

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE JOURNAL

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

Charleston, West Virginia, Thursday, March 6, 2025

The Senate met at 11:23 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by Pastor Mike Harper, North Hills Baptist Church, Charleston, West Virginia.

The Senate was then led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Honorable T. Kevan Bartlett, a senator from the eighth district.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Wednesday, March 5, 2025,

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

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

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 2158—A Bill to amend and reenact §19-14-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to removal of the sunset clauses for registration fees on bulk and non-bulk pet food payable to the West Virginia spay and neuter program.

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

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

Eng. House Bill 2360—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §61-11-27, relating to the definition of law-enforcement

officers; clarifying that term includes chief executives, law-enforcement officials, and pre-certified law-enforcement officers for certain criminal offenses; and creating criminal penalties.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2434—A Bill to amend and reenact §55-3C-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and adding thereto a new article, designated §55-3D-1, §55-3D-2, §55-3D-3, and §55-3D-4, all relating to squatting; amending the definition of squatting; establishing the Stop Squatters Act; providing a limited alternative remedy to remove unauthorized persons from residential and commercial real properties; providing for the immediate removal by a law-enforcement agency upon request of the property owner of any person unlawfully occupying a residential dwelling or commercial building if certain conditions are met; providing a civil cause of action for wrongful removal; establishing misdemeanor and felony offenses for unlawfully occupying and intentionally damaging a residential dwelling or commercial building and providing penalties upon conviction thereof; establishing a misdemeanor offense for knowingly presenting a false document purporting to convey real property and providing penalties upon conviction thereof; and establishing a felony offense for any person who knowingly lists or advertises residential real property or a commercial building for sale or renting without legal title or authority and providing penalties upon conviction thereof.

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 2437—A Bill to amend and reenact §60A-4-401 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to fentanyl; clarifying certain requirements for the enhanced sentencing of crimes involving fentanyl; and creating criminal penalties.

Referred to the Committee on Select Committee on Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health; and then 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 2511—A Bill to amend and reenact §47-20-2 and §60-7-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931 as amended; relating to charitable bingo and alcohol sales and consumption while such bingo is taking place; adding an exemption for the consumption or sale of alcohol at bingo games at a Veterans Service Organization; defining terms; and explicitly including a Veterans Service Organization as an entity which may conduct charitable bingo games.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

Senator Hart, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Agriculture has had under consideration

Senate Bill 10, Exempting certain meat processes from consumers sales and service tax.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 10 (originating in the Committee on Agriculture)—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-15-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to exempting the processing of beef, pork, or lamb by a slaughterhouse from the consumers sales and service tax.

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,

Craig A. Hart,
Chair.

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 10), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senator Hart, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Agriculture has had under consideration

Senate Bill 241, Exempting high tunnels and greenhouses from personal property taxes.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 241 (originating in the Committee on Agriculture)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-1C-15, relating to exempting high tunnels and greenhouses, whether heated or unheated, which are used on a farm or farming operation, from property taxation; and providing an effective date.

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,

Craig A. Hart,
Chair.

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 241), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senator Hart, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Agriculture has had under consideration

Senate Bill 242, Equipment Right to Repair Act.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 242 (originating in the Committee on Agriculture)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §19-40-1, §19-40-2, §19-40-3, §19-40-4, §19-40-5, §19-40-6, §19-40-7, §19-40-8, and §19-40-9, relating to creation of the Equipment Right to Repair Act; creating a short title; defining terms; establishing jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Agriculture; establishing requirements; establishing limitations; providing for rulemaking; establishing violations; imposing civil penalties; authorizing civil actions, penalties, and injunctive relief; and providing for applicability and effective date of article.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Craig A. Hart,
Chair.

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 242), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 257, Providing protection for property owner when someone visiting private cemetery causes damage to property.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,
Chair.

Senator Azinger, from the Committee on Banking and Insurance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Banking and Insurance has had under consideration

Senate Bill 501, Relating to loan form.

And,

Senate Bill 561, Relating to Uniform Special Deposits Act.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michael T. Azinger,
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 521, Requiring party affiliations be listed for all candidates.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 521 (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-16, §3-1-17, §3-4A-11a, §3-5-4, §3-5-6a, §3-5-6b, §3-5-6c, §3-5-6d, §3-5-6e, §3-5-7, §3-5-13, §3-5-13a, §3-10-3, §3-12-3, §3-12-6, §3-12-10, §3-12-11, §3-12-12, §3-12-14, §50-1-1, §50-1-6, §51-1-1, §51-2A-5, and §51-11-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to electoral reforms of the West Virginia judiciary; requiring the election of justices of the Supreme Court of Appeals, circuit court judges, family court judges, and magistrates to be in partisan primary and general elections; establishing ballot design and printing; requiring partisan ballots be used in judicial and magisterial elections; requiring separate nonpartisan ballots be used in county school board elections; defining "general election campaign period" and "primary election campaign period"; modifying judicial candidate entitlements under Public Campaign Financing Fund; and providing for the continuing applicability of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Program.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,
Chair.

Senator Hart, from the Committee on Agriculture, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Agriculture has had under consideration

Senate Bill 578, Relating to pet food packages.

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 Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig A. Hart,
Chair.

The bill, 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 585, Relating to Craddock Student Athlete Safety Act.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 585 (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-36-1, §18-36-2, §18-36-3, §18-36-4, §18-36-5, and §18-36-6, relating to school student athlete safety; establishing the Cohen Craddock Student Athlete Safety Act; providing legislative findings; defining terms; creating the Student Athlete Safety Advisory Committee; identifying composition of Student Athlete Safety Advisory Committee; providing duties of Student Athlete Safety Advisory Committee; requiring use of certain safety equipment during high school and middle school football practices; providing warranty and certification related to the usage of certain safety equipment; establishing the Cohen Craddock Memorial Grant Program and providing procedures; and creating the Cohen Craddock Memorial Grant Fund.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,
Chair.

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 585), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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 Maynard:

Senate Bill 711—A Bill to amend and reenact §20-3-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing a prohibition against establishing additional trail systems within state parks and state forests.

Referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; and then to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 712—A Bill to amend and reenact §5-10-2, §5-10-19, §5-10-27b, §5-10-48, §5-10C-4, §5-10D-6a, §7-14D-2, §7-14D-9b, §7-14D-24a, §8-22A-2, §8-22A-11, §8-22A-34, §15-2-45, §15-2A-2, §15-2A-6b, §16-5V-2, §16-5V-13, §16-5V-35, §18-7A-3, §18-7A-13a, §18-7A-28b, §18-7B-2, §18-7B-12a, §20-18-2, §20-18-14, §20-18-30, §51-9-1a, §51-9-10, and §51-9-12b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §15-2A-6e, relating to retirement provisions of the West Virginia Public Employees Retirement System, the Deputy Sheriffs' Retirement System, the Municipal Police and Firefighters Retirement System, the West Virginia State Police Death, Disability, and Retirement System, the State Police Retirement System, the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System, the Teachers Retirement System, the Teachers' Defined Contribution Retirement System, the Natural Resources Police Officers Retirement System, and the Judges' Retirement System; defining the

terms "bona fide separation from service upon retirement", "participating public employer", and "retirant"; amending the definition of "required beginning date" to be consistent with federal law; clarifying notification by employer of retirant who returns to work by a participating public employer; adding the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System to the pick-up provisions of members' contributions by participating public employers; amending retired public safety officers provision to pay for qualified health insurance premiums from eligible retirement plans; and providing technical clean-up of provisions.

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

By Senator Charnock:

Senate Bill 713—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §21-5J-1, relating to creating the West Virginia Workplace Security Act; making certain acts unlawful; and prescribing means of enforcement and penalties for violations.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 714—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §31A-9-1, §31A-9-2, and §31A-9-3, relating to the creation of the Voluntary Portable Benefit Account Act; providing for a short title; creating definitions; and providing for enactment of the article for the creation of voluntary portable benefit accounts.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 715—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §5-10D-15, relating to personally identifiable information of a member, retirant, beneficiary, or alternate payee of a retirement system administered by the Consolidated Public Retirement Board being confidential and exempt from disclosure.

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

By Senator Oliverio:

Senate Bill 716—A Bill to amend and reenact §8-22A-33a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to failure to pay the required contribution and interest payment for any police officer or firefighter who transferred from the Public Employees Retirement System to the Municipal Police Officers and Firefighters Retirement System.

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

By Senator Helton:

Senate Bill 717—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding five new sections, designated §33-15-24, §33-16-20, §33-24-46, §33-25-23, and §33-25A-37, relating to surprise billing of out-of-network ambulance services; clarifying what is considered full payment to an ambulance service, what the rate of payment is, and the most an ambulance service can be paid; prohibiting billing the insured for additional costs except for fees the insurer required the insured to pay; providing procedure for payment; providing exceptions when the insurer does not have to pay within 30 days; and requiring written notices for denied claims.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 718—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-67-1, §16-67-2, §16-67-3, §16-67-4, §16-67-5, and §16-67-6, relating to hospital transparency; setting forth legislative findings; defining terms; setting forth duties of Insurance Commissioner; setting forth reports to be filed; setting forth the form of the reports to be filed; requiring the submission of public payor information; and providing for penalties.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senator Chapman:

Senate Bill 719—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-4-10, §16-30-3, §16-30C-6, §60-6-23, and §60A-5-504 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §16-30-26, relating to the age at which a minor can consent to certain medical decisions and services; changing the age a minor can consent to sexually transmitted disease care with parental notice; removing the definition of "mature minor" from the code; adding when a minor can consent to general health services for himself or herself with parental notice; detailing when parental notice is not required; removing the ability of a mature minor to consent to a do-not-resuscitate order by himself or herself; changing the age a minor can consent to alcohol addiction care with parental notice; and changing the age a minor can consent to controlled substance addiction care with parental notice.

Referred to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Senators Clements and Rose:

Senate Bill 720—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §22C-9-7b, relating to requiring a declaration of pooled unit to be filed with the clerk of county commissions in which all wells in a unit are to be drilled; requiring information in the declarations; requiring declaration of pooled unit when unit boundary penetrated by wellbore and information necessary for same; requiring amended declaration of pooled unit in certain circumstances; requiring operator provide certain information regarding acreage upon request; and establishing process for lessor or royalty owner to cure non-compliance with section, including bringing civil action.

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

By Senator Hamilton:

Senate Bill 721—A Bill to amend and reenact §20-2-5j and §61-10-34 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing the use of unmanned aerial vehicles and dogs while hunting and describing their administration; adding to the definition of "critical infrastructure" certain licensed or commercial livestock and poultry facilities to protect them from unauthorized unmanned aerial vehicle surveillance or attack; and providing criminal penalties for damage to critical infrastructure or farm lands with fences, livestock, or agriculture land or crops, whether operated as a for-profit business or not-for-profit farming.

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

By Senators Jeffries, Phillips, Bartlett, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Helton, Morris, Queen, Rose, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, and Woodrum:

Senate Bill 722—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-13NN-1, §11-13NN-2, §11-13NN-3, §11-13NN-4, §11-13NN-5, §11-

13NN-6, and §11-13NN-7, relating to creating the West Virginia Short Line Railroad Modernization Act; definitions; tax credit allowed and credit limitations; and review and accountability.

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

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 16, US Army SPC Johnny Long Memorial Bridge.

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution 17, US Marine Corps PVT Arlie Haught Memorial Bridge.

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

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 read a third time and put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 154 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 Com. Sub. for S. B. 154) 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 299, Modifying WV regulations on pubertal modulation, hormonal therapy, and gender reassignment.

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

Pending extended discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 299 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, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: Garcia and Woelfel—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. 299) passed.

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

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

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

At the request of Senator Oliverio, unanimous consent being granted, Senator Oliverio addressed the Senate regarding a statement made by Senator Garcia during the discussion of Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 299.

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

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

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, 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. S. B. 483) 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 Senate Bill 22, Applying penalties for nonpayment of royalties under terms of oil and natural gas leases.

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

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 267, Extending time for renewal and restoration of commercial driver's licenses.

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

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 552, Relating to Certified Business Expansion Development Program.

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

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

On page 4, section 21, after line 81, by inserting a new subsection (f), to read as follows:

(f) Regulated electric utility customers shall not bear any construction, operational, or capacity-related costs associated with non-utility owned and operated electricity generation co-located with a high impact business development district. Any costs of this nature are to be borne by the customers situated within the high impact business development district that is to be co-located with onsite electricity generation.;

And,

By re-lettering the remaining subsection.

Following discussion,

The question being on the adoption of the amendments offered by Senator Phillips to the bill, the same was put and prevailed.

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 552), as amended, was then ordered to engrossment and third reading.

On motion of Senator Martin, the constitutional rule requiring a bill to be read on three separate days was suspended by a vote of four fifths of the members present, taken by yeas and nays.

On suspending the constitutional rule, 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.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 552 was then 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, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: Hart and Phillips—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. 552) passed.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 552—A Bill to amend and reenact §5B-2-21 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Certified Business Industrial Expansion Development Program administered by the Department of Economic Development; renaming business expansion development program administered by the department; renaming high impact business development districts certified by the department; providing that any plant or facility may participate in the business expansion development program; removing requirement that high impact business development districts be located on certain lands; eliminating requirement that electrical service to business development districts be generated from renewable sources; and providing that regulated electric utility customers shall not bear any costs incurred by utility located in a high impact business development district.

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

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

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

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

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.

The Senate proceeded to the tenth order of business.

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 121, Updating language and increasing penalties for indecent exposure.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 155, Establishing Summer Feeding for All Program.

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

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

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 199, Relating to elementary behavior intervention and safety.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 325, Department of Health rule relating to general provisions of Medical Cannabis Program.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 458, Universal Professional and Occupational Licensing Act of 2025.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 485, Exempting West Virginia Secretary of State from competitive bidding process.

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

Senate Bill 492, Removing outdated provisions governing political committees.

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

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

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

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

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 565, Relating generally to practice of optometry.

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

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

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 627, Removing prohibition against leasing state-owned pore spaces underlying lands designated as state parks.

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

The Senate proceeded to the twelfth order of business.

Remarks were made by Senators Phillips, Jeffries, Hart, and Tarr.

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 added as co-sponsors to the following bills on March 5, 2025:

Senate Bill 43: Senators Roberts and Deeds;

Senate Bill 255: Senator Deeds;

Senate Bill 449: Senator Rose;

Senate Bill 474: Senator Woelfel;

Senate Bill 521: Senator Taylor;

Senate Bill 578: Senator Hamilton;

Senate Bill 612: Senator Taylor;

Senate Bill 699: Senators Thorne and Rucker;

Senate Bill 705: Senator Thorne;

Senate Bill 706: Senators Rose, Thorne, and Bartlett;

And,

Senate Bill 707: Senators Thorne and Rucker.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12:36 p.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 7, 2025, at 10 a.m.

SENATE CALENDAR

**Friday, March 07, 2025
10:00 AM**

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 11:30 AM

Consideration of executive nominations

THIRD READING

- Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 22 - Applying penalties for nonpayment of royalties under terms of oil and natural gas leases
- Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 117 - Exempting certain physicians from specified traffic laws when responding to emergencies
- Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 267 - Extending time for renewal and restoration of commercial driver's licenses
- Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 503 - Allowing sheriffs to appoint more than one chief deputy with consent of county commission
- Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 573 - Relating to restrictions on use or sale of motor vehicles based on power source

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

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

FIRST READING

S. B. 257 - Providing protection for property owner when someone visiting private cemetery causes damage to property

S. B. 501 - Relating to loan form

Com. Sub. for S. B. 521 - Requiring party affiliations be listed for all candidates

S. B. 561 - Relating to Uniform Special Deposits Act (original similar to HB2745)

ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regular Session 2025

Friday, March 7, 2025

9 a.m.

Military

(Room 208W)