

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2025
TWENTIETH DAY

Charleston, West Virginia, Monday, March 3, 2025

The Senate met at 11:27 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by Pastor Lee Swor, Mount Pleasant Baptist Church, Elkview, West Virginia.

The Senate was then led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Honorable Mark R. Maynard, a senator from the sixth district.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Friday, February 28, 2025,

At the request of Senator Helton, 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.

Senator Oliverio called attention to today being the birthday of the senator from Preston and on behalf of the Senate extended felicitations and good wishes to Senator Smith (Mr. President).

The Senate then proceeded to the third order of business.

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

Eng. House Bill 2065—A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-3-14b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing for one free Gold Star Family license plate to Gold Star parents.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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 2157—A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-7-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to allow the purchase of special one trip or one-way permits to be made and paid for online; and deleting obsolete language.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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 2170—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by adding thereto a new section, designated §8-15-8b, relating to allowing volunteer fire departments to use Fire Protection Fund monies to fund expenses associated with the purchase of health insurance, Worker's compensation supplemental wage replacement coverage, and implementation of the State Auditor's West Virginia Checkbook fiscal reporting system, also amending the code to increase the permissible amount volunteer fire departments may expend on educational and training supplies and fire prevention promotional materials, from up to \$500 to up to \$5,000 per year.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

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

Eng. House Bill 2344—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §17C-1-71; and to amend and reenact §17C-14-9a of said code; relating to traffic safety; creating a definition for the phrase maintenance vehicle; and listing additional categories of vehicles for which motorists shall slow down and, if possible, move over.

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2354—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-7-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18-5D-3A, relating to prohibiting certain products that are injurious to health; setting forth criteria considered adulterated; prohibiting certain unsafe food additives in school nutrition programs; providing exceptions; and setting effective dates.

At the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, reference of the bill to a committee was dispensed with, and it was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

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 299, Modifying WV regulations on pubertal modulation, hormonal therapy, and gender reassignment.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 299 (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-1-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §30-3-20 of the code; to amend the code by adding thereto a new section, designated §30-3E-20; to amend the code by adding thereto a new section, designated §30-7-15f; and to amend and reenact §30-14-17 of the code; relating to prohibiting certain medical practices; requiring proposed legislative rule regarding telehealth practice by a telehealth practitioner to include a prohibition on prescribing or dispensing gender altering medication; defining terms; removing an exemption to prohibited practices; providing for an effective date; providing that violations of the articles are considered unprofessional conduct subject to discipline; providing for various forms of relief for violations of this article; providing for an exemption from the requirement for a certificate of merit; providing for the Attorney General to bring an enforcement action; permitting intervention in proceedings; applying the prohibited practices to allopathic physicians, osteopathic, physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses; providing for criminal penalties; and providing effective dates.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,
Chair.

The Senate proceeded to the sixth order of business.

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

By Senator Willis:

Senate Bill 639—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-13NN-1, relating to taxes: providing a title; providing findings and purpose; providing definitions; creating a tax credit; establishing requirements for the credit; and tying dollar figures to inflation.

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

By Senator Willis:

Senate Bill 640—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-1-206 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the total number of children allowable for informal family child care.

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

By Senator Willis:

Senate Bill 641—A Bill to amend and reenact §55-3A-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to eviction proceedings; requiring hearing to be scheduled upon filing the petition; and providing that the hearing shall be scheduled five to 10 judicial days following filing of the petition.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Willis:

Senate Bill 642—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-10-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to vacancies in the office of magistrate; providing that vacancies in the office of magistrate with an unexpired term of more than two years are filled by subsequent nonpartisan judicial election held concurrently with the primary or general election, whichever occurs first; and excluding vacancies in the office of magistrate from certain other provisions relating to process for filling vacancies.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 643—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-2-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to voting rights of formerly incarcerated individuals; and restoring suffrage for a person incarcerated for a felony conviction upon release.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 644—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §21-5A-1, §21-5A-2, §21-5A-3, §21-5A-4, §21-5A-5, §21-5A-6, §21-5A-7, §21-5A-8, and §21-5A-9, relating to reestablishing prevailing wages for certain state government contracts; declaring policy; defining terms; requiring contractors to ascertain rates and to include rates in contract specifications; requiring annual determinations of prevailing wage rates; establishing procedures to file objections to prevailing wage rate determinations; providing for hearings, judicial review, and appeal; requiring mandatory provisions in contracts and subcontracts; providing for posting of rates and recordkeeping; establishing criminal penalties for violations of the act; and limiting the scope of the law to post-enactment contracts.

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

By Senator Weld:

Senate Bill 645—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-4-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring a petition of qualified voters for a once defeated amendment to be reconsidered.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senators Fuller and Rose:

Senate Bill 646—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-45 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to extending non-traditional instruction days from five days to 10 days, to count towards the 180 required days of school instruction.

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

By Senator Grady:

Senate Bill 647—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18B-22-1, §18B-22-2, §18B-22-3, §18B-22-4, §18B-22-5, and §18B-22-6, relating to name, image, or likeness in intercollegiate athletics; defining terms; authorizing institutions of higher education to facilitate and enter into agreements relating to a student-athlete's name, image, or likeness; limiting the ability of athletic associations, athletic conferences, or other similarly situated oversight or regulatory organizations to regulate an institution or a student-athlete with respect to activities for compensation involving a student-athlete name, image, or likeness; limiting the purposes for which student-athletes may earn compensation for the use of name, image, or likeness; and prohibiting institutions of higher education from compensating a student-athlete for the use of name, image, and likeness from appropriations.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 648—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §2-2-10a, relating to interpretation of statutes, regulations, and rules by courts and administrative judges and other administrative officers.

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

By Senator Barrett:

Senate Bill 649—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Health, Office of the Inspector General, fund 0437, fiscal year 2025, organization 0513, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

By Senator Grady:

Senate Bill 650—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-18a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing that a full-time interventionist hired and assigned to up to two classrooms satisfies the early childhood assistant teacher, aide, or paraprofessional related requirements for kindergarten through third grades for both classrooms; and clarifying that a part-time interventionist only satisfies those requirements for one classroom.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

By Senator Garcia:

Senate Bill 651—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §23-4D-1, §23-4D-2, §23-4D-3, §23-4D-4, §23-4D-5, and §23-4D-6, relating to creating the West Virginia Black Lung Program; granting entitlement for pain and suffering for occupational pneumoconiosis; providing that 10 years' exposure as a miner is a conclusive presumption of entitlement to pain and suffering benefits; providing for calculation of benefits; setting forth tax credit for benefits; imposing additional severance tax and tax on generation of electricity by solar and wind devices; creating the State Black Lung Fund; requiring the Governor and Legislature to cooperate with other states to attempt to recoup the federal excise tax on coal; and requiring proposal of rules by the Insurance Commissioner and Tax Commissioner.

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

By Senator Grady:

Senate Bill 652—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-22e of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to expanding provisions pertaining to cardiac arrest to be applicable to elementary schools; and imposing certain cardiac arrest related requirements on coaches and any other personnel supervising a youth sports league team that plays or practices on school grounds.

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

By Senators Takubo, Azinger, and Rose:

Senate Bill 653—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-5V-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to emergency medical services retirement benefits; extending benefits to emergency vehicle operators; and modifying the definition of "final average salary".

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

By Senator Takubo:

Senate Bill 654—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §9-11-1, §9-11-2, §9-11-3, §9-11-4, and §9-11-5, relating to the creation of the West Virginia ALS Care Services Act; listing findings and purpose; requiring Department of Human Services to provide care services coordination and support; providing access to assistive technology, medical equipment, and ramp loan programs; facilitating access to multidisciplinary ALS clinics; appropriating funds from the General Revenue Fund to support this act; and establishing an effective date.

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

By Senator Takubo:

Senate Bill 655—A Bill to amend and reenact §27-5-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to standards of liability for mental health professionals providing services in mental hygiene cases involving possible involuntary hospitalization; and defining those standards.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senators Oliverio, Deeds, Fuller, Hamilton, and Morris:

Senate Bill 656—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-5-30, relating to creating a 25-foot barrier around first responders.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senators Oliverio, Fuller, Garcia, and Woelfel:

Senate Bill 657—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-21-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to personal income tax; and exempting West Virginia campus police officer retirement income from personal income tax after specified date.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 658—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §9A-1-13, relating to persons receiving compensation for assisting an individual to obtain veterans' benefits; defining terms; prohibiting compensation for referrals; prohibiting compensation for services rendered in connection with claim filed within one year of active-duty releases; prohibiting the guarantee of an outcome or specific veterans' benefits; requiring a written agreement limiting compensation; requiring written disclosure; prohibiting use of international data centers for processing veterans' personal information; limiting the use of veterans' personal information; requiring background checks; identifying actions that constitute representation and compensation for representing a person seeking veterans' benefits; providing that a violation of this section is an unlawful practice and a violation of the West Virginia Consumer Credit and Protection Act; and requiring any such representation comply with federal law.

Referred to the Committee on Military.

By Senator Willis:

Senate Bill 659—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §49-12-1, §49-12-2, §49-12-3, §49-12-4, and §49-12-5, relating to the Parents' Bill of Rights; creating a short title; providing legislative findings; creating definitions; creating a standard of review; clarifying parental rights; creating a right of action; creating a defense; and providing applicability.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Willis:

Senate Bill 660—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-3E-1, §30-3E-3, §30-3E-4, §30-3E-9, §30-3E-12, §30-3E-13, §30-3E-14, §30-3E-15, §30-3E-16, §30-3E-17, §30-7-1, §30-7-3, §30-7-4, §30-7-6b, §30-7-1, §30-7-15, and §30-7-15b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §30-3E-10a and §30-3E-11, relating to empowering qualified physician assistants and certified nurse practitioners to practice without the supervision of a physician.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Willis:

Senate Bill 661—A Bill to amend and reenact §27-5-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to involuntary hospitalization; providing for multiple deputies in the transportation of those involuntarily hospitalized; authorizing counties the discretion to contract with hospital with closer jurisdiction; and authorizing the ability to utilize out-of-state hospitals.

Referred to the Select Committee on Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health; and then to the Committee on Finance.

By Senators Bartlett and Azinger:

Senate Joint Resolution 13—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia, amending section four, article VII thereof, relating to preventing any individual from serving in the office of Secretary of State, Auditor, State Treasurer, Commissioner of Agriculture, or Attorney General for more than three consecutive terms; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

Senator Fuller offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 19—Designating March 4, 2025, as Marshall University Day at the Legislature.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 15, Opposing China's use of UN Resolution 2758 against Taiwan.

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

Senate Resolution 18, Designating March 3, 2025, as Future Farmers Day.

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

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

House Concurrent Resolution 49, Resolution relating to use of industrial sites and the potential impacts on downstream facilities.

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

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

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

The Senate proceeded to the eighth order of business.

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 29, Allowing physicians assistants to own practice.

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, 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Bartlett—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. 29) 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 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 and put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Bartlett—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. 50) 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 124, Reducing statute of limitations on actions to recover on oral and written contracts.

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, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—31.

The nays were: Garcia and Woelfel—2.

Absent: Bartlett—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. 124) 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 198, Prohibiting creation, production, distribution, or possession of artificially generated child pornography.

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, 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Bartlett—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. 198) 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 456, Defining "men" and "women".

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

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 456 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: Garcia—1.

Absent: Bartlett—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. 456) passed with its title.

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

At the request of Senator Woelfel, and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senators Garcia and Roberts as to the passage of Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 456 were ordered printed in the Appendix to the Journal.

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 482, Certified Professional Midwife Licensing and Regulation.

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, 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Bartlett—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. 482) 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 496, Removing reflexology and other energy-based work from definition of "massage therapy".

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, 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Bartlett—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 496) 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 534, Clarifying qualifications to be licensed to administer polygraphs.

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, 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Bartlett—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. 534) 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 537, Establishing WV Mothers and Babies Pregnancy Support Program.

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, 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Bartlett—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 537) passed with its title.

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

The Senate proceeded to the ninth order of business.

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

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

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 486, Clarifying eligibility requirements to vote in WV elections.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 488, Clarifying definition of electioneering.

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

Senate Bill 490, Prohibiting ranked-choice voting in elections in West Virginia.

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 Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 154, Prohibiting sexual orientation instruction in public schools.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 284, Relating to county board of education member orientation and compensation.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 484, Relating to disclosures and penalties associated with use of synthetic media and artificial intelligence.

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

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 487, Removing ineligible voters from active voter rolls.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 489, Relating to election law violation complaints and procedures.

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

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 545, Banning certain products from food in WV.

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

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was referred to the Committee on Rules.

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 581, Relating to school attendance and student participation in 4-H activities.

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

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

The Senate then proceeded to the twelfth order of business.

Remarks were made by Senator Stuart.

The Senate next 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 Bartlett.

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 28, 2025:

Senate Bill 43: Senator Hart;

Senate Bill 447: Senators Taylor and Morris;

Senate Bill 573: Senator Thorne;

Senate Bill 574: Senator Thorne;

Senate Bill 612: Senator Bartlett;

Senate Bill 614: Senator Bartlett;

Senate Bill 628: Senator Thorne;

Senate Bill 629: Senators Rucker and Morris;

Senate Concurrent Resolution 15: Senators Rose and Barrett;

And,

Senate Resolution 18: Senators Rose, Rucker, Morris, Clements, and Jeffries.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12:24 p.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 4, 2025, at 11 a.m.

SENATE CALENDAR

**Tuesday, March 04, 2025
11:00 AM**

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 11:30 AM

Consideration of executive nominations

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

S. R. 19 - Designating March 4, 2025, as Marshall University Day

THIRD READING

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 486 - Clarifying eligibility requirements to vote in WV elections

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 488 - Clarifying definition of electioneering

Eng. S. B. 490 - Prohibiting ranked-choice voting in elections in West Virginia (original similar to HB2408, HB2683, SB133, SB226)

SECOND READING

Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 154 - Prohibiting sexual orientation instruction in public schools

Com. Sub. for S. B. 284 - Relating to county board of education member orientation and compensation

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

Com. Sub. for S. B. 487 - Removing ineligible voters from active voter rolls

Com. Sub. for S. B. 581 - Relating to school attendance and student participation in 4-H activities

Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 2354 - Banning certain products from food in West Virginia

FIRST READING

Com. Sub. for S. B. 299 - Modifying WV regulations on pubertal modulation, hormonal therapy, and gender reassignment

Com. Sub. for S. B. 484 - Relating to disclosures and penalties associated with use of synthetic media and artificial intelligence

Com. Sub. for S. B. 489 - Relating to election law violation complaints and procedures

ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regular Session 2025

Tuesday, March 4, 2025

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