

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

# SENATE JOURNAL

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

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Charleston, West Virginia, Wednesday, March 5, 2025

The Senate met at 11:07 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by the Reverend Phillip R. Szabo, St. Agnes Catholic Church, Charleston, West Virginia.

The Senate was then led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Honorable Laura Wakim Chapman, a senator from the first district.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 4, 2025,

At the request of Senator Weld, 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.

Pending announcement of a meeting of the Committee on Rules,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 11:22 a.m., the Senate recessed for five minutes.

The Senate reconvened at 11:30 a.m. and resumed business under the second order 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 2217**—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-10-31 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to conspiracy; modifying penalties for crimes against the state; establishing the penalty for conspiracy to commit felony crimes of violence against a person or felony crimes where the victim was a minor child; establishing the penalty for conspiracy to commit felony crimes punishable by life imprisonment; establishing the penalty for conspiracy

to commit felony crimes of kidnapping, arson in the first degree, and sexual assault in the first degree; creating criminal penalties; and making technical corrections.

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. House Bill 2362**—A Bill to amend and reenact §15A-3-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to recognizing the law-enforcement powers of correctional officers employed by the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation; providing that such officers are not subject to certain certification requirements; authorizing the commissioner to consult with the Law Enforcement Professional Standards Subcommittee with regard to training; clarifying powers of arrest; and clarifying application of the federal Law Enforcement Officers Safety act to eligible employees.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

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 86**, Creating Unmatched Medical Graduate Advisory Council.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 86** (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 §18B-1B-14, relating to creating the Unmatched Medical Graduate Advisory Council; establishing findings and purpose; establishing membership of advisory council; providing for selection of chair and vice chair; establishing quorum; setting forth subjects to be addressed by advisory council in reporting; requiring reporting of findings and recommendations by December 31, 2025; and providing that administrative support be provided by the Higher Education Policy Commission.

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. 86), 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 121**, Updating language and increasing penalties for indecent exposure.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 121** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-12-2, §61-8-9, and §61-11-18 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, requiring registration as sex offender for those convicted of newly created felony offense of indecent exposure to certain minors; declaring that indecent exposure requires exposing one's nude penis, vagina, or anus; authorizing a person convicted of third offense indecent exposure for purposes of sexual gratification to be both fined and imprisoned; creating enhanced penalties for second and subsequent violations; creating the criminal offense of indecent exposure in front of minors; removing breast-feeding exemption as unnecessary due to definition clarification; defining terms; establishing criminal penalties for the new offense; and declaring that the felony offenses of indecent exposure are qualifying offenses for the purpose of recidivist sentencing enhancements.

And,

**Senate Bill 196**, Increasing penalties for drug possession and updating list of offenses.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 196** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §60A-4-401, §60A-4-409, §60A-4-414, §60A-4-416, §61-11-8, and §62-12-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to controlled substances violations; increasing sentences for certain controlled substances offenses; making certain offenses ineligible for suspension or probation, or alternative sentencing; declaring that minimum period of 10 years' incarceration for the offense of drug delivery death; requiring inert substances mixed with controlled substances to be considered a controlled substance for purposes of weight measurement; setting forth method for measurement where more than one controlled substance is in a mixture; modifying sentences for certain offenses; updating list of offenses related to controlled substance that are qualifying offenses for recidivist sentencing enhancements; and declaring certain offenses to be ineligible for probation.

With the recommendation that the two committee substitutes do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*Chair.*

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

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 155**, Establishing Summer Feeding for All Program.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 155** (originating in the Committee on Education)—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5D-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring every county public school system to conduct an annual countywide survey of public school students to determine their non-school eating patterns and the availability of nutritious food to them when schools are closed; requiring each county board to collect and compile information regarding availability of food resources in the county during non-school days and distribute this information to all students; requiring each county board to provide its survey, a summary of its activities, and any findings or recommendations the county school board has related thereto to the West Virginia Office of Child Nutrition; and removing authority for each public school to include in its crisis response plan an assessment and plan to feed students during noninstructional or nontraditional remote learning days and public virtual school students that includes emergency situations that may require innovative ways to deliver food to student homes.

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.*

At the request of Senator Barrett, as chair of the Committee on Finance, unanimous consent was granted to dispense with the second committee reference of the bill contained in the foregoing report from the Committee on Education.

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

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 199**, Relating to elementary behavior intervention and safety.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 199** (originating in the Committee on Education)—A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-5-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to addressing student behavior issues; modifying provisions pertaining to student disorderly conduct, interference with an orderly educational process, obstruction of the teaching or learning process of others, threat, abuse, intimidation, attempted intimidation, willful disobedience of a school employee, or abusive or profane language directed at a school employee; adding partnering with a licensed behavioral health agency as any option for county boards to use to correct student behaviors; requiring students in alternative learning centers, in alternative placements, or with a licensed behavioral health agency to meet regularly with a school social worker to address certain behavioral and mental health concerns and to assist in developing a transition plan back to the classroom and with that transition; clarifying that nothing herein may be construed to conflict with certain federal laws; requiring that county board discipline action policies provide that school social workers provide the training of school personnel in alternatives to discipline practices; defining terms; specifying protocol for when a grade kindergarten through six teacher in an elementary setting determines that the behavior of the student is violent, threatening, or intimidating toward staff or peers, or creates an unsafe learning environment or impedes on the other students' ability to learn in a safe environment; specifying protocol for when a county board

does not have access to a behavioral intervention program; requiring State Board of Education rule which adopts a statewide disciplinary policy; and allowing school counselors, school social workers, or school psychologists to provide behavioral support.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy N. Grady,  
*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 208**, Mountain Homes Act.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 208** (originating in the Committee on Economic Development)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5B-2P-1, §5B-2P-2, §5B-2P-3, §5B-2P-4, §5B-2P-5, §5B-2P-6, §5B-2P-7, §5B-2P-8, §5B-2P-9, §5B-2P-10, §5B-2P-11, §5B-2P-12, and §5B-2P-13, relating to creating the Mountain Homes Act; setting out a short title; setting out legislative findings; defining terms; authorizing rulemaking; providing an effective date; providing for a sunset date; creating the Mountain Homes Fund; providing for the purposes of the fund; providing for administration of the fund; providing for recordkeeping; requiring reporting to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance and the Governor; setting out required elements for the report; exempting certain materials from the Freedom of Information Act; establishing criteria for eligibility for use of funds; requiring an application for use of funds; setting out elements necessary to be included on the application; providing for exclusions from use of funds; providing for application approval; establishing evaluation standards and criteria; providing for a final agreement; setting out terms of the agreement; allowing for an extension of time; requiring adjacent properties to be subject to additional approval; providing for administration of the act; setting out powers and duties of the Economic Development Authority; and providing for a criminal penalty for a false statement.

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,

Glenn D. Jeffries,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 208), 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 Bills 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, and 334,** Department of Health rule relating to general provisions of Medical Cannabis Program.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 325** (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §64-5-1 *et seq.* and §64-5A-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §64-5B-1, relating to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and the Office of Inspector General to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as filed and as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and as amended by the Legislature; directing certain agencies of the Department of Health to amend current legislative rules; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to public water systems; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to statewide trauma and emergency care system; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to fatality and mortality review team; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to vital statistics; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to emergency medical services; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the Primary Care Support Program; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the general provisions of the Medical Cannabis Program; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to growers and processors of the Medical Cannabis Program; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to laboratories of the Medical Cannabis Program; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to dispensaries of the Medical Cannabis Program; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the Safe Harbor Letter for the Medical Cannabis Program; authorizing the Department of Health to promulgate a legislative rule relating to critical access hospitals; directing the Department of Health to amend a legislative rule relating to sewage treatment and collection system design standards; authorizing the Department of Human Services to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the Recovery Residence Certification and Accreditation Program; authorizing the Department of Human Services to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the pilot program for drug screening of applicants for cash assistance; authorizing the Office of Inspector General to promulgate a legislative rule relating to hospital licensure; and authorizing the Office of Inspector General to promulgate a legislative rule relating to Behavioral Health Centers Licensure.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*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 458,** Universal Professional and Occupational Licensing Act of 2025.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 458** (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—  
A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §30-1-27, relating to the establishment of universal professional and occupational licensing, registration, and certification.

**Senate Bill 485**, Exempting West Virginia Secretary of State from competitive bidding process.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 485** (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—  
A Bill to amend and reenact §5A-3-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Purchasing Division; and exempting the Secretary of State from the competitive bidding process for specific purchases of securing, facilitating, or supporting critical election infrastructure.

**Senate Bill 522**, Clarifying procedure for administrative dissolution of limited liability companies by Secretary of State.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 522** (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—  
A Bill to amend and reenact §31B-8-810 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying the procedure for administrative dissolution of limited liability companies by the Secretary of State; and requiring the Secretary of State to provide notice to limited liability companies subject to administrative dissolution.

And,

**Senate Bill 525**, Clarifying procedure for administrative dissolution of nonprofit corporations by Secretary of State.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 525** (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—  
A Bill to amend and reenact §31E-13-1321 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying the procedure for administrative dissolution of nonprofit corporations by the Secretary of State; and requiring the Secretary of State to provide notice to nonprofit corporations subject to administrative dissolution.

With the recommendation that the four committee substitutes 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 492**, Removing outdated provisions governing political committees.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Puertas Rucker,  
*Chair.*

Senator Smith (Mr. President), from the Committee on Rules, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Rules has had under consideration

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 552**, Relating to Certified Business Expansion Development Program.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Randy E. Smith,  
*Chair ex officio.*

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 552) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on Rules was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time, and ordered to second reading.

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 564**, Prohibiting voters not affiliated with major political party from voting ballot of political party in primary election.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it 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, under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 565**, Relating generally to practice of optometry.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 565** (originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources)—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-8-3, §30-8-6, §30-8-9, §30-8-23, and §30-8A-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §30-8B-1, §30-8B-2, §30-8B-3, §30-8B-4, §30-8B-5, §30-8B-6, §30-8B-7, and §30-8B-8, relating to the practice of optometry; defining terms; removing areas of the code; permitting a licensee to perform certain procedures when trained by an approved and accredited body; permitting board to add new ophthalmic laser provisions to approved list in specific circumstances; and providing for exemption from specified review requirements.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wakim Chapman,  
*Chair.*

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

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration

**Senate Bill 566**, Providing certified law-enforcement officers tuition-free education up to highest tuition rate for public higher education in WV.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 566** (originating in the Committee on Education)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §15A-1-10, relating to providing that certified law-enforcement officers meeting certain requirements may be entitled to payment of tuition and fees; requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to prescribe eligibility criteria; making payment subject to appropriation; allowing payment for only one certificate, undergraduate degree, and master's degree; allowing only two to be selected to receive payment for a doctorate degree; providing for the amount of payment at state supported school and private school; providing for reduction in payment in certain instances when recipient is eligible for other grants and scholarships; establishing service requirement for recipients; providing for recoupment of moneys paid when service requirement not fulfilled; requiring Secretary of Homeland Security to administer the tuition and fee payments and to propose rules for legislative approval to implement; and defining certified law-enforcement officer.

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. 566), under the original double committee reference, was 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 587**, Relating generally to government contracting.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 587** (originating in the Committee on the Workforce)—A Bill to amend and reenact §5-22-1, §5-22-2, and §5-22-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §5-22B-1, §5-22B-2, §5-22B-3, §5-22B-4, §5-22B-5, §5-22B-6, §5-22B-7, §5-22B-8, §5-22B-9, §5-22B-10, §5-22B-11, §5-22B-12, §5-22B-13, §5-22B-14, §5-22B-15, §5-22B-16, §5-22B-17, §5-22B-18, and §5-22B-19, relating to government contracting; providing for a bid validity period; clarifying factors for considering when bids exceed budgeted amount; enacting the Government Construction Management At-Risk Contracts Act; providing a short title; defining terms; authorizing the state and/or its subdivisions to engage in construction management at-risk contracts for projects greater than \$15 million in total estimated cost; requiring the state and/or its subdivisions adopt policies and procedures for use in construction management at-risk contract; requiring the state and/or its subdivisions using construction management at-risk delivery method provide notice; requiring the state and/or its subdivisions issue request for qualifications; requiring the state and/or its subdivisions issue requests for proposals; establishing a standardized format for a proposal; establishing the criteria a request for proposal must contain; providing standards and criteria for the evaluation of proposals; providing for prequalification of firms; requiring a proposal evaluation committee; establishing suggested membership of a proposal evaluation committee; providing evaluation criteria and weight for aspects of proposals; setting forth process to determine best value; authorizing the state and/or its subdivisions to amend contracts after acceptance; providing exceptions for special maintenance projects; making documents public in some instances; providing for rulemaking; required reporting; setting forth a sunset date; and making technical and conforming amendments.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rollan A. Roberts,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 587), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

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 612**, Making rules and regulations of PSC subject to legislative rule-making review procedures.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,  
*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 627**, Removing prohibition against leasing state-owned pore spaces underlying lands designated as state parks.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 627** (originating in the Committee on Economic Development)—A Bill to amend and reenact §20-1-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the prohibition against leasing state-owned pore spaces underlying lands designated as state parks; and prohibiting any disturbance of the surface of state park property.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Glenn D. Jeffries,  
*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 Clements:**

**Senate Bill 696**—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-6-1 and §17C-6-7a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding a new section, designated §17C-6-7b, relating to establishing a program for camera-assisted speed enforcement in active work zones on public highways in this state; authorizing the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to set speed limits in work zones on public highways; establishing use of work zone speed control systems as an exception to the prohibition against photo monitoring devices for traffic law enforcement; establishing duty of vehicle operators to ensure lawful operation of their vehicles on public highways; defining terms; authorizing the use of work zone speed control systems to assist certified law-enforcement officers with enforcement of speed restrictions in active work zones; specifying lawful uses of equipment and setting conditions upon their operation; establishing specification and restrictions for machine functions; and correcting references to other sections.

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

**By Senator Chapman:**

**Senate Bill 697**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-29-1, §11-29-2, §11-29-3, and §11-29-4, relating to creating the Caregiver Tax Credit Act; defining the terms used throughout the article; listing the guidelines for implementation; and providing an effective date of January 1, 2027.

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

**By Senators Deeds, Fuller, and Woodrum:**

**Senate Bill 698**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §47-11D-5, relating to requiring exhibitors of motion pictures who operate six or more theaters in more than one location in this state to provide open captioning during at least two showings per week of each motion picture that is produced and offered with open captioning; and requiring, when requested, audio description be provided for any motion picture that is produced and offered with audio description.

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

**By Senator Woodrum:**

**Senate Bill 699**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §22-37-1, §22-37-2, §22-37-3, and §22-37-4, relating to protecting the environment and humans from geoengineering experiments; providing definitions; and listing penalties for violations.

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

**By Senator Woodrum:**

**Senate Bill 700**—A Bill to repeal §11-8-6e of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the effects on regular levy rates when an appraisal results in a tax increase and public hearings.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senator Woodrum:**

**Senate Bill 701**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-8-5a, relating to classifying forestry equipment as Class I property; and recognizing forestry as a component of agriculture essential to this state's economy.

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

**By Senator Chapman:**

**Senate Bill 702**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §49-2-120a, relating to payment rates for child care services; requiring the Bureau for Family Assistance to annually adjust the base rate for each type of care based

upon the Consumer Price Index; requiring the Bureau for Family Assistance to study the implementation of performance-based contracting's outcome on quality; and requiring reporting.

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

**By Senators Oliverio, Charnock, Garcia, and Woelfel:**

**Senate Bill 703**—A Bill to amend and reenact §50-1-8, §50-1-9, §50-1-9am, and §51-2A-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to allowing the Supreme Court of Appeals discretion to create uniform pay scales for all levels of judicial support staff.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senator Willis:**

**Senate Bill 704**—A Bill to amend and reenact §51-7-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to reports of circuit court proceedings; and authorizing circuit courts to appoint court reporters or use electronic means approved by the Supreme Court of Appeals.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senator Willis:**

**Senate Bill 705**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §29A-3B-13, relating to allowing the Board of Education to promulgate rules for submission to the Legislature.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senator Willis:**

**Senate Bill 706**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-5a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to bringing the West Virginia Department of Education under rule-making review of the Legislature.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**By Senator Helton:**

**Senate Bill 707**—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-5K-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to professional services provided to the West Virginia Birth-to-Three program by therapists and other professionals who are not employed by a state agency; and providing a 25 percent increase payment for those services.

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

**By Senator Garcia:**

**Senate Bill 708**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §22A-1-10a, relating to providing state mine inspectors with a \$4,000 raise.

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

**By Senator Rucker:**

**Senate Bill 709**—A Bill to repeal §5F-2-8, §11B-1-8, §49-10-101, §49-10-102, and §49-10-103 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to repeal of provisions of code that exempt Department of Transportation, Tax Division, and Bureau for Social Services from Division of Personnel.

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

**By Senator Chapman:**

**Senate Bill 710**—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-4-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §30-4-8a, relating to the practice of dentistry; defining terms; setting forth the requirements for teledentistry licensure; setting forth the standard of care for teledentistry; setting forth the requirements to establish a provider-patient relationship for teledentistry; setting forth exceptions to the provider-patient relationship for teledentistry; setting forth prerequisites to services for teledentistry; setting forth required disclosures for teledentistry; setting forth informed consent for teledentistry; setting forth record-keeping requirements for teledentistry; setting forth patient privacy requirements for teledentistry; setting forth provider competency requirements for teledentistry; requiring rulemaking; setting forth disciplinary proceedings for teledentistry; and setting forth disciplinary procedures teledentistry.

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

Senators Phillips and Stuart offered the following resolution:

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 16**—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge number 11660 (38.1177, -81.8426) locally known as Rock Creek bridge, carrying CR 119/93 Rock Creek Road over the Little Coal River in Boone County the "U. S. Army SPC Johnny Long Memorial Bridge".

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senators Garcia, Clements, Oliverio, and Rose offered the following resolution:

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 17**—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge number 11200, locally known as Basnettville Bridge, carrying County Route 17 over Paw Paw Creek in Marion County, the "U. S. Marine Corps PVT Arlie Haught Memorial Bridge".

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

**Senate Resolution 20**, Designating March 5, 2025, as West Virginia University Day.

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

At the request of Senator Oliverio, 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 Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 154**, Prohibiting sexual orientation instruction in public schools.

On third 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.

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

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, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: Rucker and Thorne—2.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 284) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect July 1, 2025.

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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.

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. 284) takes effect July 1, 2025.

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

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

The nays were: Garcia—1.

Absent: None.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 487) 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 581**, Relating to school attendance and student participation in 4-H activities.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, with the right having been granted on yesterday, Tuesday, March 4, 2025, for amendments to be received on third reading, was read a third time.

On motion of Senator Rucker, the following amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk and considered simultaneously:

On page 2, section 4, line 21, by striking out the word "and";

On page 2, section 4, after line 21, by inserting a new paragraph (H), to read as follows:

(H) Up to five college visits; and;

And,

By re-lettering the remaining paragraph.

Following discussion,

The question being on the adoption of Senator Rucker's amendments to the bill, the same was put and prevailed.

The bill, as just amended, was again ordered to engrossment.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 581 was then 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—34.

The nays were: None.

Absent: None.



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

On motion of Senator Rucker, the following amendment to the title of the bill was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 581**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-8-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to expanding the definition of excused absence; including up to five college visits in the definition of excused absence; including a student participating in a 4-H or FFA-sponsored activity or program in the definition of excused absence; providing that the student be credited as present in the same manner as a student participating in an educational field trip; providing that the student not be counted as absent; requiring a 4-H or FFA agent to provide documentation of a student's participation upon request of the principal or the principal's designee; addressing makeup of missed schoolwork and the student's class grades; and addressing 4-H or FFA program participation during any period of time the student has been suspended, expelled, or assigned to an alternative school or program.

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

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

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

At the request of Senator Morris, unanimous consent was granted to offer an amendment to the bill on third reading.

Thereupon, on motion of Senator Morris, the following amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

On page 3, section 2, line 52, by striking out "2027" and inserting in lieu thereof "2028".

Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 2354, as just amended, was then put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 2354 pass?"

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, Takubo, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—31.

The nays were: Tarr and Woodrum—2.

Absent: Stuart—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 H. B. 2354) 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, Takubo, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, and Smith (Mr. President)—31.

The nays were: Tarr and Woodrum—2.

Absent: Stuart—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 H. B. 2354) 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.

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

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

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

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

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 267**, Extending time for renewal and restoration of commercial driver's licenses.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 503**, Allowing sheriffs to appoint more than one chief deputy with consent of county commission.

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

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

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

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

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 thirteenth order of business.

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 4, 2025:

**Senate Bill 627**: Senator Willis;

And,

**Senate Bill 675**: Senator Woelfel.

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 4, 2025:

**Senate Bill 21**: Senator Rose;

**Senate Bill 142**: Senator Morris;

**Senate Bill 155**: Senator Deeds;

**Senate Bill 196**: Senator Willis;

**Senate Bill 199**: Senator Deeds;

**Senate Bill 295**: Senator Hart;

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 439**: Senator Hart;

**Senate Bill 503**: Senator Rose;

**Senate Bill 510**: Senator Hart;

**Senate Bill 536**: Senator Helton;

**Senate Bill 564**: Senators Maynard and Helton;

**Senate Bill 566:** Senators Morris, Garcia, Deeds, and Willis;

**Senate Bill 609:** Senator Oliverio;

**Senate Bill 610:** Senator Hart;

**Senate Bill 647:** Senator Oliverio;

**Senate Bill 662:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 664:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 667:** Senator Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 669:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 672:** Senators Woelfel and Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 674:** Senator Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 675:** Senator Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 676:** Senator Rose;

**Senate Bill 678:** Senator Thorne;

**Senate Bill 682:** Senator Thorne;

**Senate Bill 686:** Senator Rucker;

**Senate Bill 689:** Senator Rucker;

**Senate Bill 690:** Senators Woelfel, Thorne, and Clements;

**Senate Bill 691:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 692:** Senator Bartlett;

And,

**Senate Resolution 20:** Senator Jeffries.

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

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12:18 p.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 6, 2025, at 11 a.m.

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## **SENATE CALENDAR**

**Thursday, March 06, 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. 16 - US Army SPC Johnny Long Memorial Bridge

S. C. R. 17 - US Marine Corps PVT Arlie Haught Memorial Bridge

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

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

### **SECOND 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. 552 - Relating to Certified Business Expansion Development Program

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

## **FIRST READING**

Com. Sub. for S. B. 121 - Updating language and increasing penalties for indecent exposure

Com. Sub. for S. B. 155 - Establishing Summer Feeding for All Program

Com. Sub. for S. B. 196 - Increasing penalties for drug possession and updating list of offenses  
(original similar to HB2613)

Com. Sub. for S. B. 199 - Relating to elementary behavior intervention and safety

Com. Sub. for S. B. 325 - Department of Health rule relating to general provisions of Medical Cannabis Program (original similar to HB2245)

Com. Sub. for S. B. 458 - Universal Professional and Occupational Licensing Act of 2025 (original similar to HB2001)

Com. Sub. for S. B. 485 - Exempting West Virginia Secretary of State from competitive bidding process

S. B. 492 - Removing outdated provisions governing political committees

Com. Sub. for S. B. 522 - Clarifying procedure for administrative dissolution of limited liability companies by Secretary of State

Com. Sub. for S. B. 525 - Clarifying procedure for administrative dissolution of nonprofit corporations by Secretary of State

Com. Sub. for S. B. 565 - Relating generally to practice of optometry (original similar to HB2975)

S. B. 612 - Making rules and regulations of PSC subject to legislative rule-making review procedures

Com. Sub. for S. B. 627 - Removing prohibition against leasing state-owned pore spaces underlying lands designated as state parks

## **ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Regular Session 2025**

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**Thursday, March 6, 2025**

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