

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2025  
TWENTY-FIRST DAY

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Charleston, West Virginia, Tuesday, March 4, 2025

The Senate met at 11:05 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by the Very Reverend Donald X. Higgs, Basilica of the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart, Charleston, West Virginia.

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

Pending the reading of the Journal of Monday, March 3, 2025,

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

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

The Senate then proceeded to the third order of business.

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

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2222**—A Bill to amend and reenact §64-2-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Administration to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as filed and as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee; authorizing the Department of Administration to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the administration of records management and preservation; authorizing the Department of Administration to promulgate a legislative rule relating to retention and disposal scheduling; authorizing the Department of Administration to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the management of records maintained by the Records Center; authorizing the Department of Administration to promulgate a legislative rule relating to exemptions from management services provided by the Fleet Management Division; authorizing the Department of Administration to promulgate a legislative rule relating to financial services reporting; authorizing the Information Services and Communications Division to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the plan of operation; authorizing the Information Services

and Communications Division to promulgate a legislative rule relating to telecommunications payments made by state spending units; authorizing the Office of Technology to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the plan of operation; authorizing the Office of Technology to promulgate a legislative rule relating to telecommunications payments made by state spending units; authorizing Public Defender Services to promulgate a rule relating to the payment of fees and reimbursement of expenses of court-appointed attorneys.

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 2331**—A Bill to amend and reenact §64-10-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Commerce to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as filed and as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee; authorizing the Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the certification, recertification and training of EMT miners and the certification of EMT-M instructors; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to transporting and selling wildlife parts and pelts; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to boating; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to special boating; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to public use of campgrounds in West Virginia State Parks and State Forests and Campsites in State Rail Trails under the Division of Natural Resources; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to special projects and grants for West Virginia State Parks, State Forests, and State Rail Trails under the Division of Natural Resources; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to prohibitions when hunting and trapping; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to general hunting; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to special waterfowl hunting; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to special fishing; authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to catching and selling bait fish; and authorizing the Division of Natural Resources to promulgate a legislative rule relating to falconry.

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 2515**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-5-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to elementary behavior intervention and safety; clarifying that nothing herein may be construed to conflict with certain federal laws; specifying requirements applicable to when a grade kindergarten through six teacher in an elementary setting determines that the behavior of a student is violent, threatening, or intimidating toward staff or peers, or creates an unsafe learning environment, or impedes on other students' ability to learn in a safe environment; providing for definitions; setting forth a disciplinary procedure for students in grades six through twelve; requiring the State Board to adopt a statewide disciplinary policy, to be approved by the Legislature; and providing for a waiver from the disciplinary policy in certain circumstances.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

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

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

**Senate Bill 22**, Applying penalties for nonpayment of royalties under terms of oil and natural gas leases.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 22** (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §36-4-9c, relating to providing for enhanced damages for nonpayment of royalties due from oil, natural gas, or natural gas liquids production under the terms of a lease or other agreement.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,  
*Chair.*

Senator Oliverio, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Pensions has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 35**, Permitting campus police officers to participate in Deputy Sheriffs Retirement System.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 35** (originating in the Committee on Pensions)—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-22A-2, §18B-4-5, and §18B-7-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting campus police officers in this state to participate in the Municipal Police and Firefighters Retirement System; updating definitions; allowing campus police officers hired before January 1, 2026, to participate in the Municipal Police and Firefighters Retirement System under certain conditions; and mandating newly hired campus police officers to participate in the Municipal Police and Firefighters Retirement System beginning on January 1, 2026.

And,

**Senate Bill 76**, Increasing WV Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System accrued benefit for certain members.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 76** (originating in the Committee on Pensions)—A Bill to amend and reenact §20-18-2 and §20-18-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to Natural Resource Police Officer Retirement; increasing the accrued benefit of members of the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System who retire on or after January 1, 2028; and providing for additional funding of the West Virginia Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Oliverio II,  
*Chair.*

The bills (Com. Sub. for S. B. 35 and 76), under the original double committee references, were then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 117**, Exempting certain physicians from specified traffic laws when responding to emergencies.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 117** (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-15-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding two new sections, designated §30-3-21 and §30-14-18, relating to authorizing physicians to operate Class A vehicles as authorized emergency vehicles; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine to designate Class A vehicles of licensed medical providers as authorized emergency vehicles; establishing Physician's Authorized Emergency Vehicle Programs; requiring West Virginia Board of Medicine and Board of Osteopathic Medicine to propose rules for legislative approval with content requirements; and authorizing use of audible signal and red flashing warning lights, administrative penalties, and fees.

**Senate Bill 267**, Providing for inactive status for CDL holders when not driving commercially.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 267** (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—A Bill to amend and reenact §17E-1-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to extending the time for renewal and restoration of expired or downgraded commercial driver's licenses.

And,

**Senate Bill 573**, Relating to restrictions on use or sale of motor vehicles based on power source.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 573** (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §1-8-1, relating to restrictions on powers of state agencies and political subdivisions; prohibiting state agencies and political subdivisions from restricting use, purchase, or sale of motor vehicles based on energy or power source; defining terms; and providing exceptions.

With the recommendation that the three committee substitutes do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,  
*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 503**, Allowing sheriffs to appoint more than one chief deputy with consent of county commission.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 503** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §6-3-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to appointment of more than one chief deputy by the sheriff; limiting the engagement in certain political activities by chief deputies; providing for the removal of chief deputies who violate these restrictions, and removing the current restrictions on county conservators carrying firearms or other weapons by allowing these conservators to carry such weapons in compliance with West Virginia law.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*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 589**, Providing pay increases to members of judiciary.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 589** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §50-1-3, §51-1-10a, §51-2-13, §51-2A-6, §51-9-4, §51-9-6a, §51-9-6b, §51-9-6c, and §51-11-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §51-9-6d, relating to salaries and retirement benefits of judges; increasing annual salary of magistrates, justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit court judges, family court judges, and judges of the Intermediate Court of Appeals; providing salary for secretary-clerks of family court judges and family case coordinators determined by a pay scale established by court; suspending contribution of courts into judicial retirement system until certain condition met; providing for actuarially reduced pension benefit for judges in certain circumstances; increasing surviving spouse plan benefit; eliminating distinction between certain judges for purposes of calculating surviving spouse plan benefits, surviving dependent children plan benefits, and adjusted annual retirement benefit; and providing sunset date for limitation on retirement benefits.

And,

**Senate Bill 622**, Authorizing compensation for certain lower court staff.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 622** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §50-1-8, §50-1-9, §50-1-9a, and §51-2A-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing compensation for certain lower court staff; and providing that the annual salary for magistrate court clerks, magistrate assistants, magistrate court deputy clerks, secretary-clerks of family court judges, and family case coordinators shall be determined by a pay scale established by the Administrative Director of the Supreme Court of Appeals.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*Chair.*

The bills (Com. Sub. for S. B. 589 and 622), under the original double committee references, were then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on the Workforce has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 611**, Excluding workers of ski area operators from maximum hour requirements.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rollan A. Roberts,  
*Chair.*

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 Senator Garcia:**

**Senate Bill 662**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §16B-17-21, relating to clarifying that racial discrimination includes discrimination based on certain hair textures and hairstyles historically associated with a particular race; and defining a term.

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

**By Senator Azinger:**

**Senate Bill 663**—A Bill to amend and reenact §46A-6-102 and §46A-6-105 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §46A-6O-1, §46A-6O-2, §46A-6O-3, §46A-6O-4, §46A-6O-5, and §46A-6O-6, relating to creating the Transparency and Accountability in Financial Services Act; providing a short title; setting forth legislative declarations; providing definitions; requiring transparency upon request and prohibiting discrimination; establishing enforcement provisions; providing for severability; and clarifying relevant consumer protection provisions.

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

**By Senators Azinger, Martin, Phillips, Charnock, and Helton:**

**Senate Bill 664**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5A-3A-1, §5A-3A-2, §5A-3A-3, §5A-3A-4, §5A-3A-5, and §5A-3A-6, relating to establishment of the First Amendment Preservation Act; providing definitions; prohibiting state contracts with media monitoring organizations; requiring written certifications that state purchasing contracts are in compliance with the act; and clarifying the applicability of the act to state contracts.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senator Azinger:**

**Senate Bill 665**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by adding a new section, designated §31A-1-7, relating to clarifying that when a West Virginia state chartered bank sells or transfers all, or substantially all, of its assets and liabilities to another entity, that such buyer or transferee must be insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation; providing the right to seek equitable relief to the Commissioner of the Board of Banking and Financial Institutions and to interested parties to prevent prohibited transactions by unqualified buyers; and clarifying that the prohibition on the acquisition or transfer of a West Virginia state chartered bank by buyers or transferors that are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation does not apply to any agreement that was originally executed prior to the date of enactment of this section, or to any subsequent amendment or modification to any such agreement.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

**By Senator Weld:**

**Senate Bill 666**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13MM-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to disabled veteran taxpayers; and clarifying the definition of a "disabled veteran taxpayer".

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

**By Senator Azinger:**

**Senate Bill 667**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-33-9, relating to requiring public elementary schools and secondary schools to display in a conspicuous place in each classroom of the school a durable poster or framed copy of the Ten Commandments that meets certain requirements; and listing requirements for the posters or frames and uses for surplus posters.

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

**By Senator Roberts:**

**Senate Bill 668**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13JJ-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying the participation requirement for the volunteer firefighter tax credit.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senator Garcia:**

**Senate Bill 669**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §33-15F-1, §33-15F-2, §33-15F-3, §33-15F-4, §33-15F-5, §33-15F-6, and §33-15F-7, relating to requiring medical insurance providers to include infertility services in their policies; making findings; providing for determination of infertility; providing prohibited and permissible limitations on coverage; requiring rulemaking; establishing an effective date; providing for severability; and defining terms

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

**By Senator Garcia:**

**Senate Bill 670**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17-2A-4c, relating to authorizing the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to offer locality pay to Division of Highways employees working in certain jurisdictions.

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

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 671**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §8A-13-1, §8A-13-2, §8A-13-3, §8A-13-4, §8A-13-5, and §8A-13-6, relating to establishing the By-Right Housing Development Act to streamline the approval process for development when that proposed development meets all the rules for such development in a given community.

Referred to the Committee on Economic Development; and then to the Committee on Government Organization.



**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 672**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-2-15, relating to the State Board of Education; requiring students in grades K through 12 to deposit their mobile phones in a secure container during instructional time; and providing exceptions for students who may have a need for their mobile device (for example, students with diabetes or other medical conditions who require access to their cell phone for medical purposes) or have permission from a teacher to use the mobile device for educational purposes.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 673**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §8A-13-1, §8A-13-2, §8A-13-3, §8A-13-4, §8A-13-5, §8A-13-6, §8A-13-7, §8A-13-8, and §8A-13-9, relating to defining third-party challenges to development permits; setting forth definitions; providing that properly issued development permits shall be presumed valid and enforceable unless proven otherwise through a legal challenge; defining what constitutes standing and for purposes of challenging a development permit; limiting third-party challenges to development permits; defining the burden of proof to challenge development permits; providing an expedited review process for resolving legal challenges to development permits; requiring transparency and accountability for authorities that issue development permits; providing a right to appeal for denials of development permits due to a third-party challenge; and providing that third parties that are unsuccessful in challenging a development permit shall pay the applicant's attorney's fees and expenses.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

**By Senators Rucker and Grady:**

**Senate Bill 674**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-36-1, §18-36-2, and §18-36-3, relating to permitting students to take the Classical Learning Test as an alternative to the traditional ACT and SAT exams; providing for definitions; providing for post-secondary and higher education admissions and financial aid; and providing for college preparation assessments.

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

**By Senators Rucker, Azinger, Roberts, Rose, Thorne, and Woelfel:**

**Senate Bill 675**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §30-5-37, relating to requiring a participant in a federal 340B Drug Pricing Program to report certain data to the Board of Pharmacy.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

**By Senators Rucker and Thorne:**

**Senate Bill 676**—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-10-8 and §30-10-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing reciprocity for veterinarians who are licensed in other states to practice veterinary medicine; providing for the process and requirements; providing for reciprocity to veterinary technicians who are licensed to practice in other states; and providing for the process and requirements for that reciprocal license.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

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

**Senate Bill 677**—A Bill to amend and reenact §32-3-305 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing fees charged by the Commissioner of Securities.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Hart, Helton, Phillips, Rose, Rucker, and Willis:**

**Senate Bill 678**—A Bill to amend and reenact §5B-2O-1, §5B-2O-2, §5B-2O-3, and §5B-2O-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §5B-2O-5, relating to establishing the Affordable Electricity and Economic Growth Act of 2025 to facilitate coke production and steelmaking in the state.

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

**By Senators Hart and Rose:**

**Senate Bill 679**—A Bill to repeal §17C-16-1, §17C-16-2, §17C-16-3, §17C-16-4, §17C-16-5, §17C-16-6, §17C-16-7, §17C-16-8, and §17C-16-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the elimination of mandatory state inspections of motor vehicles.

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

**By Senators Hart and Rose:**

**Senate Bill 680**—A Bill to amend and reenact §17-2A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to prepare and present, annually, to the Legislature a comprehensive highway paving plan establishing routine repaving of all normally asphalt-surfaced roads.

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

**By Senator Hart:**

**Senate Bill 681**—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing that Internet Service Providers shall be considered a telecommunications utility for regulatory purposes by the Public Service Commission.

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

**By Senators Hart, Phillips, and Rose:**

**Senate Bill 682**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §24-2J-1 and §24-2J-2, relating to requiring that all electricity providers give their customers a choice in the style of meter installed on their homes, businesses, or rental units.

Referred to the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining.

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

**Senate Bill 683**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11A-3-44, §11A-3-45, and §11A-3-46 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the sale of tax liens and non-entered,

escheated and waste and unappropriated lands; providing all lands subject to sale under this article be certified before July 1; providing all land sales be completed within 150 days after the auditor has certified the lands; and clarifying payment shall be made to the sheriff of the county in which the property is situated.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

**By Senators Hart and Rose:**

**Senate Bill 684**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-5-13e, relating to the creation of the Community School Funding Formula Revision Act.

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

**By Senators Hart and Rose:**

**Senate Bill 685**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31E-17-1701, §31E-17-1702, and §31E-17-1703, relating to creating the Non-Profit Transparency and Accountability Act; naming the act; putting forth legislative findings; and requiring that all nonprofit organizations that receive any part of their total operating funds from public sources, whether state or federal, shall be subject to Freedom of Information Act requests and bear the responsibility to respond to these requests under the same requirements as a public body.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

**By Senators Hart and Rose:**

**Senate Bill 686**—A Bill to amend and reenact §19-14-2 and §19-14-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the West Virginia commercial feed law; and providing that a person engaged in selling products or commodities produced exclusively on their own farm is not a distributor and is exempt from obtaining a Commercial Feed Distributor Permit.

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

**By Senators Hart and Rose:**

**Senate Bill 687**—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-1-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the authority of the Public Service Commission; providing limitations on the jurisdiction on electric utilities by the Public Service Commission; requiring rate adjustment recommendations be forwarded to the Legislature; and establishing rate adjustments require specific bill approval by the Legislature.

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

**By Senators Rose, Thorne, Rucker, and Willis:**

**Senate Bill 688**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §15-17-1, §15-17-2, §15-17-3, §15-17-4, §15-17-5, and §15-17-6, relating to prohibiting law-enforcement officers and political subdivision officials from irresponsibly utilizing certain surveillance technologies and artificial intelligence facial recognition technologies; setting forth legislative findings; providing definitions; and establishing parameters for the responsible and constitutional use of these technologies.

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

**By Senator Rose:**

**Senate Bill 689**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §1-8-1 and §1-8-2, relating to creating the State Sovereignty Act of 2025.

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

**By Senators Woodrum and Oliverio:**

**Senate Bill 690**—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-7-1 and §7-7-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing county commissions to increase the compensation of elected county officials.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

**By Senator Garcia:**

**Senate Bill 691**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-11-27, relating to restricting public access to criminal history records of certain individuals; establishing procedures to petition for the restriction of access to criminal history records; defining offenses for which restriction of access to records is not available; and setting exceptions for restriction of access to records.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 692**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18C-7-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to including the Classical Learning Test as a requirement for the PROMISE Scholarship when applicable.

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

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 693**—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-16-20 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the notification of brewery or dock price of nonintoxicating beer, ale, or other malt beverage or malt cooler; and eliminating the 90-day notification and price schedule required by the commissioner.

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

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 694**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5-32-1 and §5-32-2, relating to protecting state and local government systems and data, and their ability to protect citizens' data and access to government systems, from cyber attacks and surveillance by adverse foreign interests by prohibiting the use or procurement of any software, application, or AI tool that is owned by any entity located in a designated foreign adversary nation.

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

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 695**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18B-1-1e of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring higher education institutions to accept the Classic Learning Test.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

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

**Senate Resolution 20**—Designating March 5, 2025, as West Virginia University Day at the Legislature.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

At the request of Senator Woelfel, unanimous consent being granted, Senator Woelfel addressed the Senate regarding various actions by the Governor and the House of Delegates and the need to work together.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

**Senate Resolution 19**, Designating March 4, 2025, as Marshall University Day.

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

At the request of Senator Fuller, 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. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 486**, Clarifying eligibility requirements to vote in WV 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, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Phillips—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. 486) 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 488**, Clarifying definition of electioneering.

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

The nays were: None.

Absent: Phillips—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. 488) 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 490**, Prohibiting ranked-choice voting in elections in West Virginia.

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 Senate Bill 490 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, 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: Phillips—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 490) 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.

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

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time.

On motion of Senator Weld, the following amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

On page 6, section 29, line 119 after the word "violations" by inserting the words "of subsections (b), (c), or (d)".

Following discussion,

The question being on the adoption of Senator Weld's amendment to the bill, the same was put and did not prevail.

The bill (Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 154) was then ordered to engrossment and third reading.

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

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

**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 487**, Removing ineligible voters from active voter rolls.

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 581**, Relating to school attendance and student participation in 4-H activities.

On second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time.

At the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, the bill was ordered to engrossment and advanced to third reading with the right for amendments to be considered on that reading.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2354**, Banning certain products from food in West Virginia.

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

The Senate proceeded to the tenth order of business.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 299**, Modifying WV regulations on pubertal modulation, hormonal therapy, and gender reassignment.

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 referred to the Committee on Rules.

**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 referred to the Committee on Rules.

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 Phillips.

Under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of the Senate, the following senators were removed as co-sponsors of the following bills on March 3, 2025:

**Senate Bill 585:** Senator Grady;

And,

**Senate Bill 614:** Senator Willis.

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 resolution on March 3, 2025:

**Senate Bill 35:** Senators Takubo and Hamilton;

**Senate Bill 76:** Senator Takubo;

**Senate Bill 121:** Senator Deeds;

**Senate Bill 155:** Senator Garcia;

**Senate Bill 208:** Senator Jeffries;

**Senate Bill 507:** Senator Helton;

**Senate Bill 589:** Senators Deeds, Willis, and Garcia;

**Senate Bill 622:** Senators Deeds and Garcia;

**Senate Bill 641:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 642:** Senator Woelfel;



**Senate Bill 650:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 651:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 652:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 653:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 656:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 659:** Senator Thorne;

And,

**Senate Resolution 19:** Senators Woelfel and Grady.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12 Noon, the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 11 a.m.

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## **SENATE CALENDAR**

**Wednesday, March 05, 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. R. 20 - Designating March 5, 2025, as West Virginia University Day

### **THIRD READING**

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

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 581 - Relating to school attendance and student participation in 4-H activities - (With right to amend)

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

### **SECOND READING**

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

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

### **FIRST READING**

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

Com. Sub. for S. B. 117 - Exempting certain physicians from specified traffic laws when responding to emergencies

Com. Sub. for S. B. 267 - Extending time for renewal and restoration of commercial driver's licenses

Com. Sub. for S. B. 503 - Allowing sheriffs to appoint more than one chief deputy with consent of county commission

Com. Sub. for S. B. 573 - Relating to restrictions on use or sale of motor vehicles based on power source

S. B. 611 - Excluding workers of ski area operators from maximum hour requirements

**ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**Regular Session 2025**

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**Wednesday, March 5, 2025**

2 p.m.

Banking & Insurance

(Room 451M)