

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE JOURNAL

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

Charleston, West Virginia, Wednesday, March 12, 2025

The Senate met at 11:11 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by Pastor Tim Wotring, Mission: Take Back Ministries, Bruceton Mills, West Virginia.

Mountaineer Challenge Academy Cadets from Kingwood, West Virginia, proceeded in the presenting of the Colors. The Honorable Vince S. Deeds, a senator from the tenth district, then led the Senate in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 11, 2025,

At the request of Senator Queen, 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 concurrence by that body in the Senate amendments to the House of Delegates amendments to, and the passage as amended with its Senate amended title, of

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 456, Defining "men" and "women".

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body, to take effect July 1, 2025, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2008—A Bill to amend and reenact §5B-1-1, §5B-1-2, §5B-2-1, §5B-2-2, §5B-2-3, §5B-2-3b, §5B-2-4, §5B-2-4a, §5B-2-5, §5B-2-6, §5B-2-6a, §5B-2-9a, §5B-2-10, §5B-2-14, §5B-2-16, §5B-2-17, §5B-2-18, §5B-2-19, §5B-2-20, §5F-1-2, §5F-2-1, §20-1-14, §29-1-8d, §31G-1A-1, §31G-1A-5, §31G-1A-6, and §31G-1A-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §15A-14-1; and to repeal §5F-1-3a and §5F-1-6, relating to the merging and reorganizing of the executive branch;

reconstituting the Department of Economic Development as the Division of Economic Development and placing it within the Department of Commerce; specifying that starting on July 1, 2025, new hires and anyone who moves positions within the Department of Commerce shall be in the classified exempt service system and shall be exempt from the state grievance procedures; redesignating the Department of Economic Development as the Division of Economic Development under the Department of Commerce; correcting titles of the Division of Economic Development and Department of Commerce in several sections of code; specifying that starting on July 1, 2025, new hires and anyone who moves positions within the Division of Economic Development shall be in the classified exempt service system and shall be exempt from the state grievance procedures; correcting titles of affected departments, divisions, and positions based on the redesignations; transferring Division of Natural Resources law enforcement to the Department of Homeland Security; clarifying that duties related to the officers' retirement system will transfer to the Department of Homeland Security; authorizing the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to promulgate rules; providing an effective date for the officers' transfer and technical cleanup of amended and reenacted sections.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body, to take effect July 1, 2025, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the passage of

Eng. House Bill 2009—A Bill to amend and reenact §5B-2I-2, §5B-2I-4, §5F-2-1, §10-5-2, §29-1-1, §29-1-1a, §29-1-2, §29-1-3, §29-1-4, §29-1-6, §29-1-7, §29-1-8, §29-1-8c, §29-1-8d, §29-1-9, §29-1-11, §29-1-12, §29-1-13, §29-1-14, and §29-1-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §5F-1-3a, §5F-1-6, and §29-1-10, relating to the merging and reorganizing of the executive branch; abolishing the Department of Arts, Culture, and History and reorganizing its sections and commissions under the Department of Tourism; specifying the authority of the Secretary of the Department of Tourism over these sections and commissions; correcting titles of affected departments, divisions, and positions based on the redesignations; specifying that starting on July 1, 2025, new hires and anyone who moves positions within the Department of Tourism shall be in the classified exempt service system and shall be exempt from the state grievance procedures; governing and providing for the Secretary of the Department of Tourism authority to appoint the directors of the sections listed in §29-1-1(b) of this code; substituting the title of Secretary of the Department of Tourism for the Secretary of the Department of Arts, Culture, and History in several sections of code; granting Secretary of Tourism authority to approve or repeal rules promulgated by sections and commissions listed in §29-1-1(b) of this code; specifying that starting on July 1, 2025, new hires and employee that moves positions within the sections and commissions shall be in the classified exempt service system and shall be exempt from the state grievance procedures; granting the Secretary of the Department of Tourism discretion to allow a person to serving in multiple positions or professions within the sections listed in §29-1-1(b) of this code; removing certain specific qualifications for persons appointed as directors of the various sections listed in §29-1-1(b) of this code; and technical cleanup of amended and reenacted sections.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

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

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

Senate Bill 102, Modifying form of certain deeds.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 102 (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—A Bill to amend and reenact §36-3-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the form of deeds; and requiring that all deeds except for a transfer on death deed and transfers between parents and children for consideration of less than \$2,000 contain a notarized acknowledgment of the grantee or grantees evidencing acceptance of the real property being conveyed.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute 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 220, Authorizing child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention program and in-service training in child sexual abuse prevention.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 220 (originating in the Committee on Education)—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-41 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring in grades three through six at least annual age-appropriate instruction in child sexual abuse prevention; requiring in grades three through six at least annual instruction in personal safety and assault prevention; providing exception; requiring annual notice to parent or guardian at least one week prior to personal safety and assault prevention instruction; requiring in grades seven through 12 at least annual age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention and sexual violence prevention; and making requirements of section voluntary for public charter schools and nonpublic schools.

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,

Amy N. Grady,
Chair.

At the request of Senator Stuart, as chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 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 297, Requiring coverage for certain pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders in certain circumstances.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 297 (originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding seven new sections, designated §5-16-7h, §9-5-34, §33-15-4y, §33-16-3ii, §33-24-7z, §33-25-8w, and §33-25A-8z, relating to requiring coverage for certain conditions; requiring coverage treatment of pediatric autoimmune neuropsychiatric disorders associated with streptococcal infections; requiring coverage for treatment of pediatric acute onset neuropsychiatric syndrome; requiring a prior authorization to be obtained; and requiring that a physician demonstrate that all other treatments have been exhausted.

And,

Senate Bill 707, Providing increase in salary to WV Birth-to-Three contracted therapists and employees.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 707 (originating in the Committee on Health and Human Resources)—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 provided in person.

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,

Laura Wakim Chapman,
Chair.

The bills (Com. Sub. for S. B. 297 and 707), under the original double committee references, were then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration

Senate Bill 449, Permitting compressed air and rimfire shooting teams in public schools.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 449 (originating in the Committee on Education)—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-7-11a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18-2-46, relating to permitting air rifles and rimfire rifles on school buses solely during transportation to or from a school-sponsored shooting team event, on the grounds of any primary or secondary educational facility of any type for shooting team purposes, and at a school-sponsored shooting team function that is taking place in a specific area that is owned, rented, or leased by West Virginia Department of Education, the West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission, a county school board, or local public school; and requiring that during the school day or at any time other than school-sponsored team events or practices, the air rifles and rimfire rifles be locked up in a location where students do not have access.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy N. Grady,
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 546, Authorizing county commissions to levy additional excise tax on transferring real property to fund local economic development.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 546 (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-22-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing county commissions to levy an additional county excise tax on the privilege of transferring real property for the purpose of funding local economic development.

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,

Patricia Puertas Rucker,
Chair.

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 546), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on Education has had under consideration

Senate Bill 548, Creating Safety and Violence Education for Students Act.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 548 (originating in the Committee on Education)—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 the creation of the Safety and Violence Education for Students Act; requiring all schools serving students grades six through 12 to provide to students at least one hour, or one standard class period, of evidence-based youth violence prevention training each school year; requiring all schools serving students grades K-12 to provide to students at least one hour, or one standard class period, of evidence-based social inclusion training each school year; requiring the West Virginia Department of Education to develop a list of evidence-based trainings and materials to fulfill the youth violence prevention training and the social inclusion training; allowing the West Virginia Department of Education to require all schools serving grades K-12 to designate a student-led violence prevention club; addressing costs associated with implementation; defining terms; and making requirements of article voluntary for public charter schools and nonpublic schools.

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 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 577, Clarifying prohibited practices by manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch when providing new motor vehicle to dealer.

And,

Senate Bill 709, Repealing provisions of code that exempt Department of Transportation, Tax Division, and Bureau of Social Services from Division of Personnel.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that they each do pass; but under the original double committee references first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Puertas Rucker,
Chair.

The bills, under the original double committee references, were then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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 614, Authorizing over-the-counter sale of ivermectin.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 614 (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 §30-5-37, relating to pharmacists dispensing Ivermectin; authorizing provision of Ivermectin with a collaborate pharmacy practice agreement; authorizing Ivermectin without a prescription upon federal regulations; clarifying liability and disciplinary action protections for pharmacists and health care providers; authorizing rules; establishing effective dates; and establishing severability.

And,

Senate Bill 689, State Sovereignty Act of 2025.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 689 (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 article, designated §1-8-1 and §1-8-2, relating to creating the State Sovereignty Act of 2025; providing a title; and setting forth rejection of foreign entities' jurisdiction in the state.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Wakim Chapman,
Chair.

The bills (Com. Sub. for S. B. 614 and 689), under the original double committee references, were 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 Joint Resolution 6, Elimination of Business Inventory Tax Amendment.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Joint Resolution 6 (originating in the Committee on the Judiciary)—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of West Virginia, amending article X thereof, by adding thereto a new section, designated section 1d, providing that the Legislature may reduce or eliminate the ad valorem tax on automobiles and any other personal property, but must also

provide an equal or greater revenue share to those counties or localities impacted by any associated reduction or elimination of these taxes; numbering and designating such proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,
Chair.

The resolution (Com. Sub. for S. J. R. 6), 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 Helton:

Senate Bill 739—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-59-1 and §16-59-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §16-59-1a; and to repeal §16-59-4 of the code, relating to recovery residences; setting forth legislative findings; removing data collection and required documentation from registered recovery residences; and repealing mandatory registration of recovery residences.

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

By Senators Hamilton, Azinger, Bartlett, Charnock, Deeds, Fuller, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Willis, and Woodrum:

Senate Bill 740—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §55-3D-1, §55-3D-2, §55-3D-3, and §55-3D-4, relating to 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.

By Senators Azinger, Oliverio, and Morris:

Senate Bill 741—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §32-4-402a, relating to authorizing the State Auditor as Commissioner under the Uniform Securities Act, or his or her designee, to conduct a fairness hearing for transactions involving the exchange of a security for one or more outstanding securities, claims or property interests or partly for cash.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

By Senators Azinger, Oliverio, Morris, and Charnock:

Senate Bill 742—A Bill to amend and reenact §50-2-1 and §50-4-4a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the jurisdictional limits of magistrate courts; clarifying the ability of a corporate party to appear through its agent or an attorney for claims affecting its rights in magistrate court; and preserving protections to prohibit magistrates from representing any party in a magistrate court proceeding.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senators Jeffries, Grady, Helton, and Tarr:

Senate Bill 743—A Bill to amend and reenact §11-22-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adjusting the percentage of tax retained by the clerk of the county commission for certain purposes; and authorizing the clerk to move funds between accounts with approval of the county commission.

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

By Senator Rucker:

Senate Bill 744—A Bill to repeal §5A-3A-1, §5A-3A-2, §5A-3A-3, §5A-3A-4, §5A-3A-5, and §5A-3A-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the purchase of commodities and services from the handicapped.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Stuart:

Senate Bill 745—A Bill to amend and reenact §6B-3-1, §6B-3-2, §6B-3-3, §6B-3-3a, §6B-3-4, §6B-3-5, §6B-3-7, §6B-3-9, §6B-3-10, and §6B-3-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §6B-2-12, relating to enhancing transparency in lobbying; revising lobbying registration and reporting requirements; increasing the lobbyist registration fees; requiring the commission to publish an electronic photograph and information about registered lobbyists; modifying lobbyist reporting requirements; requiring distribution of lobbyist reports to affected persons; requiring state agencies and municipal subdivisions to issue reports of lobbyist activities; prohibiting designated agencies and organizations from lobbying or paying lobbyists to lobby on their behalf; reducing financial thresholds for grass roots lobbying campaigns; updating document retention requirements; updating lobbyist duties; prohibiting lobbyist contingent fees; updating penalties; and requiring additional compliance audits.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Senator Smith (Mr. President) offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 24—Designating March 13, 2025, as Tucker County Day at the Legislature.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Grady offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 25—Designating March 13, 2025, as Wear Red Day at the Capitol.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senators Weld and Smith (Mr. President) offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 26—Recognizing March 13, 2025, as National K9 Veterans Day at the Legislature.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Taylor offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 27—Congratulating the Taylor County Middle school football team for winning the 2024 Mid-8 Championship.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 18, Recognizing intent to create WV Coal Renaissance Act.

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

Senate Resolution 21, Designating March 12, 2025, as WV Tourism Day.

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

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

Senate Resolution 22, Recognizing 175th anniversary of Wheeling Hospital.

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

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

Senate Resolution 23, Memorializing life of Janie Lou White.

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

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

The Senate proceeded to the eighth order of business.

Eng. Senate Bill 280, Displaying official US motto in public schools.

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, 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. S. B. 280) passed.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 280—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-9H-1; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §18B-14-12, relating to requiring public elementary and secondary schools and state institutions of higher education to display in every classroom a durable poster or framed copy of the United States motto, "In God We Trust"; imposing requirements for the durable poster or framed copy; making the requirements subject to donation; and applying requirement to public charter schools.

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 500, Transferring audits of volunteer fire departments to Legislative Auditor.

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. Com. Sub. for S. B. 500) 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 521, Requiring party affiliations be listed for all candidates.

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 521 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Charnock, Fuller, Grady, Hart, Helton, Martin, Maynard, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Willis, and Smith (Mr. President)—22.

The nays were: Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Garcia, Hamilton, Jeffries, Morris, Oliverio, Takubo, Weld, Woelfel, and Woodrum—12.

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. 521) passed.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 521—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; repealing the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Program; and requiring that any funds remaining in the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Fund shall be remitted to the general revenue fund.

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 532, Making ad valorem taxes on property payable only to county in which property is located.

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. Com. Sub. for S. B. 532) 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 606, Relating to notification of breast density.

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. Com. Sub. for S. B. 606) 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 649, Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Health, Office of Inspector General.

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 elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 649) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, 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. S. B. 649) takes effect from passage.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 650, Relating to full-time interventionists.

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. 650) passed with its title.

Senator Martin moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, 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. S. B. 650) 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 658, Prohibiting certain persons from receiving compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2053, Relating to including the United States Space Force in the definition armed forces.

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 526, Creating Pharmacist Prescribing Authority Act.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 592, Relating generally to aboveground storage tanks.

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

Senate Bill 712, Relating to retirement provisions of systems managed by CPRB.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 715, Relating to personally identifiable information of member, retirant, beneficiary, or alternate payee of retirement system.

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

Senate Bill 716, Relating to failure to pay required contributions and interest payments for certain retirees who transfer between retirement systems.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2042, Relating to allowing a guardian ad litem to request the appointment of a court appointed special advocate.

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.

The following communication was reported by the Clerk:

The Senate of West Virginia
Charleston

LEE CASSIS
CLERK OF THE SENATE



STATE CAPITOL, ROOM M-211
1900 KANAWHA BLVD. EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0800
304-357-7800

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Patrick Morrisey
Governor, State of West Virginia
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Morrisey,

The following bills, authenticated by the signature of the Clerk of each House, and signed by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Delegates, have been examined and found truly enrolled:

Com. Sub. for S. B. 456, Defining "men" and "women";

And,

S. B. 490, Prohibiting ranked-choice voting in elections in West Virginia.

These bills are presented to you on this day, March 12, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lee Cassis".

Lee Cassis
Clerk of the Senate

C: The Honorable Jeffrey Pack
Clerk of the House of Delegates

Under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of the Senate, the following senators were removed as co-sponsors of the following bills and resolutions on March 11, 2025:

Senate Bill 577: Senator Morris;

Senate Bill 614: Senator Grady;

Senate Concurrent Resolution 14: Senator Jeffries;

And,

Senate Joint Resolution 6: 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 resolutions on March 11, 2025:

Senate Bill 43: Senator Azinger;

Senate Bill 449: Senators Hart, Taylor, Morris, and Willis;

Senate Bill 514: Senator Takubo;

Senate Bill 530: Senator Hart;

Senate Bill 575: Senators Maynard and Azinger;

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 604: Senators Deeds, Garcia, Chapman, and Bartlett;

Senate Bill 659: Senator Bartlett;

Senate Bill 689: Senators Willis and Taylor;

Senate Bill 697: Senator Rose;

Senate Bill 707: Senators Willis, Garcia, and Taylor;

Senate Bill 709: Senator Willis;

Senate Bill 727: Senators Deeds and Rucker;

Senate Bill 737: Senator Takubo;

Senate Joint Resolution 4: Senator Phillips;

Senate Joint Resolution 6: Senator Rucker;

Senate Concurrent Resolution 18: Senators Rucker and Phillips;

Senate Resolution 21: Senator Rucker;

Senate Bill 22: Senator Rucker;

And,

Senate Bill 23: Senator Taylor.

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

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12:25 p.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 11 a.m.

SENATE CALENDAR

**Thursday, March 13, 2025
11:00 AM**

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 11:30 AM

Consideration of executive nominations

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- S. R. 24 - Designating March 13, 2025, as Tucker County Day
- S. R. 25 - Designating March 13, 2025, as Wear Red Day
- S. R. 26 - Recognizing March 13, 2025, as National K9 Veterans Day
- S. R. 27 - Congratulating Taylor County Middle school football team for winning 2024 Mid-8 Championship

THIRD READING

- Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 658 - Prohibiting certain persons from receiving compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 2053 - Relating to including the United States Space Force in the definition armed forces

SECOND READING

- Com. Sub. for S. B. 526 - Creating Pharmacist Prescribing Authority Act
- Com. Sub. for S. B. 592 - Relating generally to aboveground storage tanks
- S. B. 712 - Relating to retirement provisions of systems managed by CPRB (original similar to HB3180)
- Com. Sub. for S. B. 715 - Relating to personally identifiable information of member, retirant, beneficiary, or alternate payee of retirement system (original similar to HB3183)
- S. B. 716 - Relating to failure to pay required contributions and interest payments for certain retirees who transfer between retirement systems (original similar to HB3193)
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 2042 - Relating to allowing a guardian ad litem to request the appointment of a court appointed special advocate - (Com. amend. and title amend. pending)

FIRST READING

Com. Sub. for S. B. 102 - Modifying form of certain deeds

Com. Sub. for S. B. 220 - Authorizing child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention program
and in-service training in child sexual abuse prevention

Com. Sub. for S. B. 449 - Permitting compressed air and rimfire shooting teams in public schools

Com. Sub. for S. B. 548 - Creating Safety and Violence Education for Students Act

ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regular Session 2025

Thursday, March 13, 2025

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