

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

# SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION, 2025  
THIRTY-FOURTH DAY

---

Charleston, West Virginia, Monday, March 17, 2025

The Senate met at 11:04 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by Jeb Brady, Youth Pastor, Gateway Christian Church, St. Albans, West Virginia.

The Senate was then led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Honorable Scott Fuller, a senator from the fifth district.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Friday, March 14, 2025,

At the request of Senator Boley, 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 fourth order of business.

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 570**, Requiring economic impact statements for certain legislative rules.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 570** (originating in the Committee on Economic Development)—  
A Bill to amend and reenact §29A-1-2, §29A-3-11, and §29A-3-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the submission of legislative rules; requiring the inclusion of economic impact statements with certain proposed legislative rules; authorizing the request of economic impact statements; defining "economic impact statement"; and providing for sunset provisions.

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,

Glenn D. Jeffries,  
*Chair.*

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 570), under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

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 Senators Hart, Helton, and Phillips:**

**Senate Bill 762**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-9D-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the creation of the Support for Neglected Schools Act.

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

**By Senators Hart, Smith (Mr. President), Helton, Phillips, and Rose:**

**Senate Bill 763**—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the creation of the Public Electrical Savings Act.

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

**By Senators Hart, Fuller, and Helton:**

**Senate Bill 764**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-13a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the creation of the Community School Parents' Choice Act; ensuring that parents of students in schools under consideration for closure and consolidation shall be provided with a means to prevent closure or consolidation; and providing for a 10-year sunset date.

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

**By Senator Willis:**

**Senate Bill 765**—A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-3-1 and §18A-3-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to establishing the Troops-to-Teachers Program.

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

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 766**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund, by adding a new item of appropriation to the Department of Human Services, fund 5365, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 767**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Human Services, Bureau for Medical Services – Policy and Programming, fund 0484, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, by adding a new item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 768**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Homeland Security, Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Correctional Units, fund 0450, fiscal year 2025, organization 0608, and to the Department of Homeland Security, Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation – Bureau of Juvenile Services, fund 0570, fiscal year 2025, organization 0608, by increasing the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 769**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Administration, Office of the Secretary, fund 0186, fiscal year 2025, organization 0201, by increasing an existing item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 770**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Arts, Culture, and History, Division of Culture and History, fund 0293, fiscal year 2025, organization 0432, by adding a new item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 771**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Education, State Board of Education – State Department of Education, fund 0313, fiscal year 2025, organization 0402, by adding a new item and increasing an existing item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 772**—A Bill supplementing and amending appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury in the State Fund, General Revenue, by decreasing an existing item of appropriation to the Department of Health Facilities, Health Facilities – Welch Community Hospital, fund 0412,

fiscal year 2025, organization 0512, and increasing an existing item of appropriation to the Department of Health, Office of the Inspector General, fund 0437, fiscal year 2025, organization 0513, by supplementing and amending appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 773**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, Lottery Net Profits, by adding a new item of appropriation to the State Board of Education, fund 3951, fiscal year 2025, organization 0402, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 774**—A Bill making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to the Department of Health, West Virginia Birth-to-Three Fund, fund 5214, fiscal year 2025, organization 0506, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 775**—A Bill expiring funds to the unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in the amount of \$28,564,089.61 from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the West Virginia Economic Development Authority, Economic Development Project Bridge Loan Fund, fund 9066, organization 0944.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 776**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5A-13-1, §5A-13-2, §5A-13-3, §5A-13-4, §5A-13-5, and §5A-13-6, relating to the Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act; establishing the short title; defining terms; establishing application of act to certain government contracts; providing an exception; setting forth when certain contracts are void; prohibiting financial institutions from discriminating against a firearm entity or firearm trade association; specifying the applicability of the prohibition; providing civil remedies for a violation by an individual; providing for enforcement by the Attorney General; providing that an enforcement action by the Attorney General does not prohibit a civil action by an individual; creating civil penalties; providing remedies in an action by the Attorney General; requiring the Attorney General to submit names of financial institutions in violation to the Governor and to request that the state terminate any business relationship with the financial institution; providing a statute of limitations for actions; and providing exceptions to the prohibition.

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

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 777**—A Bill making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of federal moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to the Department of Veterans' Assistance, Department of Veterans' Assistance Fund, fund 8858, fiscal year 2025, organization 0613, by increasing an existing appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 778**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services – Office of the Commissioner, fund 0486, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, and to the Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services – Child Protective Services Case Workers, fund 0493, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, and to the Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services – Social Services Case Workers, fund 0494, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, and to the Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services – Adult Protective Services Case Workers, fund 0495, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, and to the Department of Human Services, Bureau for Social Services – Youth Service Case Workers, fund 0496, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, by increasing existing items of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 779**—A Bill supplementing, amending, and increasing an existing item of appropriation from the State Road Fund to the Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, fund 9007, fiscal year 2025, organization 0802, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 780**—A Bill making a supplementary appropriation of federal funds out of the Treasury from the balance of federal moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to the Department of Human Services – Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, fund 8816, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 781**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, State Excess Lottery Revenue Fund, by decreasing an existing item of appropriation to the Economic Development Authority – Economic Development Project Fund, fund 9065, fiscal year 2025, organization 0944, and increasing an existing item of appropriation to the Department of Human Services, fund 5365, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 782**—A Bill making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to the W.V. Board of Licensed Dietitians – Dietitians Licensure Board Fund, fund 8680, fiscal year 2025, organization 0936, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 783**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, the Department of Administration, Public Defender Services, fund 0226, fiscal year 2025, organization 0221, by increasing existing items of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 784**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Administration, Division of General Services, fund 0230, fiscal year 2025, organization 0211, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, by adding a new item of appropriation.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 785**—A Bill making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to the Department of Homeland Security, Fire Commission – Fire Marshal Fees, fund 6152, fiscal year 2025, organization 0619, by increasing the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 786**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the State Board of Education – State Department of Education, fund 0313, fiscal year 2025, organization 0402, by increasing an existing item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 787**—A Bill making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of federal moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to the Department of Health, Office of the Inspector General, fund 8211, fiscal year 2025, organization 0513, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 788**—A Bill making a supplementary appropriation of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of federal moneys remaining unappropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, to the Department of Human Services, fund 8722, fiscal year 2025, organization 0511, by increasing existing items of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 789**—A Bill supplementing and amending Chapter 11, Acts of the Legislature, Regular Session, 2024, known as the Budget Bill, in Title II, from the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Commerce – Office of the Secretary, fund 0606, fiscal year 2025, organization 0327, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, by adding a new item of appropriation.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senator Maynard:**

**Senate Bill 790**—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-13A-1a, §24-1-1, and §24-1-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the oversight and regulatory authority of the Public Service Commission over public service districts; and providing for structured guidelines, mandatory auditing, continuing education requirements, regular inspections, and funding transparency.

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

**By Senators Smith (Mr. President) and Woelfel [By Request of the Executive]:**

**Senate Bill 791**—A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the Department of Health, Bureau for Public Health – Office of Maternal, Child, and Family Health – West Virginia Birth-to-Three, fund 0426, fiscal year 2025, organization 0506, by increasing an existing item of appropriation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

**By Senator Maynard:**

**Senate Bill 792**—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-12-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring motor vehicle drivers to observe the same safety requirements when approaching a railroad crossing when on-track railroad equipment is present or approaching as is required when a railroad train is present or approaching; providing that violation thereof is a misdemeanor; and providing criminal penalties for violation thereof.

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

**By Senator Maynard:**

**Senate Bill 793**—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §5A-3-52a, relating to creating reporting requirements for the use of aircraft by state agencies.

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

**By Senator Maynard:**

**Senate Bill 794**—A Bill to amend and reenact §17-2A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the powers and duties of the Commissioner of the Division of Highways; and authorizing the commissioner to erect signs on certain roads that are not well-maintained warning that only high clearance 4 x 4 vehicles are permitted on those roads.

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

**By Senator Maynard:**

**Senate Bill 795**—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-14-9a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §17C-1-71, relating to traffic safety; creating a definition for the term "maintenance vehicle"; and listing additional categories of vehicles for which motorists shall slow down and, if possible, move over.

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

Senator Rucker offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution 33**—Designating March 18, 2025, as West Virginia Homeschool Day at the Legislature.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Roberts offered the following resolution:

**Senate Resolution 34**—Expressing support for President Feliz Tshisekedi and the citizens of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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.

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

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

**Senate Concurrent Resolution 19**, US Army ST4 Gregory Kent Stephens 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 20**, Recognizing and commending NCSL on its 50th anniversary.

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

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

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

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

**Senate Resolution 32**, Designating March 17, 2025, as Domestic Violence Awareness Day.

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

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

The Senate proceeded to the eighth order of business.

**Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 102**, Modifying form of certain deeds.

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. 102) 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 449**, Permitting compressed air and rimfire shooting teams 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, 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. 449) 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 526**, Creating Pharmacist Prescribing Authority Act.

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 referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Senate proceeded to the ninth order of business.

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 220**, Authorizing child sexual abuse and sexual violence prevention program and in-service training in child sexual abuse prevention.

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

Senator Martin requested unanimous consent that the bill be referred to the Committee on Rules.

Which consent was not granted, Senator Woelfel objecting.

Senator Martin then moved that the bill be referred to the Committee on Rules.

Following discussion,

The question being on the adoption of Senator Martin's aforestated motion, the same was put and prevailed.

Whereupon, the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 220) was then referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

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

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

By striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

**ARTICLE 36. SAFETY AND VIOLENCE EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS ACT.**

**§18-36-1. Student safety and violence prevention training.**

(a) The Department of Education shall require that all schools serving students grades six through 12 provide to students at least one hour, or one standard class period, of evidence-based youth violence prevention training each school year. The training may be delivered in-person, live-virtual, or digitally.

(1) Training shall begin within two years of the development of the list required in this section.

(2) Training programs which combine the training requirements set forth in this section, may be used to fulfill the training requirements of this section.

(b) The Department of Education shall, within one year of this law taking effect, develop a list of evidence-based trainings and materials, including no-cost programming, if any, to fulfill the requirements of this section. Trainings shall, at a minimum, teach students the following:

(1) How to identify observable warning signs and signals of an individual who may be at risk of harming themselves or others;

(2) The importance of taking threats seriously and seeking help; and

(3) The steps they can take to report dangerous, violent, threatening, harmful, or potentially harmful activity.

(c) The Department of Education shall make the list of evidence-based youth violence prevention trainings, including no-cost programming, if any, publicly available on its website. The Department of Education shall keep the list of available training options updated in a timely manner by reviewing the list, at a minimum, every 36 months.

#### **§18-36-2. Student training on combatting social isolation.**

(a) The Department of Education shall require that all schools serving students grades K-12 provide to students at least one hour, or one standard class period, of evidence-based training on combatting social isolation each school year. The training may be delivered in-person, live-virtual, or digitally.

(1) Training shall begin within two years of the development of the list required in this section.

(b) The Department of Education shall, within one year of this law taking effect, develop a list of evidence-based trainings and materials, including no-cost programming, if any, to fulfill the requirements of this section. Trainings shall, at a minimum, teach students the following:

(1) What social isolation is and how to identify social isolation in others;

(2) The importance of taking social isolation seriously and seeking help for peers; and

(3) How to utilize strategies to combat social isolation in the classroom and community and to establish connections with peers.

(c) The Department of Education shall make the list of evidence-based trainings on combatting social isolation, including no-cost programming, if any, publicly available on its website. The Department of Education shall keep the list of available training options updated in a timely manner by reviewing the list, at a minimum, every 36 months.

**§18-36-3. Student-led violence prevention clubs.**

(a) The Department of Education may require all schools serving students grades K-12, to designate a student-led violence prevention club. Any club designated pursuant to this section shall:

(1) Be open to all members of the student body; and

(2) Have at least one identified adult advisor.

(b) Any student violence prevention club designated pursuant to this section shall, at a minimum, do at least one of the following:

(1) Sustain awareness activities related to suicide prevention, violence prevention, or trainings on combatting social isolation; and

(2) Foster opportunities for student leadership development.

**§18-36-4. State and federal funding.**

To offset any costs associated with the implementation of the requirements of this article, the Department of Education is encouraged to apply for any state or federal funding made available to it for the purposes of increasing school safety.

**§18-36-5. Definitions.**

"Department of Education" means the West Virginia Department of Education.

"Evidence-based" as used in this article means a program or practice that:

(1) Demonstrates a statistically significant effect on relevant outcomes based on:

(A) Strong evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;

(B) Moderate evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or

(C) Promising evidence from not less than one well-designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or

(2) Demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluation that such program or practice, is likely to improve relevant outcomes, and includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of the program or practice.

**§18-36-6. Voluntary application for public charter schools and nonpublic schools.**

The requirements of this article are voluntary for public charter schools and nonpublic schools.

Following discussion,

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

The bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 548), as amended, was then ordered to engrossment and third reading.

**Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 586**, Relating to requirements for filling vacancies in certain elected federal, state, and county offices.

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 686**, Relating to WV commercial feed law.

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 2222**, Relating to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Administration to promulgate legislative rules.

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 Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 37**, Allowing certain Teachers Retirement System members to exchange unused leave for monetary compensation.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 83**, Allowing Foster Care Ombudsman access to child protective records.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 450**, Establishing WV Guardian Program.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 538**, Allowing certain entities to purchase qualifying tax-delinquent properties before they are offered at public auction.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 547**, Creating Charter Schools Startup Fund.

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

**Senate Bill 598**, Permitting judges to refer parents to prosecuting attorney for making certain false allegations in child custody proceedings.

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

**Senate Bill 621**, Authorizing digital court records.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 719**, Relating to age at which minor can consent to certain medical decisions and services.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 731**, Terminating Design Build Board.

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

**Senate Bill 734**, Repealing section creating A. James Manchin Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan.

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

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 736**, Relating to publication of registered lobbyist information.

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

**Senate Bill 738**, Terminating Employee Suggestion Award Board.

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

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

The Senate then proceeded to the twelfth order of business.

Remarks were made by Senator Stuart.

The Senate next proceeded to the thirteenth order of business.

Under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of the Senate, the following senators were removed as co-sponsors of the following bill on March 14, 2025:

**Senate Bill 757**: Senators Rucker and Rose.

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 14, 2025:

**Senate Bill 23:** Senator Hart;

**Senate Bill 37:** Senators Hamilton and Queen;

**Senate Bill 43:** Senators Fuller and Bartlett;

**Senate Bill 450:** Senator Hamilton;

**Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 710:** Senator Roberts;

**Senate Bill 749:** Senator Helton;

**Senate Bill 755:** Senator Woelfel;

**Senate Bill 759:** Senator Rucker;

And,

**Senate Resolution 32:** Senators Woelfel and Rucker.

Pending announcement of meetings of standing committees of the Senate,

On motion of Senator Martin, at 11:43 a.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 11 a.m.

---

## **SENATE CALENDAR**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025  
11:00 AM**

---

### **SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

**Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 11:30 AM**

Consideration of executive nominations

---

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

S. R. 33 - Designating March 18, 2025, as WV Homeschool Day

S. R. 34 - Expressing support for President Feliz Tshisekedi and citizens of Democratic Republic of Congo

### **THIRD READING**

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 586 - Relating to requirements for filling vacancies in certain elected federal, state, and county offices

Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 686 - Relating to WV commercial feed law

Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 2222 - Relating to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Administration to promulgate legislative rules

### **SECOND READING**

Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. B. 37 - Allowing certain Teachers Retirement System members to exchange unused leave for monetary compensation

Com. Sub. for S. B. 83 - Allowing Foster Care Ombudsman access to child protective records

Com. Sub. for S. B. 450 - Establishing WV Guardian Program

Com. Sub. for S. B. 538 - Allowing certain entities to purchase qualifying tax-delinquent properties before they are offered at public auction (original similar to HB3332)

Com. Sub. for S. B. 547 - Creating Charter Schools Startup Fund

S. B. 598 - Permitting judges to refer parents to prosecuting attorney for making certain false allegations in child custody proceedings

S. B. 621 - Authorizing digital court records (original similar to HB3271)



Com. Sub. for S. B. 719 - Relating to age at which minor can consent to certain medical decisions and services

Com. Sub. for S. B. 731 - Terminating Design Build Board

S. B. 734 - Repealing section creating A. James Manchin Rehabilitation Environmental Action Plan

Com. Sub. for S. B. 736 - Relating to publication of registered lobbyist information

S. B. 738 - Terminating Employee Suggestion Award Board

## **ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

### **Regular Session 2025**

---

**Tuesday, March 18, 2025**

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