

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE JOURNAL

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

Charleston, West Virginia, Tuesday, March 18, 2025

The Senate met at 11:15 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by Pastor Josh Rhodes, Chestnut Ridge Church, Morgantown, West Virginia.

The Senate was then led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance by the Honorable Joey Garcia, a senator from the thirteenth district.

Pending the reading of the Journal of Monday, March 17, 2025,

At the request of Senator Chapman, 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.

At the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, the provisions of Rule 54 of the Rules of the Senate, relating to persons entitled to the privileges of the floor, were suspended in order to grant Rollan A. Roberts II, son of the Honorable Rollan A. Roberts, a senator from the ninth district, and Angie Nseliema privileges of the floor for the day.

The Senate 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 passage of

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 487, Removing ineligible voters from active voter rolls.

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 2131—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-45 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to legal standing of the West Virginia Legislature in

court actions related to unauthorized changes to election laws and rules; and defining its right to intervene in such litigation.

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 2143—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18A-3-13, relating to requiring elementary school teachers to receive an endorsement in the science of reading.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

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 Com. Sub. for House Bill 2164—A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2D-3 and §61-7-11a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-5-52, all relating to creating school safety officers; requiring the director of the Division of Protective Services to establish standards for school safety officers and issue a certificate; providing definitions; authorizing local school boards, public charter schools, and private or religious schools to employ school safety officers; providing standards for a school safety officer to carry a firearm on school grounds; requiring a background check; specifying the detention powers of a school safety officer and limitations on detention powers; requiring data sharing with the Division of Protective Services; specifying payment for equipment; requiring insurance for schools employing a school safety officer; clarifying that the prohibitions on carry a firearm in a school zone do not apply to certified school safety officers; providing that all school safety officers are subject to the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act ("LEOSA"); clarifying the liability and responsibility of school safety officers; and providing for annual training in conjunction with the local county sheriffs' department.

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

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 2165—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §17A-3-15a, relating to disabled veterans and veterans who received the Purple Heart may park free at metered parking spaces at any municipality in the state.

Referred to the Committee on Finance.

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 2172—A Bill to amend and reenact §30-20-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Board of Physical Therapy; adding an athletic trainer to the board; and establishing a process to break a tie vote.

Referred 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 2358—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-12-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to postmortem examinations.

Referred 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 2387—A Bill to repeal §20-2-42L of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to repeal of the Class A-1 small arms hunting stamp.

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources.

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 2513—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-1a and §18-5-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adding to topics required to be covered by the county board of education member orientation; requiring that any county board of education member who is unable to attend the initial orientation training for good cause complete a make-up orientation training within 30 days of being sworn in; requiring any appointed member to attend and complete a make-up orientation training within 30 days of being sworn in; increasing annual hours of training required of county board of education members; modifying topics required to be covered by training; allowing the State Board of Education to require a county board of education member to attend additional training under certain conditions; creating an exception to the requirement that a county board of education member satisfy the annual training requirement before January 1; adding certain non-voting ex officio members to the County Board Member Training Standards Review Committee; requiring the State Superintendent of Schools to report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability certain county board of education related information; and setting the county board of education member compensation rate at \$260 per meeting attended unless the board votes to approve a lower rate.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

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 2516—A Bill to repeal §18-1-4, §18-2-16, §18-2-16a, §18-2-39, §18-2A-1, §18-2A-2, §18-2A-3, §18-2A-4, §18-2A-5, §18-2A-6, §18-2A-7, §18-2A-8, §18-5B-1, §18-5B-2, §18-5B-3, §18-5B-4, §18-5B-5, §18-5B-6, §18-5B-7, §18-5B-8, §18-5B-9, §18-5B-10, §18-5B-11, §18-5B-12, §18-5B-13, §18-5B-14, §18-10H-6 and §18-10H-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to repeal of antiquated and inoperative provisions of code.

Referred to the Committee on Education.

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 2635—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-18a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to making classroom sizes equal so that aides can be best utilized and one-on-one time with teachers and students can be maximized without losing the use of an aide.

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2659—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §60-7-8h, relating to adding a special permit for a non-profit entity to be a qualified permit holder in a private outdoor designated area.

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 2702—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-10-3, §3-10-4, §3-10-5, §3-10-6, §3-10-7, and §3-10-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend and reenact §50-1-6 of said Code; all relating to requirements for filling vacancies in certain elected federal, state, and county offices; prohibiting the appointment of an individual to fill a vacant office if that person has not been a member of his or her registered political party for at least one year prior to the occurrence of the vacancy; authorizing the Governor to appoint an acting official to perform the duties of a constitutional officer until the office is filled by appointment; relating to filling vacancies in the office of magistrate; providing that vacancies in the office of magistrate with an unexpired term of more than two years are filled by subsequent nonpartisan judicial election held concurrently with the primary or general election, whichever occurs first; excluding vacancies in the office of magistrate from certain other provisions relating to process for filling vacancies; authorizing prospective vacancy due to upcoming resignation or retirement of a magistrate to be filled by circuit judge or chief circuit judge; and requiring generally that partisan office appointments be made from the political party with which the individual vacating the office was affiliated at the time of the previous election for that office.

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 2742—A Bill to amend and reenact §24-2-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to creating limited waiver from certificate of public convenience and necessity requirement for certain water or sewer services projects.

Referred 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. Com. Sub. for House Bill 3017—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §3-4A-13a, relating to electronic voting systems; requiring county commission inspections and secretary of state audits of ballot tabulation equipment to ensure compliance with state law prohibition against any connectivity to the internet; requiring reports of the inspections and audits; and providing for monitoring of future threats.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

Senator Barrett, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration

Senate Bill 75, Changing distribution of income from excess lottery fund.

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

Senate Bill 615, Eliminating accelerated tax payment requirements.

And,

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 710, Relating to the practice of teledentistry.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Barrett,
Chair.

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

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

Senate Bill 274, Prohibiting parking fee for accessible parking space bearing international symbol of access.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 274 (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-13-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prohibiting public entities from requiring certain persons with a mobility impairment who are unable to walk from having to pay for accessible parking at parking meters that are inaccessible; defining terms; specifying parameters of prohibition and entitlement for payment exemption; making penalty of false swearing applicable for false certification of inability to access parking meter without unreasonable effort; prohibiting citations; and providing for prima facie evidence.

Senate Bill 298, Relating to roadable aircraft on WV highways.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 298 (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-1-1, §17A-3-15, §17A-10-1, §17A-10-3, §17B-1-1, §17B-2-7b, and §17C-15-44 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding five new sections, designated §11-5-16, §17A-3-14j, §17C-1-71, §17C-14-16, and §17C-16-10, relating to roadable aircraft; specifying taxation of roadable aircraft, defining terms; requiring special registration plates for roadable aircraft and establishing annual fee per plate; regulating display of registration plates; classifying roadable aircraft for purpose of registration and establishing registration fee; correcting citation cross references; exempting roadable aircraft operators from motorcycle examination, licensing, and endorsement requirements; clarifying that a roadable aircraft is considered a motor vehicle if it is operated on a highway for purposes of traffic regulations and laws of the road; prohibiting roadable aircraft from taking off from or landing on any highway except if landing due to an emergency; exempting persons with a valid driver's license who are operating or riding in a fully enclosed roadable aircraft from the motorcycle helmet requirement; exempting roadable aircraft from the vehicle inspection requirement under certain circumstances; imposing duties on the Division of Motor Vehicles related to roadable aircraft and authorizing collection of fees; and authorizing rulemaking by the Division of Motor Vehicles related to roadable aircraft.

And,

Senate Bill 681, Providing internet service providers be considered telecommunications utility by PSC.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 681 (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §24-2-1s, relating to providing the Public Service Commission jurisdiction over internet service providers; stating legislative findings; defining term; specifying duties and authority of commission; authorizing fines; and allowing rulemaking.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,
Chair.

The bills (Com. Sub. for S. B. 274, 298, and 681), under the original double committee references, were then referred to the Committee on Finance.

Senator Barrett, from the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 589, Providing pay increases to members of judiciary.

And reports the same back without recommendation as to passage; but with the recommendation that it first be referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Respectfully submitted,

Jason Barrett,
Chair.

At the request of Senator Barrett, unanimous consent being granted, the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 589) contained in the foregoing report from the Committee on Finance was then referred to the Committee on Pensions.

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 601, Relating to fees and charges for municipality-provided fire services.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 601 (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-17-12 and §8-13-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to fees and charges for municipality-provided fire services; requiring county commission approval before such fees are imposed on individuals or businesses located outside the municipality; and providing a process for individuals or businesses located outside the municipality to challenge fees imposed for municipality-provided fire services.

Senate Bill 683, Relating to land sales by Auditor.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 683 (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—A Bill to amend and reenact §11A-2-14, §11A-3-2, §11A-3-44, §11A-3-45, §11A-3-46, §11A-3-55, and §11A-3-65 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the sale of certain properties subject to delinquent tax liens; modifying the dates designated for certain actions required in the said sale process; requiring the sheriff's office to deliver certified notices of impending sale by personal service to certain owners of record, residents, or occupants prior to selling delinquent property; allowing the State Auditor to engage a private auctioneer for selling certain tax delinquent properties; requiring highest bidder to pay 10 percent buyer's fee to private auctioneer under certain circumstances; requiring highest bidder to pay \$50 of total bid amount to State Auditor and remainder of bid amount to county sheriff; modifying the process for providing notice to redeem to certain delinquent taxpayers; and modifying the distribution of surplus proceeds obtained from certain tax delinquent property sales.

And,

Senate Bill 746, Allowing State Board of Education to delegate its Medicaid provider status to public charter schools.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 746 (originating in the Committee on Government Organization)—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-5b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to allowing the State Board of Education to delegate its Medicaid provider status to public charter schools; updating obsolete references to regional education service agencies; requiring that the State Board of Education include public charter school information in its annual Medicaid-related report to the Legislature; and requiring the Health Services Advisory Committee to advise the Secretary of the Department of Human Services and the State Superintendent of Schools on ways to improve the ability of public charter schools to provide Medicaid-eligible children with all the school-based Medicaid services for which they are eligible and to ensure that the public charter schools bill for and receive all the Medicaid reimbursement to which they are entitled.

With the recommendation that the three committee substitutes do pass.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Puertas Rucker,
Chair.

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

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

Senate Bill 678, Establishing Coal Based Affordable Electricity and Economic Growth Act.

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

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

And,

Senate Bill 708, Providing state mine inspectors with raise.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 708 (originating in the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining)—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §22A-1-10a, relating to providing a \$4,000 salary increase to certain state inspectors.

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,

Christopher A. Rose,
Chair.

The bills (Com. Sub. for S. B. 678 and 708), under the original double committee references, were then referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

Senate Bill 733, Relating to membership composition of Legislative Oversight Commission on Department of Transportation Accountability.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,
Chair.

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

Your Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure has had under consideration

Senate Concurrent Resolution 3, US Army Warrant Officer Joseph Rose III Memorial Bridge.

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

Com. Sub. for Senate Concurrent Resolution 3 (originating in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure)—Requesting the Division of Highways name bridge numbers 17.079/00-111.91 NB (17A246) and 17.079/00-111.91 SB (17A247), locally known as Brown's Creek Bridge Northbound and Southbound, carrying Interstate 79 over Brown's Creek in Harrison County, the "U.S. Army Warrant Officer Joseph Rose III Memorial Bridge".

With the recommendation that the committee substitute be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark R. Maynard,
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 Concurrent Resolution 15, Opposing China's use of UN Resolution 2758 against Taiwan.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Puertas Rucker,
Chair.

At the request of Senator Rucker, unanimous consent being granted, the resolution (S. C. R. 15) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on Government Organization 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.

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

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 2129, Creating the Parents Bill of Rights.

And has amended same.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Stuart,
Chair.

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

Your Committee on the Workforce has had under consideration

Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for House Bill 2441, To make those who fail drug test ineligible for unemployment.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rollan A. Roberts,
Chair.

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

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

Eng. House Bill 2942, Administration of the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection Design-Build Pilot Program.

And has amended same.

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher A. Rose,
Chair.

The bill, under the original double committee reference, was then referred to the Committee on Finance, with amendments from the Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining pending.

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

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

Eng. House Bill 2943, Administration of the West Virginia Hazardous Waste Management Act.

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,

Christopher A. Rose,
Chair.

The bill, 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 and joint resolution were introduced, read by their titles, and referred to the appropriate committees:

By Senators Bartlett, Azinger, Charnock, Roberts, and Rucker:

Senate Bill 796—A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-34 and §17B-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the identification of voters and noncitizen residents; and modifying the types of valid identifying documents for voting purposes by requiring a photograph on each form of voter identification, notwithstanding existing exemptions.

Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Senator Hart:

Senate Bill 797—A Bill to amend and reenact §22-31-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding four new sections, designated §22-31-3, §22-31-4, §22-31-5, and §22-31-6, relating to public water systems and improving and protecting supply therefrom; planning, reporting, and communications of such systems, public service districts, and the Public Service Commission; providing for definitions; requiring plans and telemetry data for tank levels in public water systems; requiring public water systems issue quarterly reports and

submit to independent review in certain circumstances; requiring public service districts to assign a communications officer; and requiring the Public Service Commission to present on the shortage of water plant workers and managers.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

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

Senate Bill 798—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §5F-2-9; relating to exempting new hires and promoting employees within the Bureau of Senior Services, Department of Administration, Department of Environmental Protection, Department of Revenue, and Department of Veterans Affairs from the classified civil service system and the state grievance procedures beginning on July 1, 2025.

Referred to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Smith (Mr. President):

Senate Bill 799—A Bill to amend and reenact §11A-3-45 and §11A-3-65 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting the State Auditor to hire a private auctioneer to conduct annual auction of land sales.

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

By Senator Azinger:

Senate Bill 800—A Bill to amend and reenact §33-27-2, §33-27-4, §33-27-5, §33-27-6a, §33-27-7, and §33-27-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to insurance holding company systems; defining terms; requiring an insurance company that is a member of an insurance holding company system to annually file a group capital calculation with the lead state insurance commissioner of the insurance holding company system and providing exemptions thereto; requiring the filing with the lead state insurance commissioner of the results from a liquidity stress test by an insurance company that is a member of an insurance holding company system and is scoped into the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' liquidity stress test framework; requiring that a liquidity stress test comply with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners' liquidity stress test framework's instructions and reporting templates; permitting the insurance commissioner to require an insurance company that is in a hazardous financial condition or a condition that would be grounds for supervision, conservation, or a delinquency proceeding to secure and maintain either a deposit to be held by the commissioner or a bond at the insurer's discretion for the protection of the insurer while in an insurance holding company system; providing that all records and data of an insurance company being held by an affiliate of the insurer is to remain the property of the insurer and subject to the insurer's control; providing that an affiliate of a domestic insurance company is subject to the insurance commissioner's jurisdiction and authority with respect to any supervision, seizure, conservatorship, or receivership proceedings of the insurer; making an insurance company that is a member of an insurance holding company system liable to the insurance commissioner for the reasonable expenses incurred by the commissioner for his or her participation in a supervisory college; requiring the insurance commissioner to keep information related to a group capital calculation and liquidity stress test confidential; and prohibiting the storing of certain insurance holding company system information shared by the insurance commissioner with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

Referred to the Committee on Banking and Insurance.

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 801—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §20-3C-1, §20-3C-2, §20-3C-3, and §20-3C-4, relating to creating the West Virginia Public Waterway Act; establishing purpose and legislative findings; defining terms; requiring public access at bridge crossings; and requiring implementation by the Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Division of Natural Resources.

Referred to the Committee on Natural Resources; and then to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Senator Woodrum:

Senate Bill 802—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §3-3-11a, relating to establishing a system for tracking the receipt and status of absent voter ballots; specifying required information to be recorded and reported; providing for records to be updated when defects are cured by the voter; allowing voters to receive notices by their method of choice; and declaring voter email addresses and telephone numbers to be confidential and not subject to public disclosure.

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

By Senator Charnock:

Senate Joint Resolution 15—Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the State of West Virginia amending section 1b, article X thereof, relating to exempting honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces of the United States from ad valorem property taxation on the full amount of assessed value of a primary residence and all personal property; numbering and designating the proposed amendment; and providing a summarized statement of the purpose of such proposed amendment.

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

Senator Rucker offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 35—Recognizing the West Virginia Mothers and Babies Support Program for their outstanding achievements.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

Senator Deeds offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution 36—Recognizing the 100th anniversary of the State Fair of West Virginia.

Which, under the rules, lies over one day.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

Senate Resolution 33, Designating March 18, 2025, as WV Homeschool Day.

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

At the request of Senator Rucker, 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 34, Expressing support for President Feliz Tshisekedi and citizens of Democratic Republic of Congo.

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

At the request of Senator Roberts, 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, and on this question, Senator Roberts demanded the yeas and nays.

The roll being taken, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Thorne, Weld, Willis, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Stuart—1.

So, a majority of those present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the resolution (S. R. 34) adopted.

Thereafter, at the request of Senator Martin, and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senators Woodrum, Roberts, and Willis regarding the adoption of Senate Resolution 34 were ordered printed in the Appendix to the Journal.

On motion of Senator Martin, at 11:52 a.m., the Senate recessed to present Senate Resolution 34.

The Senate reconvened at 11:57 a.m. and proceeded to the eighth order of business.

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

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: Barrett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Rucker, Stuart, Takubo, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Smith (Mr. President)—26.

The nays were: Azinger, Bartlett, Hart, Maynard, Roberts, Rose, Thorne, and Willis—8.

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. 548) passed.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 548—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 training on combatting social isolation 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 training to combat social isolation; 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.

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. Com. Sub. for S. B. 548) takes effect from passage.

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

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

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 586 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Bartlett, Boley, Chapman, Charnock, Clements, Deeds, Fuller, Garcia, Grady, Hamilton, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Martin, Maynard, Morris, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rose, Rucker, 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 Com. Sub. for S. B. 586) 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 686, Relating to WV commercial feed law.

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. 686) 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 House Bill 2222, Relating to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Administration to promulgate legislative rules.

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 H. B. 2222) 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. Com. Sub. for H. B. 2222) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate and request concurrence in the changed effective date.

The Senate proceeded to the ninth 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 second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading.

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

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 450, Establishing WV Guardian Program.

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

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

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

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 547, Creating Charter Schools Startup Fund.

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

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

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

Senate Bill 621, Authorizing digital court records.

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 719, Relating to age at which minor can consent to certain medical decisions and services.

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 731, Terminating Design Build Board.

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.

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

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

At the request of Senator Martin, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar.

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

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.

Senate Bill 738, Terminating Employee Suggestion Award Board.

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 eleventh order of business and the introduction of guests.

The Senate then proceeded to the twelfth order of business.

Remarks were made by Senators Rucker and Woelfel.

At the request of Senator Rucker, unanimous consent being granted, the Senate then stood in observance of a moment of silence in recognition of the passing of Donald "Donnie" Lee Dunn, Jr., a Jefferson County firefighter and emergency services agent.

The Senate proceeded to the thirteenth order of business.

The following communication was reported by the Clerk:



HOUSE OF DELEGATES
WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

BUILDING 1, ROOM M-212
1900 KANAWHA BLVD., EAST
CHARLESTON, WV 25305-0470
PHONE (304) 340-3200

March 17, 2025

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

Dear Governor Morrissey,

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

Com. Sub. for H. B. 2053, Relating to including the United States Space Force in the definition armed forces.

This bill is presented to you on this day, March 17, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey Pack".

Jeffrey Pack
Clerk of the House of Delegates

cc: The Honorable Lee Cassis
Clerk of the Senate

Under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of the Senate, the following senator was removed as a co-sponsor of the following bill on March 17, 2025:

Senate Bill 600: Senator Rucker.

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 17, 2025:

Senate Bill 75: Senators Thorne and Willis;

Senate Bill 191: Senators Willis and Hamilton;

Senate Bill 261: Senator Rucker;

Senate Bill 605: Senator Willis;

Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 610: Senator Thorne;

Senate Bill 654: Senator Deeds;

Senate Bill 678: Senator Azinger;

Senate Bill 681: Senator Rucker;

Senate Bill 708: Senator Hamilton;

Senate Bill 765: Senators Thorne and Weld;

Senate Concurrent Resolution 15: Senator Thorne;

And,

Senate Resolution 33: Senators Thorne, Rose, and Taylor.

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

On motion of Senator Martin, at 12:17 p.m., the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 19, 2025, at 11 a.m.

SENATE CALENDAR

**Wednesday, March 19, 2025
11:00 AM**

SPECIAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Saturday, April 12, 2025 – 11:30 AM

Consideration of executive nominations

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Com. Sub. for S. C. R. 3 - US Army Warrant Officer Joseph Rose III Memorial Bridge

S. R. 35 - Recognizing WV Mothers and Babies Support Program for its outstanding achievements

S. R. 36 - Recognizing 100th anniversary of WV State Fair

THIRD READING

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

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

Eng. 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)

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

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

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

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

SECOND READING

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

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

FIRST READING

S. B. 75 - Changing distribution of income from excess lottery fund

Com. Sub. for S. B. 76 - Increasing WV Natural Resources Police Officer Retirement System accrued benefit for certain members

Com. Sub. for S. B. 601 - Relating to fees and charges for municipality-provided fire services

S. B. 615 - Eliminating accelerated tax payment requirements (original similar to HB2012)

Com. Sub. for S. B. 683 - Relating to land sales by Auditor

Com. Sub. for S. B. 710 - Relating to the practice of teledentistry (original similar to HB3196)

S. B. 733 - Relating to membership composition of Legislative Oversight Commission on Department of Transportation Accountability

Com. Sub. for S. B. 746 - Allowing State Board of Education to delegate its Medicaid provider status to public charter schools

Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 2129 - Creating the Parents Bill of Rights. - (Com. amend. pending)

Eng. Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for H. B. 2441 - To make those who fail drug test ineligible for unemployment

ANNOUNCED SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Regular Session 2025

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

9:30 a.m.	Substance Use Disorder & Mental Health	(Room 451M)
1 p.m.	Natural Resources	(Room 208W)