

Interim Highlights

Agriculture & Agri-business

During their July meeting, committee members heard from a representative of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding West Virginia's albino deer population. Albino deer suffer from a genetic abnormality that results in the total absence of body pigment. Rare in number, these animals lack color in skin, hair and tissue. The skin of these animals appears pink and their hair white.

There is very little survival advantage associated with albinism in deer. The DNR supports the position of most wildlife professionals, who consider albino deer to be genetically defective and oppose efforts to protect these inferior animals from hunters.

Education Subcommittee A - Higher Education

To review a lawsuit filed by West Virginia University (WVU) against the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC), lawmakers heard from the HEPC Vice Chancellor for Administration. A legislative rule was established by HEPC in 2001 that requires anyone hired by a state institution of higher education after July 1, 2005 must be paid at the zero step - the entry-level salary on the pay schedule for classified employees. Additionally, all current employees are to be brought to this level.

Currently, WVU and its affiliate schools are the only institutions that did not bring classified employees up to this pay level by the deadline, nor are they hiring new classified employees at the zero step. West Virginia University has asserted that language in the Code states that unless money is appropriated, the schools are not required to observe this rule; therefore, WVU has taken HEPC to court to determine whether or not WVU is required to comply with the new pay standards.

The chair of the Advisory Council of Classified Employees then spoke to the committee concerning the lawsuit. According to the speaker, there are 5,047 classified employees in the higher education system and of this number, 5,009 are below the appropriate step on the pay schedule. A total of 1,505 classified employees are below the zero step and are being paid based on market-level entry rates.

The chair also said that all professionals hired after July 1, 2005 will be hired in accordance with the new rule. Many new hires will enter the workforce making more on their first day than classified employees in the same pay grade who have been working at the same institution for 10 or more years.

Education Subcommittee B - Public Education

School Nurses were the topic of discussion for this subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on Education.

Members were told that the role of the school nurse has changed drastically over the last 15 years. Nowadays the nurses use holistic means to treat patients as well as acute treatments, emergency services and working with families to educate them on healthy lifestyles.

A representative from the West Virginia Association of School Nurses stated the number of children with serious health issues has increased in the last 20 years as mental health issues have come to the forefront.

In regard to school absences, the representative said that Asthma is the leading cause and there are around 17,000 West Virginia school children living with asthma. Also, she stated that having a full time nurse on hand at a school reduces these types of absences by 50 percent. She also stated that nurses are cost effective and do save lives but a more reasonable student to nurse ratio is needed in West Virginian schools.

Another representative also addressed the committee and stated that the committee should examine the statutory requirements on school nurse ratios compared with the actual school nurse employment numbers and address the problem of meeting these ratios with the current shortages in nursing.

She stated that the current certification process in West Virginia for school nurses is far more restrictive than most other states and there are current cases where a school nurse may be living in West Virginia but working in a neighboring state because of the stringent certification process required by law.

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website: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us>

Alternative Education Subcommittee B - Public Education

A presenter from the Department of Education's Division of Instructional and Student Services attended the meeting to respond to questions regarding the discrepancy between the number of students excluded from the classroom for disciplinary reasons and the number of students presently participating in alternative education programs.

A report was provided listing schools in each county, numbers of students who, in the school year 2003-2004, were either on an in-school suspension, an out-of-school suspension, who were expelled from a classroom, who were expelled for a semester, who were expelled from school, and those special education pupils who were placed in an interim alternative setting. The percentage of the collective numbers varied for counties from 2 to 20 percent.

According to the presenter, the State Student Code of Conduct serves as policy for suspension. Along with the Safe and Drugfree Schools Program, which is developed on the state level, each school may administer its own changes. Each county must do a needs assessment program and if they are not making progress, then a "tool kit" is provided so the school may turn itself around. However, the speaker also noted that problems won't change overnight and social issues are beginning to take up the time of teachers and administrators.

Representatives from both of the state's educational unions note that substitute teachers may be needed to oversee in-school suspensions and that a standardized plan should be developed. While the Safe Schools Act of 1995 proved somewhat effective, the \$2 million allocated by the state for the Act to be effective is not enough to cover the entire state. And, some principals, according to the teacher representatives, continue to under-report occurrences in schools

Education Subcommittee C - School Aid Formula

The Director of the State Department of Education's Office of School Finance appeared before Subcommittee C to provide information about West Virginia's Public School Support Program (PSSP). This program is a plan of financial support for the public schools that specifies by statute the responsibilities of both the state and the 55 county school districts. The state is responsible for the total of allowances calculated under a Basic 7-Step Program.

The Basic 7 Step Program includes financial support for

professional educators, service personnel, fixed charges, transportation, administrative costs, other current expenses, substitute employees, faculty senates, and improvement of instructional programs. The sum equates to the Total Basic Foundation Allowance less the local share.

Allowances for professional educators, fixed charges, administrative costs and other current expenses, substitute employees and faculty senates are determined by enrollment. Allowances for transportation are determined by actual expenditures. Allowances for improvement of instructional programs are appropriated by the Legislature but distribution is based on enrollment. These figures can be obtained through Education Committee legislative staff.

Questions from lawmakers at the close of the presentation included concern over fast-growth counties and the transportation data provided. In addition, the Director of the Office of Finance noted the computations provided may not prove true should there be an increase in teachers' salaries.

The subcommittee chairman, concerned with the overall scope of the legislative study of the School Aid Formula, inquired as to the progress of the combined efforts of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Marshall University and the Bureau of Business and Economics at West Virginia University in reviewing the Formula as requested by the legislative subcommittee. It is expected that an overview and prospective of the Formula will be provided at the August Interim meeting in Morgantown.

Equal Pay Commission

A special assistant to the Governor addressed the Equal Pay Commission during the July Interim meeting and stated that a panel is studying pay scales across the public sector.

To help make an assessment, the Governor has asked each agency to provide help from workers rooted in financial and statistical expertise.

The assistant said the group has been compiling data over the past two months, and the Division of Personnel has been examining the numbers even longer, seeing how West Virginia stacks up with other states in a review of figures kept by Southeastern States. The assistant said he hopes to have some information to share with the commission during the August Interims, set for Morgantown.

Finance Subcommittee A

In compliance with their charge to study the concept of including clinic-based healthcare as a prepaid limited health service, members of the committee began reviewing the available options during the July meeting. Lawmakers first heard from the Medical Director of a Wheeling healthcare clinic, which provides services that embrace a new idea in healthcare.

The clinic provides specific and unlimited care to individuals who pay a flat, monthly fee. Recently, the question regarding whether or not this type of service is considered insurance has arisen. According to the physician, his patients are informed that they are not purchasing health insurance. He also said his patients do not encounter many hurdles, such as prior-authorizations and co-pays, faced by insurance holders.

He said the types of health services his clinic provides are limited to primary and urgent care and it offers package laboratory tests and X-rays. The healthcare provided is meant to be affordable for under-insured or uninsured individuals, preventive in nature and keep patients out of the emergency room.

The Medical Director of the Clay Primary Care Systems also spoke to the committee regarding implementing this type of service. She said that on the Community Health Network level, the approach would be different from a private practice like the one in Wheeling; however, she supports the concept and believes that the answers to many of West Virginia's health problems lie with preventive care.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Community Health Network of West Virginia also addressed the committee regarding the number of uninsured West Virginians. He said on any given day, 240,000, or one in five, non-elderly adults are uninsured. Sixty-one percent of these adults have jobs, leaving 133,000 working West Virginians without health insurance. While the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) or Medicaid covers many children, 32,000 remain uninsured on any given day.

Finance Subcommittee B

Briefly, this subcommittee heard a report from a representative of the Tax Commission regarding the Tax Amnesty Program. Senate Bill 148, which created the Tax Amnesty Program of 2004, has improved compliance within state tax

laws and has resulted in increased collections of taxes due into the state coffers. Currently, the program has collected more than \$15 million in late payments against a cost of \$500,000. The program has exceeded the projected total payments of \$10 million and more than 2,000 taxpayers have taken part in this program.

Next, the subcommittee heard a report outlining the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement. This is a multi-state agreement providing for a simplification of the nation's varying sales and use tax laws. Representatives of 43 states and members of the business community have been working to develop measures to design, test and implement a system that simplifies sales and use tax collection and administration by both retailers and state and local governments.

In April 2005, West Virginia submitted its petition to become a member of the agreement and to be represented on its Governing Board. The petition was reviewed and was approved for full membership status. The new Governing Board will meet in Washington D.C. in October to adopt bylaws and elect officers. The representative stated that considerable work needs to be completed but he was pleased that the effort has progressed to this point. West Virginia has been involved in the process since July 2000 and now must complete developing and implementing the technology piece of the Agreement.

The representative further stated his willingness to come back before the committee and update them at a later date.

Finance Subcommittee C

Picking up their review of actions that can be taken to ensure the competitiveness of West Virginia's coal industry, members of the committee heard from a geologist regarding what currently is known about the status of the state's coal reserves. According to the speaker, while the industry remains strong, there are many problems regarding its future and he voiced his concerns about West Virginia's preparedness in continuing support for the coal industry.

Among the concerns, he noted that the state does not know its exact amount of coal reserves, partly because of insufficient funds and partly because of inadequate staffing of the West Virginia Geological Survey. And with decreased staff and increased emphasis on water and environmental issues, the United States Geological Survey now relies heavily on the states; however, the Kentucky Geological Survey is the only one in the Appalachian region that is adequately staffed and funded.

According to the speaker, the often-used statement that West Virginia has nearly 53 billion tons of recoverable coal reserves, enough for more than 350 years of production at current levels, can no longer be viewed as completely accurate because the state has not conducted a comprehensive survey of coal reserves since 1931.

Additionally, he spoke about the increasing shortage of coal manpower as high-tech industries are absorbing the talent and he touched on the inconvenient permitting process. He said it is much more difficult to get permits in West Virginia than in other states. For example, the time frame for SMA (Surface Mining Application) approval in Ohio is 6 months, while it is 9-12 months in West Virginia.

The speaker also addressed the successes of the industry. West Virginia boasts five of the top six coal companies in the country. He said 49.29 percent of Massey Energy's production comes from West Virginia and 42.69 percent of Consol Energy's production comes from this state. He noted that while West Virginians can be proud of the successes of the industry, they also can be concerned about its future.

He recommended taking advantage of federal funds that are available for clean coal technology initiatives, as well as streamlining the permitting process and investing in new plant facilities, equipment and infrastructure development. He said West Virginia has the coal reserves that continually meet the critical needs of the country and recommended the Legislature consider legislation that would encourage coal companies to invest more and increase their presence in the state.

During the September meeting, the committee will likely hear from the West Virginia Geological Survey regarding its funding and staffing needs.

Forest Management Review Commission

A representative from the West Virginia Division of Forestry spoke with members of the Forest Management Review Commission during the July Interim Session, detailing the effects of the 2003 ice storm, which blanketed the central western region of the state, on forest resources.

According to the representative, although no monetary value can be placed on the damage of this storm, statistics show a decrease in overall growing-stock volume of forest resources, especially within the softwood species, which lost nearly a third of their overall volume. In addition, the total volume of

forest resources as measured per acre decreased by an average of 3.4 percent. On average, in the 300,000 plus acre storm footprint, there was a loss of 10 trees per acre. In addition, the annual net change in cubic feet per acre of forest resources was about 25 cubic feet per acre below what would be expected if the storm had not occurred, according to the representative.

In addition to the loss of volume of forest resources, the representative also noted an increase in the numbers of trees with broken tops as a result of the ice storm. The percentage of trees with broken tops before the storm occurred was around three percent. After the storm, that percentage grew to just over 16 percent.

The representative stated that some of the heavier damaged forest resources could be recovered and sold for profit. However, with the damage happening over so many acres, the influx of this additional wood decreased the value of the wood product. Also, the representative stated that it would take around 60-80 years to reclaim and restore the trees lost to this storm.

Utilizing the knowledge of the representative from the Division of Forestry, members of the committee asked questions relating to particular forest management concerns, including pest control issues and the Gypsy Moth populations in the state, infectious diseases hindering the growth of certain trees and the decrease in price for certain dark-colored timber.

According to the representative, the Gypsy Moth population in West Virginia has been limited and there are no plans to spray to further control their existence. The representative also stated that the Poplar tree population in the state has been infected with a dangerous disease and there may be no way to control its effect. An injection has been created to help limit the disease but the Poplar tree is expected to eventually die out. And with regard to the decrease in price for Red Oak timber, it was stated that many homeowners are electing to use lighter colored woods for their homes, thus lowering the value of the Red Oak tree.

In their final action of the meeting, members of the committee approved the chairs to establish a letter requesting Governor Joe Manchin to consider legislation that would lower the state's severance tax to a reasonable level. If a special session is called by the Governor prior to the start of the 2006 Regular Session, members of the committee request legislation be placed on the call in order to expeditiously address this issue.

Government Organization Subcommittee A

During the 2005 Regular Session, the Legislature considered the Consolidated Local Government Act (Senate Bill 159), which would have established a process for the consolidation of the governmental and corporate functions of cities, counties and municipalities. Since the bill did not pass, this committee is taking a further look at the legislation and various options for the possible formation of a metro government. During the July meeting, committee counsel reviewed the legislation.

As outlined in the legislative findings of the bill, consolidating local governments would address changing demographics, streamline services and promote fiscal viability and efficiency. Consolidated local governments would have the same powers currently held by municipalities and counties and the measure would not affect public schools, libraries or public service districts.

The committee will continue reviewing metro government possibilities throughout the year.

Government Organization Subcommittee B

Briefly, this subcommittee of the Joint Standing Committee on Government Organization met and discussed House Concurrent Resolution 78, which requests a study regarding the awarding of state contracts, loans, grants and industrial revenue bonds to companies outsourcing certain jobs.

The Chair of Marketing at West Virginia Marketing presented a Power Point presentation titled Outsourcing: Its role in the new millennium. The presentation included definitions for outsourcing and off-shoring. Outsourcing is the shifting of business processes from inside the company to an outside firm such as subcontractors. Off-shoring is when a foreign division or subsidiary of the parent company performs business processes. An example of this can be seen with the Toyota plant in Buffalo, WV.

The presentation also included a basic business model that the mission is to provide value to key constituents and make a profit, which is a barometer of success and necessary for a business to survive. The profits are essentially the revenue minus the costs associated with the operation of the company. He concluded his presentation by saying that the majority of outsourcing today still occurs within country boundaries, especially in North America, and that it has been happening in and around the United States for several decades.

Government Organization Subcommittee C

With the consideration of House Concurrent 51, which requests a study of the need to provide low-cost spay and neuter programs across the state, as part of Government Organization Subcommittee C's charge, members heard a presentation from Help for Animals, Inc.. This is a non-profit corporation based in Barboursville, West Virginia that operates a mobile spay/neuter clinic.

According to the representative, the mobile facility in which they operate is a fully equipped, state-of-the-art surgery unit built specifically to spay and neuter animals. The unit was approved by the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine with the primary purpose of providing reduced costs for these surgeries to West Virginia shelters, rescue groups and individuals who do not have low-cost surgery available.

The representative said there is high demand for their mobile clinic in counties reaching well beyond their primary location. However, the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine has imposed a 50-mile restriction on the mobile unit from its home base in Barboursville, citing the potential lack of post-surgery veterinarian care provided by mobile spay/neuter clinics. The representative added that surrounding states do not have such limitations and the mobile clinic has the ability to travel anywhere in the states of Ohio and Kentucky, yet are unable to offer the same low cost services to all West Virginia residents.

Since beginning its operations in 1997, Help for Animals, Inc. has performed more than 37,000 surgeries. Of the surgeries conducted, only one-tenth of one percent of these animals have had complications and needed follow-up medical attention, according to the representative. The organization has a 24-hour answering service, as well as around the clock veterinarian contact to assist those cases where complications may arise from surgery. Any animal that needs to see a veterinarian can be taken to their nearest emergency center or nearest veterinarian, with all costs paid for by Help for Animals, Inc., if it is determined the problem was caused by the surgery.

The representative requested members of the committee to review the 50-mile radius restriction provided by West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine policy. With approximately \$3 million in West Virginia taxpayer dollars being spent euthanizing unwanted animals, the representative stated that offering low cost spay and neuter services through its mobile clinic will reduce state spending and reduce the number of unwanted animals.

Representatives from the West Virginia Board of Veterinary Medicine addressed the committee and stated their position regarding to the policy that sets a 50-mile radius for mobile spay/neuter clinics. The representative noted that the policy was established to minimize the effects of complications that may arise in post-surgery. Also, the representative stated that the Board was reluctant to change this policy since the organization has been found to provide services beyond 50 miles from their home base.

Members of the committee agreed that legislative action is not necessary to address this issue; however they requested the representative from the Board of Veterinary Medicine to discuss the 50-mile radius policy with its members to see if this can be changed. Members of the committee also invited the Board of Veterinary Medicine to attend the September Interim meeting to further discuss this issue.

Internship Committee

In its monthly meeting, members of the Legislative Internship Committee, whose charge is to oversee five legislative internship programs consisting of 71 students from the state's universities and colleges, met briefly to conduct administrative responsibilities.

In addition, it approved legislative staff to investigate housing opportunities for legislative interns who assist lawmakers during the 60-day Regular Session.

Also, staff informed the Committee that intern coordinators from Washington State will be facilitating an Intern Program Roundtable at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Annual Meeting in Seattle on August 17, 2005. West Virginia lawmakers who are interested in the roundtable and break out sessions afterward are encouraged to attend.

Joint Commission on Economic Development

With more than 500 miles of recreational trails through the Appalachian Mountains of Southern West Virginia, Hatfield-McCoy Trails have become major tourist attractions for many recreational vehicle enthusiasts, according to a representative from the Hatfield-McCoy Regional Recreational Authority.

The representative stated that Hatfield-McCoy Trails have been highly successful in attracting in-state and out-of-state riders, especially All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV) users, and have

created a significant economic impact for participating counties. The representative said 80 percent of the trails' riders are from outside of West Virginia, with visitors from 49 states and nine countries. Additionally, the popularity of the trail program continues to increase as more trails are developed. From 2000 to 2001, approximately 3,000 permits were sold to trail riders; while from 2003 to 2004, more than 21,000 permits were sold. Statistics were also provided that show 70 percent of those purchasing permits are using the trails for three days or more, positively impacting local business, especially lodging and food enterprises. The representative noted that many "mom and pop" stores are promoting their businesses to trail riders by posting signs welcoming ATV users.

Understanding the economic impact of this industry, several municipalities along the Hatfield-McCoy Trails have agreed to act as municipality connections, which allow downtown areas to be incorporated into a trail. This will allow a rider access to lodging, food and other tourist operations without having to exit and enter the trail system. Gilbert, Matewan, Williamson and Pineville have agreed to act as municipality connections, with Delbartan, Mullens, Logan and Kermit soon to be added. Each municipality that participates as a connection must impose a city ordinance detailing safety standards established by the Hatfield-McCoy Trails. The representative stated that the safety standards for riders on these trails meet state and federal laws and includes all manufacturer's safety standards and recommendations.

According to the representative, Hatfield-McCoy Trails are bringing national recognition to West Virginia as one of 16 trails systems in the country designated as National Millennium Trails. The Millennium Trails project is a White House initiative to build and maintain trails that tell the story of our nation's past and help create a positive vision of our future. In addition, Hatfield-McCoy Trails' Web site, www.trailsheaven.com, receives more than 2.3 million hits per month and has become a popular advertising tool for local businesses.

One issue discussed by the representative was needed legislative consideration revolving around liability insurance for ATV outfitters. Many outfitters have developed businesses along the trails and offer rental and guide opportunities for visitors. In order to provide these services, the outfitters are required to hold \$1 million in liability insurance. The representative stated that the premiums for these policies are high and burdensome for the small business outfitters, and many times insurers of these policies are having difficulty finding companies to write the policies. Therefore, the representative requested the committee look into providing similar statutory provisions that allow other outdoor extreme sports, such as whitewater rafting and skiing, to assume some of the liability risk to the rider.

Joint Standing Committee on Pensions & Retirement

To maximize efficiency and guarantee prudence in regard to risk management policies for state investments, a representative from the West Virginia Investment Management Board recommended the state change its current investment practices by enhancing its Prudent Investor Rule (PIR) and removing its reliance on legal lists to determine and assess risk.

According to the representative, West Virginia's current approach to controlling risk by using legal lists, or statutory lists of restrictions for investment practices, first and applying the PIR to these restricted lists, ignores differences in investment portfolios, inhibits diversification and is outdated as it attempts to keep up with changes in financial markets. Using the PIR solely, however, guarantees efficiency and prudence and allows for the highest investment returns for given levels of risk. The representative added that 32 states have already changed their practices and solely rely on the PIR, or a similar equivalent standard, including Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Judiciary Subcommittee A

Attending committee members received a presentation from representatives of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding storm water discharges, which are covered by one of three general permits or an individual permit. The three general permits are construction storm water, industrial or multi-sector and municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4). These permits are intended for pollution control and not flood prevention.

The MS4 permit authorizes the discharge of storm water from regulated communities, which are required to develop six minimum control measures to reduce pollution from urban areas. Flooding can be addressed in one of these measures. The DEP does not have the authority to require flood control within any of their storm water permits.

Currently, there are 29 MS4 communities, most of which are located in the more populated areas of the state. Each of these communities implements a storm water management program. Strategies to control storm water include capturing and storing the difference between pre and post-development discharge rates; releasing no more than the pre-development discharge; or, designing a project to minimize runoff.

The construction general permit requires that a final storm

water management plan be developed and that best management practices be used to control erosion on the construction site and control sediment at discharge points.

Judiciary Subcommittee B

Opening the meeting with an overview of the committee's assigned study topics, staff counsel noted that lawmakers will be looking at the issue of problem gambling. Two interested parties were on hand to discuss this topic, the first of whom was the Executive Director of the West Virginia Council for Churches.

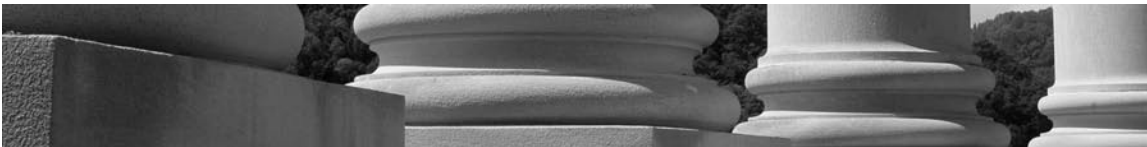
He offered various recommendations, including a long-term study of the problem by exploring the connection between gambling and suicide, determining how much money communities lose because of gambling, studying the impact of gambling on families and reviewing whether or not gambling is necessary for tourism to remain a prosperous industry in West Virginia.

The Director of the Problem Gamblers Help Network of West Virginia, which was created by the Legislature in 2001 and has gained national attention as a model for other states, then spoke to lawmakers about the program. The program is maintained by the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources and was contracted out to First Choice Healthcare Systems. She said they are more than just a hotline, as they also collect data and provide counseling services to West Virginia residents who either have a problem or are a family member of a problem gambler.

She described problem gambling as gambling that continues to occur despite repeated problems. She said that if national averages hold true here, then there could be 30,000 to 50,000 problem gamblers in West Virginia. Additionally, she said approximately 30 percent of the callers have contemplated suicide and 70 percent are video lottery gamblers or their family members.

The Director said West Virginia's program is the only one in the nation that offers an immediate connection between caller and counselor. There are 70 trained clinicians - who are psychologists, social workers or counselors - across West Virginia. All of these workers are trained to deal with problem gamblers and their cases are reviewed monthly.

Once the first call is made, a face-to-face consultation is set up for the caller within 24 hours to meet the clinician. These two-hour consultations are free of charge for the callers and are paid for by the West Virginia Lottery. The Director said



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they have a 75 percent show-up rate for these meetings, which provide for an assessment of each caller's problem and a treatment plan. Also, each individual receives a post-appointment follow-up call and they have found that of the total number of people who have accepted these services, 70 percent were not gambling after six months.

The program's outreach includes public awareness through various advertising outlets. The Director said their most effective advertising is through television and billboards; however, effective outreach still remains one of the biggest challenges. Additional problems she mentioned were recidivism and recruiting and retaining qualified clinicians, particularly in rural areas where they are not readily available and in urban areas where they are often too busy.

Judiciary Subcommittee C

With the passage of the West Virginia Corrections Act in 2001, communities were authorized to create community-based corrections programs to provide the judicial system with sentencing alternatives for moderate to low-risk offenders and apply for grant funds to subsidize the programs. Some of the alternative sentences include day fines, community service, home incarceration, probation supervision, substance abuse treatment, education, counseling, day reporting centers, and drug and mental health courts.

To receive an update on community corrections in the state, lawmakers heard from the Chief Probation Officer of the First Judicial Circuit, which includes Hancock, Brooke and Ohio Counties. This year, 23 counties have applied for funding to implement these services and they were able to help fund approximately 17. He said the programs are saving money by helping to prevent the construction of new jails and saving attorney costs.

The Officer also said that one program alone does produce overall results. In his area, for example, they have implemented a pre-trial program, home confinement and community service, through which some participants have gotten full and part-time jobs. He said using these programs as prevention is working and he believes it could be expanded statewide for far-reaching success.

A mental health judge from the Northern Panhandle then addressed the committee about treatment courts, which allow counseling for people who commit crimes. The courts include mental health, drug and DUI. Federally funded, these courts must meet federal requirements and individuals are screened to determine eligibility.

According to the judge, 37 people have been released from jail to enter the program in his district. He said prior to admittance, he ensures that the individuals have appropriate housing while participating in the program. The drug court, which is the newest program, is staffed by workers from the day reporting centers to save money because the federal grant funds must last for three years.

Among his recommendations to the Legislature was the possible use of summary offenses, which are utilized in other states such as Pennsylvania, and are recognized as less serious than misdemeanors and are punishable by short jail terms.

Judiciary Subcommittee D

Prior to hearing summaries of each of the Judiciary Subcommittees' July meetings, committee members received an update from the Secretary of the West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (DEP) regarding the agency's assumption on July 1, 2005 of water quality rule-making, which previously was the responsibility of the Environmental Quality Board. She walked them through the process that will be taking place in the coming months and years in addressing the standards that need revision.

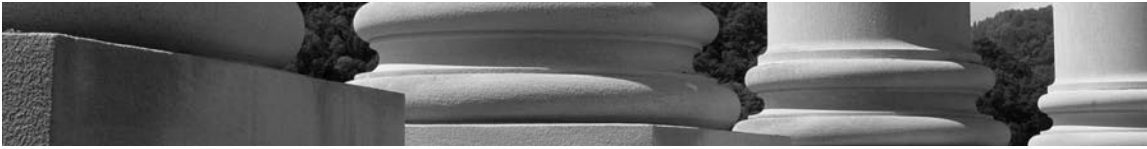
The DEP has established the Water Quality Standards Program within the Division of Water and Waste Management to sufficiently concentrate on water quality rule-making. In August, the DEP will be meeting with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to discuss the standards that need to be changed for the tri-annual review, which is due in 2007. Then, a public meeting will be held for comments from citizens and any interested parties.

After deliberating internally, the DEP will develop draft rules, which will be forwarded to the Legislature's Rule-Making Review Committee and the Secretary of State. Because of the lengthy rule-making process, these rules must be complete by July 2006. A 30-day comment period will follow and a public hearing will be held.

According to the Secretary, the DEP will be prioritizing the standards, as some rules are automatically subject to change and the EPA may have certain rules that need to be addressed on the state level.

LOCEA

Lawmakers received a report from the Executive Director of



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the Department of Education's Office of Professional Preparation regarding the Alternative Teacher Education Program, which is a certification program for special education teachers that allows them to gain a content endorsement in English, general science, math and social sciences. Once the program is complete, the teacher gains 21 credit hours of course work in a specific content area and is eligible to be listed as highly qualified and certified.

Individuals who would like to use previously-acquired course work can submit their transcripts. Minimum requirements for this program include a bachelors degree with a minimum overall grade point average of 2.5 from a regionally-accredited higher education institution. Program participants also must meet the proficiency scores on the Praxis I test or be qualified for an exemption and complete background checks from the West Virginia State Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

During its second meeting of the July Interims, this committee heard a report from the Chancellor of the Higher Education Policy Commission. In his report he noted that a Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) study ranks West Virginia last among Southern states in how much it spends on its four-year public college students.

In 2004, the state spent \$3,436 from its general revenue for every four-year public college student in the state, much lower than the 16-state average of \$5,744. The state ranked ninth in what it earned from tuition and fees, at \$4,527 per student.

Between 2001 and 2004, the Legislature cut 15 percent, or \$40 million per year, from appropriations to four-year colleges and universities while income from tuition and fees went up 40 percent, by \$65 million per year, according to the report.

The Chancellor stated that higher education could not be expected to reach some of its goals unless funding is increased. For example, he questioned whether the state's colleges and universities could reach 90 percent of the funding of their peers, which is the current objective.

The SREB report also showed salaries at the state's colleges and universities ranked 15th out of 16 Southern states.

However, the report also included some good news. West Virginia's college-going rate continues to edge upward and now is about the same as the national average of 6 in 10 high school graduates. Also, the state ranks fourth among Southern states its total funding for community colleges.

Finally, the Chancellor stated the state's two historically black institutions could lose \$1.4 million in federal funding next year.

Next year, West Virginia State University and Bluefield State College will no longer be allowed to count their community college students when they ask for special federal funds for historically black colleges.

West Virginia State's funding could drop from \$3.1 million to \$2.4 million, if enrollment stays about the same, and Bluefield State could drop from \$2.9 million to \$2.2 million.

LOCHHRA

Making clear its mission to oversee health care in West Virginia, the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability (LOCHHRA) examined the status of out-of-state placements of juvenile offenders; heard from the state's Pharmaceutical Advocate; and, listened to an update regarding the Healthy Lifestyles Coalition. In addition, the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health provided background information regarding the professional standards of the state's licensed sanitarians as well as efforts in recruiting and retaining these health and safety specialists.

During its deliberations on out-of-state placements of juvenile offenders, the legislative commission shared its concerns with the newly-appointed Secretary of Health and Human Services. Aware of the sometimes practice of judges sending youth out of the state for mental health and/or other psychological services, the Secretary expressed enthusiasm regarding a working group assigned to studying the ways and means which may be incorporated to keep West Virginia children under the care and supervision of state health care professionals.

Her enthusiasm stemmed from the makeup of the working group that includes the Alliance for Children, the State Board of Education and representatives of the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. She noted the participation of the Judiciary was a key element in the group and noted the WV Placement Network is being prepared for its Web site debut but judges will be introduced to its capabilities in the coming days. This site will allow judges to determine available beds and services for youth offenders and become more aware of availability of programs before sentencing.

As inquiries to the Secretary included questions such as why are children being sent out of state?; could states form compacts and regionalize services?; what are the methodologies in evaluating the needs of the youths?; will there be an across-the-board analysis available; and other relevant questions arose, the Secretary said studies are exceedingly

comprehensive in scope and the greatest success at this time is that the Judiciary is involved. She noted out-of-state placements have been visited so often that she hopes this time around solutions to problems will be found.

Too, the Secretary noted the shortfall of \$30 million in federal Medicaid monies may have an impact on state services ultimately but, to date, no services have been cut. A draft document (described as the DHHR's "White Paper") has been prepared for Medicaid cost containment and is considered to be a continual work in progress. Its contents explore costs and savings as the DHHR continues to investigate a variety of factors. As the document develops, members of LOCHHRA will be provided with the information available at the time.

Another presenter at the meeting was the state's Pharmaceutical Advocate who provided an update on the implementation of House Bill 4084, the West Virginia Pharmaceutical Availability and Affordability Act of 2004. The Advocate noted the West Virginia Pharmaceutical Cost Management Council's appointments have been finalized and the Council will hold its first meeting on July 7. Although the Council has a variety of goals, the most significant, according to the Advocate is to consolidate and coordinate the purchasing powers of state agencies. Too, it will be an effort to prepare both the state and a variety of agencies for the changes brought on by the federal Medicaid Modification Act. And, since HB 4084 calls for pharmaceutical manufacturers to report advertising costs, the state's cost and management council is reviewing a format for the industries to follow.

The Advocate told the legislative committee that he would keep lawmakers informed of the state's progress in addressing the affordability of prescription drugs.

In another matter, a Special Assistant to the Secretary of DHHR addressed HB 2816 of 2005, which created a Healthy Lifestyles Office in the DHHR. She told LOCHHRA that the Governor has appointed the Healthy Lifestyle Coalition of 13 members and welcome letters have been sent to each. Their charges are to assure consistency of the public health and private sector approach to dealing with problems that affect overweight and obese individuals; to provide a forum for discussing the issues that affect healthy lifestyles; and, to identify best practices that can be replicated.

The DHHR, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Agriculture and West Virginia's First Lady are devising interagency grants to secure fresh fruits and vegetables for schools.

The Coalition also is working with the Benedum Foundation to prepare a summit regarding healthy lifestyles. The group

also will work on a proposal to develop more walking trails throughout the state.

Also during the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health gave the committee insight into the qualifications and responsibilities of sanitarians who work in West Virginia.

One hundred and sixty-five are employed, with 148 assigned to local health departments and 17 located within the Bureau. These individuals are required to have acquired 300 hours in Public Health Law and other related subjects with 15 hours of continuing education.

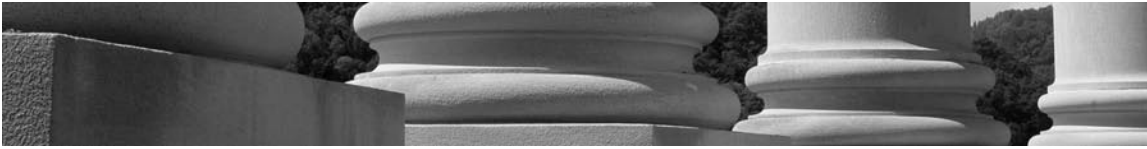
Their responsibilities include the oversight and assurance that citizens have adequate waste disposal, safe water and food, appropriate and safe day care centers, healthy swimming pools, flood clean-up, insect control, responsible tattooing services, along with 60 other disciplines. These individuals also are required to have homeland security preparedness training and knowledge on biological contamination.

With 60 percent of this workforce eligible for retirement right now and 25% more in three years, the Bureau of Public Health is concerned about filling spots on its payroll. With the state's geographic position challenging its economy, the Deputy believes qualified sanitarians will be lured into working for neighboring states.

Legislative Oversight Committee on Regional Jail and Correctional Facility Authority

The increased methamphetamine production and usage within West Virginia has created some new challenges for state correctional institutions, according to representatives from the West Virginia Division of Corrections. One new challenge is an epidemic labeled "meth mouth" and could place serious burdens on the financial health of state correctional budgets.

According to the representatives, "meth mouth" is a term for the dental malady caused by the use and abuse of methamphetamine. Although the problem has yet to reach epidemic proportions in West Virginia, representatives noted they fully expect to see increased cases of "meth mouth" in West Virginia correctional institutions. In Kentucky, according to the representative, four or five inmates a month arrive with the dental disease, and at a cost of around \$500 per inmate to treat medically, the financial burdens are evident. The representative stated that prior to incarceration, inmates are provided medical treatment for neglected hygiene and other health issues.



Interim Highlights

The representative from the Division of Corrections also stated in his presentation to members of the oversight committee that if current correctional facility population trends continue, West Virginia's adult offender population could reach over 5,300 by the end of 2005. As overcrowding in state prisons become more of a problem, the project of adding 193 beds to Mount Olive Correctional Center has become a priority. The representative stated the \$13 million needed for this expansion cannot be distributed through economic development authority bonds, however, there is no conflict if appropriated funds are used to complete the project.

In addition, the representative requested lawmakers look closely at legislation that would allow correctional employees to retire with 25 years of service, which is similar to that of the State Police. Also, the representative requested the committee support a substantial across the board salary increase for all corrections employees. The representative stated that corrections employees deal with thousands of criminals on a daily basis and many employees are lost to federal facilities, which offer higher starting salaries. In addition, the representative noted that it costs the Division of Corrections around \$5,000 for new hire training. Without an increase in salaries, the Division not only loses valuable employees but also the funding invested into the training of that individual.

To discuss the current legal battle between the West Virginia Regional Jail Authority and the Cabell County Commission, representatives from both parties spoke with members of the oversight committee. According to representatives from the Regional Jail Authority, a Writ of Mandamus was filed with the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals to require Cabell County to pay the \$1.5 million in outstanding jail bills. The Supreme Court sent the case back to the Cabell County Circuit Court but would like Cabell County officials to explain why they have not yet paid the monthly costs for its use of the Western Regional Jail. The representative stated that the County has remitted a \$700,000 payment since the case was filed, but the Authority has decided to proceed as planned with the lawsuit until Cabell County submits an actual payment plan, or they are otherwise directed by the Authority's legal counsel.

Representatives from the Cabell County Commission told members of the committee that current state law must be changed to require the arresting agencies, not the counties, pay for the costs of housing regional jail inmates. The representatives noted that in Cabell County, Huntington City Police, State Police and Marshall University security officers make up most of the arrests, yet the costs for these inmates are placed solely on the county. With regional jail costs reaching over \$3 million a year, Cabell County will be facing a budget shortfall of at least \$1 million to \$1.5 million a year. Several

other counties, along with the Association of Counties and the County Commissioners Association, have filed "friend of the court briefs" in support of Cabell County's pursuit of shifting regional jail costs.

LOCWIED

In the July meeting, the Chancellor of the Community and Technical College System of West Virginia spoke to the committee regarding the proposal to create Mine Training and Placement Centers to be operated in both Northern and Southern West Virginia. This proposal comes as many coal companies are facing an immediate shortage of qualified workers because of changing production methods and an aging workforce.

According to 2002 data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, approximately 50 percent of the mining workforce is more than 45 years old. Additionally, it is estimated that 50 percent of the underground coal mining workforce will need replaced within the next five to seven years. Regardless of the manpower statistics, there is a surge in employment opportunities in the coal industry because of increased energy demands.

To address this issue and provide skilled miners for West Virginia's coal industry, the creation of Mine Training and Placement Centers has been proposed. These centers would provide traditional classroom training and certification instruction with an expanded curriculum to incorporate practical experience. Among the training opportunities, students could operate equipment in an open area with simulated pillars and entries and would gain direct experience in mine support and construction tasks, as well as exposure to electrical, hydraulic and maintenance systems.

Through collaboration among the Southern Community and Technical College, West Virginia University's Mining Extension Service and the West Virginia Coal Association, these training centers could meet the challenges of training and educating the coming generations of miners.

In response to a previous request by committee members, the Vice Chancellor for Administration of the Higher Education Policy Commission (HEPC) provided lawmakers with a time line for HEPC's upcoming interaction with the Governor's Workforce Investment Division (GWID). The offices will be collaborating on efforts to ensure that PROMISE students use GWID's MAC system to identify employment opportunities in the state.

In August 2005, a meeting between the two offices will take place to plan and facilitate MAC log-in and verification of PROMISE Scholars, which will be tested and completed in September. In October, a press release from the Governor's Office will be distributed to encourage students to use the MAC system and letters will be sent to all college seniors who are PROMISE recipients and graduate in 2006.

In addition, committee members requested staff to identify ways to track PROMISE recipients as they graduate and enter the workforce. According to the speaker, students will be asked to complete pre-graduation online surveys regarding their future plans and how this program may have influenced their decisions to stay in West Virginia. Staff also is considering various options for collecting post-graduation data, particularly for tracking the number of PROMISE graduates who remain and work in the state.

A final presenter from the Division of Technical and Adult Education spoke about the relationship between education and economic development. According to the representative, researchers and educators alike agree that quality education enhances productivity and economic development.

Consistent with this line of thinking, a 2003 study by the United States Census Bureau concluded that earnings generally increase and unemployment decreases significantly with increased educational attainment. The relationship between earnings and education is even greater in technology-based economies that value high skill levels and the adaptability to new ideas and technologies. Also, businesses seek an educated workforce and the ability to draw a workforce to their chosen location, which reinforces the need for quality public schools.

Select Committee A - Child Protective Services

Beginning an in-depth study of West Virginia's Child Protective Services (CPS), attending lawmakers first heard from the Commissioner of the Bureau for Children and Families, who primarily addressed staffing issues within the agency.

Since recruitment and retention were two of the major problems, the agency submitted an improvement package to the Legislature this year and additional funding was included in the budget for additional staff. Currently, the agency has 397 case workers and 66 case aids. The Commissioner said that position vacancy is at 9 percent, which likely is an all-time low; however, 42 percent of the staff has been there

for less than one year. She noted that this high percentage is understandable and that it will take time to adequately train the new staff.

She also told the committee that some counties are near case load standards, while some have backlogs, which occur when an investigation goes beyond the 30-day time frame. In those areas, they are prioritizing the most at-risk cases.

A social service coordinator from Monongalia and Marion Counties then walked committee members through the CPS referral process. She said their offices get referrals via telephone calls from various people, including police officers, teachers, neighbors or even just passers-by. Generally, the person who calls does not determine whether or not a referral is accepted.

When a worker takes the first phone call, they gather all available information, such as demographics, past history of abuse or neglect, how the parents function as parents and if the parents have jobs. Once the information is collected, the worker enters it into a computer and it is sent to the supervisor, who determines whether or not the case meets the legal definition of abuse or neglect or if it is an at-risk situation.

Once the referral is approved, it is assigned to a case worker, who must make contact with the child or children within one of three time frames (two hours, 72 hours or 14 days) as decided by the supervisor. Often, the worker will contact a child at a day care or school and once they do so, the parents are contacted as soon as possible. The parents are given a CPS handbook detailing the process and a letter that explains their rights.

The case worker has 30 days to complete the referral and sometimes they go beyond this time frame because they are waiting on needed information from a psychiatrist, police officer, etc. After the referral is complete, the case is rated and referred appropriately. At this time, the case could be closed, the family could be referred to counseling or the case could remain open for CPS services. At any time during this process, CPS can take custody of the child if it is believed there is imminent danger.

She also told lawmakers that although these situations are often dangerous, CPS workers do not carry any type of weapons or mace; however, in most counties, law enforcement officers are willing to accompany these workers into dangerous homes upon request.

Select Committee B - Juvenile Studies

In line with their commitment to examine issues facing West Virginia's youth, members of the committee met to receive an overview of their study assignments from staff counsel. As requested in Senate Concurrent Resolution 33, lawmakers will be studying the current status of mental health services for adolescents in an effort to reduce suicide and delinquency rates.

Continuing a study that began last year, the committee will be looking at statistics on depression, the stigma associated with mental illnesses and how delinquency often goes hand-in-hand with mental disorders.

As stated in the resolution, suicide is the second leading cause of death for teenagers ages 15 to 19 and depression, which affects nearly one in eight adolescents, is the leading cause of suicide. Mental illness is treatable and 80 percent of people who seek treatment for depression show improvement; however, adequate mental and behavioral health services are not available for many of West Virginia's youth.

House Concurrent Resolution 44 requested a study of alternatives to out-of-state placement of children under the care of the state. The committee will be studying current practices, other options and whether or not current statutes are effective. Additionally, lawmakers will be comparing West Virginia's practices with successful ones in other jurisdictions.

House Bill 2334, passed during the 2005 Regular Session, created a commission to study out-of-state placements. Select Committee B will be hearing recommendations from this commission.

The final study resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 29, which was introduced during the Regular Session, calls for the continuation of the Legislative Task Force on Juvenile Foster Care, Detention and Placement Task Force. This committee will be recommending what type of oversight body the Legislature should assign to these matters.

The Director of Admissions from the Summit Academy in Butler, PA then addressed the committee. The Academy, which is a preparatory-style high school for juvenile offenders, has served juveniles in 18 West Virginia counties. He said 22 West Virginia students have received high school diplomas through the Academy and received the \$2,000 investment the Academy makes for each graduate.

According to the Director, education is the best tool for modifying delinquent behavior, but in addition to the academic

benefits students receive, the Academy also offers vocational programs in areas such as carpentry and culinary training. Also, students can participate in varsity and junior varsity athletic programs, which allow them to compete with mainstream high schools throughout Pennsylvania.

After completing the program, each graduate's progress is monitored by a reintegration worker.

Select Committee C - Infrastructure

Select Committee C is studying the fiscal affairs of West Virginia's public and private water and sewer utilities. Members heard from a representative of the Morgantown Utility Board (MUB), who addressed the current financial condition of water utilities. According to him, many of our state's water and wastewater plants and lines are aging beyond their expectancy, but replacement is often postponed because of lacking funds. If investments continue as they are, this could result an increase in costs to the public to repair infrastructure to meet service demands.

Federal funding for drinking water and clean water is dwindling and the Environmental Protection Agency is recommending water conservation, asset management and rate increases - but some areas in West Virginia already will be paying upwards of \$40-\$50 for sewer. Because of diminishing federal finances, the spokesman said that if West Virginia truly is "open for business," then our publicly-owned utilities must be prepared to compete in the private market for funding of capital improvement projects.

The spokesman also said the Utility Board must be able to work more efficiently with the Public Service Commission (PSC) and the development of benchmarks and standards is fundamental. A spokeswoman from the PSC agreed that performance benchmarks are needed to measure standards, as well as financial management and compliance with the standards. By establishing benchmarks, or industry best practices that lead to high performance, information sharing would be encouraged, thereby improving public sector efficiency and accountability, according to the MUB representative.

According to the PSC representative, much of the information requested is not readily available and they are working on compiling a database. She said that the lack of data is a very real problem, but assured the committee that they will be working to obtain the information needed to complete the legislative study.

In its second meeting during the July Interims, members of Select Committee C heard from the Governor's Chief Technology Officer. The officer provided responses to questions regarding standardized hardware and software across the state, as well as the status of existing cellular telephone towers and cellular telephone coverage areas. Having indicated to the committee that legislation is being developed by the technology chief's office, the speaker was asked to bring copies of the drafts to the August Interim meetings.

Also attending was the Executive Director the Robert C. Byrd National Technology Transfer Center who provided additional information on digital infrastructure, high capacity line and wireless technology.

Select Committee C also is addressing innovative highway construction options, public/private cooperatives and toll roads. With a Subcommittee on Innovative Highway Financing appointed by the chairman of the select committee, lawmakers on the newly-created subcommittee will receive documents from the Department of Highways regarding innovative highway financing.

At the close of the meeting, lawmakers heard from representatives of the PSC. The Executive Director responded to questions concerning budget and personnel issues; financial statements from the Public Service Districts; and the reorganization of the Commission.

Also, the Director of the Water and Wastewater Division of the PSC spoke in staffing issues and performance benchmarking.

The meeting was closed after a Subcommittee was appointed whose charge would be to study the fiscal affairs of West Virginia's publicly and privately owned and operated water and sewer utilities

Select Committee D - Minority Issues

To further its charge in discussing and reviewing topics affecting minority citizens in West Virginia, members of Select Committee D were provided an overview of previous legislative actions they had supported during past legislative sessions. With no particular charge for the 2005 Legislative Interim session, members requested the ability to further review these actions and provide a forum for stakeholders to continue their discussions regarding minority issues.

In particular, committee members would like to continue discussing the issue of racial profiling. According to staff

counsel, Select Committee D recommended Senate Bill 271 for passage during the 2004 Regular Legislative Session. The measure was approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor; however, the emergency rules that would have implemented the statute were not approved during the 2005 Session. Staff counsel stated that certain necessary changes to the law passed in 2004, which include removing or adjusting certain mandated data collection for racial profiling and were significant in the approval of the rules, also did not pass during the 2005 Session. The committee requested that they continue to be a forum for discussing issues surrounding racial profiling, especially in regard to the specific problems of certain mandatory data collection criteria.

Members of the committee also requested they continue their authority to follow the progress of House Concurrent Resolution 30, which was adopted during the 2005 Regular Session. This resolution recommends the Legislature review racial and ethnic health disparities across West Virginia and increase resources to ensure changes are made that are essential to eliminating any such inequalities. The committee would like to have oversight abilities regarding this issue and, more specifically, invite the Bureau for Public Health and the state's medical schools to update the committee on their progress in addressing these racial and ethnic health disparities.

In addition to the aforementioned issues, members of the committee requested the authority to oversee the implementation of requirements set forth in House Bill 4669, passed during the 2004 Regular Legislative Session, which mandates the creation of a five-year special demonstration professional development. Although the measure passed it was left unfunded. During the 2005 Session, House Concurrent Resolution 31 would have recognized the importance of funding the program established by House Bill 4669, but the measure was not approved. The committee would like to study this issue to see if implementing the provisions of the enacted legislation would help reduce the gaps in educational achievement based on racial disparities. The issue was originally studied a 2003 Minority Issues Interim Committee, which recommended the passage of the original legislation passed during the 2004 Session.

Members of the committee requested staff to draft a letter to legislative leaders authorizing the committee the power to study the above mentioned issues.

View Interim Schedules on the Legislature's website: <http://www.legis.state.wv.us>

2005 Study Assignments

Joint Committee on Agriculture & Agri-business

HCR 60 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the impact the use of biosolids from wastewater plants in agricultural production has on the environment

HCR 91 Requesting that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to conduct a study of certain subjects relating to the State's Natural Resources

Joint Commission on Economic Development

HCR 32 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the creation of a small disadvantaged business loan pool

HCR 33 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to make a study of participation of minority and other disadvantaged small businesses in the process of competing for and obtaining state contracts

SCR 4 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the feasibility of expanding Tamarack's appeal in the eastern United States by establishing a greater regional presence

SCR 32 Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study economic benefits of distributing discount coupons designed to encourage participation in various in-state tourism and recreational activities

- Expanding the Scope of the Public Energy Authority

- Making the State Capitol a tourist destination

Joint Standing Committee on Education

HCR 19 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the possible expansion of in-home family education programs (Early Parent Education)

Joint Standing Committee on Finance

HCR 59 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance direct the Legislature to study the concept of including clinic-based healthcare as a prepaid limited health service

HCR 94 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the actions that may be undertaken to ensure the competitiveness of West Virginia's coal industry

HCR 103 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to conduct a study of court appointed counsel and Public Defender Services within West Virginia

SCR 66 Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study potential benefits of new municipal solid waste landfills, transfer stations and recycling facilities

SCR 87 Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study cost of operating regional jails

- Study of the West Virginia Tax Code

Joint Standing Committee on Government Organization

HCR 51 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study the need to provide low-cost spay and neuter programs across the state

HCR 63 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the West Virginia Board of Dental Examiners whether the Board is sufficiently carrying out its purpose

HCR 78 Requesting that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the awarding of state contracts, loans, grants and industrial revenue bonds to companies outsourcing certain jobs

HCR 102 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to conduct a study on the stocking of bass in the Ohio River

- Issues related to metro-government

Legislative Oversight Commission on Health & Human Resources Accountability (LOCHHRA)

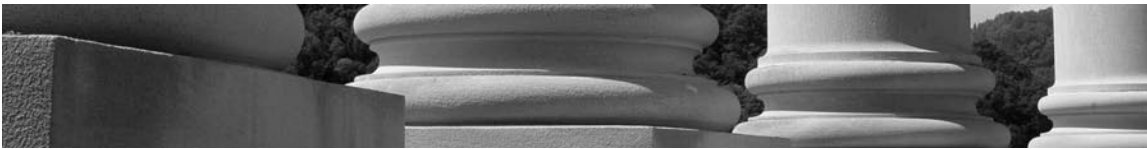
SCR 91 Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance direct Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability study availability and distribution of long-term care beds in state

HCR 66 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the increasing role sanitarians play in protecting public health

HCR 74 Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance conduct a study to determine the need for a Colon Cancer Detection and Prevention Board

- Study of Most Effective Way for the State to Assist in the Prevention and Treatment of Cervical Cancer

- Oversight of Pharmaceutical Availability and Affordability



Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

- HCR 79** Requesting that the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the increasing drug problem in West Virginia
- SCR 99** Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study issues involving compulsive gambling in state

- Study of the feasibility of requiring a refundable deposit on all beverage containers

Select Committee A - Child Protective Services

- HCR 17** Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to make a study of issues involving volunteer firefighters
- SCR 64** Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance direct Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability study recruitment and retention of Child Protective Services workers

- Issues related generally to Child Protective Service workers

Select Committee B - Juvenile Studies

- SCR 29** Requesting Joint Committee on Government & Finance continue Legislative Task Force on Juvenile Foster Care, Detention & Placement
- HCR 44** Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study alternatives to out-of-state placement of children committed to the care of the State of West Virginia
- SCR 33** Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study mental health services for adolescents to reduce suicide and delinquency rates

Select Committee C - Infrastructure

- SCR 42** Urging Congress provide domestic energy policy and requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study energy policy for state
- SCR 74** Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study fiscal affairs of state water and sewer utilities
- HCR 98** Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance study the development of a coordinated de-

ployment and operation of broadband Internet access throughout the state

- SCR 41** Requesting Congress provide funding for double-stack rail route in state and requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study intermodal transportation
- SCR 56** Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study highway authorities in state
- SCR 61** Requesting Joint Committee on Government and Finance study intermodal transportation in state

- Transportation and other infrastructure issues as approved by the Senate President and the House Speaker

Select Committee D - Minority Issues

2005 - 2006 Interim Committee Meeting Dates	July 10 - 12
	August 7 - 9
	September 11 - 13
	October 2 - 4
	November 6 - 8
	December 11 - 13
	January, 2006 8 - 10
Note: All dates are subject to change - the August Interim meetings will be held in Morgantown, WV.	

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