

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2025  
FIFTEENTH DAY

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Charleston, West Virginia, Wednesday, February 26, 2025

The Senate met at 11:03 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by Chaplain Ben Adams, St. Marys Correctional Center and Jail, St. Marys, West Virginia.

The Senate was then led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Honorable Jay Taylor, a senator from the fourteenth district.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Tuesday, February 25, 2025,

At the request of Senator Azinger, 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.

At the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, the provisions of Rule 54 of the Rules of the Senate, relating to persons entitled to the privileges of the floor, were suspended in order to grant the family members of Wanda Porterfield Casto privileges of the floor for the day.

The Senate 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. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2042**—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-4-601 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to procedures in cases of child neglect or abuse; allowing a prosecuting attorney, respondent parent, or guardian ad litem to request the appointment of a court appointed special advocate if that circuit court is serviced by a court appointed special advocate.

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 2053**—A Bill to amend and reenact §5-10-15, §8-22A-2, §9A-3-1, §11-21-12, §15-2-28, §15-2A-2, §18-7A-17a, §18-10F-2, §30-29-6, §48-31-102, and §62-16-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to including the United States Space Force in the definitions of certain terms that individually reference the Armed Forces of the United States.

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

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 2066**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated as §61-3-60, relating to damage, destruction, or theft of property or equipment used by emergency responders; creating a felony offense for damaging, destroying, or stealing certain property of an emergency responder; creating elements of the new felony offense; specifying that felony offense is a separate and distinct offense; creating definitions; and creating criminal penalties.

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 2363**—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-8C-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to child pornography; clarifying the groups of persons to whom the criminal prohibitions related to child pornography are inapplicable when such persons are performing their official or employment duties; requesting the Supreme Court of Appeals to promulgate certain rules; authorizing mandatory reporting of certain individuals who observe images appearing to be a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct on electronic devices; and creating an affirmative defense for persons complying with the mandatory reporting requirements.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

Senator Chapman, from 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

**Senate Bill 29**, Allowing physicians assistants to own practice.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 29** (originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources)—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-3-14, §30-3-15, and §31B-13-1301 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing physician assistants to own a business; denying a license or other authorization for physician assistants for referrals where the physician

assistant has a proprietary interest; authorizing medical corporations that have physician assistant shareholders; and designating the profession of physician assistant as a professional service for the purposes of the Uniform Limited Liability Company Act.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wakim Chapman,  
*Chair.*

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

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 31**, Relating to DNA data maintained for law-enforcement purposes.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 31** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2B-2, §15-2B-3, §15-2B-5, §15-2B-6, §15-2B-9, and §15-2B-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to DNA that is maintained for law-enforcement purposes in West Virginia; providing updates for the policy of maintaining DNA; defining terms; requiring DNA collection from all persons convicted of felonies and certain misdemeanors; requiring DNA collection from all persons charged by indictment or information of any felony offense after a grand jury has returned an indictment or prosecution by indictment has been waived; adding qualifying offense of domestic battery; specifying testing methods; authorizing emergency rules; requiring legislative rules; specifying expungement in certain circumstances; and providing failure to expunge or reasonably delay expungement will not invalidate an identification, warrant, probable cause to arrest, or arrest based upon a database match.

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,

Mike Stuart,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 31), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 124**, Reducing statute of limitations on actions to recover on oral and written contracts.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 124** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §55-2-6, §55-2-7, and §55-2-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to limitation of certain actions; reducing time within which to bring actions to recover on written and oral contracts, certain bonds, and recognizances; and clarifying that the discovery rule applies to the affected statutes of limitations.

**Senate Bill 198**, Prohibiting creation, production, distribution, or possession of artificially generated child pornography.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 198** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §55-2-6, §55-2-7, and §55-2-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to limitation of certain actions; reducing time within which to bring actions to recover on written and oral contracts, certain bonds, and recognizances; and clarifying that the discovery rule applies to the affected statutes of limitations.

And,

**Senate Bill 456**, Defining "men" and "women".

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 456** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §5-32-1, §5-32-2, §5-32-3, §5-32-4, §5-32-5, §5-32-6, §5-32-7, §5-32-8, and §5-32-9, relating to sex definitions and single-sex spaces; providing purposes and general application; providing findings; creating definitions; establishing a standard of review; providing for certain standards applicable to domestic violence shelters, public schools, institutions of higher education, and correctional institutions; clarifying certain sex-based data collection; and providing for severability.

With the recommendation that the three committee substitutes do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*Chair.*

Senator Chapman, from 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

**Senate Bill 169**, Correlating Medicaid personal needs allowance with state poverty index.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 169** (originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §9-5-34, relating to increasing the Medicaid personal needs allowance;

establishing legislative findings; defining the term "personal needs allowance"; and setting the effective date to July 1, 2026.

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,

Laura Wakim Chapman,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 169), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senator Grady, from the Committee on Education, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 434**, Requiring each public school building be equipped with at least one panic alarm for use in school security emergency.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 434** (originating in the Committee on Education)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-9F-11, relating to requiring the West Virginia Board of Education to promulgate a rule to implement a wearable panic alert system at every public school; specifying required capabilities of the wearable panic alert system; requiring each county board to provide each employee assigned to a public school facility with a wearable alert device; requiring annual training on the protocol for and appropriate use of the panic alert device; and requiring each county board to ensure that all security data within a public school facility is accessible by a local law-enforcement agency and to coordinate with the local law-enforcement agency to establish appropriate access protocols.

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,

Amy N. Grady,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 434), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senator Grady, from the Committee on Education, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 450**, Establishing WV Guardian Program.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 450** (originating in the Committee on Education)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-5-52, relating to allowing county boards of education to contract with an independent contractor, known as a West Virginia Guardian, who is a former state trooper, former deputy sheriff, former state fire Marshall, former Department of Natural Resources police officer, former municipal police officer, or former federal law-enforcement officer to provide to provide public safety and/or security on school grounds to protect life and property; specifying the authority of independent contractors participating in the program and an apparel requirement; requiring the West Virginia Guardian to apply for a permit from the county sheriff of the county in which the Guardian will provided services; mandating the county sheriff to require an applicant to provide proof of meeting certain requirements; allowing county board to impose additional requirements; requiring permit application fee to be deposited into a guardian program fund; stating that meeting all of certain requirements does not guarantee a contract will be extended to the applicant; specifying instances in which an independent contractor is precluded from participation as a West Virginia Guardian; addressing civil and criminal liability; exempting West Virginia Guardian contract from certain purchasing requirements; clarifying that county board participation is voluntary and subject to the availability of county funds; and providing for exclusions from state benefit programs.

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,

Amy N. Grady,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 450), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on Government Organization has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 482**, Certified Professional Midwife Licensing and Regulation.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 482** (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §30-44-1, §30-44-2, §30-44-3, §30-44-4, §30-44-5, §30-44-6, §30-44-7, §30-44-8, §30-44-9, §30-44-10, §30-44-11, §30-44-12, and §30-44-13, relating to creating the Certified Professional Midwife Licensing and Regulation Act.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Puertas Rucker,  
*Chair.*

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

Your Committee on Government Organization has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 483**, Increasing civil penalties for failure to file required campaign finance reports.

And,

**Senate Bill 496**, Removing reflexology and other energy-based work from definition of "massage therapy".

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Puertas Rucker,  
*Chair.*

Senator Chapman, from 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

**Senate Bill 537**, Establishing WV Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wakim Chapman,  
*Chair.*

Senator Jeffries, from the Committee on Economic Development, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Economic Development has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 552**, Relating to Certified Business Industrial Expansion Development Program.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 552** (originating in the Committee on Economic Development)—  
A Bill to amend and reenact §5B-2-21 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Certified Business Industrial Expansion Development Program administered by the Department of Economic Development; renaming business expansion development program administered by the department; renaming high impact business development districts certified by the department; providing that any plant or facility may participate in the business expansion development program; removing requirement that high impact business development districts be located on certain lands; and eliminating requirement that electrical service to business development districts be generated from renewable sources.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn D. Jeffries,  
*Chair.*

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

Your Committee on Government Organization has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 586**, Relating to requirements for filling vacancies in certain elected federal, state, and county offices.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 586** (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-10-3, §3-10-4, §3-10-5, §3-10-6, §3-10-7, and §3-10-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requirements for filling vacancies in certain elected federal, state, and county offices; prohibiting the appointment of an individual to fill a vacant office if that person has not been a member of his or her registered political party for at least one year prior to the occurrence of the vacancy; and requiring appointments be made from the political party with which the individual vacating the office was affiliated at the time of the previous election for that office.

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,

Patricia Puertas Rucker,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 586), 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 Rucker, Woodrum, Phillips, Morris, and Charnock:**

**Senate Bill 599**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §29A-3-21, relating to creation of the Sound Science in Regulations Act; providing that state agencies may not propose or promulgate certain legislative rules or regulatory actions that are not based on the best available science; defining terms; and providing that the act does not impact any regulatory action by a state agency in existence before the effective date of the statute, any regulatory action by a state agency in furtherance of federal agency primacy requirements, or any regulatory action by a state agency that is the same in substance as a counterpart federal regulation.



Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

**By Senator Martin:**

**Senate Bill 600**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding two new sections, designated §5B-2-22 and §5B-2-23, relating to the creation of Securing Worker Privacy and Right to Know Act; providing for definitions; providing for legislative findings and purpose; providing eligibility requirements for economic development incentives; providing for the recovery of benefits if employers fail to abide by the act; providing for an effective date; and providing requirements for the execution of a separate agreement.

Referred to the Committee on the Workforce.

**By Senator Deeds:**

**Senate Bill 601**—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-17-12 and §8-13-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to fees and charges for municipality-provided fire services; requiring county commission approval before such fees are imposed on individuals or businesses located outside the municipality; and providing a process for individuals or businesses located outside the municipality to challenge municipality-provided fire services.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

**By Senator Deeds:**

**Senate Bill 602**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5-11C-1, relating to enacting the Closed Captioning Act; requiring public places that have televisions for use by the public to have at least one half of those televisions to have their closed captioning feature activated at all times; providing an exception; defining terms; and establishing an effective date.

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

**By Senators Oliverio, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, and Woelfel:**

**Senate Bill 603**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-21-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to exempting West Virginia campus police officer retirement income from personal income tax after specified date.

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

**By Senator Stuart:**

**Senate Bill 604**—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-2A-1 and §24-2A-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the Department of Human Services to notify the Public Service Commission that a person is eligible for a discount on their utility bills; requiring the commission to order the utility to apply the reduced rate without requiring an application from the customer; and requiring the Department of Health and the Public Service Commission to adopt rules to implement those requirements.

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

**By Senator Stuart:**

**Senate Bill 605**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding three new sections, designated §8-19-23, §16-13A-26, and §24-2-22, relating to requiring any

public or private entity that owns, leases, or oversees a water supply or electrical supply utility to implement a Utility Continuity Rate Credit Program; setting definitions; setting forth the circumstances under which a utility customer is entitled to a continuity credit; setting forth the circumstances in which a utility provider may deny or must approve of a continuity credit; defining the maximum amounts and manner in which a continuity credit shall be applied to a customer's account; and requiring municipalities, counties, and the Public Service Commission to adopt rules and policies.

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

**By Senator Grady:**

**Senate Bill 606**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §16-5A-6, relating to the notification of breast density; and providing for medical guidelines and information.

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

**By Senator Barrett:**

**Senate Bill 607**—A Bill expiring funds to the unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$25,000,000 from the Economic Development Authority, Economic Development Fund, fund 9060, fiscal year 2025, organization 0944.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 608**—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-2R-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the rape and incest exception to obtain an abortion in West Virginia.

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

**By Senator Taylor:**

**Senate Bill 609**—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-3B-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to trespassing on premises of an institution of higher education.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senator Maynard:**

**Senate Bill 610**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-21-12o, relating to exempting personal income tax on overtime.

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

**By Senators Morris and Roberts:**

**Senate Bill 611**—A Bill to amend and reenact §21-5C-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to minimum wage and maximum hour standards for employees; excluding workers of a ski area operator from maximum hour requirements; and defining terms.

Referred to the Committee on the Workforce.

**By Senator Stuart:**

**Senate Bill 612**—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-1-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to rules; and making the rules and regulations of the Public Service Commission subject to legislative rule-making review procedures.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senator Smith (Mr. President):**

**Senate Bill 613**—A Bill to amend and reenact §6-9-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the cap on audits of municipalities.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

Senator Phillips offered the following resolution:

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 12**—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge number 23-010/28-000.01 ( ) (23A190), (37.72987, -81.86311) locally known as HUFF JUNCTION BOX BEAM, carrying CR 010/28 over HUFF CREEK in Logan County the "U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Barney Warren Frazier Memorial Bridge".

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Phillips offered the following resolution:

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 13**—Requesting the Division of Highways name a portion of WV Route 10, beginning at the Hal Greer Boulevard exit from Interstate 64, Latitude 38.3921254, Longitude -8234015503, through the intersection with WV Route 19, Latitude 37.4053864, Longitude -81.1400179, the "Purple Heart Trail".

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Helton offered the following resolution:

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 14**—Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study substance use disorder in the State of West Virginia.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Stuart offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution 15**—Designating February 27, 2025, as Sexual Violence Awareness Day at the Legislature.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

**Senate Resolution 12**, Designating February 26, 2025, as Corrections Day.

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

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

**Senate Resolution 13**, Memorializing life of Wanda Porterfield Casto.

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

At the request of Senator Clements, 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 Clements demanded the yeas and nays.

The roll being taken, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

So, a majority of those present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the resolution (S. R. 13) adopted.

Thereafter, at the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senators Tarr, Oliverio, and Clements regarding the adoption of Senate Resolution 13 were ordered printed in the Appendix to the Journal.

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, at 11:42 a.m., the Senate recessed to present Senate Resolution 13.

The Senate reconvened at 11:50 a.m. and resumed business under the seventh order.

**Senate Resolution 14**, Recognizing Leadership Berkeley.

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

At the request of Senator Willis, 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 92**, Glucagon for Schools Act.

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, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 92) passed with its title.

*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 270**, Declaring sale and manufacture of firearms essential business during declared emergency.

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, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

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. 270) 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 291**, Extending time frame for pharmacies to register from annually to biennially.

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, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 291) passed with its title.

*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 358**, Authorizing Department of Transportation to promulgate legislative rules.

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, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

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. 358) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 358) takes effect from passage.

*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 443**, Authorizing Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board of Examiners to conduct criminal background checks for licensing.

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, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

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. 443) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris,

Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 443) takes effect from passage.

*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 462**, Permitting Board of Occupational Therapy to require criminal history record checks.

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, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

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. 462) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Woodrum—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 462) takes effect from passage.

*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 103**, Exempting certain records from public release.

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 tenth order of business.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 5**, Establishing Adopt-A-Road program.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 50**, Requiring municipal elections to be held on same day as statewide elections.

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

**Senate Bill 234**, Increasing value at which municipal property must be sold through public auction.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 369**, Authorizing miscellaneous boards and agencies to promulgate legislative rules.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 427**, Permitting certain teenagers to work without obtaining work permit.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 459**, Requiring county economic development committee members be state residents.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 534**, Clarifying qualifications to be licensed to administer polygraphs.

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

The Senate 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 anniversary of the Buffalo Creek disaster.

The Senate proceeded to the thirteenth order of business.

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

Senator Smith (Mr. President) announced the appointment of Senator Boley to the Committee on Rules.

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 25, 2025:

**Senate Bill 5:** Senator Oliverio;

**Senate Bill 18:** Senator Helton;

**Senate Bill 30:** Senator Deeds;

**Senate Bill 41:** Senator Helton;

**Senate Bill 50:** Senator Rucker;

**Senate Bill 76:** Senator Oliverio;

**Senate Bill 105:** Senator Helton;

**Senate Bill 124:** Senator Deeds;

**Senate Bill 189:** Senator Takubo;

**Senate Bill 190:** Senator Rose;

**Senate Bill 198:** Senator Deeds;

**Senate Bill 216:** Senator Takubo;

**Senate Bill 434:** Senators Chapman and Deeds;

**Senate Bill 450:** Senators Willis, Chapman, and Deeds;

**Senate Bill 482:** Senator Hamilton;

**Senate Bill 483:** Senator Hamilton;

**Senate Bill 506:** Senator Takubo;

**Senate Bill 518:** Senator Oliverio;

**Senate Bill 537:** Senators Willis, Deeds, and Rose;

**Senate Bill 552:** Senators Oliverio and Clements;

**Senate Bill 566:** Senator Helton;

**Senate Bill 573:** Senator Maynard;

**Senate Bill 575:** Senator Jeffries;

**Senate Bill 582:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 583:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 589:** Senators Woelfel, Taylor, and Takubo;

**Senate Bill 590:** Senator Jeffries;

**Senate Bill 591:** Senators Thorne and Jeffries;

**Senate Bill 592:** Senator Rose;

**Senate Bill 596:** Senator Rucker;

**Senate Bill 597:** Senator Rucker;

**Senate Bill 598:** Senator Woelfel;

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

And,

**Senate Resolution 12:** Senator Takubo.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing and select committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12:08 p.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 11 a.m.

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## **SENATE CALENDAR**

**Thursday, February 27, 2025  
11:00 AM**

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### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 11:30 AM**

Consideration of executive nominations

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### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- S. C. R. 12 - US Army Staff Sergeant Barney Warren Frazier Memorial Bridge
- S. C. R. 13 - Purple Heart Trail
- S. C. R. 14 - Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study substance use disorder in WV
- S. R. 15 - Designating February 27, 2025, Sexual Violence Awareness Day

### **THIRD READING**

- Eng. S. B. 103 - Exempting certain records from public release

### **SECOND READING**

- Com. Sub. for S. B. 5 - Establishing Adopt-A-Road program
- Com. Sub. for S. B. 50 - Requiring municipal elections to be held on same day as statewide elections (original similar to HB2422)
- S. B. 234 - Increasing value at which municipal property must be sold through public auction
- Com. Sub. for S. B. 369 - Authorizing miscellaneous boards and agencies to promulgate legislative rules (original similar to HB2289)
- Com. Sub. for S. B. 427 - Permitting certain teenagers to work without obtaining work permit
- Com. Sub. for S. B. 459 - Requiring county economic development committee members be state residents (original similar to HB2818)
- Com. Sub. for S. B. 534 - Clarifying qualifications to be licensed to administer polygraphs

### **FIRST READING**

- Com. Sub. for S. B. 29 - Allowing physicians assistants to own practice

Com. Sub. for S. B. 124 - Reducing statute of limitations on actions to recover on oral and written contracts

Com. Sub. for S. B. 198 - Prohibiting creation, production, distribution, or possession of artificially generated child pornography

Com. Sub. for S. B. 456 - Defining "men" and "women" (original similar to HB2006)

Com. Sub. for S. B. 482 - Certified Professional Midwife Licensing and Regulation

S. B. 483 - Increasing civil penalties for failure to file required campaign finance reports

S. B. 496 - Removing reflexology and other energy-based work from definition of "massage therapy"

S. B. 537 - Establishing WV Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program

Com. Sub. for S. B. 552 - Relating to Certified Business Expansion Development Program

## **ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Regular Session 2025**

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**Thursday, February 27, 2025**

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