date that the valid and subsisting license would or is scheduled to expire falls within the period of emergency declared by the Governor's executive order or the 14 days immediately preceding that declaration, then, notwithstanding the date of scheduled expiration, the duration of that license is automatically extended for a period of 60 days commencing from the date of the

<u>license's scheduled expiration or 30 days commencing from the termination of the state of</u> emergency, whichever is later.

- (2) If §15-5-19a(d)(1) of this subsection applies with respect to a license to carry a concealed deadly weapon or provisional license to carry a concealed deadly weapon, then during the extension period described in that section that is applicable to that license, all of the following apply:
- (A) The license shall be valid for all purposes under the laws of this state and the person to whom the license was issued shall be considered for all purposes under the laws of this state to be the holder of a valid license to carry a concealed handgun;
- (B) The license remains subject to the operation of §61-7-1, et seq., of this code during the extended period of the license and at any other time; and
- (C) Except for the date of scheduled expiration, all other conditions, and restrictions otherwise applicable to the license and the license holder continue to apply during the extended period of the license and at any other time.
 - (e) This section shall not apply to the following:
- (1) The authority of a chief administrative officer of a political subdivision with police powers to prohibit the sale, offering for sale, dispensing, or transportation of firearms or other dangerous weapons, ammunition, dynamite, or other dangerous explosives in, to, or from a cordoned-off area when engaged in suppressing a riot or when there is a clear and present danger of a riot as that term is delineated in §15-1D-1, et. seq. of this Code;
- (2) The ability of a law-enforcement officer to remove firearms or ammunition from any person pursuant to other lawful authority: *Provided*, That before releasing the individual, the law-enforcement officer shall return to the individual any seized firearms and ammunition, and components thereof, and any firearms accessories and ammunition-reloading equipment and supplies, unless
- (A) the officer takes the individual into physical custody for engaging in criminal activity or for observation, or
- (B) seizes the items as evidence pursuant to an investigation for the commission of a crime; or
- (3) A zoning ordinance that specifies the hours of operation or the geographic areas where the commercial sale of firearms, firearm components, or ammunition for firearms may occur: *Provided*, that the zoning ordinance is consistent with the provisions of §8-12-5a(h)(2) of this Code.
- (f)(1) Any individual, person, group, or entity adversely affected by a violation of this section, or by any manner of law, ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or other action enacted or enforced in violation of the provisions of this section, may seek relief in an action at law or in equity for damages, injunctive relief, declaratory relief, or other appropriate redress against any state agency, county, municipality, or other political subdivision of this state, or against any elected or appointed official or employee of this state, a county, ermunicipality or any other

<u>political subdivision of this state</u>, that subjects the individual, or causes the individual, to be subjected, to an action prohibited by this section.

(2) Such suit may be filed

- (A) in the court having jurisdiction over the county in which the aggrieved person resides, or group or entity is located, or in which the violation occurred, or
- (B) in the case of an action by the state or any state agency, in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County.
- (d) (g) In addition to any other remedy at law or in equity, an individual who is adversely affected by the seizure or confiscation of any firearm or ammunition component or accessory, ammunition reloading equipment and supplies, or otherwise lawful personal weapons other than firearms in violation of this section.
- (1) may bring an action for the return of the seized or confiscated property in the circuit court of the county in which that individual resides or in which the seized or confiscated property is located and, except where those weapons have been seized as part of a lawful arrest as provided in §15-5-19a(d)(2), that—court shall order the immediate return of the items by the seizing or confiscating governmental office and that office's employed officials; and
- (2) that individual shall also be entitled to recover a civil penalty for damages, in the amount of \$5,000 per violation, against any person who violates the seizure or confiscation restrictions in this section.
- (e) (3) A-prevailing plaintiff in an action <u>brought</u> under this section §15-5-19a(f) or §15-5-19a(g) is also entitled to recover the following:
 - (1) (A) Actual damages, including consequential damages;
 - (2) (B) Court costs and fees; and
 - (3) (C) Reasonable attorney's fees.
- (4) And, any award to a prevailing plaintiff under the provisions of §15-5-19a(f) or §15-5-19a(g) may be awarded regardless of whether the law, ordinance, rule, regulation, resolution, practice, or action or the manner of its enforcement is repealed or rescinded, or, expires after the civil action was filed but prior to a final court determination of the action."
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 464**, Creating license plate for recipients of Medal of Valor; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

On motion of Delegate Linville, the amendment was adopted.

The Committee on Energy and Public Works moved to amend the committee substitute of the committee substitute on page 1, after the enacting clause, by striking out the remainder of the committee substitute and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

ARTICLE 3. ORIGINAL AND RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION; ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF TITLE.

§17A-3-14g. Special registration plates for first responders.

(a) The division may issue special emergency or volunteer registration plates as follows:

- (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of the State of West Virginia and who is a certified paramedic or emergency medical technician, member of a paid fire department, member of the State Fire Commission, the State Fire Marshal, State Fire Marshal assistant, State Fire Administrator, or voluntary rescue squad member may apply for a special license plate for any number of Class A vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant which bears the insignia of the profession, group, or commission. Any insignia shall be designed by the commissioner. License plates issued pursuant to this subsection shall bear the requested insignia in addition to the registration number issued to the applicant pursuant to the provisions of this article.
- (2) Each application submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be accompanied by an affidavit signed by the fire chief or department head of the applicant stating that the applicant is justified in having a registration with the requested insignia, proof of compliance with all laws of this state regarding registration and licensure of motor vehicles, and payment of all required fees.
- (3) Each application submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be accompanied by payment of a special initial application fee of \$10, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All special fees shall be collected by the division and deposited into the State Road Fund.
 - (b) The division may issue special certified firefighter registration plates as follows:
- (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of the State of West Virginia and who is a certified firefighter may apply for a special license plate that bears the insignia of the profession for any number of Class A vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant. Any insignia shall be designed by the commissioner. License plates issued pursuant to this subsection shall bear the requested insignia pursuant to the provisions of this article. Upon presentation of written evidence of certification as a certified firefighter, certified firefighters are eligible to purchase the special registration plate issued pursuant to this subsection.
- (2) Each application submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be accompanied by an affidavit stating that the applicant is justified in having a registration with the requested insignia, proof of compliance with all laws of this state regarding registration and licensure of motor vehicles, and payment of all required fees. The firefighter certification department, section, or division of the West Virginia University fire service extension shall notify the commissioner in writing immediately when a firefighter loses his or her certification. If a firefighter loses his or her certification, the commissioner may not issue him or her a license plate under this subsection.
- (3) Each application submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be accompanied by payment of a special initial application fee of \$10, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All special fees shall be collected by the division and deposited into the State Road Fund.
 - (c) The division may issue special volunteer firefighter registration plates as follows:
- (1) Any owner of a motor vehicle who is a resident of West Virginia and who is a volunteer firefighter may apply for a special license plate for any Class A vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant which bears the insignia of the profession in white letters on a red background. The insignia shall be designed by the commissioner and shall contain a fireman's helmet insignia on the left side of the license plate.

- (2) Each application submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be accompanied by an affidavit signed by the applicant's fire chief, stating that the applicant is a volunteer firefighter and is justified in having a registration plate with the requested insignia. The applicant must comply with all other laws of this state regarding registration and licensure of motor vehicles and must pay all required fees.
- (3) Each application submitted pursuant to this subsection shall be accompanied by payment of a special one-time initial application fee of \$10, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. All application fees shall be deposited into the State Road Fund.
- (d) The division may issue special registration plates to applicants supporting law-enforcement officers, to retired members of the West Virginia State Police, and to survivors of wounds received in the line of duty as a member with a West Virginia law-enforcement agency as follows:
- (1) Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue a special registration plate designed by the commissioner which recognizes, supports, and honors the men and women of law-enforcement and includes the words Back the Blue. Upon appropriate application, the division shall issue to any member of a municipal police department, sheriff's department, the State Police, or the law-enforcement division of the Division of Natural Resources who has been wounded in the line of duty and awarded a Purple Heart in recognition thereof by the West Virginia Chiefs of Police Association, the West Virginia Sheriffs' Association, the West Virginia Troopers Association, or the Division of Natural Resources a special registration plate for one vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant with an insignia appropriately designed by the commissioner.
- (2) For special registration plates supporting law-enforcement officers, the division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State Road Fund. An annual fee of \$15 shall be charged for each plate supporting law-enforcement officers in addition to all other fees required by this chapter.
- (3) Registration plates issued pursuant to this subsection to survivors of wounds received in the line of duty as a member with a West Virginia law-enforcement agency are exempt from the registration fees otherwise required by the provisions of this chapter. A surviving spouse may continue to use his or her deceased spouse's special registration plate until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the plate. Survivors of wounds received in the line of duty as a member with a West Virginia law-enforcement agency may obtain a license plate as described in this subsection for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant. The division shall charge for the second plate a one-time fee of \$10, to be deposited into the State Road Fund, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter.
- (4) Upon appropriate application, the division may issue special registration plates designed by the commissioner for any number of vehicles titled in the name of the qualified applicant who offers sufficient proof of being a retired member of the West Virginia State Police. The division shall charge a special initial application fee of \$10 in addition to all other fees required by this chapter. This special fee shall be collected by the division and deposited in the State Road Fund.
- (e) The division may issue special plates with an insignia appropriately designed by the commissioner to recipients of the distinguished Medal of Valor awarded under §29-32-1 et seq. of this code to firefighters, law-enforcement officers, and emergency medical services personnel

who distinguish themselves conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of their lives above and beyond the call of duty in the performance of their duties as follows:

- (1) Any Medal of Valor recipient under §29-32-1 *et seq.* of this code or their surviving spouse may apply to receive the special registration plate issued pursuant to this subsection for any Class A vehicle titled in the name of the Medal of Valor recipient or their surviving spouse.
- (2) The applicant shall present satisfactory proof as determined by the commissioner as evidence of qualification for any plate authorized in this subsection. A surviving spouse may continue to use the license plate of his or her deceased spouse that was issued pursuant to this subsection until the surviving spouse dies, remarries, or does not renew the license plate.
- (3) A qualified applicant as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection may apply for a second license plate as described in this subsection for use on a Class A vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant.
- (4) Registration plates issued pursuant to this subsection to qualified applicants are exempt from the registration fees otherwise required by the provisions of this chapter. A qualified applicant may obtain a license plate as described in this subsection for use on a passenger vehicle titled in the name of the qualified applicant. The division shall charge for the second plate a one-time fee of \$10, to be deposited into the State Road Fund, which is in addition to all other fees required by this chapter.
- **S. B. 537**, Establishing WV Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

On motion of Delegate Worrell, the amendment was adopted.

The Committee on Health and Human Resources moved to amend the bill on page 1, after the enacting clause by striking out the remainder of the bill and inserting in lieu thereof, the following:

ARTICLE 66. SUPPORT FOR MOTHERS AND BABIES ACT.

§16-66-2. Establishing the West Virginia Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program.

- (a) There is hereby established The West Virginia Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program under the Bureau for Public Health is continued.
- (b) A pregnancy help organization is eligible to receive funding from the program, subject to meeting the standards defined by the managing agency.
 - (c) An abortion industry organization may not receive funding from the program.
- (d) (1) The program's funds may be distributed to pregnancy help organizations eligible under this article for the following reasons:
 - (A) Capital expenditures;
 - (B) Expenditures associated with adding additional services;

- (C) Expenditures associated with meeting the requirements established by relevant licensing, accreditation, or standards setting organizations; and
 - (D) Training expenditures for pregnancy help organization staff and volunteers.
- (2) Except as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection, funds distributed under the program shall be distributed on a fee per service arrangement with a fee per service and hour arrangement as set by the management agency.
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 617**, Discouraging gang activity; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading,

And,

Com. Sub. for S. B. 810, Clarifying requirements for administration of anesthesia and chronic pain practice by certain licensed nurses; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to third reading.

First Reading

- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 485**, Exempting West Virginia Secretary of State from competitive bidding process; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading,
- **S. B. 496**, Removing reflexology and other energy-based work from definition of "massage therapy"; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading,
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 565**, Relating generally to practice of optometry; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading,
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 736**, Relating to publication of registered lobbyist information; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading,
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 748**, Creating Safer Communities Act; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.
- At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, the bill was postponed one day.
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 765**, Establishing Troops-to-Teachers Program; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading,
- **Com. Sub. for S. B. 861**, Updating references to reflect consolidation of Information Services and Communications Division into Office of Technology; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading,
- **S. B. 862**, Repealing antiquated language related to Voluntary Gilding Dome Check-Off Program; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading,

S. B. 863, Removing reference to Information Services and Communications Division; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was read a first time and ordered to second reading,

And,

S. B. 907, Relating to high impact development projects; on first reading, coming up in regular order, was reported by the Clerk.

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

11:57 a.m., on motion of Delegate McGeehan, the House of Delegates recessed until 5:30 p.m.

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Evening Session

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

Committee Reports

Delegate Criss, Chair of the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration:

H. B. 3369, Supplemental Appropriation - Education - Enrollment & Safety,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 3369 - "A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Education, State Board of Education – State Department of Education, fund 0313, fiscal year 2025, organization 0402, adding a new item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025."

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Delegate Criss, Chair of the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration:

Com. Sub. for S. B. 722, Creating WV Short Line Railroad Modernization Act,

And reports the same back, with amendment, with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended.

Delegate Criss, Chair of the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration:

- H. B. 3356, Supplemental Appropriation Education Hope Scholarship,
- H. B. 3357, Supplemental Appropriation Lottery Surplus Hope Scholarship,
- H. B. 3360, Supplemental Appropriation EDA Bridge Loan Fund,

And.

S. B. 876, Terminating certain requirements for Tax Commissioner to submit reports, publish information, and provide notice,

And reports the same back with the recommendation that they each do pass.

Delegate Ellington, Chair of the Committee on Education, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration:

Com. Sub. for S. B. 449, Permitting compressed air and rimfire shooting teams in public schools,

And reports the same back, with amendment, with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended.

Delegate Ellington, Chair of the Committee on Education, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration:

Com. Sub. for S. B. 746, Allowing State Board of Education to delegate its Medicaid provider status to public charter schools,

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

Delegate Phillips, Chair of the Committee on Government Organization, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Government Organization has had under consideration:

- **S. B. 734**, Repealing section creating A. James Manchin Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan,
 - S. B. 738, Terminating Employee Suggestion Award Board,

And,

Com. Sub. for S. B. 844, Exempting non-native quail and partridge from game farm requirement if owned for agricultural purposes,

And reports the same back with the recommendation that they each do pass.

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

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration:

Com. Sub. for S. B. 225, Expanding powers of National Park Service law-enforcement officers.

And reports the same back, with amendment, with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended.

Delegate Worrell, Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Resources, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Health and Human Resources has had under consideration:

S. B. 252, Requiring coverage of home blood pressure monitoring devices for certain Medicaid recipients,

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

In accordance with the former direction of the Speaker, the bill (S. B. 252) was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Delegate Worrell, Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Resources, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Health and Human Resources has had under consideration:

Com. Sub. for S. B. 904, Clarifying requirements for Commissioner of Bureau for Public Health.

And,

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

And reports the same back, with amendment, with the recommendation that they each do pass, as amended.

Senate Messages

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced concurrence by the Senate in the amendment of the House of Delegates to the amendment of the Senate, and the passage, as amended, of

Com. Sub. for H. B. 2042, Relating to allowing a guardian ad litem to request the appointment of a court appointed special advocate.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced concurrence by the Senate in the amendment of the House of Delegates to the amendment of the Senate, and the passage, as amended, of

Com. Sub. for H. B. 2331, Relating to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Commerce to promulgate legislative rules.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 2399, Relating to the taxation of managed timber.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3358, Supplemental Appropriation FBGR DHHR.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3365, Supplemental Appropriation HLTH Birth to Three.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3366, Supplemental Appropriation FEDA HLTH OIG.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3367, Supplemental Appropriation SAPR DNR.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3370, Supplemental Appropriation FEDA HMSV Summer EBT.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced that the Senate had passed, without amendment, to take effect from passage, a bill of the House of Delegates, as follows:

H. B. 3372, Supplemental Appropriation FEDA Veterans.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced concurrence in the title amendment of the House of Delegates and the passage, as amended, of

Com. Sub. for S. B. 22, Applying penalties for nonpayment of royalties under terms of oil and natural gas leases.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced concurrence in the title amendment of the House of Delegates and the passage, as amended, of

Com. Sub. for S. B. 459, Requiring county planning commission members be state residents.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced concurrence in the title amendment of the House of Delegates, and that the Senate had concurred in the changed effective date, to take effect from passage, of

Com. Sub. for S. B. 538, Allowing certain entities to purchase qualifying tax-delinquent properties before they are offered at public auction.

Leaves of Absence

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, a leave of absence for the day was granted Delegate G. Howell.

Miscellaneous Business

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

H. B. 2922: Delegate Burkhammer.

At 5:46 p.m., the House of Delegates adjourned until 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 08, 2025.

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

SPECIAL CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

56th Day

11:00 A.M.

THIRD READING

Com. Sub. for S. B. 1 -	Requiring utility work and road paving coordination	
Com. Sub. for S. B. 198 -	Prohibiting creation, production, distribution, or possession of artificially generated child pornography	
S. B. 257 -	Providing protection for property owner when someone visiting private cemetery causes damage to property	
Com. Sub. for S. B. 270 -	Declaring sale and manufacture of firearms essential business during declared emergency	
Com. Sub. for S. B. 464 -	Creating license plate for recipients of Medal of Valor	
S. B. 537 -	Establishing WV Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program	
Com. Sub. for S. B. 617 -	Discouraging gang activity	
Com. Sub. for S. B. 810 -	Clarifying requirements for administration of anesthesia and chronic pain practice by certain licensed nurses	
SECOND READING		
Com. Sub. for S. B. 485 -	Exempting West Virginia Secretary of State from competitive bidding process	
S. B. 496 -	Removing reflexology and other energy-based work from definition of "massage therapy"	
Com. Sub. for S. B. 565 -	Relating generally to practice of optometry	
Com. Sub. for S. B. 736 -	Relating to publication of registered lobbyist information	
Com. Sub. for S. B. 765 -	Establishing Troops-to-Teachers Program	
O O f O D 004		
Com. Sub. for S. B. 861 -	Updating references to reflect consolidation of Information Services and Communications Division into Office of Technology	

FIRST READING

Com. Sub. for S. B. 225 -	Expanding powers of National Park Service law-enforcement officers
Com. Sub. for S. B. 449 -	Permitting compressed air and rimfire shooting teams in public schools
Com. Sub. for S. B. 722 -	Creating WV Short Line Railroad Modernization Act
S. B. 734 -	Repealing section creating A. James Manchin Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan
S. B. 738 -	Terminating Employee Suggestion Award Board
Com. Sub. for S. B. 746 -	Allowing State Board of Education to delegate its Medicaid provider status to public charter schools
Com. Sub. for S. B. 748 -	Creating Safer Communities Act
Com. Sub. for S. B. 844 -	Exempting non-native quail and partridge from game farm requirement if owned for agricultural purposes
S. B. 876 -	Terminating certain requirements for Tax Commissioner to submit reports, publish information, and provide notice
Com. Sub. for S. B. 904 -	Clarifying requirements for Commissioner of Bureau for Public Health
S. B. 907 -	Relating to high impact development projects
S. B. 939 -	Relating to testing for substance use disorder
Н. В. 3356 -	Supplemental Appropriation - Education - Hope Scholarship
H. B. 3357 -	Supplemental Appropriation - Lottery Surplus - Hope Scholarship
Н. В. 3360 -	Supplemental Appropriation - EDA Bridge Loan Fund
Com. Sub. for H. B. 3369 -	Supplemental Appropriation - Education - Enrollment & Safety

HOUSE CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

56th Day

11:00 A.M.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

H. C. R. 19 -	Declaring December 14 as Frosty the	e Snowman Day

THIRD READING

H. B. 2060 -	Creating tax exemption for agricultural cooperative associations		
Com. Sub. for H. B. 3377 -	Non-State Owned Roads Improvement Act		
Н. В. 3425 -	Clarifying that any person employed by the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation pursuant to a contract includes contracted staff that work for vendors		
H. B. 3516 -	Relating to limit of liability through Board of Risk Management		
SECOND READING			
Com. Sub. for S. B. 482 -	Certified Professional Midwife Licensing and Regulation		
Com. Sub. for H. B. 2006 -	Defining Men and Women		
Com. Sub. for H. B. 2146 -	Exempting the processing of beef, pork or lamb by a slaughterhouse for an individual owner of the product processed from the Consumer Sales and Service Tax		
Com. Sub. for H. B. 2355 -	Permitting middle or high school students to participate in travel sports teams without repercussion.		
Com. Sub. for H. B. 2400 -	Prohibiting the delivery of unsolicited absentee ballot applications to any person who has not specifically requested one from the county clerk		
Com. Sub. for H. B. 2409 -	Updating cooperative agreements		
H. B. 2683 -	To prohibit rank choice voting		
Com. Sub. for H. B. 3072 -	Creating Super two highways in West Virginia		
H. B. 3271 -	Authorizing digital court records		

Com. Sub. for H. B. 3387 - Relating to the creation of a regional school district pilot program

Com. Sub. for H. B. 3432 - Revising the statutes to clarify and separate duties identified in the code between the Division of Emergency Management and the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection

FIRST READING

Com. Sub. for H. B. 3452 - Transferring administration of Advanced Career Education (ACE) classes and programs from county boards of education to

community and technical colleges.

H. B. 3518 - Relating to the Medicaid Waiver expansion program

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

HOUSE CONVENES AT 11:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE ON RULES
10:45 A.M. – SPEAKERS CONFERENCE ROOM 218M

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

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION 1:00 P.M. – EAST WING COMMITTEE ROOM 215E

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
1:00 P.M. – EDUCATION COMMITTEE ROOM 432M

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