

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

SENATE JOURNAL

EIGHTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2024
FIFTY-NINTH DAY

Charleston, West Virginia, Friday, March 8, 2024

The Senate met at 10:49 a.m.

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

Prayer was offered by the Honorable Glenn D. Jeffries, a senator from the eighth district.

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

Pending the reading of the Journal of Thursday, March 7, 2024,

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

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

The Senate then proceeded to the third order of business.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 142, Clarifying deadline to file annual report for companies authorized to do business in WV.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendments, as to

Eng. Senate Bill 146, Creating adult education taskforce.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 1, section 19e, line 11, after the word "Schools" by striking out the words "or a" and inserting, in lieu thereof, the words "or his or her".

And,

On page 1, section 19e, line 12, after the word "designee", by striking out the words "of the State Superintendent of Schools";

And

On page 1, section 19e, lines 14 and 15 by striking out "State Superintendent of Schools" and inserting in lieu thereof "Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education,"

And,

On page 2, section 19e, line 21, after the words "to the" by striking out the word "Legislature" and inserting, in lieu thereof, the words "the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability";

And

On page 2, after subsection (f), by adding a new subsection (g) as follows:

"(g) The provisions of the section shall sunset on December 31, 2025."

On motion of Senator Weld, the following amendments to the House of Delegates amendments to the bill (Eng. S. B. 146) were reported by the Clerk, considered simultaneously, and adopted:

On page 1, subsection (c), by striking out the words "Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "State Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with the Chancellor for Community and Technical College Education";

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Senate Bill 146—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18-5-19e, relating to requiring the State Superintendent of Schools to create a taskforce to consider options for direct funding of adult education learning centers; declaring legislative findings; providing for membership and meetings of the taskforce; establishing deadlines for the taskforce to be created, to begin its meetings, and for submitting a report of recommendations to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability; and establishing sunset date.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments, as amended.

Engrossed Senate Bill 146, as amended, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson,

Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 146) passed with its Senate amended title.

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

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

Eng. Senate Bill 173, Modifying certain guidelines for motor vehicle dealers, distributors, wholesalers, and manufacturers.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 262, Clarifying procedure for administrative dissolution of corporations by Secretary of State.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 378, Prohibiting smoking in vehicle when minor 16 or under is present.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 530, Removing requirement for counties to draft and adopt zoning ordinances.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 610, Clarifying authority of Water Development Authority in certain circumstances.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendments, as to

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 631, Prohibiting municipalities from disconnecting water service for nonpayment of stormwater fees.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 1, line 1 by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

ARTICLE 13. SEWAGE WORKS AND STORMWATER WORKS.

§16-13-16. RATES FOR SERVICE; DEPOSIT REQUIRED FOR NEW CUSTOMERS; FORFEITURE OF DEPOSIT; RECONNECTING DEPOSIT; TENANT'S DEPOSIT; CHANGE OR READJUSTMENT; HEARING; LIEN AND RECOVERY; DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICES APPEALS BOARD.

(a) A governing body has the power and duty, by ordinance, to establish and maintain just and equitable rates, fees, or charges for the use of and the service rendered by:

(a)(1) Sewerage works, to be paid by the owner of each lot, parcel of real estate or building that is connected with and uses the works by or through any part of the sewerage system of the municipality or that in any way uses or is served by the works; and

(b)(2) Stormwater works, to be paid by the owner of each lot, parcel of real estate or building that in any way uses or is served by the stormwater works or whose property is improved or protected by the stormwater works or any user of such stormwater works.

(c) (b) The governing body may change and readjust the rates, fees, or charges from time to time. However, no rates, fees, or charges for stormwater services may be assessed against highways, road and drainage easements or stormwater facilities constructed, owned or operated by the West Virginia Division of Highways.

(d) (c) All new applicants for service shall indicate to the governing body whether they are an owner or tenant with respect to the service location. An entity providing stormwater service shall provide a ~~tenant~~ new applicant for service a report of the stormwater fee charged for the entire property and, if ~~appropriate~~ the new applicant is a tenant, that portion of the fee to be assessed to the tenant. Any municipality that provides stormwater utilities shall form a municipal stormwater appeals board. The board shall consist of a member of the stormwater utility board, a municipal council member, and a rate payer. New applicants for service may appeal the estimated residential usage or equivalent dwelling usage to the board. Any such appeal must be brought within 60 days of receiving the report of the stormwater fee.

(e)(d) The governing body may collect from all new applicants for service a deposit of \$50 or two twelfths of the average annual usage of the applicant's specific customer class, whichever is greater, to secure the payment of service rates, fees, and charges in the event ~~they~~ he or she ~~become~~ becomes delinquent as provided in this section. In any case where a deposit is forfeited to pay service rates, fees, and charges which were delinquent at the time of disconnection or termination of service, service may not be reconnected or reinstated by the governing body until another deposit equal to \$50 or a sum equal to two twelfths of the average usage for the applicant's specific customer class, whichever is greater, is remitted to the governing body. After 12 months of prompt payment history, the governing body shall return the deposit to the customer or credit the customer's account with interest at a rate as the Public Service Commission may prescribe: *Provided*, That where the customer is a tenant, the governing body is not required to return the deposit until the time the tenant discontinues service with the governing body. ~~Whenever any rates, fees, rentals, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the user of the services and facilities provided is delinquent. The user is liable until all rates, fees, and charges are fully paid. The governing body~~

~~may, under reasonable rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission, shut off and discontinue water services to a delinquent user of sewer facilities 10 days after the sewer services become delinquent regardless of whether the governing body utilizes the security deposit to satisfy any delinquent payments: *Provided, however,* That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may require agents or employees of the governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.~~

(f) ~~(e)~~ The rates, fees, or charges shall be sufficient in each year for the payment of the proper and reasonable expense of operation, repair, replacements and maintenance of the works and for the payment of the sums herein required to be paid into the sinking fund. Revenues collected pursuant to this section shall be considered the revenues of the works.

~~(g)~~ ~~(f)~~ No such rates, fees, or charges may be established until after a public hearing, at which all the users of the works and owners of property served or to be served thereby and others interested shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed rates, fees or charges.

~~(h)~~ ~~(g)~~ After introduction of the ordinance fixing the rates, fees or charges, and before the same is finally enacted, notice of the hearing, setting forth the proposed schedule of rates, fees or charges, shall be given by publication as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area for the publication shall be the municipality. The first publication shall be made at least five days before the date fixed in the notice for the hearing.

~~(i)~~ ~~(h)~~ After the hearing, which may be adjourned, from time to time, the ordinance establishing rates, fees or charges, either as originally introduced or as modified and amended, shall be passed and put into effect. A copy of the schedule of the rates, fees, and charges shall be kept on file in the office of the board having charge of the operation of the works, and also in the office of the clerk of the municipality, and shall be open to inspection by all parties interested. The rates, fees, or charges established for any class of users or property served shall be extended to cover any additional premises thereafter served which fall within the same class, without the necessity of any hearing or notice.

~~(j)~~ ~~(i)~~ Any change or readjustment of the rates, fees, or charges may be made in the same manner as the rates, fees, or charges were originally established as hereinbefore provided: *Provided,* That if a change or readjustment be made substantially pro rata, as to all classes of service, no hearing or notice shall be required. ~~The aggregate of the rates, fees, or charges shall always be sufficient for the expense of operation, repair and maintenance and for the sinking fund payments.~~

~~(k)~~ All rates, fees, or charges, if not paid when due, shall constitute a lien upon the premises served by the works. If any service rate, fee, or charge is not paid within 20 days after it is due, the amount thereof, together with a penalty of 10 percent and a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered by the board in a civil action in the name of the municipality. The lien may be foreclosed against the lot, parcel of land or building in accordance with the laws relating thereto. Where both water and sewer services are furnished by any municipality to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount or individually itemized and billed for the aggregate thereof.

~~(l)~~ Whenever any rates, rentals, fees or charges for services or facilities furnished shall remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the property and the owner thereof, as well as the user of the services and facilities shall be delinquent until such time as all rates, fees, and

charges are fully paid. When any payment for rates, rentals, fees or charges becomes delinquent, the governing body may use the security deposit to satisfy the delinquent payment.

~~(m) The board collecting the rates, fees, or charges shall be obligated under reasonable rules to shut off and discontinue both water and sewer services to all delinquent users of water sewer or stormwater facilities and shall not restore either water facilities or sewer facilities to any delinquent user of any such facilities until all delinquent rates, fees, or charges for water sewer, and stormwater facilities, including reasonable interest and penalty charges, have been paid in full, as long as the actions are not contrary to any rules or orders of the Public Service Commission: *Provided*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may be considered to require any agents or employees of the municipality or governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.~~

§16-13-16a. Discontinuance of services; lien and recovery.

(a) Whenever any rates, fees, rentals, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the user of the services and facilities provided is delinquent. The user is liable until all rates, fees, and charges are fully paid. When any payment for rates, rentals, fees or charges becomes delinquent, the governing body may use the security deposit collected in accordance with §16-13-16 to satisfy the delinquent payment.

(b) The governing body may, under reasonable rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission, shut off and discontinue water services to a delinquent user of sewer facilities 10 days after the sewer services become delinquent regardless of whether the governing body utilizes the security deposit to satisfy any delinquent payments: *Provided, however*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may require agents or employees of the governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

(c) The board collecting the rates, fees, or charges shall be obligated under reasonable rules to shut off and discontinue both water and sewer services to all delinquent users of water or sewer facilities and shall not restore either water facilities or sewer facilities to any delinquent user of any such facilities until all delinquent rates, fees, or charges for water and sewer facilities, including reasonable interest and penalty charges, have been paid in full, as long as the actions are not contrary to any rules or orders of the Public Service Commission: *Provided*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may be considered to require any agents or employees of the municipality or governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

(d) The governing body or the board collecting the rates, fees, or charges may shut off and discontinue water services to users with delinquent stormwater fees, provided that:

(1) The water service and stormwater fee are in the name of the same user;

(2) The rates, fees, or charges incurred by the user are 90 days past due;

(3) The provider has given the user written notice of termination of water service for nonpayment. Such notice must be given to the user at least 10 days before the termination of service and must notify the user of their right to enter into a deferred payment plan;

(4) The provider has attempted to make personal contact with the user at least two times in the 24 hours immediately before the termination of the service. If the provider makes personal contact with the user, the provider must inform the user of their right to enter into a deferred payment plan.

(5) The water service for a user who has entered into a deferred payment plan under this subsection may not be shut off or discontinued as long as the user in in conformance with the agreed to payment plan. In the event the user falls out of compliance with the deferred payment plan, no sooner than five days after the missed payment, the provider may terminate service: *Provided*, That the provider must make one attempt to make personal contact with the user in the 24 hours immediately before the termination of the service.

(e) All rates, fees, or charges, if not paid when due, shall constitute a lien upon the premises served by the works. If any service rate, fee, or charge is not paid within 20 days after it is due, the amount thereof, together with a penalty of 10 percent and a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered by the board in a civil action in the name of the municipality. The lien may be foreclosed against the lot, parcel of land or building in accordance with the laws relating thereto. Where both water and sewer services are furnished by any municipality to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount or individually itemized and billed for the aggregate thereof.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 631—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-13-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section designated §16-13-16a, all relating to prohibiting municipalities from shutting off a user's water for nonpayment of stormwater fees without notice; creating a board to hear appeals for assessment of estimated usage units; and allowing for municipalities to impose a lien to obtain payment without shutting off or disconnecting service.

On motion of Senator Takubo, the following amendments to the House of Delegates amendments to the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 631) were reported by the Clerk, considered simultaneously, and adopted:

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

CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTICLE 13. SEWAGE WORKS AND STORMWATER WORKS.

§16-13-16. Rates for service; deposit required for new customers; forfeiture of deposit; reconnecting deposit; tenant's deposit; change or readjustment; hearing; ~~lien and recovery; discontinuance of services~~ appeals board.

(a) A governing body has the power and duty, by ordinance, to establish and maintain just and equitable rates, fees, or charges for the use of and the service rendered by:

(a)(1) Sewerage works, to be paid by the owner of each lot, parcel of real estate or building that is connected with and uses the works by or through any part of the sewerage system of the municipality or that in any way uses or is served by the works; and

(b)(2) Stormwater works, to be paid by the owner of each lot, parcel of real estate or building that in any way uses or is served by the stormwater works or whose property is improved or protected by the stormwater works or any user of such stormwater works.

(e) (b) The governing body may change and readjust the rates, fees, or charges from time to time. However, no rates, fees, or charges for stormwater services may be assessed against highways, road and drainage easements or stormwater facilities constructed, owned, or operated by the West Virginia Division of Highways.

(d) (c) All new applicants for service shall indicate to the governing body whether they are an owner or tenant with respect to the service location. An entity providing stormwater service shall provide a ~~tenant~~ new applicant for service a report of the stormwater fee charged for the entire property and, if appropriate the new applicant is a tenant, that portion of the fee to be assessed to the tenant. Any municipality that provides stormwater utilities shall form a municipal stormwater appeals board. The board shall consist of a member of the stormwater utility board, a municipal council member, and a rate payer. New applicants for service may appeal the estimated residential usage or equivalent dwelling usage to the board. Any such appeal must be brought within 60 days of receiving the report of the stormwater fee.

(e)(d) The governing body may collect from all new applicants for service a deposit of \$50 or two twelfths of the average annual usage of the applicant's specific customer class, whichever is greater, to secure the payment of service rates, fees, and charges in the event ~~they~~ he or she become becomes delinquent as provided in this section. In any case where a deposit is forfeited to pay service rates, fees, and charges which were delinquent at the time of disconnection or termination of service, service may not be reconnected or reinstated by the governing body until another deposit equal to \$50 or a sum equal to two twelfths of the average usage for the applicant's specific customer class, whichever is greater, is remitted to the governing body. After 12 months of prompt payment history, the governing body shall return the deposit to the customer or credit the customer's account with interest at a rate as the Public Service Commission may prescribe: *Provided*, That where the customer is a tenant, the governing body is not required to return the deposit until the time the tenant discontinues service with the governing body. ~~Whenever any rates, fees, rentals, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the user of the services and facilities provided is delinquent. The user is liable until all rates, fees, and charges are fully paid. The governing body may, under reasonable rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission, shut off and discontinue water services to a delinquent user of sewer facilities 10 days after the sewer services become delinquent regardless of whether the governing body utilizes the security deposit to satisfy any delinquent payments: *Provided, however*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may require agents or employees of the governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.~~

(f) (e) The rates, fees, or charges shall be sufficient in each year for the payment of the proper and reasonable expense of operation, repair, replacements and maintenance of the works and for the payment of the sums herein required to be paid into the sinking fund. Revenues collected pursuant to this section shall be considered the revenues of the works.

~~(g)~~ (f) No such rates, fees, or charges may be established until after a public hearing, at which all the users of the works and owners of property served or to be served thereby and others interested shall have an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed rates, fees or charges.

~~(h)~~ (g) After introduction of the ordinance fixing the rates, fees or charges, and before the same is finally enacted, notice of the hearing, setting forth the proposed schedule of rates, fees or charges, shall be given by publication as a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code and the publication area for the publication shall be the municipality. The first publication shall be made at least five days before the date fixed in the notice for the hearing.

~~(i)~~ (h) After the hearing, which may be adjourned, from time to time, the ordinance establishing rates, fees or charges, either as originally introduced or as modified and amended, shall be passed and put into effect. A copy of the schedule of the rates, fees, and charges shall be kept on file in the office of the board having charge of the operation of the works, and also in the office of the clerk of the municipality, and shall be open to inspection by all parties interested. The rates, fees, or charges established for any class of users or property served shall be extended to cover any additional premises thereafter served which fall within the same class, without the necessity of any hearing or notice.

~~(j)~~ (i) Any change or readjustment of the rates, fees, or charges may be made in the same manner as the rates, fees, or charges were originally established as hereinbefore provided: *Provided*, That if a change or readjustment be made substantially pro rata, as to all classes of service, no hearing or notice shall be required. ~~The aggregate of the rates, fees, or charges shall always be sufficient for the expense of operation, repair and maintenance and for the sinking fund payments.~~

~~(k)~~ All rates, fees, or charges, if not paid when due, shall constitute a lien upon the premises served by the works. If any service rate, fee, or charge is not paid within 20 days after it is due, the amount thereof, together with a penalty of 10 percent and a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered by the board in a civil action in the name of the municipality. The lien may be foreclosed against the lot, parcel of land or building in accordance with the laws relating thereto. ~~Where both water and sewer services are furnished by any municipality to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount or individually itemized and billed for the aggregate thereof.~~

~~(l)~~ Whenever any rates, rentals, fees or charges for services or facilities furnished shall remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the property and the owner thereof, as well as the user of the services and facilities shall be delinquent until such time as all rates, fees, and charges are fully paid. When any payment for rates, rentals, fees or charges becomes delinquent, the governing body may use the security deposit to satisfy the delinquent payment.

~~(m)~~ The board collecting the rates, fees, or charges shall be obligated under reasonable rules to shut off and discontinue both water and sewer services to all delinquent users of water sewer or stormwater facilities and shall not restore either water facilities or sewer facilities to any delinquent user of any such facilities until all delinquent rates, fees, or charges for water sewer, and stormwater facilities, including reasonable interest and penalty charges, have been paid in full, as long as the actions are not contrary to any rules or orders of the Public Service Commission: *Provided*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may be considered to require any agents or employees of the municipality or governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

§16-13-16a. Discontinuance of services; lien and recovery.

(a) Whenever any rates, fees, rentals, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after they become due, the user of the services and facilities provided is delinquent. The user is liable until all rates, fees, and charges are fully paid. When any payment for rates, rentals, fees or charges becomes delinquent, the governing body may use the security deposit collected in accordance with §16-13-16 to satisfy the delinquent payment.

(b) The governing body may, under reasonable rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission, shut off and discontinue water services to a delinquent user of sewer facilities 10 days after the sewer services become delinquent regardless of whether the governing body utilizes the security deposit to satisfy any delinquent payments: *Provided, however,* That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may require agents or employees of the governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

(c) The board collecting the rates, fees, or charges shall be obligated under reasonable rules to shut off and discontinue both water and sewer services to all delinquent users of water or sewer facilities and shall not restore either water facilities or sewer facilities to any delinquent user of any such facilities until all delinquent rates, fees, or charges for water and sewer facilities, including reasonable interest and penalty charges, have been paid in full, as long as the actions are not contrary to any rules or orders of the Public Service Commission: *Provided,* That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may be considered to require any agents or employees of the municipality or governing body to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill.

(d) The governing body or the board collecting the rates, fees, or charges may shut off and discontinue water services to users with delinquent stormwater fees, provided that:

(1) The water service and stormwater fee are in the name of the same user;

(2) The rates, fees, or charges incurred by the user are at least 90 days past due;

(3) The provider has given the user written notice of termination of water service for nonpayment. Such notice must be given to the user at least 10 days before the termination of service and must notify the user of their right to enter into a deferred payment plan;

(4) The provider has attempted to make personal contact with the user at least two times in the 24 hours immediately before the termination of the service. If the provider makes personal contact with the user, the provider must inform the user of their right to enter into a deferred payment plan.

(5) The water service for a user who has entered into a deferred payment plan under this subsection may not be shut off or discontinued as long as the user is in conformance with the agreed to payment plan. In the event the user falls out of compliance with the deferred payment plan, no sooner than five days after the missed payment, the provider may terminate service: *Provided,* That the provider must make one attempt to make personal contact with the user in the 24 hours immediately before the termination of the service.

(e) All rates, fees, or charges, if not paid when due, shall constitute a lien upon the premises served by the works. If any service rate, fee, or charge is not paid within 20 days after it is due,

the amount thereof, together with a penalty of 10 percent and a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered by the board in a civil action in the name of the municipality. The lien may be foreclosed against the lot, parcel of land or building in accordance with the laws relating thereto. Where both water and sewer services are furnished by any municipality to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount or individually itemized and billed for the aggregate thereof.

ARTICLE 13A. PUBLIC SERVICE DISTRICTS.

§16-13A-9. Rules; service rates and charges; discontinuance of service; required water and sewer connections; lien for delinquent fees.

(a)(1) The board may make, enact, and enforce all needful rules in connection with the acquisition, construction, improvement, extension, management, maintenance, operation, care, protection, and the use of any public service properties owned or controlled by the district. The board shall establish, in accordance with this article, rates, fees, and charges for the services and facilities it furnishes, which shall be sufficient at all times, notwithstanding the provisions of any other law or laws, to pay the cost of maintenance, operation, and depreciation of the public service properties and principal of and interest on all bonds issued, other obligations incurred under the provisions of this article, and all reserve or other payments provided for in the proceedings which authorized the issuance of any bonds under this article. The schedule of the rates, fees, and charges may be based upon:

(A) The consumption of water or gas on premises connected with the facilities, taking into consideration domestic, commercial, industrial, and public use of water and gas;

(B) The number and kind of fixtures connected with the facilities located on the various premises;

(C) The number of persons served by the facilities;

(D) Any combination of paragraphs (A), (B), and (C) of this subdivision; or

(E) Any other basis or classification which the board may determine to be fair and reasonable, taking into consideration the location of the premises served and the nature and extent of the services and facilities furnished. However, no rates, fees, or charges for stormwater services may be assessed against highways, road, and drainage easements or stormwater facilities constructed, owned, or operated by the West Virginia Division of Highways.

(2) The board of a public service district with at least 4,500 customers and annual combined gross revenue of \$3 million providing water or sewer service separately or in combination may make, enact, and enforce all needful rules in connection with the enactment or amendment of rates, fees, and charges of the district. At a minimum, these rules shall provide for:

(A) Adequate prior public notice of the contemplated rates, fees, and charges by causing a notice of intent to effect such a change to be provided to the customers of the district for the month immediately preceding the month in which the contemplated change is to be considered at a hearing by the board. The notice shall include a statement that a change in rates, fees, and charges is being considered, the time, date, and location of the hearing of the board at which the change will be considered, and that the proposed rates, fees, and charges are on file at the office

of the district for review during regular business hours. The notice shall be printed on, or mailed with, the monthly billing statement, or provided in a separate mailing.

(B) Adequate prior public notice of the contemplated rates, fees, and charges by causing to be published, after the first reading and approval of a resolution of the board considering the revised rates, fees, and charges but not less than one week prior to the public hearing of the board on the resolution, as a Class I legal advertisement, of the proposed action, in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. The publication area for publication shall be all territory served by the district. If the district provides service in more than one county, publication shall be made in a newspaper of general circulation in each county that the district provides service.

(C) The public notice of the proposed action shall summarize the current rates, fees, and charges and the proposed changes to said rates, fees, and charges; the date, time, and place of the public hearing on the resolution approving the revised rates, fees, and charges, and the place or places within the district where the proposed resolution approving the revised rates, fees, and charges may be inspected by the public. A reasonable number of copies of the proposed resolution shall be kept at the place or places and be made available for public inspection. The notice shall also advise that interested parties may appear at the public hearing before the board and be heard with respect to the proposed revised rates, fees, and charges.

(D) The resolution proposing the revised rates, fees, and charges shall be read at two meetings of the board with at least two weeks intervening between each meeting. The public hearing may be conducted by the board prior to, or at, the meeting at which the resolution is considered for adoption on the second reading.

(E) Rates, fees, and charges approved by resolution of the board shall be forwarded in writing to the county commission with the authority to appoint the members of the board. The county commission shall publish notice of the proposed revised rates, fees, and charges by a Class I legal advertisement in compliance with the provisions of §59-3-1 *et seq.* of this code. Within 45 days of receipt of the proposed rates, fees, and charges, the county commission shall take action to approve, modify, or reject the proposed rates, fees, and charges, in its sole discretion. If, after 45 days, the county commission has not taken final action to approve, modify, or reject the proposed rates, fees, and charges, as presented to the county commission, the proposed rates, fees, and charges shall be effective with no further action by the board or county commission. In any event, this 45-day period shall be mandatory unless extended by the official action of both the board proposing the rates, fees, and charges, and the appointing county commission.

(F) Enactment of the proposed or modified rates, fees, and charges shall follow an affirmative vote by the county commission and shall be effective no sooner than 45 days following action. The 45-day waiting period may be waived by public vote of the county commission only if the commission finds and declares the district to be in financial distress such that the 45-day waiting period would be detrimental to the ability of the district to deliver continued and compliant public services.

(G) The public service district, or a customer aggrieved by the changed rates or charges who presents to the circuit court a petition signed by at least 750 customers or 25 percent of the customers served by the public service district, whichever is fewer, when dissatisfied by the approval, modification, or rejection by the county commission of the proposed rates, fees, and charges under the provisions of this subdivision may file a complaint regarding the rates, fees, and charges resulting from the action of, or failure to act by, the county commission in the circuit

court of the county in which the county commission sits: *Provided*, That any complaint or petition filed hereunder shall be filed within 30 days of the county commission's final action approving, modifying, or rejecting the rates, fees, and charges, or the expiration of the 45-day period from the receipt by the county commission, in writing, of the rates, fees, and charges approved by resolution of the board, without final action by the county commission to approve, modify, or reject the rates, fees, and charges, and the circuit court shall resolve the complaint: *Provided, however*, That the rates, fees, and charges so fixed by the county commission, or those adopted by the district upon which the county commission failed to act, shall remain in full force and effect, until set aside, altered, or amended by the circuit court in an order to be followed in the future.

(3) Where water, sewer, stormwater, or gas services, or any combination thereof, are all furnished to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount for the aggregate of the charges. The board shall require all users of services and facilities furnished by the district to designate on every application for service whether the applicant is a tenant or an owner of the premises to be served. If the applicant is a tenant, he or she shall state the name and address of the owner or owners of the premises to be served by the district. Notwithstanding the provisions of §24-3-8 of this code to the contrary, all new applicants for service shall deposit the greater of a sum equal to two twelfths of the average annual usage of the applicant's specific customer class or \$50 with the district to secure the payment of service rates, fees, and charges in the event they become delinquent as provided in this section. If a district provides both water and sewer service, all new applicants for service shall deposit the greater of a sum equal to two twelfths of the average annual usage for water service or \$50 and the greater of a sum equal to two twelfths of the average annual usage for wastewater service of the applicant's specific customer class or \$50. In any case where a deposit is forfeited to pay service rates, fees, and charges which were delinquent at the time of disconnection or termination of service, no reconnection or reinstatement of service may be made by the district until another deposit equal to the greater of a sum equal to two twelfths of the average usage for the applicant's specific customer class or \$50 has been remitted to the district. After 12 months of prompt payment history, the district shall return the deposit to the customer or credit the customer's account at a rate as the Public Service Commission may prescribe: *Provided*, That where the customer is a tenant, the district is not required to return the deposit until the time the tenant discontinues service with the district. Whenever any rates, fees, rentals, or charges for services or facilities furnished remain unpaid for a period of 20 days after the same become due and payable, the user of the services and facilities provided is delinquent and the user is liable at law until all rates, fees, and charges are fully paid. The board may, under reasonable rules promulgated by the Public Service Commission, shut off and discontinue water or gas services to all delinquent users of either water or gas facilities, or both, 10 days after the water or gas services become delinquent: *Provided, however*, That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may be considered to require any agents or employees of the board to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill: *Provided further*, That the water service for a user may not be shut off or discontinued for the nonpayment of a stormwater fee except as provided in subsections (i) and (j) of this section.

(b) If any publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town, other municipal corporation or other public service district included within the district owns and operates separate water facilities, sewer facilities, or stormwater facilities, and the district owns and operates another kind of facility, either water or sewer, or both, as the case may be, then the district and the publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town or other municipal corporation, or other public service district shall covenant and contract with each other to shut off and discontinue the supplying of water service for the nonpayment of sewer or stormwater service fees and charges: *Provided*, That any contracts entered into by a public service district pursuant to this section shall

be submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval. Any public service district which provides water and sewer service, water and stormwater service or water, sewer, and stormwater service has the right to terminate water service for delinquency in payment of water or sewer ~~or stormwater~~ bills. Where one public service district is providing sewer service and another public service district or a municipality included within the boundaries of the sewer or stormwater district is providing water service and the district providing sewer or stormwater service experiences a delinquency in payment, the district or the municipality included within the boundaries of the sewer or stormwater district that is providing water service, upon the request of the district providing sewer or stormwater service to the delinquent account, shall terminate its water service to the customer having the delinquent sewer ~~or stormwater~~ account: *Provided, however,* That any termination of water service must comply with all rules and orders of the Public Service Commission: *Provided further,* That nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission shall be deemed to require any agents or employees of the public service districts to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill; *And provided further,* That the water service for a user may not be shut off or discontinued for the nonpayment of a stormwater fee except as provided in subsections (i) and (j) of this section.

(c) Any district furnishing sewer facilities within the district may require or may, by petition to the circuit court of the county in which the property is located, compel or may require the Bureau for Public Health to compel all owners, tenants, or occupants of any houses, dwellings, and buildings located near any sewer facilities where sewage will flow by gravity or be transported by other methods approved by the Bureau for Public Health, including, but not limited to, vacuum and pressure systems, approved under the provisions of §16-1-9 of this code, from the houses, dwellings, or buildings into the sewer facilities, to connect with and use the sewer facilities and to cease the use of all other means for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage and waste matters from the houses, dwellings, and buildings where there is gravity flow or transportation by any other methods approved by the Bureau for Public Health, including, but not limited to, vacuum and pressure systems, approved under the provisions of §16-1-9 of this code and the houses, dwellings, and buildings can be adequately served by the sewer facilities of the district and it is declared that the mandatory use of the sewer facilities provided for in this subsection is necessary and essential for the health and welfare of the inhabitants and residents of the districts and of the state. If the public service district requires the property owner to connect with the sewer facilities even when sewage from dwellings may not flow to the main line by gravity and the property owner incurs costs for any changes in the existing dwellings' exterior plumbing in order to connect to the main sewer line, the public service district board shall authorize the district to pay all reasonable costs for the changes in the exterior plumbing, including, but not limited to, installation, operation, maintenance, and purchase of a pump or any other method approved by the Bureau for Public Health. Maintenance and operation costs for the extra installation should be reflected in the users charge for approval of the Public Service Commission. The circuit court shall adjudicate the merits of the petition by summary hearing to be held not later than 30 days after service of petition to the appropriate owners, tenants, or occupants.

(d) Whenever any district has made available sewer facilities to any owner, tenant, or occupant of any house, dwelling, or building located near the sewer facility and the engineer for the district has certified that the sewer facilities are available to and are adequate to serve the owner, tenant, or occupant and sewage will flow by gravity or be transported by other methods approved by the Bureau for Public Health from the house, dwelling, or building into the sewer facilities, the district may charge, and the owner, tenant, or occupant shall pay, the rates and charges for services established under this article only after 30 days' notice of the availability of the facilities has been received by the owner, tenant, or occupant. Rates and charges for sewage

services shall be based upon actual water consumption or the average monthly water consumption based upon the owner's, tenant's, or occupant's specific customer class.

(e) The owner, tenant, or occupant of any real property may be determined and declared to be served by a stormwater system only after each of the following conditions is met: (1) The district has been designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as an entity to serve a West Virginia Separate Storm Sewer System community, as defined in 40 C. F. R. § 122.26; (2) the district's authority has been properly expanded to operate and maintain a stormwater system; (3) the district has made available a stormwater system where stormwater from the real property affects or drains into the stormwater system; and (4) the real property is located in the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System's designated service area. It is further hereby found, determined, and declared that the mandatory use of the stormwater system is necessary and essential for the health and welfare of the inhabitants and residents of the district and of the state. The district may charge and the owner, tenant, or occupant shall pay the rates, fees, and charges for stormwater services established under this article only after 30 days' notice of the availability of the stormwater system has been received by the owner. An entity providing stormwater service shall provide a tenant a report of the stormwater fee charged for the entire property and, if appropriate, that portion of the fee to be assessed to the tenant.

(f) All delinquent fees, rates, and charges of the district for either water facilities, sewer facilities, gas facilities, or stormwater systems or stormwater management programs are liens on the premises served of equal dignity, rank, and priority with the lien on the premises of state, county, school, and municipal taxes. Nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission may require agents or employees of the public service districts to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing service for a delinquent bill. In addition to the other remedies provided in this section, public service districts are granted a deferral of filing fees or other fees and costs incidental to the bringing and maintenance of an action in magistrate court for the collection of delinquent water, sewer, stormwater, or gas bills. If the district collects the delinquent account, plus reasonable costs, from its customer or other responsible party, the district shall pay to the magistrate the normal filing fee and reasonable costs which were previously deferred. In addition, each public service district may exchange with other public service districts a list of delinquent accounts: *Provided*, That an owner of real property may not be held liable for the delinquent rates or charges for services or facilities of a tenant, nor may any lien attach to real property for the reason of delinquent rates or charges for services or facilities of a tenant of the real property unless the owner has contracted directly with the public service district to purchase the services or facilities.

(g) Anything in this section to the contrary notwithstanding, any establishment, as defined in §22-11-3 of this code, now or hereafter operating its own sewage disposal system pursuant to a permit issued by the Department of Environmental Protection, as prescribed by §22-11-11 of this code, is exempt from the provisions of this section.

(h) Notwithstanding any code provision to the contrary, a public service district may accept payment for all fees and charges due, in the form of a payment by a credit or check card transaction or a direct withdrawal from a bank account. The public service district may set a fee to be added to each transaction equal to the charge paid by the public service district for use of the credit or check card or direct withdrawal by the payor. The amount of the fee shall be disclosed to the payor prior to the transaction and no other fees for the use of a credit or check card or direct withdrawal may be imposed upon the payor and the whole of the charge or convenience fee shall be borne by the payor: *Provided*, That to the extent a public service district desires to accept payments in the forms described in this subsection and does not have access to the equipment

or receive the services necessary to do so, the public service district shall first obtain three bids for services and equipment necessary to affect the forms of transactions described in this subsection and use the lowest qualified bid received. Acceptance of a credit or check card or direct withdrawal as a form of payment shall comport with the rules and requirements set forth by the credit or check card provider or banking institution.

(i) The board collecting the rates, fees, or charges may shut off and discontinue water services to users with delinquent stormwater fees, provided that:

(1) The water service and stormwater fee are in the name of the same user;

(2) The rates, fees, or charges incurred by the user are at least 90 days past due;

(3) The provider has given the user written notice of termination of water service for nonpayment. Such notice must be given to the user at least 10 days before the termination of service and must notify the user of the user's right to enter into a deferred payment plan;

(4) The provider has attempted to make personal contact with the user at least twice in the 24 hours immediately before the termination of the service. If the provider makes personal contact with the user, the provider must inform the user of the user's right to enter into a deferred payment plan.

(5) The water service for a user who has entered into a deferred payment plan under this subsection may not be shut off or discontinued as long as the user is in conformance with the agreed to payment plan. In the event the user falls out of compliance with the deferred payment plan, no sooner than five days after the missed payment, the provider may terminate service: *Provided*, That the provider must make one attempt to make personal contact with the user in the 24 hours immediately before the termination of the service.

(j) All rates, fees, or charges, if not paid when due, shall constitute a lien upon the premises served by the works. If any service rate, fee, or charge is not paid within 20 days after it is due, the amount thereof, together with a penalty of 10 percent and a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered by the board in a civil action in the name of the public service district. The lien may be foreclosed against the lot, parcel of land, or building in accordance with the laws relating thereto. Where water, stormwater, and sewer services are furnished by any public service district to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount or individually itemized and billed for the aggregate thereof.

CHAPTER 24. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

ARTICLE 3. DUTIES AND PRIVILEGES OF PUBLIC UTILITIES SUBJECT TO REGULATIONS OF COMMISSION.

§24-3-10. Termination of water service for delinquent sewer or stormwater bills.

(a) In the event that any publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town, municipal corporation, or public service district owns and operates either water facilities or sewer facilities, and a privately owned public utility or a public utility that is owned and operated by a homeowners' association owns and operates the other kind of facilities, either water or sewer, then the privately owned public utility or the homeowners' association may contract with the publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town, or public service district which provides the other services

to shutoff and discontinue the supplying of water service for the nonpayment of sewer service fees and charges.

(b) Any contracts entered into by a privately owned public utility or by a public utility that is owned and operated by a homeowners' association pursuant to this section must be submitted to the Public Service Commission for approval.

(c) Any privately owned public utility or any public utility that is owned and operated by a homeowners' association which provides water and sewer service to its customers may terminate water service for delinquency in payment of either water or sewer bills.

(d) Where a privately owned public utility or a public utility that is owned and operated by a homeowners' association is providing sewer service and another utility is providing water service, and the privately owned public utility or the homeowners' association providing sewer service experiences a delinquency in payment, the utility providing water service, upon the request of the homeowners' association or the privately owned public utility providing sewer service to the delinquent account, shall terminate its water service to the customer having the delinquent sewer account.

(e) Any termination of water service must comply with all rules and orders of the Public Service Commission. Nothing contained within the rules of the Public Service Commission shall be deemed to require any agents or employees of the water or sewer utility to accept payment at the customer's premises in lieu of discontinuing water service for a delinquent water or sewer bill.

(f) A publicly or privately owned utility, city, incorporated town, municipal corporation, or public service district that owns or operates water facilities, or a public utility that is owned and operated by a homeowners' association that owns or operates water facilities may not discontinue or shut off water service to its customers for delinquency in payment of stormwater fees or charges, nor may it contract with any other utility, public or private, to which it provides water service to terminate water service to customers of the other utility for delinquency in the payment of stormwater services fees and charges except as provided in subsections (g) and (h) of this section.

(g) The governing body, board, or association collecting the rates, fees, or charges may shut off and discontinue water services to users with delinquent stormwater fees, provided that:

(1) The water service and stormwater fee are in the name of the same user;

(2) The rates, fees, or charges incurred by the user are 90 days past due;

(3) The provider has given the user written notice of termination of water service for nonpayment. Such notice must be given to the user at least 10 days before the termination of service and must notify the user of the user's right to enter into a deferred payment plan;

(4) The provider has attempted to make personal contact with the user at least two times in the 24 hours immediately before the termination of the service. If the provider makes personal contact with the user, the provider must inform the user of the user's right to enter into a deferred payment plan.

(5) The water service for a user who has entered into a deferred payment plan under this subsection may not be shut off or discontinued as long as the user is in conformance with the

agreed to payment plan. In the event the user falls out of compliance with the deferred payment plan, no sooner than five days after the missed payment, the provider may terminate service: *Provided*, That the provider must make one attempt to make personal contact with the user in the 24 hours immediately before the termination of the service.

(h) All rates, fees, or charges, if not paid when due, shall constitute a lien upon the premises served by the works. If any service rate, fee, or charge is not paid within 20 days after it is due, the amount thereof, together with a penalty of 10 percent and a reasonable attorney's fee, may be recovered by the provider in a civil action in the name of the provider. The lien may be foreclosed against the lot, parcel of land, or building in accordance with the laws relating thereto. Where water, stormwater, and sewer services are furnished by any provider to any premises, the schedule of charges may be billed as a single amount or individually itemized and billed for the aggregate thereof.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 631—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-13-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-13-16a; to amend and reenact §16-13A-9 of said code; and to amend and reenact §24-3-10 of said code, all relating to prohibiting utilities from shutting off a user's water service for nonpayment of stormwater fees without notice and compliance with certain conditions; creating board to hear appeals for assessment of estimated usage units; authorizing municipal utilities to discontinue water service to user delinquent in stormwater services fees and charges only after complying with certain requirements but imposing lien on premises served; allowing public service districts to discontinue water service to user delinquent in stormwater service fees and charges only after complying with certain requirements but imposing lien on premises served; and authorizing privately or publicly owned utilities from discontinuing water service, or contracting with other utilities to discontinue water service, for delinquency in stormwater services fees and charges only after complying with certain requirements but imposing lien on premises served.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments, as amended.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 631, as amended, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 631) passed with its Senate amended title.

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

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

Eng. Senate Bill 643, Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Education, School Building Authority.

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 649, Clarifying per diem compensation for certain judges recalled to service.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 652, Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Health Facilities.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 661, Expiring funds from Lottery Net Profits to General Revenue Surplus.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 663, Supplementing and amending appropriations to Division of Administrative Services, Criminal Justice Fund.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 675, Establishing accreditation deadline for convention and visitors bureaus.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

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

§7-18-13a. Annual reports by convention and visitors bureaus; eligibility for hotel occupancy tax proceeds.

(a) On or before 90 days after the end of its fiscal year, every convention and visitors bureau which receives any appropriation of hotel occupancy tax from one or more counties or municipalities shall file with each such county or municipality, the State Auditor, the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, and the West Virginia Association of Convention and

Visitors Bureaus a report, including an income statement and balance sheet, showing all amounts of hotel occupancy tax appropriated to the convention and visitors bureau and all expenditures of hotel occupancy tax made by the convention and visitors bureau for the prior fiscal year, as well as any such information required by subsection (b) of this section. A convention and visitors bureau that has not filed a report in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be ineligible to receive additional appropriations of hotel occupancy tax proceeds until such report has been filed.

(b) In order to qualify for a distribution of net proceeds pursuant to §7-18-14 of this code, a convention and visitors bureau shall satisfy the following requirements:

(1) The convention and visitors bureau shall have a minimum annual budget;

(2) The convention and visitors bureau shall establish a marketing plan targeting markets outside of a 50-mile radius of the bureau's municipality or county of operation;

(3) The annual operating budget for the convention and visitors bureau allocates approximately 40 percent of annual revenues to advertising and marketing, approximately 40 percent to salaries and personnel, and approximately 20 percent to other operating expenses: *Provided*, That a convention and visitors bureau that allocates less than 40 percent of annual revenues to salaries and personnel shall be considered to have satisfied the budget allocation requirement;

(4) The convention and visitors bureau has a full-time executive director that maintains the minimum number of continuing education hours recommended annually by industry standards;

(5) The convention and visitors bureau has a physical office and/or visitor center that is accessible at least 40 hours per week and has a dedicated phone line;

(6) The convention and visitors bureau maintains a website and appropriate marketing materials;

(7) The convention and visitors bureau has received, and maintains, accreditation from an accrediting body at least once every three years: *Provided*, That convention and visitors bureaus in existence on the effective date of the amendments to this section enacted during the regular session of the Legislature, 2021, shall have until June 30, 2026, to receive and maintain accreditation from either a national or West Virginia accrediting body, and may, until that date, receive a distribution of net proceeds pursuant to §7-18-14 of this code if all other requirements for receiving a distribution are satisfied; and

(8) The convention and visitors bureau submits an annual report to all of its funding entities, which shall include, but not be limited to, the information provided for in this subsection.

Nothing in this section may be construed as to interfere with the ability of a county or municipality to enter into any agreements or partnerships with convention and visitors bureaus in neighboring counties or municipalities for the purposes of distributing net tax proceeds pursuant to §7-18-14 of this code, so long as all other requirements of this section are met.

(c) At least once every three years, any bureau that receives any appropriation of hotel occupancy tax from one or more counties or municipalities shall cause an audit or financial review, in a form as is appropriate to the particular bureau, to be made by an independent certified public

accountant of all its books, accounts, and records relating to all receipts and expenditures of any hotel occupancy tax appropriations for the three prior fiscal years of the bureau. A copy of the audit or financial review shall be filed with each county or municipality from which the bureau received an appropriation of hotel occupancy tax, the State Auditor, the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, and the West Virginia Association of Convention and Visitors Bureaus. After July 1, 2024, a bureau that has not caused such an audit or financial review to be made is ineligible to receive an appropriation of hotel occupancy tax proceeds pursuant to §7-18-14 of this code.

(d) In order to encourage counties and municipalities to work within the existing framework of convention and visitors bureaus, there shall be a moratorium on the authorization of new convention and visitors bureaus until June 30, ~~2026~~2029. A county or municipality may not appropriate any net proceeds of hotel occupancy taxes, pursuant to §7-18-14 of this code, to any convention ~~or~~ and visitors bureau created on or after the amendments to this section enacted during the regular session of the Legislature, 2021, and prior to the end of the moratorium imposed by this subsection.

(e) On or after June 30, ~~2026~~2029, any new convention and visitors bureau ~~which~~ that meets and maintains all of the requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall qualify for a distribution of net proceeds pursuant to §7-18-14 of this code, if all other requirements for receiving a distribution are satisfied.

~~(e)~~ (f) Nothing in this section may prohibit either the State Auditor or the Legislative Auditor from conducting regular reviews or audits of the operations or finances of a convention and visitors bureau to ensure compliance with this code.

On motion of Senator Takubo, the following amendment to the House of Delegates amendment to the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 675) was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 675—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-18-13a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to accreditation of convention and visitors bureaus; providing time extension for certain bureaus to become accredited and still be eligible for distribution of hotel occupancy tax proceeds; extending moratorium period for authorization of new bureaus; and requiring all new bureaus to obtain and maintain accreditation as requirement to receive distribution of net proceeds after certain date.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendment, as amended.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 675, as amended, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Boley, Caputo, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Maroney, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Roberts, Rucker, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—26.

The nays were: Barrett, Chapman, Karnes, Martin, Maynard, Queen, and Smith—7.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 675) passed with its Senate amended title.

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

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 690, Establishing WV Agritourism Commission.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 695, Supplementing and amending appropriations to Energy Assistance, TANF, and Child Care and Development.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 697, Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Consolidated Medical Service Fund.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 698, Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Division of Human Services.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 699, Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Child Support Enforcement Fund.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 702, Supplementing and amending appropriations to DHHR, Laboratory Services Fund.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 704, Supplementing and amending appropriations to PSC, Motor Carrier Division.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 705, Supplementing and amending appropriations to PSC.

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 786, Relating to massage therapy establishments.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, to take effect July 1, 2024, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendment, as to

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 791, Modifying membership requirements of Medical Services Fund Advisory Council.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

On page 1, by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

**ARTICLE 4. STATE ADVISORY BOARD; MEDICAL SERVICES FUND; ADVISORY COUNCIL;
GENERAL RELIEF FUND. MEDICAID ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

§9-4-3. Advisory council committee.

~~(a) The advisory council, created by chapter one hundred forty-three, Acts of the Legislature, regular session, 1953, as an advisory body to the state Medicaid Agency with respect to the medical services fund and disbursements therefrom and to advise about health and medical services, is continued so long as the medical services fund remains in existence, and thereafter so long as the state Medicaid Agency considers the advisory council to be necessary or desirable, and it is organized as provided by this section and applicable federal law and has those advisory powers and duties as are granted and imposed by this section and elsewhere by law.~~

~~(b) The advisory council shall consist of not less than nine members, nor more than 15 members, all but four of whom shall be appointed by the state Medicaid Agency and serve until replaced or reappointed on a rotating basis.~~

~~(c)(1) The heads of the Bureau of Public Health and Bureau for Medical Services are members ex officio.~~

~~(2) The cochairs of the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability, or their designees, are nonvoting ex officio members.~~

~~(3) The remaining members comprising the council consist of:~~

~~(A) One member of recognized ability in the field of medicine and surgery with respect to whose appointment the state Medical Association shall be afforded the opportunity of making nomination of three qualified persons;~~

~~(B) One member of recognized ability in the field of dentistry with respect to whose appointment the state Dental Association shall be afforded the opportunity of nominating three qualified persons;~~

~~(C) One member chosen from a list of three persons nominated by the West Virginia Primary Care Association;~~

~~(D) One member chosen from a list of three persons nominated by the Behavioral Health Providers Association of West Virginia; and~~

~~(E) The remaining members chosen from persons of recognized ability in the fields of hospital administration, nursing and allied professions and from consumers groups, including Medicaid recipients, members of the West Virginia Directors of Senior and Community Services, labor unions, cooperatives and consumer sponsored prepaid group practices plans.~~

~~(d) The council shall meet on call of the state Medicaid Agency.~~

~~(e) Each member of the advisory council shall receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary travel expenses for each day actually served in attendance at meetings of the council in accordance with the state's travel regulations. Requisitions for the expenses shall be accompanied by an itemized statement, which shall be filed with the Auditor and preserved as a public record.~~

~~(f) The advisory council shall assist the state Medicaid Agency in the establishment of rules, standards and bylaws necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and shall serve as consultants to the state Medicaid Agency in carrying out the provisions of this section.~~

(a) The advisory committee created as an advisory body to the state Medicaid Agency with respect to the medical services fund and disbursements therefrom and to advise about health and medical services, and to bring fiscal stability to the Medicaid program through development of annual financial plans and long-range plans designed to meet the agency's estimated total financial requirements is continued.

(b) The advisory committee shall consist of not less than 9 members, nor more than 15 members, and all members shall be appointed by the state Medicaid Agency, and shall serve until replaced or reappointed on a rotating basis: *Provided*, That members appointed as non-voting, ex officio shall not be included in the total committee membership. These advisory committee members shall include:

(1) The Secretary for the Department of Human Services, who shall serve as Chair of the Committee;

(2) The Chairs of the House of Delegates and Senate Finance Committees, or their designees, are nonvoting, ex officio members;

(3) The co-chairs and a minority committee member from each the House of Delegates and Senate of the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability, or their designees, are nonvoting, ex officio members;

(4) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Medical Services as a nonvoting ex officio member;

(5) The state health officer as a nonvoting ex officio member;

(6) Three members of the Beneficiary Advisory Group Subcommittee;

(7) A member of the public with at least three years of experience with employee benefit programs;

(8) A member representing a Medicaid managed care organization;

(9) The provider representatives specified in the Advisory Committee bylaws as of March 1, 2024;

(10) Two members of the public from beneficiary advocacy organizations or associations; and

(11) One member of the public who is a health care actuary or certified public accountant with at least three years of experience with health care budgeting

(c) A committee member shall be a resident of West Virginia. A committee member shall have a fiduciary responsibility to protect the interests of Medicaid beneficiaries and the taxpayers of West Virginia. Beginning July 1, 2025, and every year thereafter, a committee member shall complete fiduciary training and timely complete any conflict-of-interest forms required to serve as a fiduciary.

(d) A member of the committee or any subcommittee may not be a registered lobbyist.

(e) The Secretary of the Department of Human Services shall establish and chair a Beneficiary Advisory Group Subcommittee comprised of six public members who are past or present Medicaid enrollees, or the family or caregivers of a Medicaid enrollee.

(f) The advisory committee shall develop and publish a process to recruit and appoint committee and subcommittee members.

(g) The advisory committee shall assist the state Medicaid Agency in the establishment of rules, standards, and by-laws necessary to carry out the provisions of this section and shall serve as consultants to the state Medicaid Agency in carrying out the provisions of this section.

(h) The committee shall meet at least quarterly on the call of the state Medicaid Agency.

(i) At least two of the four quarterly meetings per year must be open to the public and offer a chance for the public to speak.

(j) Each member of the advisory committee shall receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary travel expenses for each day served in attendance at meetings of the committee in accordance with the state's travel regulations. Requisitions for the expenses shall be accompanied by an itemized statement, which shall be filed with the Auditor and preserved as a public record.

(k) The advisory committee shall evaluate and administer programs to improve quality, improve health status of members, develop innovative payment methodologies, manage health care delivery costs, evaluate effective benefit designs, evaluate cost sharing and benefit-based programs, and evaluate effective industry programs that can manage the long-term effectiveness and costs for the Medicaid program.

(l) The advisory committee shall analyze the Medicaid Six-Year Plan concerning assumptions that formulate expenditure projections with the purpose of crafting strategies to mitigate long term financial liabilities in the program.

(m) The advisory committee shall publish on the Medicaid agency's website:

(1) The list of members;

(2) The meeting schedule; and

(3) Past meeting minutes and attendance.

(n) The advisory committee shall make recommendations on all elements of the Medicaid program and submit an annual report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability annually by September 1.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 791—A Bill to amend and reenact §9-4-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to Medicaid; modifying the membership requirements of the Medical Services Fund Advisory Council; augmenting its purpose; requiring certain actions from the Commissioner for the Bureau for Medical Services; and addressing the six-year plan to mitigate long-term financial liabilities.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate refused to concur in the foregoing House amendments to the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 791) and requested the House of Delegates to recede therefrom.

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

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 826, Creating exemption from bond or security requirement of banking institutions holding certain funds for county commissions.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 868, Supplementary appropriation to Department of Commerce, Geological and Economic Survey.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 871, Supplementary appropriation to Department of Veterans' Assistance, Veterans' Facilities.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 876, Supplementing and amending appropriations to Department of Health and Human Resources, Health Facilities.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 877, Supplementing and amending appropriations to Higher Education Policy Commission.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendments to, and the passage as amended with its Senate amended title, to take effect July 1, 2025, of

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4971, Relating to Critical Materials Manufacturing Tax.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendments to, and the passage as amended with its Senate amended title, of

Eng. House Bill 4998, Modifying penalties for third offense shoplifting.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendment to, and the passage as amended, of

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5013, Relating to Timber Management.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendments to, and the passage as amended with its Senate amended title, of

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5017, Relating to mobile food establishment reciprocity.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendments to, and the passage as amended with its Senate amended title, of

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5091, West Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection Act.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendments to, and the passage as amended with its Senate amended title, to take effect January 1, 2025, of

Eng. House Bill 5298, Relating to prohibiting a candidate who failed to secure the nomination of a political party in a primary election from seeking the same elected office as an affiliate with a different political party in the subsequent general election.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendment to, and the passage as amended, of

Eng. House Bill 5582, Modifying exceptions for real estate appraisal licensure.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendments to, and the passage as amended with its Senate amended title, of

Eng. House Bill 5650, Allow suspended school personnel to enter school property functions open to the public.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the concurrence by that body in the Senate amendments to, and the passage as amended with its Senate amended title, of

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5662, Relating to adding "person in a position of trust" to certain crimes.

The Senate proceeded to the fourth order of business.

Senator Blair (Mr. President), from the Committee on Rules, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Rules has had under consideration

Com. Sub. for Senate Resolution 6 (originating in the Committee on Government Organization), Honoring life of Edith Levy, Holocaust survivor.

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

Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for Senate Resolution 6 (originating in the Committee on Rules)—Honoring the life Edith Rechter Levy, Ed. D., a Holocaust survivor, and a remarkable woman, who dedicated her life to educating others about the dangers of intolerance and prejudice while inspiring efforts to create a future in which none among us will be singled out to become a victim or a persecutor.

With the recommendation that the committee substitute for committee substitute be adopted.

Respectfully submitted,

Craig Blair,
Chair ex officio.

At the request of Senator Woodrum, unanimous consent being granted, the resolution (Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. R. 6) contained in the preceding report from the Committee on Rules was taken up for immediate consideration.

The question being on the adoption of the resolution, and on this question, Senator Trump demanded the yeas and nays.

The roll being taken, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of those present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the resolution (Com. Sub. for Com. Sub. for S. R. 6) adopted.

Thereafter, at the request of Senator Caputo, and by unanimous consent, the remarks by Senators Woodrum and Oliverio regarding the adoption of Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Resolution 6 were ordered printed in the Appendix to the Journal.

Senator Weld announced that in the meeting of the Committee on Rules previously held, the committee, in accordance with Rule 17 of the Rules of the Senate, had removed from the Senate third reading calendar, **Engrossed House Bill 4292**.

Senator Weld announced that in the same meeting, the Committee on Rules, in accordance with Rule 17 of the Rules of the Senate, had ordered **Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 4753, Engrossed House Bill 4793, Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 4880, Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 4883, Engrossed House Bill 5105, Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 5262, Engrossed House Bill 4945, Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 4956, Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 5162, and Engrossed House Bill 5548** to the foot of bills on today's third reading calendar.

The Senate proceeded to the seventh order of business.

Senate Resolution 70, Memorializing life of Heather Nicole Miller.

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

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

Senate Resolution 71, Congratulating Kerri-Anne Cook on becoming first female golfer to win WVSSAC AA golf tournament.

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

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

The Senate proceeded to the eighth order of business.

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4110, Authorizing certain miscellaneous agencies and boards 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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson,

Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4110) passed.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4110—A Bill to amend and reenact §64-9-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to authorizing certain miscellaneous agencies and boards to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as filed, as modified and as disapproved by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee, and as amended by the Legislature; directing certain miscellaneous agencies and boards to amend current legislative rules; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Accountancy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to board rules and rules of professional conduct; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Acupuncture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to applications for licensure to practice acupuncture; authorizing the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to frozen desserts and imitation frozen desserts; authorizing the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to certified pesticide applicators; authorizing the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensing pesticide businesses; authorizing the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to West Virginia molluscan shellfish; not authorizing the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to select plant-based derivative products; authorizing the West Virginia Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to agritourism; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists to promulgate a legislative rule relating to procedures, criteria, and curricula for examination and licensure of barbers, cosmetologists, nail technicians, aestheticians, and hair stylists; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the application for waiver of initial licensing fees for certain individuals; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Barbers and Cosmetologists to promulgate a legislative rule relating to cosmetology apprenticeships; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensing; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling to promulgate a legislative rule relating to marriage and family therapist licensing; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Dentistry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to practitioner requirements for accessing the West Virginia Controlled Substances Monitoring Program database; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Licensed Dietitians to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensure and renewal requirements; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Licensed Dietitians to promulgate a legislative rule relating to continuing professional education requirements; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Licensed Dietitians to promulgate a legislative rule relating to telehealth practice, requirements, and definitions; relating to authorizing the West Virginia Department of Economic Development to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the operation of motorsports complexes and events; authorizing the State Election Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to corporate and membership organization political activity; authorizing the State Election Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to regulation of campaign finance; authorizing the State Election Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the application and approval process for

Secretary of State expenditures from the County Assistance Voting Equipment Fund; directing the Board of Funeral Home Service Examiners to amend a legislative rule relating to funeral director, embalmer, apprentice, courtesy card holders, and funeral establishment requirements; authorizing the West Virginia Massage Therapy Licensure Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to general provisions; authorizing the West Virginia Massage Therapy Licensure Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to a schedule of fees; authorizing the West Virginia Massage Therapy Licensure Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to establishment licensure; authorizing the West Virginia Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Technology Board of Examiners to promulgate a legislative rule relating to medical imaging technologists; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensure, practice requirements, disciplinary and complaint procedures, continuing education, and physician assistants; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to continuing education for physicians and podiatric physicians; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to permitting and disciplinary procedures: educational permits for graduate medical interns, residents and fellows; authorizing the West Virginia Nursing Home Administrators Licensing Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to nursing home administrators; authorizing the Board to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the West Virginia Board of Optometry; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Optometry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to continuing education; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Optometry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to injectable pharmaceutical agents certificates; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Optometry to promulgate a legislative rule relating to eyelid procedures; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensing procedures for osteopathic physicians; to authorizing the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine to promulgate a legislative rule relating to osteopathic physician assistants; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensure and practice of pharmacy; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to continuing education for licensure for pharmacists; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to registration of pharmacy technicians; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to immunizations administered by pharmacists, pharmacy interns, and pharmacy technicians; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to centralized prescription processing; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to pharmacy permits; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Pharmacy to promulgate a legislative rule relating to substitution of biological pharmaceuticals; authorizing the Board of Professional Surveyors to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the examination and licensing of professional surveyors in West Virginia; authorizing the Board of Examiners of Psychologists to promulgate a legislative rule relating to disciplinary and complaint procedures for psychologists; authorizing the Board of Examiners of Psychologists to promulgate a legislative rule relating to contested case hearing procedure; authorizing the West Virginia Real Estate Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to licensing real estate brokers, associate brokers, and salespersons and the conduct of brokerage businesses; authorizing the West Virginia Real Estate Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to a schedule of fees; authorizing the West Virginia Real Estate Commission to promulgate a legislative rule relating to requirements for real estate courses, course providers, and instructors; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Registered Nurses to promulgate a legislative rule relating to policies, standards and criteria for the evaluation, approval and national nursing accreditation of prelicensure nursing education programs; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Registered Nurses to promulgate a legislative rule relating to requirements for registration and licensure and conduct constituting professional misconduct; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Registered Nurses to promulgate a legislative rule relating to advanced practice registered nurse licensure

requirements; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Registered Nurses to promulgate a legislative rule relating to fees for services rendered by the board; authorizing the West Virginia Board of Respiratory Care to promulgate a legislative rule relating to student temporary permits; authorizing the Secretary of State to promulgate a legislative rule relating to guidelines for the use of nicknames and other designations on the ballot; authorizing the Secretary of State to promulgate a legislative rule relating to Combined Voter Registration and Driver Licensing Fund; authorizing the Secretary of State to promulgate a legislative rule relating to minimum standards for election administration, infrastructure, and security; authorizing the West Virginia State Treasurer to promulgate a legislative rule relating to enforcement of the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act; and authorizing the West Virginia State Treasurer to promulgate a legislative rule relating to the Jumpstart Savings Program.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4110) takes effect from passage.

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

Eng. House Bill 4292, Providing for enhanced damages for non-payment of royalties due from oil, natural gas, or natural gas liquids production.

Having been removed from the Senate third reading calendar in earlier proceedings today, no further action thereon was taken.

Eng. House Bill 4297, Law Enforcement Officers Safety 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: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. H. B. 4297) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. House Bill 4297—A Bill to amend and reenact §15A-3-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to recognizing that certain designated correctional officers are law enforcement officers for purposes of the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act, 18 U.S.C. §926B; establishing requirements for eligibility; setting forth training requirements; stating the intent of the Legislature; and declaring that the Commissioner of Corrections has discretion as to eligibility and operation of the program.

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 4320, Relating to access for minor children's medical records.

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, Boley, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—31.

The nays were: Caputo and Plymale—2.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4320) passed.

At the request of Senator Maroney, as chair of the Committee on Health and Human Resources, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Health and Human Resources committee amendment to the title of the bill was withdrawn.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4320—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-30-2, §16-30-14, and §16-30-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §16-30C-14 of said code; to amend and reenact said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §16-30D-1, §16-30D-2, and §16-30D-3; to amend and reenact §30-3-14 of this code; and to amend and reenact §30-3A-2 of said code, all relating to medically-assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing; clarifying legislative intent; clarifying that certain acts in accordance with West Virginia Health Care Decisions Act and Do Not Resuscitate Act do not constitute murder, medically-assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing; prohibiting licensed medical professionals in West Virginia from performing or assisting in practice of medically-assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing of a human; clarifying inapplicability to certain acts while patient's condition follows natural course; defining terms; providing for disciplinary action against licensed medical professional who knowingly and willfully performs or assists in practice of medically-assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing; providing criminal penalties; clarifying that a physician who exceeds average dosage of a pain relieving controlled substance under certain circumstances does not violate prohibition against medically-assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing of a

human; and clarifying that prescriber who satisfies certain criteria for management of pain is not subject to disciplinary sanctions or criminal punishment relating to medically-assisted suicide, euthanasia, or mercy killing.

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 4350, Relating to appointment of candidates after filing period.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4350) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect January 1, 2025.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4350) takes effect January 1, 2025.

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 4399, Creating the equitable right to expungement.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: Stuart—1.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4399) passed.

At the request of Senator Weld, as vice chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Judiciary committee amendment to the title of the bill was withdrawn.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4399—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-11-22, §61-11-22a, and §61-11-25 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to general provisions concerning crimes; expungement of criminal records; and when a civil action may be filed to expunge criminal records for cases where charges have been dismissed following a full and successful completion of a pretrial diversion or deferred adjudication; relating to exceptions to the allowance to file a civil action for expungement.

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

Eng. House Bill 4700, Banning certain persons from sport wagering activities.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. H. B. 4700) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. House Bill 4700—A Bill to amend and reenact §29-22D-4 and §29-22D-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to banning certain persons from sport wagering activities; directing the Lottery Commission to propose a rule for legislative approval specifying reasons for which patrons of sports gaming may be banned from engaging in sports betting; setting forth a non-inclusive list of reasons for which a patron may be banned; requiring the rule contain a procedure for lodging complaints against patrons and for investigation of complaints; and allowing the Commission or an operator to continue banning persons from certain areas of a gaming facility until the Commission promulgates the rule.

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

At the request of Senator Tarr, unanimous consent being granted, the Senate returned to the second order of business and the introduction of guests.

The Senate again proceeded to the eighth order of business, the next bill coming up in numerical sequence being

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4786, Delivery Network Company (DNC) Insurance Model Act.

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

Senators Smith and Hamilton, respectively, requested rulings from the Chair as to whether they should be excused from voting under Rule 43 of the Rules of the Senate.

The Chair replied that any impact on Senators Smith and Hamilton would be as members of a class of persons and that they would be required to vote.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4786) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Banking and Insurance, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4786—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §33-63-1, §33-63-2, §33-63-3, §33-63-4, §33-63-5, and §33-63-6, all relating to creating the Delivery Network Company Insurance Act; providing a short title; defining terms; defining interaction with other laws; providing insurance and disclosure requirements relating to delivery network companies and delivery network drivers; specifying minimum insurance coverage amounts required of delivery network companies and delivery network drivers; setting forth when delivery network companies must assume primary liability; authorizing exclusions in motor vehicle liability insurance policies and retaining other rights of insurers; and creating an effective date.

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 4837, Clarifying the duty of banks to retain and procure records.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4837) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Banking and Insurance, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4837—A Bill to amend and reenact §31A-4-35 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend and reenact §46-3-118 of said code, all relating to duties of banks to retain records and limiting liability; providing uniformity between statute of limitations, presumption of abandonment, and duty of banks to retain records; limiting liability of banks based on the destruction of records as permitted by law; providing a presumption of payment by the bank on demand, savings, or time deposits; and modifying statute of limitations on notes, certificates of deposit, and drafts.

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

Eng. House Bill 4863, Patriotic Access to Students in Schools Act.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, with the unreported Education committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was read a third time.

The following amendment to the bill, from the Committee on Education, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

On page 1, section 44, by striking out lines 5 through 7, and inserting in thereof the following:

"school students to participate in their organization during school hours to inform the students of how the patriotic society may further the students' educational interests and civic involvement to better their schools, communities, and themselves. Participation of students is voluntary and must not interfere with instructional learning."

On motion of Senator Clements, the following amendment to the bill (Eng. H. B. 4863) was next reported by the Clerk:

On page 1, section 44, lines 8 through 10, by striking out all of subsection (c) and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection (c) to read as follows:

(c) The patriotic society must notify the board of education of its intent to speak to the students. Upon approval from the board the patriotic society shall provide verbal or written notice to the principal. The principal shall provide verbal or written approval of the specific day and time for the society to address the students.

Following discussion,

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

Engrossed House Bill 4863, as just amended, was then put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed House Bill 4863 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. H. B. 4863) 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 4911, Relating to the sale of raw milk.

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 House Bill 4911 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Phillips, Plymale, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—28.

The nays were: Caputo, Maroney, Oliverio, Queen, and Woelfel—5.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4911) passed.

At the request of Senator Hamilton, as chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Agriculture and Natural Resources committee amendment to the title of the bill was withdrawn.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4911—A Bill to amend and reenact §19-1-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to raw milk; defining "raw milk"; authorizing intrastate sales of raw milk; imposing labeling requirements; and authorizing rulemaking.

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 4951, To facilitate the interstate practice of School Psychology in educational or school settings.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4951) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4951—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article designated §18-10R-1, §18-10R-2, §18-10R-3, §18-10R-4, §18-10R-5, §18-10R-6, §18-10R-7, §18-10R-8, §18-10R-9, §18-10R-10, §18-10R-11, §18-10R-12, and §18-10R-13, relating to the Interstate Compact for School Psychologists; stating purpose; defining terms; providing for state and school psychologists' participation in compact; determining home state for active military members and their spouses; providing for discipline by the state; establishment of school psychologist interstate licensure compact commission and providing its powers and duties; facilitating information exchange; providing for oversight, dispute resolution and enforcement; providing an effective date, and process for withdrawal of a state and amendments; providing for construction and severability; and providing for consistent state laws with the compact superseding any laws in conflict with the compact.

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 4975, Relating to establishing a foster parent information system.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, with the unreported Health and Human Resources committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was read a third time.

The following amendment to the bill, from the Committee on Health and Human Resources, was reported by the Clerk:

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

ARTICLE 2. STATE RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILDREN.

§49-2-111c. Priorities for use of funds.

(a) Subject to appropriations by the Legislature, the department ~~is authorized and directed to:~~ shall:

(1) Enhance and increase efforts to provide services to prevent the removal of children from their homes;

(2) Identify relatives and fictive kin of children in need of placement outside of the home;

(3) Train kinship parents to become certified foster parents;

(4) Expand a tiered foster care system that provides higher payments for foster parents providing care to, and child placing agencies providing services to, foster children who have severe emotional, behavioral, or intellectual problems or disabilities, with particular emphasis upon removing children in congregate care and placing them with suitable foster parents; ~~This program shall be operational no later than December 1, 2020 and~~

~~(5) Develop a pilot program to increase payment to uncertified kinship parents for the purpose of further helping families who have accepted kinship placements.~~

~~(b) During fiscal year 2021, the department shall expend at least \$16,900,000 for the purposes of implementing the priorities and objectives listed in this section.~~

~~(c) On or before July 1, 2022 and on or before July 1 of every year thereafter, the secretary of the department shall present a report to the Joint Standing Committee on Government and Finance regarding the expenditures made pursuant to subsection (b) of this section and the department's progress in meeting the priorities and objectives listed in subsection (a) of this section: *Provided*, That the secretary shall provide the information described in this subsection and updates to previous reports at any time, upon request of the Joint Standing Committee on Government and Finance~~

(b) (1) The department shall develop and implement a web-based communication system which shall either be incorporated into the existing child welfare information technology system or be developed and implemented through the purchase of additional products that can be used in conjunction with the existing child welfare technology system. The web-based communication system shall communicate with and pull information from the existing child welfare information technology system. The components of the system may be implemented incrementally, except

that §49-2-111c(b)(2)(B) of this code, shall be implemented on or before January 1, 2025, with the project completed on or before January 1, 2026.

(2) The system shall:

(A) Ensure that permission access to utilize the system about a foster child is granted to only those parties with legal responsibilities to care for and support the foster child;

(B) Facilitate communications between those individuals involved in the child welfare system, including, but not limited to, foster parent or kinship parent requests and responses to requests to staff of the Bureau for Social Services and their contractual designees;

(C) Provide information regarding visitation, appointments, travel, and other services available to the foster child;

(D) Provide information regarding court hearings, meetings with guardian ad litem, multidisciplinary team (MDT) meetings, and provide other communications that may improve care for the foster child amongst designated parties with legal responsibilities to care for the foster child;

(E) Provide health records for the foster child to the foster parent or kinship parent by connecting with existing health care systems;

(F) Have the capacity to archive communications for the purpose of running reports on responsiveness by parties in the child welfare system; and

(G) Be created to prevent the input of the redundant information.

(3) On or before July 1, 2026, and quarterly thereafter, the department shall analyze and evaluate the average time it takes a child protective service worker to update the web-based communication system with the information required in this section. The department shall also evaluate the child protective service worker's response time to requests made in the web-based communications system from foster parents and kinship parents. This analysis shall be shared with the Foster Care Ombudsman and presented to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources Accountability on or before July 1, 2026, and annually thereafter.

On motion of Senator Maroney, the following amendments to the Health and Human Resources committee amendment to the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 4975) were reported by the Clerk, considered simultaneously, and adopted:

On page 2, section 111c, line 29, after the word "before" by striking out the words "January 1, 2025" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "July 1, 2025";

On page 2, section 111c, line 30, after the word "before" by striking out the words "January 1, 2026" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "July 1, 2026";

And,

On page 3, section 111c, after line 54 by inserting a new subdivision (4) to read as follows:

(4) On or before December 31, 2024, the Department of Human Services shall submit a report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health and Human Resources setting forth an overview of the status of implementation of the web-based communication system set forth in this section. The report shall contain, at a minimum, timelines for completion of the web-based communication system and projected expenditures.

The question now being on the adoption of the Health and Human Resources committee amendment to the bill, as amended, the same was put and prevailed.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 4975, as just amended, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4975) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Health and Human Resources, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4975—A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-111c of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to establishing a web-based communication system; setting forth the requirements of the system; establishing deadlines for implementation; requiring the Department of Human Services to provide analysis, evaluation, and reports regarding the system; and deleting obsolete language.

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 4999, Creating exception to spousal privilege.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 4999) passed with its title.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5084, Require retailers to verify identification and age upon purchase of vape products.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5084) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5084—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-9A-1, §16-9A-2, §16-9A-3, §16-9A-4, §16-9A-7, and §16-9A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to tobacco products; amending legislative intent; defining terms; prohibiting sale or gift of tobacco products to persons younger than 21 years of age; requiring that a valid driver's license, state identification card, or any valid and unexpired federally issued identification card be presented to verify the minimum age of 21 for the purchase or acceptance of tobacco products; setting forth fines and criminal penalties; increasing fines for selling tobacco products to persons younger than 21 years of age; removing penalties for possession of a tobacco product by a person younger than the age of 18; providing that an employee who sells a tobacco product to a person younger than 21 years of age is subject to noncriminal, nonmonetary penalties; allowing an employee who sells a tobacco product to a person younger than 21 years of age to be fired under certain circumstances; permitting persons younger than 21 years of age to be used in inspections of retail outlets where tobacco products are sold; providing a defense for a person charged with selling tobacco products to a person younger than 21 years of age; replacing the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration with the Bureau for Behavioral Health as an agency with authority to conduct inspections; removing the requirement for the West Virginia Alcohol Beverage Control Administration to submit a report and instead requiring the Commissioner of the Bureau for Behavioral Health to submit the report; and amending language regarding vending machines to conform to the increased age requirement.

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 5158, Relating to making technical corrections to the special education code.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5158) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Education, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5158—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-1-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §18-10N-2 of said code; to amend and reenact §18-20-1 and §18-20-1a of said code; to repeal §18-20-1b of said code; and to amend and reenact §18-20-1c, §18-20-1d, §18-20-2, §18-20-3, §18-20-4, §18-20-5, §18-20-6, §18-20-7, §18-20-8, §18-20-9, §18-20-10, and §18-20-11, all relating to updating statutory provisions regarding the special education code; defining local educational agency; clarifying that districts and county boards subsumed under the local educational agency; updating definitions; updating terminology used in education of exceptional children; clarifying local educational agencies special educational programs include services outside the school environment; requiring state board's rules assuring exceptional students receive an education in accordance with state and federal laws include students in foster care and correctional facilities; clarifying services required by local educational agency that must be provided until age of majority; requiring preschool programs, special education and related services for students with disabilities or developmental delays begin services by student's 3rd birthday; clarifying preschool programs for students with disabilities or developmental delays are available to such students in mental health facilities, residential institutions, and private entities who have entered into an agreement with a local educational agency; repealing outdated code section; clarifying provisions regarding assistance, training and information to be provided to integrated classroom teachers; allowing any teacher to request an IEP meeting in certain instance; prohibiting a teacher from being penalized for advocating for his or her student; allowing the teacher to work with the family or guardian; providing that the general education teacher is not responsible for daily accommodation logs; requiring that data to support the decision to place a student into an integrated classroom be included in the Individualized Education Plan; updating terminology for individualized education programs; clarifying minimum training for autism mentor and allowing for partial or full reimbursement of tuition for training as autism mentor; updating terminology regarding reports; requiring local educational agencies to maintain a continuum of services, including integrated classrooms and out of school environments; requiring training to integrated education and submission of annual reports; updating terminology regarding examination and reports by medical or other specialists; updating language regarding powers and duties of superintendent; updating language regarding advisory council for the education of exceptional children; updating requirements of exceptional children monitoring and accountability review teams; updating terminology regarding interagency plan for exceptional children and advisory council; updating terminology regarding gifted education caseload review; and updating language regarding video cameras in self-contained classrooms.

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 5232, The Business Liability Protection 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: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5232) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5232—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-7-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to instances when an employer may not terminate or take adverse action against an employee in certain circumstances; updating the Business Liability Protection Act; clarifying when a property owner may inquire as to lawful firearm possession; clarifying when a property owner may not remove a person from the property based on lawful firearm possession; defining terms.

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 5238, Mandating that all courts provide adjudication for juvenile offenders for traffic violations to the Division of Motor Vehicles.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5238) passed with its title.

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

Eng. House Bill 5252, Requiring certain minimum experience for the director or coordinator of services class title involving school transportation.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. H. B. 5252) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Education, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. House Bill 5252—A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-4-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to generally to service personnel class titles and definitions; requiring persons employed in a director or coordinator of services classification title as a director, assistant director, or coordinator of transportation to possess a commercial driver's license within one year of employment; providing exceptions; and removing outdated class title and terms.

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

Eng. House Bill 5257, Relating generally to allowing the Supreme Court of Appeals discretion to create uniform pay scales for all levels of judicial support staff.

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

Following a point of inquiry to the President, with resultant response thereto,

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Maroney, Maynard, Nelson, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Smith, Swope, Taylor, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—21.

The nays were: Caputo, Chapman, Jeffries, Karnes, Martin, Oliverio, Rucker, Stover, Stuart, Tarr, and Weld—11.

Absent: Takubo—1.

Excused from voting: Trump—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. H. B. 5257) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Government Organization, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. House Bill 5257—A Bill to amend and reenact §50-1-8, §50-1-9, and §50-1-9a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §51-2A-6 of said code; and to amend and reenact §62-1C-1a and §65-1C-2 of said code, relating generally to allowing the Supreme Court of Appeals discretion to create uniform pay scales for all levels of judicial support staff and relating generally to pretrial release generally; clarifying right to pretrial release; clarifying maximum bail amount for charges for multiple misdemeanor offenses; defining terms; establishing that defendant has right to select method of securing bail; clarifying that personal recognizance bonds shall include an unsecured monetary amount; prohibiting magistrate from setting cash only or property only bail; authorizing judicial officer to impose reasonably necessary conditions to assure defendant will appear as required, including releasing defendant on his or her own recognizance; clarifying that a magistrate may not release a defendant charged with a felony offense on his or her own recognizance on initial appearance; providing circumstances when a bail bond is not appropriate; providing circumstances when a magistrate has discretion to set a cash only bond; and making technical corrections.

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

On motion of Senator Weld, at 12 Noon, the Senate recessed for 15 minutes.

The Senate reconvened at 12:15 p.m. and resumed consideration of the remainder of its third reading calendar, the next bill coming up in numerical sequence being

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5287, Relating generally to traffic safety.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, with the unreported Transportation and Infrastructure committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was read a third time.

At the request of Senator Clements, as chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Transportation and Infrastructure committee amendment to the bill was withdrawn.

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

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

ARTICLE 2. OBEDIENCE TO AND EFFECT OF TRAFFIC LAWS.

§17C-2-10. Physicians exempt from specified traffic laws when responding to emergency.

(a) An allopathic or osteopathic physician traveling in response to an emergency call is exempt from the provisions of §17C-6-1, §17C-6-2, and §17C-6-3 of this code, if the vehicle used by the physician displays an emblem approved by the West Virginia Board of Medicine and the West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine indicating that the vehicle is owned by the licensed physician and responding to an emergency call.

(b) The provisions of this section do not relieve the physician from the duty to drive with due care for the safety of all persons using the highway, and they do not protect the physician from the consequences of acting in reckless disregard for the safety of others.

(c) The West Virginia Board of Medicine and West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code, that set forth criteria for a physician to request an emblem from the respective boards, grounds to use the emblem, and an administrative penalty if the emblem is used in inappropriate circumstances.

ARTICLE 14. MISCELLANEOUS RULES.

§17C-14-16. Approaching highway maintenance vehicles or disabled vehicles; penalties.

(a) The driver of any vehicle approaching a highway maintenance vehicle or disabled vehicle shall:

(1) Proceed with due care;

(2) Yield the right-of-way by making a lane change not adjacent to that of the highway maintenance vehicle or disabled vehicle, if possible with regard to safety and traffic conditions, if on a highway having at least four lanes with not less than two lanes proceeding in the same direction as the approaching vehicle; and

(3) Reduce speed to a safe level for road conditions.

(b) For purposes of this section:

(1) "Disabled vehicle" means a motor vehicle that is stationary due to disability of the driver or because the motor vehicle is physically or mechanically incapable of being operated safely, which also displays a warning signal, such as emergency flashers, hazard lights, flares, or retroreflective warning sign.

(2) "Highway maintenance vehicle" means a vehicle in use by the state, political subdivision, or contractor of the state or political subdivision, to maintain, repair, replace, construct, or otherwise improve public highways, bridges, facilities, or infrastructure located within a public right-of-way, which also displays a warning signal, such as flashing lights, hazard lights, flares, or retroreflective warning sign.

(c) Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not more than \$100; upon a second conviction within one year thereafter, shall be fined not more than \$200; and, upon a third or subsequent conviction within two years thereafter, shall be fined not more than \$500.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 5287, as just amended, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5287) passed.

At the request of Senator Clements, as chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Transportation and Infrastructure committee amendment to the title of the bill was withdrawn.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5287—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §17C-2-10, and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section designated §17C-14-16, all relating to traffic regulation; exempting certain physicians from specified traffic laws in emergency situations; imposing requirements on drivers when approaching a highway maintenance vehicle or disabled vehicle; defining terms; specifying penalties; and requiring rulemaking by the West Virginia Board of Medicine and West Virginia Board of Osteopathic Medicine.

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

On motion of Senator Grady, the Senate reconsidered the vote by which in earlier proceedings today it passed

Eng. House Bill 5257, Relating generally to allowing the Supreme Court of Appeals discretion to create uniform pay scales for all levels of judicial support staff.

The vote thereon having been reconsidered,

The question again being "Shall Engrossed House Bill 5257 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Clements, Deeds, Hamilton, Hunt, Karnes, Maroney, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Stuart, Swope, Taylor, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—23.

The nays were: Caputo, Chapman, Grady, Jeffries, Martin, Smith, Stover, Tarr, and Weld—9.

Absent: Takubo—1.

Excused from voting: Trump—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. H. B. 5257) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Government Organization, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. House Bill 5257—A Bill to amend and reenact §50-1-8, §50-1-9, and §50-1-9a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §51-2A-6 of said code; and to amend and reenact §62-1C-1a and §65-1C-2 of said code, relating generally to allowing the Supreme Court of Appeals discretion to create uniform pay scales for all levels of judicial support staff and relating generally to pretrial release generally; clarifying right to pretrial release; clarifying maximum bail amount for charges for multiple misdemeanor offenses; defining terms; establishing that defendant has right to select method of securing bail; clarifying that personal recognizance bonds shall include an unsecured monetary amount; prohibiting magistrate from setting cash only or property only bail; authorizing judicial officer to impose reasonably necessary conditions to assure defendant will appear as required, including releasing defendant on his or her own recognizance; clarifying that a magistrate may not release a defendant charged with a felony offense on his or her own recognizance on initial appearance; providing circumstances when a bail bond is not appropriate; providing circumstances when a magistrate has discretion to set a cash only bond; and making technical corrections.

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

The Senate then resumed consideration of the remainder of its third reading calendar, the next bill coming up in numerical sequence being

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5349, West Virginia Truth in Food Labeling 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: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5349) passed.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5349—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §19-39-1, §19-39-2, and §19-39-3, all relating to the Truth in Food Product Labeling Act; defining terms; establishing what constitutes misbranding of a food product; providing exceptions; providing certain food products subject to federal law shall comply with rule; authorizing emergency and legislative rules; and providing for inapplicability of provision duplicating or conflicting with federal law.

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

Eng. House Bill 5430, Relating to per diem compensation and expenses of newly elected or appointed judicial officers receiving education and training prior to taking the oath of office.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, with the unreported Judiciary committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Weld, and by unanimous consent, further consideration of the bill was deferred until the conclusion of bills on today's third reading calendar.

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5435, Establishing the registered apprenticeship to associate of applied science program to be administered by the Council for Community and Technical College Education.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5435) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Education, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5435—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §18B-3D-7, establishing the registered apprenticeship to associate of applied science program to be known as the Skilled Trades Apprenticeship Nontraditional Degree (STAND) program; specifying purpose; defining terms; requiring the chancellor to establish the program under the supervision of the Council for Community and Technical College Education; allowing the state's public community and technical colleges to offer general education courses to eligible students in a manner and on a timeline that will allow the eligible student to earn at least 15 credit hours of general education courses toward an associate of applied science degree; specifying eligibility requirements; specifying the time in which an apprentice or journeyworker can apply for enrollment in the program; specifying time limit for completing and passing all general education coursework; providing for funding; allowing the council to propose emergency and legislative rules to implement the section; requiring chancellor to report to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on any programs created; and specifying minimum information the report shall contain.

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 5510, Clarify law regarding the crime of witness tampering.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5510) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5510—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-5-27 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to offenses against public officers, public employees, jurors and witnesses; amending and modifying the essential elements of the offenses of intimidation and retaliation; and removing the requirement that there be predicate behavior.

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 5553, To provide and change graduation requirements and change duties relating to academic content standards.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, with the unreported Education committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was read a third time.

At the request of Senator Grady, as chair of the Committee on Education, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Education committee amendment to the bill was withdrawn.

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

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

ARTICLE 2. REQUIRED COURSES OF INSTRUCTION.

§18-2-7C. PROGRAM IN PERSONAL FINANCE.

(a) The Legislature finds and declares that persons with an understanding of personal finance are better prepared to manage their money and that providing a personal finance program in secondary schools in West Virginia will prepare students to handle their finances.

(b) To provide students a basic understanding of personal finance, the state board shall develop a program of instruction on personal finance which may be integrated into the curriculum of an appropriate existing course or courses for students in secondary schools.

~~(c) Beginning with the class of students entering 9th grade in the 2024-2025 school year and thereafter, each high school student shall complete one half credit course of study in personal finance during their 11th or 12th grade year as a requirement for high school graduation. The State Board of Education state board shall develop and issue implementation guidance to local school boards and other education agencies as to curriculum, content matter standards, eligible teacher certification(s), and graduation requirements the course may fulfill before July 1, 2024.~~

~~(d) Every student shall complete a course in personal finance prior to high school graduation.~~

§18-2-9. Required courses of instruction.

(a) (1) In all public, private, parochial, and denominational schools located within this state there shall be given prior to the completion of the eighth grade at least one year of instruction in the history of the State of West Virginia. The schools shall require regular courses of instruction by the completion of the 12th grade in the history of the United States, in civics, in the Constitution of the United States, and in the government of the State of West Virginia for the purpose of teaching, fostering, and perpetuating the ideals, principles, and spirit of political and economic democracy in America, and increasing the knowledge of the organization and machinery of the government of the United States and of the State of West Virginia. The required courses shall include instruction on the institutions and structure of American government, such as the separation of powers, the Electoral College, and federalism. The required courses shall include instruction that provides students an understanding of American political philosophy and history, utilizing writings from prominent figures in Western civilization, such as Aristotle, Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, and Thomas Jefferson. The courses of instruction shall offer an objective and critical analysis of ideologies throughout history including, but not limited to, capitalism, republicanism, democracy, socialism, communism, and fascism. The required courses shall emphasize the use of primary sources and interactive learning techniques, such as mock scenarios, debates, and open and impartial discussions.

(2) The state board shall, with the advice of the state superintendent, and after consultation with other entities, prescribe the courses of study, including the basic course requirements for middle school and high school, and the academic standards listed in subdivision (1) of this subsection for these courses of study covering these subjects for the public schools, and publish an approved list of instructional resources pursuant to §18-2A-1 *et seq.* of this code. The curriculum used in the delivery of instruction shall cover the standards adopted for such courses. The other entities for consultation may include such organizations as the Florida Joint Center for Citizenship, the College Board, the Bill of Rights Institute, Hillsdale College, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, the Constitutional Sources Project, educators, school administrators, postsecondary education representatives, elected officials, business and industry leaders, parents, and the public. Officials or boards having authority over the respective private, parochial, and denominational schools shall prescribe courses of study for the schools under their control and supervision similar to those required for the public schools.

(3) The state board shall provide testing or assessment instruments for the history and civics courses of instruction required by this section. These testing instruments shall:

(A) Be aligned with the academic standards required by this section;

(B) Be mandatory for students enrolled in those courses of instruction;

(C) Be cumulative by including questions about knowledge learned in prior history and civics courses; and

(D) Measure students' factual and conceptual knowledge including how the facts interrelate and the reasons behind historical documents and events.

(4) To further this study, every high school student eligible by age for voter registration shall be afforded the opportunity to register to vote pursuant to §3-2-22 of this code.

(b) The state board shall cause to be taught in all public schools of this state the subject of health education, including instruction in any of the grades six through 12 as considered appropriate by the county board, on: (1) The prevention, transmission, and spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases; (2) substance abuse, including the nature of alcoholic drinks and narcotics, tobacco products, and other potentially harmful drugs, with special instruction as to their effect upon the human system and upon society in general; (3) the importance of healthy eating and physical activity in maintaining healthy weight; and (4) education concerning cardiopulmonary resuscitation and first aid, including instruction in the care for conscious choking, and recognition of symptoms of drug or alcohol overdose. The course curriculum requirements and materials for the instruction shall be adopted by the state board by rule in consultation with the Department of Health. The state board shall prescribe a standardized health education assessment to be administered within health education classes to measure student health knowledge and program effectiveness.

(c) An opportunity shall be afforded to the parent or guardian of a child subject to instruction in the prevention, transmission, and spread of acquired immune deficiency syndrome and other sexually transmitted diseases to examine the course curriculum requirements and materials to be used in the instruction. The parent or guardian may exempt the child from participation in the instruction by giving notice to that effect in writing to the school principal.

(d) After July 1, 2015, the required instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation in subsection (b) of this section shall include at least 30 minutes of instruction for each student prior to graduation on the proper administration of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the psychomotor skills necessary to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation. The term "psychomotor skills" means the use of hands-on practicing to support cognitive learning. Cognitive-only training does not qualify as "psychomotor skills". The CPR instruction shall be based on an instructional program established by the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross, or another program which is nationally recognized and uses the most current national evidence-based emergency cardiovascular care guidelines and incorporates psychomotor skills development into the instruction. A licensed teacher is not required to be a certified trainer of cardiopulmonary resuscitation to facilitate, provide, or oversee such instruction. The instruction may be given by community members, such as emergency medical technicians, paramedics, police officers, firefighters, licensed nurses, and representatives of the American Heart Association or the American Red Cross. These community members are encouraged to provide necessary training and instructional resources such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation kits and other material at no cost to the schools. The requirements of this subsection are minimum requirements. A local school district may offer CPR instruction for longer periods of time and may enhance the curriculum and training components, including, but not limited to, incorporating into the instruction the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED): *Provided*, That any instruction that results in a certification being earned shall be taught by an authorized CPR/AED instructor.

(e) A full week of classes during the week selected by the county board of education shall be recognized as Celebrate Freedom Week. The purpose of Celebrate Freedom Week is to educate students about the sacrifices made for freedom in the founding of this country and the values on which this country was founded.

Celebrate Freedom Week shall include appropriate instruction in each social studies class which:

(1) Includes an in-depth study of the intent, meaning, and importance of the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the Constitution of the United States with an emphasis on the amendments that are crucial to the survival of democracy and freedom, such as the Bill of Rights and the 13th, 14th, 15th, and 19th amendments;

(2) Uses the historical, political, and social environments surrounding each document at the time of its initial passage or ratification; and

(3) Includes the study of historical documents to firmly establish the historical background leading to the establishment of the provisions of the constitution and Bill of Rights by the founding fathers for the purposes of safeguarding our constitutional republic.

The requirements of this subsection are applicable to all public, private, parochial, and denominational schools located within this state. Nothing in this subsection creates a standard or requirement subject to state accountability measures.

(f) Beginning the 2018-2019 school year, students in public schools shall be administered a test the same as or substantially similar to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services between their ninth and 12th grade years as an indicator of student achievement in the area of civics education. The test results may be reported in the aggregate to the county board for evaluation by the board's curriculum director and reported to the board members. Nothing in this subsection creates a standard or requirement subject to state accountability measures.

(g) Beginning with the class of students entering ninth grade in the 2024-2025 school year, and thereafter, each high school student shall have the option of completing a one-half credit course of study in personal finance during their ninth through 12th grade year as a requirement for high school graduation; or

(h) Beginning with the ninth-grade class entering in the 2026-2027 school year, a one-half credit course of study in a high school computer science course as a requirement for high school graduation.

(3) "Computer science" means the study of computers, algorithmic processes, coding, and logical thinking, including computer principles, their hardware and software designs, their implementation, and their impact on society. Content should focus on teaching students how to create new technologies, not simply how to use technology. Computer science does not include the study of everyday uses of computers and computer applications, such as keyboarding, word processing, digital literacy, or accessing the internet.

(4) The one-half high school credit for computer science required in this subsection may be earned in grades eight through twelve.

(5) A computer science course offered for high school credit shall:

(A) Be of high quality; and

(B) Meet or exceed the standards established by the state board; and

(6) The state board shall update computer science standards to include a high school introductory computer science course including foundational computer science concepts.

(7) Beginning in August of 2025, the state board shall make available to all public schools a list of foundational computer science courses that meet the requirements for this course. The list shall include both half credit and full credit courses.

(A) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, a public school district may employ a computer science teacher at each high school in the public school district.

(B) A computer science teacher employed in accordance with this subsection shall hold a teaching certificate approved by the state board.

(8) The state board may adopt rules to administer the provisions of this subsection, including rules for flexible options to license computer science teachers including, but not limited to, an authorization or endorsement.

(9) The computer science course may be used to fulfill existing graduation requirements, as determined by the state board.

On motion of Senator Woodrum, the following amendment to Senator Grady's amendment to the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 5553) was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

On page 7, section 9, after line 150, by inserting a new subsection (i) to read as follows:

(i) All public schools located within this state shall give age-appropriate instruction on the Holocaust, the systematic, planned annihilation on European Jews and other groups by Nazi Germany, a watershed event in the history of humanity, to be taught in a manner that leads to an investigation of human behavior and an examination of what it means to be a responsible and respectful person, for the purposes of encouraging tolerance of diversity in a pluralistic society and for nurturing and protecting democratic values and institutions: *Provided*, That beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, each public school, including each public charter school, shall incorporate age-appropriate reading and discussion into its Holocaust education curriculum, in grades 10 or 11. The Holocaust discussion must include a reading of *The Diary of a Young Girl*, by Anne Frank.

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

Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 5553, as just amended, was then put upon its passage.

Pending discussion,

The question being "Shall Engrossed Committee Substitute for House Bill 5553 pass?"

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5553) passed.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5553—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-2-7c and §18-2-9 the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring all West Virginia high school students to pass certain minimum one-half credit hours in personal finance or computer science and technology courses as a high school graduation requirement; defining computer science; establishing computer science course requirements; requiring the state board of education to modify computer science standards; establishing rulemaking to establish licensing requirements for computer science teachers; and relating to requiring all public schools located within the state to give age-appropriate instruction on the Holocaust.

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 5561, Relating to permitting the electronic execution of trusts.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5561) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5561—A Bill to amend and reenact §44D-1-103, §44D-4-402, §44D-5-503c, §44D-7-701, §44D-7-704, §44D-7-705, §44D-8B-2, and §44D-10-1011 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to permitting the electronic execution of trusts; defining terms; clarifying that a trust instrument may be executed in an electronic format;

clarifying inapplicability to wills unless duly admitted to probate; and making consistent certain provisions with allowing electronic execution of trusts.

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 5583, Permitting the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to issue a special permit to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicles or nondivisible load exceeding the maximum specified.

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, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 5583) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5583—A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-17-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to authorizing the Commissioner of the Division of Highways to issue special permits to operate or move a vehicle or combination of vehicles of a size or weight of vehicles or nondivisible load exceeding the maximum specified in state law over routes designated by the Commissioner of the Division of Highways at night, and during holidays, holiday weekends, Saturdays, and Sundays; specifying application of permit to certain highways; and specifying when such a permit shall be promptly issued.

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

Pending announcement of a meeting of the Committee on Rules,

On motion of Senator Weld, at 12:42 p.m., the Senate recessed until 2 p.m. today.

The Senate reconvened at 2:07 p.m.

Pending announcement of a meeting of the Committee on Rules,

On motion of Senator Weld, at 2:07 p.m., the Senate recessed until 6 p.m. today.

The Senate reconvened at 6:49 p.m.

At the request of Senator Weld, 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 the family of the Honorable Rollan A. Roberts, a senator from the ninth district, privileges of the floor for the day.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, to take effect from passage, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendments, as to

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 2, Authorizing DEP to promulgate rules.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 1, section 1, line 5, after the word "authorized" striking out the period and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"with the following amendments:

On page 1, subsection 1.6., by striking the word "The" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "This rule applies to the";

On page 1, subsection 1.6. after the word "limitations" by inserting the words "imposed by those rules";

And,

On page 5, section 1, line 69, by striking out "§22-11-7a" and inserting in lieu thereof "§22-11B-7";

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 2—A Bill to amend and reenact §64-3-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as filed and as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and as amended by the Legislature; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to alternative emission limitations during startup and shutdown operations; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of particulate matter air pollution from the combustion of fuel in indirect heat exchangers; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of air pollution from the operation of hot mix asphalt plants; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of air pollution from the operation of coal preparation plants, coal handling operations and coal refuse disposal areas; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of air pollution from combustion of refuse; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of particulate matter air pollution from manufacturing processes and associated operations; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to ambient air quality standards; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating

to control of air pollution from the emission of sulfur oxides; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to standards of performance for new stationary sources; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of air pollution from the emission of volatile organic compounds; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to emission standards for hazardous air pollutants; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to control of greenhouse gas emissions from existing coal-fired electric utility generating units; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to administration of Drinking Water Treatment Revolving Fund and safe drinking water set-asides; authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to hazardous waste management system; and authorizing the Department of Environmental Protection to promulgate a legislative rule relating to underground injection control.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 2, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 2) passed with its House of Delegates amended title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 2) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 17, Authorizing Department of Health to promulgate legislative rules.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 2, line 19, by striking the period and inserting the following:

"with the following amendment:

On page 48, by inserting a new section §18 to read as follows:

'18.1 A hospital shall conduct and report the survey results in plain language of the 'Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Provider and Systems Survey (HCAHPS)' and 'Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR). A hospital shall place a menu item, entitled, 'Quality Information' in the 'Footer' of all patient-facing pages of its website. The link shall directly connect the user to another page on the hospital's website which shall provide the public results of all CMS Hospital Compare reporting measures: *Provided*, That results shall include 'Preferred Direction of Results'; most current quarterly results submitted to CMS expressed as a numerator/denominator of incidents/total procedures; last published results with date; 'State Average'; and 'National Average'. A hospital not required by CMS to conduct such surveys is exempt from this provision.'

And,

Renumbering the remaining sections accordingly;

And,

On page 3, line 28, by striking the period and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"with the following amendment:

On page 3, by striking section 5 in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof a new section 5 to read as follows:

"§64-15-5. When Protection Is Required.

5.1. The commissioner or his or her designee may determine, upon conducting a risk assessment, that any water supply system must be equipped with a backflow prevention assembly to protect the health and sanitation of water, whether publicly or privately owned: *Provided*, That water supply systems shall not require a backflow prevention assembly unless any of the following are met:

5.1.1. it cross-connects with a sprinkler or fire suppression system;

5.1.2. it cross-connects with an active auxiliary water source or water well;

5.1.3. it cross-connects with any fluid storage tank, tub, pool or cistern 85 gallons or larger with a public water inlet that can be below the water level;

5.1.4. it cross-connects with a boiler system;

5.1.5. it cross-connects with any land irrigation system; or

5.1.6. The property serviced by the public water supply is a funeral home or mortuary, restaurant, dry cleaner, medical facility, beauty and nail salon, car wash, multi-tenant retail space, commercial building three stories or taller, or commercial space with a dedicated fire service line/sprinkler system, industrial facility, salvage and/or wastewater facility, food processing facility, recycling facility where cross-connected to the public water supply, correctional facility, or any other customer using chemicals harmful to human health that are cross-connected to the public water supply."

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House amendment, except as to the amendment on page 2, line 19, by striking the period and inserting the following:

"with the following amendment:

On page 48, by inserting a new section §18 to read as follows:

'18.1 A hospital shall conduct and report the survey results in plain language of the 'Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Provider and Systems Survey (HCAHPS)' and 'Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Hospital Inpatient Quality Reporting (IQR). A hospital shall place a menu item, entitled, 'Quality Information' in the 'Footer' of all patient-facing pages of its website. The link shall directly connect the user to another page on the hospital's website which shall provide the public results of all CMS Hospital Compare reporting measures: *Provided*, That results shall include 'Preferred Direction of Results'; most current quarterly results submitted to CMS expressed as a numerator/denominator of incidents/total procedures; last published results with date; 'State Average'; and 'National Average'. A hospital not required by CMS to conduct such surveys is exempt from this provision.';

And,

Renumbering the remaining sections accordingly;

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 17, as amended, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 17) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 17) takes effect from passage.

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 36, Authorizing Department of Homeland Security to promulgate legislative rules.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

On page 2, section 1, line 13 by striking subsection (c) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on September 8, 2023, authorized under the authority of §15-9B-4 of this code, modified by the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 9, 2023, relating to the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Correction (sexual assault forensic examinations, 149 CSR 11), is authorized with the following amendment:

On page 7, subsection 7.1, following the word "maintained" by inserting the words "at no cost to the victim"".

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendment to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 36, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 36) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 36) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 50, Authorizing Department of Revenue to promulgate legislative rules.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

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

ARTICLE 7. AUTHORIZATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE TO PROMULGATE LEGISLATIVE RULES.

§64-7-1. Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner.

The Legislature directs the Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner to amend the legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 1, 2022, authorized under the authority of §60-2-16 of this code, relating to the Alcohol Beverage Control (private club licensing, 175 CSR 02), with the amendments set forth below:

On page 1, section 1, subsection 1.5, by striking the word "2032" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "2029".

On page 6, striking out the entirety of subdivision 2.22.3. and inserting, in lieu thereof, a new subdivision 2.22.3. to read as follows:

"2.22.3. Maintains a fresh food inventory capable of being prepared in the private club restaurant's full kitchen."

On page 7, by striking out the entirety of subdivision 2.23.3. and inserting, in lieu thereof, a new subdivision 2.23.3. to read as follows:

"2.23.3. Have one or more members operating who maintain a fresh food inventory capable of being prepared for events conducted at the private farmers market in the private club restaurant's full kitchen."

On page 11, by striking out the entirety of subdivision 2.28.4 and inserting, in lieu thereof, the following:

"Maintains a fresh food inventory capable of being prepared in the private manufacturer club's full kitchen."

On page 30, section 4, by striking out all of subsections 4.8 and 4.9 and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection 4.8, to read as follows:

"4.8. Hours of operation. - The licensed premises of all private clubs shall be closed for operation and cleared of all members and guests 30 minutes after the hours of sale of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer have expired, except for: (i) a private resort hotel holding a license issued pursuant to W. Va. Code §60-7-1 *et seq.* may sell, tender, or dispense nonintoxicating beer, wine, or alcoholic liquors in or on the licensed premises when also licensed under W. Va. Code §29-22A-1 *et seq.* and W. Va. Code §29-22C-1 *et seq.* or W. Va. Code §29-25-1 *et seq.*; (ii) members and guests staying at a private resort hotel, but the members and guests must clear any bar and restaurant areas 30 minutes after the hours of sale of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer have expired; and (iii) members and guests staying at a private hotel, but the members and guests must clear any bar and restaurant areas 30 minutes after the hours of sale of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer have expired. Employees of the licensee shall leave the licensed premises no later than one hour after the premises are closed for operation. Licensed premises shall not be occupied by members and guests any sooner than 30 minutes prior to the hours of sale of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer, except for: (i) a private resort hotel holding a license issued pursuant to W. Va. Code §60-7-1 *et seq.* may sell, tender, or dispense nonintoxicating beer, wine, or alcoholic liquors in or on the licensed premises when also licensed under W. Va. Code §29-22A-1 *et seq.* and W. Va. Code §29-22C-1 *et seq.* or W. Va. Code §29-25-1 *et seq.*; (ii) members and guests staying at a private resort hotel where the members and guests may not enter any bar and restaurant areas until 30 minutes before the hours of sale of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer; and (iii) members and guests staying at a private hotel where the members and guests may not enter any bar and restaurant areas until 30 minutes before the hours of sale of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer. Employees may not enter any bar and restaurant serving areas until one hour before the hours of sale of alcoholic liquors and nonintoxicating beer."

And,

By renumbering the remaining subsections.

§64-7-2. Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner - Beer.

The Legislature directs the Alcohol Beverage Control Commissioner - Beer to amend the legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 1, 2022, authorized under the authority of §60-2-16 of this code, relating to the Alcohol Beverage Control - Beer (nonintoxicating beer licensing and operations procedures, 176 CSR 01), with the amendments set forth below:

On page 3, by adding a new subsection designated 2.18 to read as follows:

""Delivery day" means any day that the distributor is open for business.";

And,

By renumbering the remaining subsections;

And,

On page 33, by striking out all of paragraph 6.3.d.3. and inserting in lieu thereof a new paragraph 6.3.d.3. to read as follows:

"6.3.d.3. A distributor or a resident brewer acting in a limited capacity as a distributor may rotate, stock, merchandise, price, and presell nonintoxicating beer in a licensed nonintoxicating beer retail establishment only on nonintoxicating beer or nonintoxicating craft beer delivery day."

§64-7-3. West Virginia Insurance Commissioner.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on March 29, 2023, authorized under the authority of §33-2-10 of this code, relating to the Insurance Commissioner (AIDS regulations, 114 CSR 27), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 12, 2023, authorized under the authority of §33-55-9 of this code, modified by the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on September 14, 2023, relating to the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner (health benefit plan network access and adequacy, 114 CSR 100), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 11, 2023, authorized under the authority of §51-10-8 of this code, modified by the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on September 14, 2023, relating to the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner (bail bondsmen in criminal cases, 114 CSR 103), is authorized with the amendments set forth below:

"On page 3, paragraph 3.2.1.h., following the words "felony crime", by striking out the remainder of the paragraph and inserting a semi-colon.

And,

On page 6, after subsection 3.11., by adding a new subsection 3.12. to read as follows:

"3.12. Any person who has been convicted of a felony is not qualified to be licensed as a bail bondsman and the Commissioner shall not license any such person. The Commissioner shall revoke or not renew the license of a bail bondsman who is convicted of a felony, after licensure,

and shall not renew the license of a bail bondsman who was previously convicted of a felony, and who was issued a license prior to the enactment of this subsection."

§64-7-4. West Virginia Racing Commission.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2023, authorized under the authority of §19-23-6 of this code, relating to the West Virginia Racing Commission (thoroughbred racing, 178 CSR 01), is authorized with the amendment set forth below:

On page 67, subdivision 41.2.g., by striking out the words "Entry of a" and inserting in lieu thereof the word: "A".

§64-7-5. West Virginia Tax Department.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on March 28, 2023, authorized under the authority of §11-15-9p of this code, relating to the West Virginia Tax Department (aircraft operated under a fractional ownership program, 110 CSR 15K), is authorized.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 30, 2022, authorized under the authority of §29A-3-19 of this code, modified by the West Virginia Tax Department to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on August 21, 2023, relating to the West Virginia Tax Department (citizen tax credit for property taxes paid, 110 CSR 21B), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 28, 2023, authorized under the authority of §11-21-3a of this code, relating to the West Virginia Tax Department (income tax paid at the entity level by electing pass-through entities, 110 CSR 21G), is authorized.

(d) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2023, authorized under the authority of §11-13MM-6 of this code, relating to the West Virginia Tax Department (income tax credits for property taxes paid, 110 CSR 21H), is authorized.

(e) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on December 30, 2022, authorized under the authority of §60-3-9d of this code, modified by the West Virginia Tax Department to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on August 21, 2023, relating to the West Virginia Tax Department (administration of tax on purchases of wine and liquor inside and outside of municipalities, 110 CSR 49), is authorized.

(f) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 25, 2023, authorized under the authority of §19-12E-12 of this code, relating to the West Virginia Tax Department (privilege tax on sales of hemp-derived cannabinoid and kratom products, 110 CSR 99), is authorized.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendment to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 50, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson,

Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 50) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 50) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, to take effect from passage, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendments, as to

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 60, Authorizing DOT to promulgate legislative rules.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

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

ARTICLE 8. AUTHORIZATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PROMULGATE LEGISLATIVE RULES.

§64-8-1. Division of Motor Vehicles.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2023, authorized under the authority of §11-15-3C of this code, modified by the Division of Motor Vehicles to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 7, 2023, relating to the Division of Motor Vehicles (motor vehicle titling, 91 CSR 03), is authorized with the following amendments:

On page 1, by striking out all of subsection 2.1 and inserting in lieu thereof a new subsection 2.1. to read as follows:

"2.1. Application. An application for a certificate of title must be accompanied by the appropriate fees:

21.1 Proof of Insurance;

2.1.2. Photo identification and identity validation and verification developed by the Division of Motor Vehicles;

2.1.3. If the vehicle was previously titled in another state or jurisdiction, that title;

2.1.4. If a registration plate is also being transferred, appropriate registration information;

2.1.5. If the vehicle requires registration, the appropriate fee for the registration plate; and,

2.1.6. Sales tax as calculated in subsection 2.2 of this section.";

On page 1, after subsection 2.1 by adding a new subsection 2.2 to read as follows:

"2.2. Application for non-resident businesses. An application by a non-resident business for a title through the Title Clearinghouse must be accompanied by any documents prescribed by the Commissioner.";

And,

By renumbering the remaining subsections.

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2023, authorized under the authority of §17A-2-9 of this code, modified by the Division of Motor Vehicles to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 7, 2023, relating to the Division of Motor Vehicles (dealer licensing, 91 CSR 06), is authorized.

(c) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 13, 2023, authorized under the authority of §17C-13-6 of this code, modified by the Division of Motor Vehicles to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 7, 2023, relating to the Division of Motor Vehicles (handicapped parking permits, 91 CSR 10), is authorized.

§64-8-2. Division of Highways.

(a) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 31, 2023, authorized under the authority of §17-2A-8 of this code, modified by the Division of Highways to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 7, 2023, relating to the Division of Highways (construction and reconstruction of state roads, 157 CSR 03), is authorized with the amendment set forth below:

On pages 15 and 16, by striking out all of subdivision 5.5.a. and inserting in lieu thereof a new subdivision 5.5.a. to read as follows:

"5.5.a. The successful bidder has the option of submission of the bond in an amount equivalent to either 102 percent or 100 percent of the contract price.";

And,

On page 16, by adding 4 new subdivisions, designated 5.5.b., 5.5.c., 5.5.d., and 5.5.e., all to read as follows:

"5.5.b. The submission of the aforementioned bond in an amount equivalent to 102 percent of the contract price by the successful bidder is the standard expectation of the division in order to comply with the current special provision for subcontractor prompt payment and does not necessitate the withholding of retainage by the division from monies due on future progress voucher estimates payable under the terms of the contract. Further, the decision by a particular contractor to submit a bond in an amount equivalent to 102 percent of the contract price shall be consistent and applicable throughout the duration of the contract for which the bond is being submitted and shall be consistent and applicable to all contracts executed between the Division and that particular contractor.

5.5.c. If the successful bidder elects to submit the bond in an amount equivalent to 100 percent of the contract price, it is necessary that the bidder notify the Contract Administration Division in writing prior to the submission of the bond. Submission of a bond in an amount equivalent to 100 percent of the contract price requires the withholding of retainage by the Division from monies due on future progress voucher estimates payable under the terms of the contract and as set forth in 11.6 of this rule. Further, the decision by a particular contractor to submit a bond in an amount equivalent to 100 percent of the contract price shall be consistent and applicable throughout the duration of the contract for which the bond is being submitted and shall be consistent and applicable to all contracts executed between the division and that particular contractor.

5.5.d. As an alternate, the successful bidder may deposit with the State Treasurer cash bond, United States Treasury Bonds, United States Treasury Certificates of Indebtedness, United States Treasury Bills or West Virginia Road Bonds in the amount of either 102 percent or 100 percent of the contract amount. A safe keeping receipt from a bank located in the State of West Virginia may be deposited with the State Treasurer in lieu of any of the definitive securities.

5.5.e. The State Treasurer shall, on a regular basis, collect all interest or income on the obligations so deposited and pay same, when and if collected, to the contractor who deposited the obligations. If the deposit is in the form of coupon bonds, the State Treasurer shall deliver each coupon as it matures to the contractor."

(b) The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 26, 2023, authorized under the authority of §17-2A-8 of this code, modified by the Division of Highways to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on November 8, 2023, relating to the Division of Highways (traffic and safety rules, 157 CSR 05), is authorized with the amendments set forth below:

On page 14, Subdivision 7.4.h. by striking out the words "Vehicle speed shall not exceed 35 miles per hour" and inserting the following:

"Vehicle speed shall not exceed the posted or statutory speed limit in effect and shall not exceed the recommended speed on all warning signs when passing through the area of concern (curve, intersection, etc.).";

On page 14, Subdivision 7.4.j. by striking out the words "or main highway";

And,

On page 14, Subdivision 7.4.j., after the word "measures.", by inserting the following:

"When approaching an intersecting roadway, vehicles shall obey any traffic control devices such as stop signs, yield signs, and traffic lights."

§64-8-3. Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities.

The legislative rule filed in the State Register on July 28, 2023, authorized under the authority of §17-16F-5 of this code, modified by the Division of Multimodal Transportation ~~Facilities~~ Facilities to meet the objections of the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and refiled in the State Register on September 29, 2023, relating to the Division of Multimodal Transportation ~~Facilities~~ Facilities (valuation of used rolling stock and equipment, 220 CSR 01), is authorized.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 60—A Bill to amend and reenact §64-8-1 *et seq.* of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to authorizing certain agencies of the Department of Transportation to promulgate legislative rules; authorizing the rules as modified by the Legislative Rule-Making Review Committee and as amended by the Legislature; authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles to promulgate a legislative rule relating to motor vehicle titling; authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles to promulgate a legislative rule relating to dealer licensing; authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles to promulgate a legislative rule relating to handicapped parking permits; authorizing the Division of Highways to promulgate a legislative rule relating to construction and reconstruction of state roads; authorizing the Division of Highways to promulgate a legislative rule relating to traffic and safety rules; and authorizing the Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities to promulgate a legislative rule relating to valuation of used rolling stock and equipment.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 60, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 60) passed with its House of Delegates amended title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 60) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendments, as to

Eng. Senate Bill 147, Adding definition of "ammunition" for purposes of obtaining state license to carry concealed deadly weapon.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

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

ARTICLE 7. DANGEROUS WEAPONS.

§61-7-4. License to carry deadly weapons; how obtained.

(a)(1) Except as provided in §61-7-4(q) of this code, a legal resident or citizen of West Virginia desiring to obtain a state resident license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall apply to the sheriff of his or her county for the license, and pay to the sheriff, at the time of application, a fee of \$50. A concealed weapons license may only be issued for pistols and revolvers.

(2) A legal resident or citizen of another state of the United States desiring to obtain a nonresident state license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall apply to a sheriff of any county in this state for the license, and pay to the sheriff, at the time of application, a fee of \$100. A concealed weapons license may only be issued for pistols and revolvers.

(b) Each applicant for a state resident license or nonresident license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall file with the sheriff a complete application, as prepared by the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, in writing, duly verified, which sets forth only the following licensing requirements:

(1) The applicant's full name, date of birth, ~~social security number~~, a description of the applicant's physical features, the applicant's place of birth, the applicant's country of citizenship, and, if the applicant is not a United States citizen, any alien or admission number issued by the

United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and any basis, if applicable, for an exception to the prohibitions of 18 U.S.C. §922(g)(5)(B);

(2) That, on the date the application is made, the applicant is a bona fide United States citizen or legal resident thereof and either a resident of this state and of the county in which the application is made or a resident of another state in the United States and has a valid driver's license or other state-issued or federally issued photo identification showing the residence;

(3) That the applicant is 21 years of age or older;

(4) That the applicant is not addicted to alcohol, a controlled substance, or a drug and is not an unlawful user thereof as evidenced by either of the following within the three years immediately prior to the application:

(A) Residential or court-ordered treatment for alcoholism or alcohol detoxification or drug treatment; or

(B) Two or more convictions for driving while under the influence or driving while impaired;

(5) That the applicant has not been convicted of a felony unless the conviction has been expunged or set aside, or the applicant's civil rights have been restored or the applicant has been unconditionally pardoned for the offense;

(6) That the applicant has not been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of violence other than an offense set forth in subdivision (7) of this subsection in the five years immediately preceding the application;

(7) That the applicant has not been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as defined in 18 U.S.C. §921(a)(33), or a misdemeanor offense of assault or battery either under §61-2-28 of this code or §61-2-9(b) or §61-2-9(c) of this code, in which the victim was a current or former spouse, current or former sexual or intimate partner, person with whom the defendant cohabits or has cohabited, a parent or guardian, the defendant's child or ward or a member of the defendant's household at the time of the offense, or a misdemeanor offense with similar essential elements in a jurisdiction other than this state;

(8) That the applicant is not under indictment for a felony offense or is not currently serving a sentence of confinement, parole, probation, or other court-ordered supervision imposed by a court of any jurisdiction, is the subject of an emergency or temporary domestic violence protective order, or is the subject of a final domestic violence protective order entered by a court of any jurisdiction;

(9) That the applicant has not been adjudicated to be mentally incompetent or involuntarily committed to a mental institution. If the applicant has been adjudicated mentally incompetent or involuntarily committed, the applicant shall provide a court order reflecting that the applicant is no longer under such disability and the applicant's right to possess or receive a firearm has been restored;

(10) That the applicant is not prohibited under the provisions of §61-7-7 of this code or federal law, including 18 U.S.C. §922(g) or (n), from receiving, possessing, or transporting a firearm;

(11) That the applicant has qualified under the minimum requirements set forth in subsection (e) of this section for handling and firing the weapon: *Provided*, That this requirement shall be waived in the case of a renewal applicant who has previously qualified; and

(12) That the applicant authorizes the sheriff of the county, or his or her designee, to conduct an investigation relative to the information contained in the application.

(c) For both initial and renewal applications, the sheriff shall conduct an investigation including a nationwide criminal background check consisting of inquiries of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the West Virginia criminal history record responses, and the National Interstate Identification Index, and shall review the information received in order to verify that the information required in subsection (b) of this section is true and correct. A license may not be issued unless the issuing sheriff has verified through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System that the information available to him or her does not indicate that receipt or possession of a firearm by the applicant would be in violation of the provisions of §61-7-7 of this code or federal law, including 18 U.S.C. §922(g) or (n).

(d)(1) Twenty-five dollars of the resident license application fee shall be deposited into the State Treasury and credited to the account of the State Police, and \$25 of the application fee and any fees for replacement of lost or stolen licenses received by the sheriff shall be deposited by the sheriff into a concealed weapons license administration fund. The fund shall be administered by the sheriff and shall take the form of an interest-bearing account with any interest earned to be compounded to the fund. Any funds deposited in this concealed weapon license administration fund are to be expended by the sheriff to pay the costs associated with issuing concealed weapons licenses. Any surplus in the fund on hand at the end of each fiscal year may be expended for other law-enforcement purposes or operating needs of the sheriff's office, as the sheriff considers appropriate.

(2) Fifteen dollars of the nonresident license application fee shall be deposited in the Courthouse Facilities Improvement Fund created by §29-26-6 of this code; \$25 of the application fee shall be deposited into the State Treasury and credited to the account of the State Police for the purchase of vehicles, equipment for vehicles, and maintenance of vehicles; and \$60 of the application fee shall be deposited in the concealed weapons license administration fund to be administered as provided in ~~subsection (d) of this section~~ this subsection.

(e) All persons applying for a license shall complete a training course in handling and firing a handgun, which includes the actual live firing of ammunition by the applicant. The successful completion of any of the following courses fulfills this training requirement: *Provided*, That the completed course includes the actual live firing of ammunition by the applicant: *Provided however*, That for purposes of this subsection, the term "ammunition" means ammunition or cartridge cases, primers, bullets, or propellant powder designed for use in any firearm and includes ammunition designed for training such as marking rounds and simulated training loads:

(1) Any official National Rifle Association handgun safety or training course;

(2) Any handgun safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by an official law-enforcement organization, community college, junior college, college, or private or public institution or organization, or handgun training school using instructors certified by the institution;

(3) Any handgun training or safety course or class conducted by a handgun instructor certified as such by the state or by the National Rifle Association;

(4) Any handgun training or safety course or class conducted by any branch of the United States military, reserve, or National Guard, or proof of other handgun qualification received while serving in any branch of the United States military, reserve, or National Guard.

A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any of the courses or classes or an affidavit from the instructor, school, club, organization, or group that conducted or taught the course or class attesting to the successful completion of the course or class by the applicant or a copy of any document which shows successful completion of the course or class is evidence of qualification under this section and shall include the instructor's name, signature, and NRA or state instructor identification number, if applicable.

(f) All concealed weapons license applications must be notarized by a notary public duly licensed under §39-4-1 *et seq.* of this code. Falsification of any portion of the application constitutes false swearing and is punishable under §61-5-2 of this code.

(g) The sheriff shall issue a license unless he or she determines that the application is incomplete, that it contains statements that are materially false or incorrect, or that applicant otherwise does not meet the requirements set forth in this section. The sheriff shall issue, reissue, or deny the license within 45 days after the application is filed if all required background checks authorized by this section are completed.

(h) A license in effect as of the effective date of the amendments to this section enacted during the 2019 regular session of the Legislature shall, subject to revocation for cause, be valid until the licensee's birthday during the fifth year from the date of issuance or five years from the date of issuance, whichever is later in time. Renewals of such licenses and licenses newly issued after the effective date of the amendments to this section enacted during the 2019 regular session of the Legislature, subject to revocation for cause, are valid for a period of five years from the licensees' most recent birthday.

(i) Each license shall contain the full name and address of the licensee and a space upon which the signature of the licensee shall be signed with pen and ink. The issuing sheriff shall sign and attach his or her seal to all license cards. The sheriff shall provide to each new licensee a duplicate license card, in size similar to other state identification cards and licenses, suitable for carrying in a wallet, and the license card is considered a license for the purposes of this section. All duplicate license cards issued on or after July 1, 2017, shall be uniform across all 55 counties in size, appearance, and information and shall feature a photograph of the licensee.

(j) The Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, in cooperation with the West Virginia Sheriffs' Bureau of Professional Standards, shall prepare uniform applications for both resident and nonresident licenses and license cards showing that the license has been granted and shall do any other act required to be done to protect the state and see to the enforcement of this section.

(k) If an application is denied, the specific reasons for the denial shall be stated by the sheriff denying the application. Any person denied a license may file, in the circuit court of the county in which the application was made, a petition seeking review of the denial. The petition shall be filed within 30 days of the denial. The court shall then determine whether the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a license under the criteria set forth in this section. The applicant may be represented by counsel, but in no case is the court required to appoint counsel for an applicant.

The final order of the court shall include the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law. If the final order upholds the denial, the applicant may file an appeal in accordance with the Rules of Appellate Procedure of the Supreme Court of Appeals. If the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the court fail to uphold the denial, the applicant may be entitled to reasonable costs and attorney's fees, payable by the sheriff's office which issued the denial.

(l) If a license is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the license was issued may obtain a duplicate or substitute license for a fee of \$5 by filing a notarized statement with the sheriff indicating that the license has been lost or destroyed.

(m) Whenever an applicant or licensee relocates from the address provided in his or her application to another address, he or she shall comply with the following notification requirements:

(1) Within 20 days of a resident licensee relocating from the address provided in his or her application to another county in the state, he or she shall provide written notification of the relocation to the sheriff of the county to which he or she moved and provide his or her new address. The sheriff shall then issue a new resident license bearing the licensee's new address and the original expiration date, for a fee not to exceed \$5. The license remains valid for the remainder of the original five-year term, unless the sheriff has determined that the person is no longer eligible for a concealed weapon license under the provisions of this article.

(2) Within 20 days of a resident licensee relocating from the address provided in his or her application to an address outside the state, he or she shall provide written notification to the sheriff of the issuing county of the relocation and provide his or her new address. The sheriff shall then issue a new nonresident license bearing the licensee's new address and the original expiration date, for a fee not to exceed \$5. The license remains valid for the remainder of the original five-year term unless the sheriff has determined that the person is no longer eligible for a concealed weapon license under the provisions of this article: *Provided*, That any renewal of the license in the new jurisdiction after expiration requires the payment of a nonresident license fee.

(3) Within 20 days of a nonresident licensee relocating from the address provided in his or her application to another address outside of the state, he or she shall provide written notification of the relocation to the sheriff of the issuing county and provide his or her new address. The sheriff shall then issue a new nonresident license bearing the licensee's new address and original expiration date, for a fee not to exceed \$5. This license remains valid for the remainder of the original five-year term, unless the sheriff has determined that the person is no longer eligible for a concealed weapon license under the provisions of this article.

(4) Within 20 days of a nonresident licensee relocating to West Virginia from the address provided in his or her application, he or she shall provide written notification of the relocation to the sheriff of the county to which he or she has moved and provide his or her new address. The sheriff shall then issue a new resident license bearing the licensee's new address and the original expiration date, for a fee not to exceed \$5. This license remains valid for the remainder of the original five-year term, unless the sheriff has determined that the person is no longer eligible for a concealed weapon license under the provisions of this article.

(n) The sheriff shall, immediately after the license is granted under this section furnish the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police a certified copy of the approved application. The sheriff shall furnish to the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police at any time so requested a certified list of all licenses issued in the county. The Superintendent of the West

Virginia State Police shall maintain a registry of all persons who have been issued concealed weapons licenses.

(o) The sheriff shall deny any application or revoke any existing license upon determination that any of the licensing application requirements established in this section have been violated by the licensee.

(p) A person who is engaged in the receipt, review, or in the issuance or revocation of a concealed weapon license does not incur any civil liability as the result of the lawful performance of his or her duties under this article.

(q) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section, with respect to application for a resident license by an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States, reserve, or National Guard, or a former law-enforcement officer honorably retired from agencies governed by §7-14-1 *et seq.* of this code, §8-14-1 *et seq.* of this code, §15-2-1 *et seq.* of this code, and §20-7-1 *et seq.* of this code, an honorably retired officer or an honorably discharged veteran of the armed forces of the United States, reserve, or National Guard, is exempt from payment of fees and costs as otherwise required by this section. All other application and background check requirements set forth in this section are applicable to these applicants.

(r) Information collected under this section, including applications, supporting documents, permits, renewals, or any other information that would identify an applicant for, or holder of, a concealed weapon license, is confidential: *Provided*, That this information may be disclosed to a law-enforcement agency or officer: (i) To determine the validity of a license; (ii) to assist in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or (iii) for other lawful law-enforcement purposes. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$200 for each offense.

(s) A person who pays fees for training or application pursuant to this article after the effective date of this section is entitled to a tax credit equal to the amount actually paid for training not to exceed \$50: *Provided*, That if such training was provided for free or for less than \$50, then such tax credit may be applied to the fees associated with the initial application.

(t) Except as restricted or prohibited by the provisions of this article or as otherwise prohibited by law, the issuance of a concealed weapon license issued in accordance with the provisions of this section authorizes the holder of the license to carry a concealed pistol or revolver on the lands or waters of this state.

§61-7-4a. Provisional license to carry deadly weapons; how obtained.

(a) Any person who is at least ~~eighteen~~ 18 years of age and less than ~~twenty-one~~ 21 years of age who desires to obtain a state license to carry a concealed deadly weapon shall apply to the sheriff of his or her county for a provisional license, and pay to the sheriff, at the time of application, a fee of \$15. Provisional licenses may only be issued for pistols or revolvers. Each applicant shall file with the sheriff a complete application, as prepared by the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, in writing, duly verified, which sets forth only the following licensing requirements:

(1) The applicant's full name, date of birth, ~~Social Security number~~, a description of the applicant's physical features, the applicant's place of birth, the applicant's country of citizenship and, if the applicant is not a United States citizen, any alien or admission number issued by the

United States Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and any basis, if applicable, for an exception to the prohibitions of 18 U. S. C. §922(g)(5)(B);

(2) That, on the date the application is made, the applicant is a bona fide resident of this state and of the county in which the application is made and has a valid driver's license or other state-issued photo identification showing the residence;

(3) That the applicant is at least ~~eighteen~~ 18 years of age and less than ~~twenty-one~~ 21 years of age;

(4) That the applicant is not addicted to alcohol, a controlled substance or a drug and is not an unlawful user thereof as evidenced by either of the following within the three years immediately prior to the application:

(A) Residential or court-ordered treatment for alcoholism or alcohol detoxification or drug treatment; or

(B) Two or more convictions for driving while under the influence or driving while impaired;

(5) That the applicant has not been convicted of a felony unless the conviction has been expunged or set aside, or the applicant's civil rights have been restored or the applicant has been unconditionally pardoned for the offense;

(6) That the applicant has not been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of violence other than an offense set forth in subdivision (7) of this section within five years immediately preceding the application;

(7) That the applicant has not been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence as defined in 18 U. S. C. §921(a)(33), or a misdemeanor offense of assault or battery under either ~~section twenty-eight, article two of this chapter or subsection (b) or (c), section nine, article two of this chapter~~ §61-2-28 of this code or §61-2-9(b) or §61-2-9(c) of this code in which the victim was a current or former spouse, current or former sexual or intimate partner, person with whom the defendant cohabits or has cohabited, a parent or guardian, the defendant's child or ward or a member of the defendant's household at the time of the offense, or a misdemeanor offense with similar essential elements in a jurisdiction other than this state;

(8) That the applicant is not under indictment for a felony offense or is not currently serving a sentence of confinement, parole, probation or other court-ordered supervision imposed by a court of any jurisdiction, or is the subject of an emergency or temporary domestic violence protective order or is the subject of a final domestic violence protective order entered by a court of any jurisdiction;

(9) That the applicant has not been adjudicated to be mentally incompetent or involuntarily committed to a mental institution. If the applicant has been adjudicated mentally incompetent or involuntarily committed, the applicant must provide a court order reflecting that the applicant is no longer under such disability and the applicant's right to possess or receive a firearm has been restored;

(10) That the applicant is not prohibited under section seven of this article or federal law, including 18 U. S. C. §922(g) or (n), from receiving, possessing or transporting a firearm;

(11) That the applicant has qualified under the minimum requirements set forth in subsection (d) of this section for handling and firing the weapon;

(12) That the applicant authorizes the sheriff of the county, or his or her designee, to conduct an investigation relative to the information contained in the application.

(b) For provisional license applications, the sheriff shall conduct an investigation including a nationwide criminal background check consisting of inquiries of the National Instant Criminal Background Check System, the West Virginia criminal history record responses and the National Interstate Identification Index, and shall review the information received in order to verify that the information required in subsection (a) of this section is true and correct. A provisional license may not be issued unless the issuing sheriff has verified through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System that the information available does not indicate that receipt of or possession of a firearm by the applicant would be in violation of the provisions of section seven of this article or federal law, including 18 U. S. C. §922(g) or (n).

(c) Fifteen dollars of the application fee and any fees for replacement of lost or stolen provisional licenses received by the sheriff shall be deposited by the sheriff into a concealed weapons license administration fund. The fund shall be administered by the sheriff and shall take the form of an interest-bearing account with any interest earned to be compounded to the fund. Any funds deposited in said fund are to be expended by the sheriff to pay the costs associated with issuing concealed weapons provisional licenses. Any surplus in the fund on hand at the end of each fiscal year may be expended for other law-enforcement purposes or operating needs of the sheriff's office, as the sheriff considers appropriate.

(d) All persons applying for a provisional license must complete a training course in handling and firing a handgun, which includes the actual live firing of ammunition by the applicant. The successful completion of any of the following courses fulfills this training requirement: *Provided*, That the completed course included the actual live firing of ammunition by the applicant: *Provided however*, That for purposes of this subsection, the term "ammunition" means ammunition or cartridge cases, primers, bullets, or propellant powder designed for use in any firearm and includes ammunition designed for training such as marking rounds and simulated training loads:

(1) Any official National Rifle Association handgun safety or training course;

(2) Any handgun safety or training course or class available to the general public offered by an official law-enforcement organization, community college, junior college, college, or private or public institution, or organization or handgun training school utilizing instructors certified by the institution;

(3) Any handgun training or safety course or class conducted by a handgun instructor certified as such by the state or by the National Rifle Association;

(4) Any proof of current or former service in the United States armed forces, armed forces reserves or National Guard.

A photocopy of a certificate of completion of any of the courses or classes or an affidavit from the instructor, school, club, organization or group that conducted or taught the course or class attesting to the successful completion of the course or class by the applicant, or a copy of any document which shows successful completion of the course or class, is evidence of qualification under this section. Certificates, affidavits or other documents submitted to show completion of a

course or class shall include instructor information and proof of instructor certification, including, if applicable, the instructor's NRA instructor certification number.

(e) All provisional license applications must be notarized by a notary public duly licensed under ~~article four, chapter twenty-nine~~ §29-4-1 et seq. of this code. Falsification of any portion of the application constitutes false swearing and is punishable under section two, article five of this chapter.

(f) The sheriff shall issue a provisional license unless the sheriff determines that the application is incomplete, that it contains statements that are materially false or incorrect or that applicant otherwise does not meet the requirements set forth in this section. The sheriff shall issue, reissue or deny the license within ~~forty-five~~ 45 days after the application is filed once all required background checks authorized by this section are completed.

(g) Before any approved license is issued or is effective, the applicant shall pay to the sheriff a fee in the amount of \$15 which the sheriff shall forward to the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police within ~~thirty~~ 30 days of receipt. The provisional license is valid until the licensee turns ~~twenty-one~~ 21 years of age, unless sooner revoked.

(h) Each provisional license shall contain the full name and address of the licensee and a space upon which the signature of the licensee shall be signed with pen and ink. The issuing sheriff shall sign and attach his or her seal to all provisional license cards. The sheriff shall provide to each new licensee a duplicate license card, in size similar to other state identification cards and licenses, suitable for carrying in a wallet, and the license card is considered a license for the purposes of this section. Duplicate license cards issued shall be uniform across all ~~fifty-five~~ 55 counties in size, appearance and information and must feature a photograph of the licensee. The provisional license shall be readily distinguishable from a license issued pursuant to section four of this article and shall state: "NOT NICS EXEMPT. This license confers the same rights and privileges to carry a concealed pistol or revolver on the lands or waters of this state as a license issued pursuant to ~~section four, article seven, chapter sixty-one~~ §61-7-4 of this code, except that this license does not satisfy the requirements of 18 U. S. C. §922(t)(3). A NICS check must be performed prior to purchase of a firearm from a federally licensed firearm dealer."

(i) The Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, in coordination with the West Virginia Sheriffs' Bureau of Professional Standards, shall prepare uniform applications for provisional licenses and license cards showing that the license has been granted and shall perform any other act required to protect the state and to enforce this section.

(j) If an application is denied, the specific reasons for the denial shall be stated by the sheriff denying the application. Any person denied a provisional license may file, in the circuit court of the county in which the application was made, a petition seeking review of the denial. The petition shall be filed within ~~thirty~~ 30 days of the denial. The court shall then determine whether the applicant is entitled to the issuance of a provisional license under the criteria set forth in this section. The applicant may be represented by counsel, but in no case is the court required to appoint counsel for an applicant. The final order of the court shall include the court's findings of fact and conclusions of law. If the final order upholds the denial, the applicant may file an appeal in accordance with the Rules of Appellate Procedure of the Supreme Court of Appeals. If the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the court fail to uphold the denial, the applicant may be entitled to reasonable costs and attorney's fees, payable by the sheriff's office which issued the denial.

(k) If a provisional license is lost or destroyed, the person to whom the license was issued may obtain a duplicate or substitute license for a fee of \$5 by filing a notarized statement with the sheriff indicating that the license has been lost or destroyed.

(l) Whenever any person after applying for and receiving a provisional concealed weapon license moves from the address named in the application to another county within the state, the license remains valid until the licensee turns ~~twenty-one~~ 21 years of age unless the sheriff of the new county has determined that the person is no longer eligible for a provisional concealed weapon license under this article, and the sheriff shall issue a new provisional license bearing the person's new address and the original expiration date for a fee not to exceed \$5: *Provided*, That the licensee within ~~twenty~~ 20 days thereafter notifies the sheriff in the new county of residence in writing of the old and new addresses.

(m) The sheriff shall, immediately after the provisional license is granted, furnish the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police a certified copy of the approved application. The sheriff shall furnish to the Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police, at any time so requested, a certified list of all provisional licenses issued in the county. The Superintendent of the West Virginia State Police shall maintain a registry of all persons who have been issued provisional concealed weapon licenses.

(n) The sheriff shall deny any application or revoke any existing provisional license upon determination that any of the licensing application requirements established in this section have been violated by the licensee.

(o) A person who is engaged in the receipt, review or in the issuance or revocation of a concealed weapon provisional license does not incur any civil liability as the result of the lawful performance of his or her duties under this article.

(p) Information collected under this section, including applications, supporting documents, permits, renewals, or any other information that would identify an applicant for or holder of a concealed weapon provisional license, is confidential: *Provided*, That this information may be disclosed to a law enforcement agency or officer: (i) To determine the validity of a provisional license; (ii) to assist in a criminal investigation or prosecution; or (iii) for other lawful law-enforcement purposes. A person who violates this subsection is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$200 for each offense.

(q) Except as restricted or prohibited by the provisions of this article or as otherwise prohibited by law, the issuance of a provisional concealed weapon license issued in accordance with the provisions of this section authorizes the holder of the license to carry a concealed pistol or revolver on the lands or waters of this state.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Senate Bill 147—A Bill to amend and reenact §61-7-4 and §61-7-4a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to concealed deadly weapons licenses; adding definition of "ammunition" for purposes of the live fire requirement for obtaining a license to carry a deadly weapon; adding definition of "ammunition" for purposes of the live fire requirement for obtaining a provisional license to carry a deadly weapon; clarifying that ammunition designed for training including marking rounds and simulated ammunition may be used in the required training course;

and removing the requirement that an applicant for a concealed deadly weapon license or a provisional concealed deadly weapon license must provide a Social Security number.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Senate Bill 147, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 147) passed with its House of Delegates amended title.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, to take effect from passage, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendments, as to

Eng. Senate Bill 149, Relating to municipalities required to be represented on county authority boards.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 1, after the enacting clause, by striking out the remainder of the bill and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

ARTICLE 12. COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITIES.

§7-12-3. Management and control of county authority vested in board; appointment and terms of members; vacancies; removal of members.

The management and control of a county authority, its property, operations, business, and affairs shall be lodged in a board of not fewer than 12 nor more than 21 persons who shall be appointed by the county commission and be known as members of the authority. The county commission shall appoint one member to represent the county commission on the board. ~~and, for each municipality located within the county, the county commission shall appoint one member to represent the municipality. The city and town council of each municipality located within the county shall submit to the county commission the names of three persons, one of whom the county commission shall appoint to be the municipality's representative on the board. Other members~~ Members of the board shall be appointed by the county commission ~~and shall include~~

~~representatives of business, industry and labor.~~ The members of the authority first appointed shall serve respectively for terms of one year, two years and three years, divided equally or as nearly equal as possible between these terms. Thereafter, members shall be appointed for terms of three years each. A member may be reappointed for such additional term or terms as the county commission may deem proper. If a member resigns, is removed or for any other reason his or her membership terminates during his or her term of office, a successor shall be appointed by the county commission to fill out the remainder of his or her term. Members in office at the expiration of their respective terms shall continue to serve until their successors have been appointed and have qualified. The county commission may at any time remove any member of the board by an order duly entered of record and may appoint a successor member for any member so removed.

Other persons, firms, unincorporated associations, and corporations, who reside, maintain offices, or have economic interests, ~~as the case may be,~~ in the county, ~~shall be~~ are eligible to participate in and request the county commission to appoint members to the development authority as the said authority shall by its bylaws provide.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Senate Bill 149—A Bill to amend and reenact §7-12-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the composition of county authority boards; removing the requirement that municipalities be represented on county authority boards; removing the requirement that certain board members must be representatives of business, industry, and labor.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Senate Bill 149, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 149) passed with its House of Delegates amended title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 149) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the passage by that body, without amendment, to take effect January 1, 2025, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the changed effective date, as to

Eng. Senate Bill 166, Updating contested elections procedures.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

On further motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the changed effective date of the bill, that being to take effect January 1, 2025, instead of ninety days from passage.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect January 1, 2025.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 166) takes effect January 1, 2025.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 170, Relating to compensable diseases of certain firefighters covered by workers' compensation.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page one, section one, line two, following the words "shall be paid", by striking out the words "from the Workers' Compensation Fund" and the comma;

And,

On page four, section one, line eighty-nine, following the words "by rule of the", by striking out the words "board of managers" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "Insurance Commissioner and Industrial Council".

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Senate Bill 170, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 170) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 170) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 217, Authorizing state and subdivisions to negotiate price for construction when all bids received exceed maximum budget.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

On page 1 by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

ARTICLE 22. GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS.**§5-22-4. Negotiation when all bids exceed budgeted amount.**

(a) The state and its subdivisions may establish a maximum budgeted amount for each construction project. In the event the bids for a construction project exceed the funds available, the contracting public agency may negotiate with the lowest qualified responsible bidder pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(b) To utilize the provisions of this section, the contracting public agency shall:

(1) establish a maximum budgeted amount;

(2) maintain confidentiality of the maximum budgeted amount prior to the award of a contract;
and

(3) not proceed with a negotiated award if that results in more than a ten percent change in scope or cost from the original base bid.

(c) A negotiated award made pursuant to the provisions of this section shall be made within 30 calendar days of the original bid opening date.

(d) Negotiations under this section shall be completed in the following manner:

(1) If only one responsive and responsible bidder responds to a solicitation the contracting agency may negotiate an award based solely on the specifications contained within the original solicitation;

(2) If more than one bidder responds to a solicitation, the contracting public agency may negotiate with the apparent lowest qualified responsible bidder, as defined in §5-22-1 of this code: *Provided*, any such negotiation must be based on the scope and specifications contained within the original solicitation;

(3) The contracting public agency shall make available for public inspection all negotiated contracts; and

(4) The contracting public agency shall memorialize any change to the original project specifications that occur as a result of a negotiated award made pursuant to the provisions of this section.

(e) The provisions of this section are permissive and not mandatory for any contracting public agency.

(f) An award of a negotiated contract pursuant to the provisions of this section may not be made to a bidder who fails to meet the other qualifications set forth in this article.

(g) For the purposes of this section, "construction project" does not mean the construction of a road, bridge, or highway.

(h) The provisions of this section expire and shall have no force and effect after December 31, 2029.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendment to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 217, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 217) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 217) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendments, as to

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 261, WV Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Program of 2024.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 1, following the enacting clause, by striking the remainder of the bill in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

CHAPTER 31. CORPORATIONS.

ARTICLE 18F. THE WEST VIRGINIA VETERANS' HOME LOAN MORTGAGE PROGRAM OF 2024.

§31-18F-1. Short title.

This article shall be known as the West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Program Act of 2024.

§31-18F-2. Definitions.

As used in this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) "Eligible veteran" means any veteran as defined in this section who:

(A) is a West Virginia resident;

(B) is a first-time home buyer; and

(C) is establishing his or her primary residence in West Virginia.

(2) "Fund" means the West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund created pursuant to the provisions of §31-18F-5 of this code.

(3) "Mortgage loan" means a loan for the purchase of real property, and any improvements thereon, located within this state that is to be used for primary residential purposes by the eligible veteran and that is based upon a written instrument evidenced by a promissory note, and that is secured by a deed of trust.

(4) "Participating financial institution" means a corporate lender or other loan originator approved by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund for originating loans pursuant to the provisions this article.

(5) "Resident" or "West Virginia resident" means an individual who maintains, or will maintain after receiving a mortgage loan, a primary residence within West Virginia, and who has not established a residence elsewhere even though the individual may be temporarily absent from the state.

(6) "Under honorable conditions" means a discharge or separation from military duty characterized by the armed forces as under honorable conditions. The term includes honorable discharge and general discharge. The term does not include a dishonorable discharge, or another administrative discharge characterized by military regulation as other than honorable.

(7) "Veteran" means a person who satisfies one of the following requirements:

(A) is a member of the West Virginia National Guard;

(B) is a member of the federal reserve forces of the armed forces of the United States, serving pursuant to Title 10 of the United States Code;

(C) is a person serving on federal active duty pursuant to Title 10 of the United States Code;

(D) is the unmarried spouse or child of an individual who otherwise met the requirements of paragraphs (A), (B), or (C) of this subdivision, but was killed in the line of duty;

(E) is a person who previously met the requirements of paragraphs (A), (B), or (C) of this subdivision, but has since been discharged under honorable conditions; or

(F) a person defined as a veteran by rule promulgated by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund pursuant to the provisions of this article.

(8) "Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Program" or "program" means the program created pursuant to the provisions of this article.

(9) "West Virginia Housing Development Fund" or "Housing Development Fund" means the West Virginia Housing Development Fund created and established by §31-18-4 of this code.

§31-18F-3. Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Program created.

(a) There is hereby created the West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Program of 2024 to be administered by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund for eligible veterans who are first-time home buyers.

(b) The West Virginia Housing Development Fund is authorized to make or purchase mortgage loans from participating financial institutions or through direct origination.

§31-18F-4. Terms of program.

(a) *Interest.* Interest on a home mortgage loan made pursuant to the provisions of this article shall be 1 percent less than the federal national mortgage association's delivery rate or 1 percent less than the interest rate applicable to loans provided by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund's Homeownership Program, whichever is less. If the federal national mortgage association's delivery rate becomes unavailable, the Housing Development Fund shall provide another similar rate to use for the purposes of this section by rule promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this article.

(b) *Loan amount.* The maximum amount of a loan made pursuant to the provisions of this article is 100 percent of the value of the statewide allowable purchase price.

(c) *Required education program.* The West Virginia Housing Development Fund shall require, as a condition for a loan, that an eligible veteran participate in a first-time home buyer education program approved by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund.

(d) *Government guaranty.* A loan made by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund must be secured by a government guaranty, unless the West Virginia Housing Development Fund makes a determination that the use of conventional mortgage insurance requirements and coverage will satisfy security requirements.

(e) *Minimum amount of veteran monetary payment.* An eligible veteran shall participate in a loan by paying a minimum amount of \$2,500, unless the West Virginia Housing Development Fund provides, by legislative rule promulgated pursuant to the provisions of this section, circumstances under which a smaller minimum amount may be allowed. An eligible veteran may use this minimum payment toward paying closing costs and may borrow from the program the maximum loan amount allowed by the mortgage insurer for the loan.

(f) *Income limitations.* There is no limit on the maximum amount of income that may be earned by an eligible veteran in order to qualify for the program.

(g) In order to allow small financial institutions to participate equitably in the program along with large financial institutions, the West Virginia Housing Development Fund may adopt rules to specify the maximum amount of mortgage loans that may be made by any one participating financial institution.

(h) The Legislative Auditor shall have access to all documentation used for the purpose of the program.

(i) The West Virginia Housing Development Fund shall annually submit to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance a report describing, at a minimum, the operation and use of this program. This report shall be due no later than December 1 of each year and may be combined with other reports submitted by the West Virginia Housing Development Fund to the Legislature.

§31-18F-5. West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund.

(a) The board of directors of the West Virginia Housing Development Fund shall create and establish the West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund. The fund shall be a special revolving fund of moneys made available by contribution or loan, and to be governed, administered and accounted for by the directors, officers and managerial staff of the Housing Development Fund as a public purpose trust account separate and distinct from any other moneys, funds or funds owned and managed by the Housing Development Fund. The purpose for organizing and operating the fund shall be to provide a source from which the Housing Development Fund may implement the provisions of this article.

(b) The Housing Development Fund shall administer the West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund and service the mortgage loans made pursuant to the program.

(c) The West Virginia Housing Development Fund shall receive all moneys transferred to the fund pursuant to §36-8-13(f) of this code, any other moneys to be deposited into the fund, and any repayments and interest paid to the fund.

(d) As a loan pursuant to this article is repaid, the principal payments on the loan must be redeposited in the fund until all the principal of the loan is repaid. In the event of foreclosure, the proceeds from the sale of the foreclosed property must be deposited to the fund. The fund may be used to cover the initial purchase of the mortgage loans from participating lenders as well as amounts determined by the Housing Development Fund, to pay for the origination and servicing release fees of a loan by a participating financial institution and to cover the holding costs of any foreclosed properties. Interest received on the loans may be used by the Housing Development Fund to pay the reasonable costs for the administration of the program and servicing of the loans. Remaining interest received on the loan must be deposited into the fund.

(e) Following the initial origination of loans, loan repayments and any interest earnings of the fund may be used by the Housing Development Fund to originate additional program loans or to assist in the development of affordable housing units for the benefit of veterans.

(f) The West Virginia Housing Development Fund may invest and reinvest all moneys in the Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund in any investments authorized under §31-18-6 of this code pending the disbursement thereof in connection with the Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund.

(g) The West Virginia Housing Development Fund will operate the Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund in accordance with customary practices of mortgage lending and loan servicing, including originating loans through qualified lending institutions, industry standard underwriting, minimum down payments, house purchase prices, mortgage lien position, loan origination, and loan servicing fees like the West Virginia Housing Development Fund's Homeownership Program or similar program.

§31-18F-6. Rules to be adopted by fund.

The fund shall promulgate rules, including emergency rules, if necessary, in accordance with §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code, including rules:

(1) Specifying qualifications for financial institutions to participate in the program;

(2) Specifying underwriting criteria for a program loan, such as minimum down payment, credit score, ratios of housing expense and of all reoccurring debt as a percentage of income of the borrower, and any exceptions to those criteria;

(3) Specifying the statewide allowable purchase price of a home for the purposes of the program;

(4) Specifying the security required for a mortgage loan financed by the program;

(5) Specifying the qualifications of a first-time homebuyer;

(6) Providing the Legislative Auditor with access to records of participating financial institutions regarding loans made pursuant to this program;

(7) Governing the loan application process;

(8) Specifying the maximum origination fee that may be charged by a participating financial institution;

(9) Specifying the maximum servicing fees that may be charged by the fund; and

(10) Other loan conditions determined to be necessary by the fund.

CHAPTER 36. ESTATES AND PROPERTY.

ARTICLE 8. UNIFORM UNCLAIMED PROPERTY ACT.

§36-8-13. Deposit of funds.

(a) The administrator shall record the name and last known address of each person appearing from the holders reports to be entitled to the property, and the name and last known address of each insured person or annuitant and beneficiary and with respect to each policy or annuity listed in the report of an insurance company, its number, the name of the company, and the amount due.

(b) The Unclaimed Property Fund is continued. The administrator shall deposit all funds received pursuant to this article in the Unclaimed Property Fund, including the proceeds from the sale of abandoned property under §36-8-12 of this code. The administrator may invest the

Unclaimed Property Fund with the West Virginia Board of Treasury Investments, or the Investment Management Board, and all earnings shall accrue to the fund and are available for expenditure in accordance with the article. In addition to paying claims of unclaimed property duly allowed, the administrator may deduct the following expenses from the Unclaimed Property Fund:

(1) Expenses of the sale of abandoned property;

(2) Expenses incurred in returning the property to owners, including without limitation the costs of mailing and publication to locate owners;

(3) Reasonable service charge; and

(4) Expenses incurred in examining records of holders of property and in collecting the property from those holders.

(c) The Unclaimed Property Trust Fund is continued within the State Treasury. The administrator may invest the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund with the West Virginia Board of Treasury Investments and all earnings shall accrue to the fund and are available for expenditure in accordance with this article. After deducting the expenses specified in subsection (b) of this section and maintaining a sum of money from which to pay claims duly allowed, the administrator shall transfer the remaining moneys in the Unclaimed Property Fund to the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund.

(d) On or before December 15 of each year, notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the administrator may transfer the sum of \$1 million from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the Jumpstart Savings Trust Fund, until an actuary certifies there are sufficient funds to satisfy all obligations and administrative expenses of the Jumpstart Savings Program.

(e) Subject to a liquidity determination and cash availability, effective July 1, 2022, the unclaimed property administrator may transfer an amount in any fiscal year from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the Military Authority Reimbursable Expenditure Fund: *Provided*, That the aggregate amount that may be transferred under this subsection may not exceed \$10,000,000.

(f) Subject to cash availability, on or before July 15, 2024, the unclaimed property administrator may transfer up to \$8 million from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund, as provided in §31-18F-5 of this code.

~~(f)(g)~~ After transferring any money required by subsections (e) and (f) of this section, the administrator shall transfer moneys remaining in the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the General Revenue Fund.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 261—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article, designated §31-18F-1, §31-18F-2, §31-18F-3, §31-18F-4, §31-18F-5, and §31-18F-6; and to amend and reenact §36-8-13 of said code, all relating generally to creating the West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Program of 2024; establishing a fund known as the West Virginia Veterans' Home Loan Mortgage Fund; declaring the purpose of the fund; providing that the West Virginia Housing Development Fund shall

administer the fund; setting forth terms of the program; authorizing the West Virginia Housing Development Fund to make certain mortgage loans from the fund; authorizing rulemaking; and authorizing the unclaimed property administrator to transfer a certain amount from the Unclaimed Property Trust Fund to the fund.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 261, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 261) passed with its House of Delegates amended title.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

Eng. Senate Bill 430, WV Rent-to-Own Act.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 2, section 46B-3-7, line 22, after the words "required by" by striking out the words "subdivision (1), subsection (c) of this section" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "§46B-3-7(c)(1) of this code".

On page 2, section 46B-3-7, line 27, after the words "required under" by striking out the words "subsection (b) of this section" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "§46B-3-7(b) of this code".

On page 2, section 46B-3-7, line 28, after the words "described under" by striking out the words "subsection (d) of this section" and inserting in lieu thereof "§46B-3-7(d) of this code".

And,

On page 2, section 46B-3-7, line 29, by striking out the words "subdivision (1), subsection (c) of this section" and inserting in lieu thereof the words "§46B-3-7(c)(1) of this code".

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Senate Bill 430, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 430) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, two thirds of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 430) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 445, Reducing certification periods and renewal fees for EMS personnel.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 2, section 8, line 31, by striking "\$50" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$25";

And,

On page 7, section 16-4C-9, line 59 inserting after "electronically" the language "via the Board's website".

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 445, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 445) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 445) takes effect from passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendments, as to

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 533, Allowing EMS agencies to triage, treat or transport patients to alternate destinations.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendments to the bill were reported by the Clerk:

On page 1, by striking everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

CHAPTER 16. PUBLIC HEALTH.

ARTICLE 4C. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ACT.

§16-4C-3. Definitions.

As used in this article, unless the context clearly requires a different meaning:

(a) "Ambulance" means any privately, ~~or~~ publicly-owned vehicle, or aircraft which is designed, constructed, or modified; equipped or maintained; and operated for the transportation of patients, including, but not limited to, emergency medical services vehicles; rotary and fixed wing air ambulances; gsa kkk-A-1822 federal standard type I, type II, and type III vehicles; and specialized multipatient medical transport vehicles operated by an emergency medical services agency;

(b)(1) "Alternative destination" means a lower-acuity facility that provides medical services, including without limitation:

(A) A federally-qualified health center;

(B) An urgent care center;

(C) A rural health clinic;

(D) A physician office or medical clinic as selected by the patient; and

(E) A behavioral or mental health care facility including, without limitation, a crisis stabilization unit.

(2) "Alternative destination" does not include a:

(A) Critical access hospital;

(B) Dialysis center;

(C) Hospital;

(D) Private residence; or

(E) Skilled nursing facility.

~~(b)~~ (c) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Bureau for Public Health;

~~(e)~~ (d) "Council" means the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council created pursuant to this article;

~~(d)~~ (e) "Director" means the Director of the Office of Emergency Medical Services; ~~in the Bureau for Public Health;~~

~~(e)~~ (f) "Emergency Medical Services" means all services ~~which are~~ set forth in Public Law 93-154 The Emergency Medical Services Systems Act of 1973 and those included in and made a part of the emergency medical services plan of the ~~Department of Health and Human Resources~~ Department of Health inclusive of, but not limited to, responding to the medical needs of an individual to prevent the loss of life or aggravation of illness or injury;

~~(f)~~ (g) "Emergency medical service agency" means any agency licensed under ~~section six-a of this article~~ §16-4C-6a of this code to provide emergency medical services;

~~(g)~~ (h) "Emergency medical service personnel" means any person certified by the commissioner to provide emergency medical services as set forth by legislative rule;

~~(h)~~ (i) "Emergency medical service provider" means any authority, person, corporation, partnership, or other entity, public or private, which owns or operates a licensed emergency medical services agency providing emergency medical services in this state;

~~(i)~~ (j) "Governing body" has the meanings ascribed to it as applied to a municipality in §8-1-2(b)(1) of this code;

~~(j)~~ (k) "Line officer" means the emergency medical service personnel, present at the scene of an accident, injury, or illness, who has taken the responsibility for patient care;

~~(k)~~ (l) "Medical command" means the issuing of orders by a physician from a medical facility to emergency medical service personnel for the purpose of providing appropriate patient care;

~~(l)~~ (m) "Municipality" has the meaning ascribed to it in §8-1-2(a)(1) of this code;

~~(m)~~ (n) "Patient" means any person who is a recipient of the services provided by emergency medical services;

(o) A rural health clinic means an outpatient care facility that provides rural health services, such as primary care and routine laboratory services, to rural and often underserved communities.

~~(n)~~ (p) "Service reciprocity" means the provision of emergency medical services to citizens of this state by emergency medical service personnel certified to render those services by a neighboring state;

~~(o)~~ (q) "Small emergency medical service provider" means any emergency medical service provider which is made up of less than ~~twenty~~ 20 emergency medical service personnel; and

~~(p)~~ (r) "Specialized multipatient medical transport" means a type of ambulance transport provided for patients with medical needs greater than those of the average population, which may require the presence of a trained emergency medical technician during the transport of the patient: *Provided*, That the requirement of "greater medical need" may not prohibit the transportation of a patient whose need is preventive in nature.

§16-4C-26 Triage, Treat, and Transport to Alternative Destination.

(a) An emergency medical services agency may triage and transport a patient to an alternative destination in this state or treat in place if the emergency medical services agency is coordinating the care of the patient through medical command or telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint. Emergency medical services agencies shall execute a memorandum of understanding with alternative treatment destinations as permitted by the protocols to transport patients.

(b) On or before October 1, 2024, the director shall establish protocols for emergency medical service agencies to triage, treat, and transport to alternative destinations.

CHAPTER 33. INSURANCE.

ARTICLE 15. ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS INSURANCE.**§33-15-4x. Coverage of Emergency Medical Services to Triage and Transport to Alternative Destination or Treat in Place.**

(a) The following terms are defined:

(1) "911 call" means a communication indicating that an individual may need emergency medical services;

(2) "Alternative destination" means a lower-acuity facility that provides medical services, including without limitation:

(A) A federally-qualified health center;

(B) An urgent care center;

(C) A rural health clinic;

(D) A physician office or medical clinic as selected by the patient; and

(E) A behavioral or mental health care facility including, without limitation, a crisis stabilization unit.

"Alternative destination" does not include a:

(A) Critical access hospital;

(B) Dialysis center;

(C) Hospital;

(D) Private residence; or

(E) Skilled nursing facility;

(3) "Emergency medical service agency" means any agency licensed under §16-4C-6a of this code to provide emergency medical services: *Provided*, That rotary and fixed wing air ambulances are specifically excluded from the definition of an emergency medical service agency;

(4) "Medical command" means the issuing of orders by a physician from a medical facility to emergency medical service personnel for the purpose of providing appropriate patient care; and

(5) "Telehealth services" means the use of synchronous or asynchronous telecommunications technology or audio-only telephone calls by a health care practitioner to provide health care services, including, but not limited to, assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and monitoring of a patient; transfer of medical data; patient and professional health-related education; public health services; and health administration. The term does not include e-mail messages or facsimile transmissions.

(b) An insurer which issues or renews a health insurance policy on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for:

(1) An emergency medical services agency to:

(A) Treat an enrollee in place if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;

(B) Triage or triage and transport an enrollee to an alternative destination if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;
or

(C) An encounter between an ambulance service and enrollee that results in no transport of the enrollee if:

(i) The enrollee declines to be transported against medical advice; and

(ii) The emergency medical service agency is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services or medical command with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint.

(c) The coverage under this section:

(1) Only includes emergency medical services transportation to the treatment location;

(2) Is subject to the initiation of response, triage, and treatment as a result of a 911 call that is documented in the records of the emergency medical services agency;

(3) Is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan;

(4) Does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan, even if the billing claims for medical or behavioral health services overlap in time that is billed by the ambulance service also providing care; and

(5) Does not include rotary or fixed wing air ambulance services.

(d) The reimbursement rate for an emergency medical services agency that triages, treats, and transports a patient to an alternative destination, or triages, treats, and does not transport a patient, if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice, if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through medical command or telemedicine with a physician for a medical-based complaint, or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint under this section, shall be reimbursed at the same rate as if the patient were transported to an emergency room of a facility provider.

§33-15-21. Coverage of emergency services.

From July 1, 1998:

(a) Every insurer shall provide coverage for emergency medical services, including prehospital services, to the extent necessary to screen and to stabilize an emergency medical condition. The insurer shall not require prior authorization of the screening services if a prudent layperson acting reasonably would have believed that an emergency medical condition existed.

Prior authorization of coverage shall not be required for stabilization if an emergency medical condition exists. Payment of claims for emergency services shall be based on the retrospective review of the presenting history and symptoms of the covered person.

(b) The coverage for prehospital screening and stabilization of an emergency medical condition shall include ambulance services provided under the provisions of §16-4C-1 et seq. of this code, excluding air ambulance services as defined in §16-4C-3(a) of this code. The insurer shall pay claims for prehospital screening and stabilization of emergency condition by ambulance service if the insured is transported to an emergency room of a facility provider or if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice. The coverage under this section is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan.

~~(b)~~ (c) An insurer that has given prior authorization for emergency services shall cover the services and shall not retract the authorization after the services have been provided unless the authorization was based on a material misrepresentation about the covered person's health condition made by the referring provider, the provider of the emergency services, or the covered person.

~~(c)~~ (d) Coverage of emergency services shall be subject to coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles applicable under the health benefit plan.

~~(d)~~ (e) The emergency department and the insurer shall make a good faith effort to communicate with each other in a timely fashion to expedite post evaluation or post stabilization services in order to avoid material deterioration of the covered person's condition.

~~(e)~~ (f) As used in this section:

(1) "Emergency medical services" means those services required to screen for or treat an emergency medical condition until the condition is stabilized, including prehospital care;

(2) "Prudent layperson" means a person who is without medical training and who draws on his or her practical experience when making a decision regarding whether an emergency medical condition exists for which emergency treatment should be sought;

(3) "Emergency medical condition for the prudent layperson" means one that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the person could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child; serious impairment to bodily functions; or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part;

(4) "Stabilize" means with respect to an emergency medical condition, to provide medical treatment of the condition necessary to assure, with reasonable medical probability, that no medical deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility: *Provided*, That this provision may not be construed to prohibit, limit, or otherwise delay the transportation required for a higher level of care than that possible at the treating facility;

(5) "Medical screening examination" means an appropriate examination within the capability of the hospital's emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to determine whether or not an emergency medical condition exists; and

(6) "Emergency medical condition" means a condition that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily part or organ.

ARTICLE 16. GROUP ACCIDENT AND SICKNESS COVERAGE.

§33-16-3i. Coverage of emergency services.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of any policy, provision, contract, plan, or agreement to which this article applies, any entity regulated by this article shall provide as benefits to all subscribers and members coverage for emergency services. A policy, provision, contract, plan, or agreement may apply to emergency services the same deductibles, coinsurance, and other limitations as apply to other covered services: *Provided*, that preauthorization or precertification shall not be required.

(b) From July 1, 1998, the following provisions apply:

(1) Every insurer shall provide coverage for emergency medical services, including prehospital services, to the extent necessary to screen and to stabilize an emergency medical condition. The insurer shall not require prior authorization of the screening services if a prudent layperson acting reasonably would have believed that an emergency medical condition existed. Prior authorization of coverage shall not be required for stabilization if an emergency medical condition exists. Payment of claims for emergency services shall be based on the retrospective review of the presenting history and symptoms of the covered person.

(2) The coverage for prehospital screening and stabilization of an emergency medical condition shall include ambulance services provided under the provisions of §16-4C-1 et seq. of this code, excluding air ambulance services as defined in §16-4C-3(a) of this code. The insurer shall pay claims for prehospital screening and stabilization of emergency condition by ambulance service if the insured is transported to an emergency room of a facility provider or if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice. The coverage under this section is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan.

~~(2)~~ (3) An insurer that has given prior authorization for emergency services shall cover the services and shall not retract the authorization after the services have been provided unless the authorization was based on a material misrepresentation about the covered person's health condition made by the referring provider, the provider of the emergency services, or the covered person.

~~(3)~~ (4) Coverage of emergency services shall be subject to coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles applicable under the health benefit plan.

~~(4)~~ (5) The emergency department and the insurer shall make a good faith effort to communicate with each other in a timely fashion to expedite post evaluation or post stabilization services in order to avoid material deterioration of the covered person's condition.

~~(5)~~ (6) As used in this section:

(A) "Emergency medical services" means those services required to screen for or treat an emergency medical condition until the condition is stabilized, including prehospital care;

(B) "Prudent layperson" means a person who is without medical training and who draws on his or her practical experience when making a decision regarding whether an emergency medical condition exists for which emergency treatment should be sought;

(C) "Emergency medical condition for the prudent layperson" means one that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the person could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child; serious impairment to bodily functions; or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part;

(D) "Stabilize" means with respect to an emergency medical condition, to provide medical treatment of the condition necessary to assure, with reasonable medical probability, that no medical deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility: *Provided*, That this provision may not be construed to prohibit, limit, or otherwise delay the transportation required for a higher level of care than that possible at the treating facility;

(E) "Medical screening examination" means an appropriate examination within the capability of the hospital's emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to determine whether or not an emergency medical condition exists; and

(F) "Emergency medical condition" means a condition that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child, serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of any bodily part or organ.

§33-16-3rr. Coverage of Emergency Medical Services to Triage and Transport to Alternative Destination or Treat in Place.

(a) The following terms are defined:

(1) "911 call" means a communication indicating that an individual may need emergency medical services;

(2) "Alternative destination" means a lower-acuity facility that provides medical services, including without limitation:

(A) A federally-qualified health center;

(B) An urgent care center;

(C) A rural health clinic;

(D) A physician office or medical clinic as selected by the patient; and

(E) A behavioral or mental health care facility including, without limitation, a crisis stabilization unit.

"Alternative destination" does not include a:

(A) Critical access hospital;

(B) Dialysis center;

(C) Hospital;

(D) Private residence; or

(E) Skilled nursing facility;

(3) "Emergency medical service agency" means any agency licensed under §16-4C-6a of this code to provide emergency medical services: *Provided*, That rotary and fixed wing air ambulances are specifically excluded from the definition of an emergency medical service agency;

(4) "Medical command" means the issuing of orders by a physician from a medical facility to emergency medical service personnel for the purpose of providing appropriate patient care; and

(5) "Telehealth services" means the use of synchronous or asynchronous telecommunications technology or audio-only telephone calls by a health care practitioner to provide health care services, including, but not limited to, assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and monitoring of a patient; transfer of medical data; patient and professional health-related education; public health services; and health administration. The term does not include e-mail messages or facsimile transmissions.

(b) An insurer which issues or renews a health insurance policy on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for:

(1) An emergency medical services agency to:

(A) Treat an enrollee in place if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;

(B) Triage or triage and transport an enrollee to an alternative destination if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint; or

(C) An encounter between an ambulance service and enrollee that results in no transport of the enrollee if:

(i) The enrollee declines to be transported against medical advice; and

(ii) The emergency medical service agency is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services or medical command with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint.

(c) The coverage under this section:

(1) Only includes emergency medical services transportation to the treatment location;

(2) Is subject to the initiation of response, triage, and treatment as a result of a 911 call that is documented in the records of the emergency medical services agency;

(3) Is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan;

(4) Does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan, even if the billing claims for medical or behavioral health services overlap in time that is billed by the ambulance service also providing care; and

(5) Does not include rotary of fixed wing air ambulance services.

(d) The reimbursement rate for an emergency medical services agency that triages, treats, and transports a patient to an alternative destination, or triages, treats, and does not transport a patient, if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice, if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through medical command or telemedicine with a physician for a medical-based complaint, or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint under this section, shall be reimbursed at the same rate as if the patient were transported to an emergency room of a facility provider.

ARTICLE 24. HOSPITAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS, MEDICAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS, DENTAL SERVICE CORPORATIONS AND HEALTH SERVICE CORPORATIONS.

§33-24-7e. Coverage of emergency services.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of any policy, provision, contract, plan, or agreement to which this article applies, any entity regulated by this article shall provide as benefits to all subscribers and members coverage for emergency services. A policy, provision, contract, plan, or agreement may apply to emergency services the same deductibles, coinsurance, and other limitations as apply to other covered services: *Provided*, That preauthorization or precertification shall not be required.

(b) From July 1, 1998, the following provisions apply:

(1) Every insurer shall provide coverage for emergency medical services, including prehospital services, to the extent necessary to screen and to stabilize an emergency medical condition. The insurer shall not require prior authorization of the screening services if a prudent layperson acting reasonably would have believed that an emergency medical condition existed. Prior authorization of coverage shall not be required for stabilization if an emergency medical condition exists. Payment of claims for emergency services shall be based on the retrospective review of the presenting history and symptoms of the covered person.

(2) The coverage for prehospital screening and stabilization of an emergency medical condition shall include ambulance services provided under the provisions of §16-4C-1 et seq. of this code, excluding air ambulance services as defined in §16-4C-3(a) of this code. The insurer shall pay claims for prehospital screening and stabilization of emergency condition by ambulance service if the insured is transported to an emergency room of a facility provider or if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice. The coverage under this section is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan.

~~(2)~~ (3) An insurer that has given prior authorization for emergency services shall cover the services and shall not retract the authorization after the services have been provided unless the

authorization was based on a material misrepresentation about the covered person's health condition made by the referring provider, the provider of the emergency services, or the covered person.

~~(3)~~ (4) Coverage of emergency services shall be subject to coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles applicable under the health benefit plan.

~~(4)~~ (5) The emergency department and the insurer shall make a good faith effort to communicate with each other in a timely fashion to expedite post evaluation or post stabilization services in order to avoid material deterioration of the covered person's condition.

~~(5)~~ (6) As used in this section:

(A) "Emergency medical services" means those services required to screen for or treat an emergency medical condition until the condition is stabilized, including prehospital care;

(B) "Prudent layperson" means a person who is without medical training and who draws on his or her practical experience when making a decision regarding whether an emergency medical condition exists for which emergency treatment should be sought;

(C) "Emergency medical condition for the prudent layperson" means one that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the person could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child; serious impairment to bodily functions; or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part;

(D) "Stabilize" means with respect to an emergency medical condition, to provide medical treatment of the condition necessary to assure, with reasonable medical probability, that no medical deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility: *Provided*, That this provision may not be construed to prohibit, limit, or otherwise delay the transportation required for a higher level of care than that possible at the treating facility;

(E) "Medical screening examination" means an appropriate examination within the capability of the hospital's emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to determine whether or not an emergency medical condition exists; and

(F) "Emergency medical condition" means a condition that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child, serious impairment to bodily functions, or serious dysfunction of any bodily part or organ.

§33-24-7y. Coverage of Emergency Medical Services to Triage and Transport to Alternative Destination or Treat in Place.

(a) The following terms are defined:

(1) "911 call" means a communication indicating that an individual may need emergency medical services;

(2) "Alternative destination" means a lower-acuity facility that provides medical services, including without limitation:

(A) A federally-qualified health center;

(B) An urgent care center;

(C) A rural health clinic;

(D) A physician office or medical clinic as selected by the patient; and

(E) A behavioral or mental health care facility including, without limitation, a crisis stabilization unit.

"Alternative destination" does not include a:

(A) Critical access hospital;

(B) Dialysis center;

(C) Hospital;

(D) Private residence; or

(E) Skilled nursing facility;

(3) "Emergency medical service agency" means any agency licensed under §16-4C-6a of this code to provide emergency medical services: *Provided*, That rotary and fixed wing air ambulances are specifically excluded from the definition of an emergency medical service agency;

(4) "Medical command" means the issuing of orders by a physician from a medical facility to emergency medical service personnel for the purpose of providing appropriate patient care; and

(5) "Telehealth services" means the use of synchronous or asynchronous telecommunications technology or audio-only telephone calls by a health care practitioner to provide health care services, including, but not limited to, assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and monitoring of a patient; transfer of medical data; patient and professional health-related education; public health services; and health administration. The term does not include e-mail messages or facsimile transmissions.

(b) An insurer which issues or renews a health insurance policy on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for:

(1) An emergency medical services agency to:

(A) Treat an enrollee in place if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;

(B) Triage or triage and transport an enrollee to an alternative destination if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a

medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;
or

(C) An encounter between an ambulance service and enrollee that results in no transport of the enrollee if:

(i) The enrollee declines to be transported against medical advice; and

(ii) The emergency medical service agency is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services or medical command with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint.

(c) The coverage under this section:

(1) Only includes emergency medical services transportation to the treatment location;

(2) Is subject to the initiation of response, triage, and treatment as a result of a 911 call that is documented in the records of the emergency medical services agency;

(3) Is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan;

(4) Does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan, even if the billing claims for medical or behavioral health services overlap in time that is billed by the ambulance service also providing care; and

(5) Does not include rotary of fixed wing air ambulance services.

(d) The reimbursement rate for an emergency medical services agency that triages, treats, and transports a patient to an alternative destination, or triages, treats, and does not transport a patient, if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice, if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through medical command or telemedicine with a physician for a medical-based complaint, or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint under this section, shall be reimbursed at the same rate as if the patient were transported to an emergency room of a facility provider.

ARTICLE 25. HEALTH CARE CORPORATIONS.

§33-25-8d. Coverage of emergency services.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of any policy, provision, contract, plan, or agreement to which this article applies, any entity regulated by this article shall provide as benefits to all subscribers and members coverage for emergency services. A policy, provision, contract, plan, or agreement may apply to emergency services the same deductibles, coinsurance, and other limitations as apply to other covered services: *Provided*, That preauthorization or precertification shall not be required.

(b) From July 1, 1998, the following provisions apply:

(1) Every insurer shall provide coverage for emergency medical services, including prehospital services, to the extent necessary to screen and to stabilize an emergency medical condition. The insurer shall not require prior authorization of the screening services if a prudent

layperson acting reasonably would have believed that an emergency medical condition existed. Prior authorization of coverage shall not be required for stabilization if an emergency medical condition exists. Payment of claims for emergency services shall be based on the retrospective review of the presenting history and symptoms of the covered person.

(2) The coverage for prehospital screening and stabilization of an emergency medical condition shall include ambulance services provided under the provisions of §16-4C-1 et seq. of this code, excluding air ambulance services as defined in §16-4C-3(a) of this code. The insurer shall pay claims for prehospital screening and stabilization of emergency condition by ambulance service if the insured is transported to an emergency room of a facility provider or if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice. The coverage under this section is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan.

~~(2)~~ (3) An insurer that has given prior authorization for emergency services shall cover the services and shall not retract the authorization after the services have been provided unless the authorization was based on a material misrepresentation about the covered person's health condition made by the referring provider, the provider of the emergency services, or the covered person.

~~(3)~~ (4) Coverage of emergency services shall be subject to coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles applicable under the health benefit plan.

~~(4)~~ (5) The emergency department and the insurer shall make a good faith effort to communicate with each other in a timely fashion to expedite post evaluation or post stabilization services in order to avoid material deterioration of the covered person's condition.

~~(5)~~ (6) As used in this section:

(A) "Emergency medical services" means those services required to screen for or treat an emergency medical condition until the condition is stabilized, including prehospital care;

(B) "Prudent layperson" means a person who is without medical training and who draws on his or her practical experience when making a decision regarding whether an emergency medical condition exists for which emergency treatment should be sought;

(C) "Emergency medical condition for the prudent layperson" means one that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the person could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child; serious impairment to bodily functions; or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part;

(D) "Stabilize" means with respect to an emergency medical condition, to provide medical treatment of the condition necessary to assure, with reasonable medical probability, that no medical deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility: *Provided*, That this provision may not be construed to prohibit, limit, or otherwise delay the transportation required for a higher level of care than that possible at the treating facility;

(E) "Medical screening examination" means an appropriate examination within the capability of the hospital's emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to determine whether or not an emergency medical condition exists; and

(F) "Emergency medical condition" means a condition that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child, serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of any bodily part or organ.

§33-25-8v. Coverage of Emergency Medical Services to Triage and Transport to Alternative Destination or Treat in Place.

(a) The following terms are defined:

(1) "911 call" means a communication indicating that an individual may need emergency medical services;

(2) "Alternative destination" means a lower-acuity facility that provides medical services, including without limitation:

(A) A federally-qualified health center;

(B) An urgent care center;

(C) A rural health clinic;

(D) A physician office or medical clinic as selected by the patient; and

(E) A behavioral or mental health care facility including, without limitation, a crisis stabilization unit.

"Alternative destination" does not include a:

(A) Critical access hospital;

(B) Dialysis center;

(C) Hospital;

(D) Private residence; or

(E) Skilled nursing facility;

(3) "Emergency medical service agency" means any agency licensed under §16-4C-6a of this code to provide emergency medical services: *Provided*, That rotary and fixed wing air ambulances are specifically excluded from the definition of an emergency medical service agency;

(4) "Medical command" means the issuing of orders by a physician from a medical facility to emergency medical service personnel for the purpose of providing appropriate patient care; and

(5) "Telehealth services" means the use of synchronous or asynchronous telecommunications technology or audio-only telephone calls by a health care practitioner to provide health care services, including, but not limited to, assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and monitoring of a patient; transfer of medical data; patient and professional health-related education;

public health services; and health administration. The term does not include e-mail messages or facsimile transmissions.

(b) An insurer which issues or renews a health insurance policy on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for:

(1) An emergency medical services agency to:

(A) Treat an enrollee in place if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;

(B) Triage or triage and transport an enrollee to an alternative destination if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;
or

(C) An encounter between an ambulance service and enrollee that results in no transport of the enrollee if:

(i) The enrollee declines to be transported against medical advice; and

(ii) The emergency medical service agency is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services or medical command with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint.

(c) The coverage under this section:

(1) Only includes emergency medical services transportation to the treatment location;

(2) Is subject to the initiation of response, triage, and treatment as a result of a 911 call that is documented in the records of the emergency medical services agency;

(3) Is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan;

(4) Does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan, even if the billing claims for medical or behavioral health services overlap in time that is billed by the ambulance service also providing care; and

(5) Does not include rotary of fixed wing air ambulance services.

(d) The reimbursement rate for an emergency medical services agency that triages, treats, and transports a patient to an alternative destination, or triages, treats, and does not transport a patient, if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice, if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through medical command or telemedicine with a physician for a medical-based complaint, or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint under this section, shall be reimbursed at the same rate as if the patient were transported to an emergency room of a facility provider.

ARTICLE 25A. HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION ACT.

§33-25A-8d. Coverage of emergency services.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of any policy, provision, contract, plan, or agreement to which this article applies, any entity regulated by this article shall provide as benefits to all subscribers and members coverage for emergency services. A policy, provision, contract, plan, or agreement may apply to emergency services the same deductibles, coinsurance, and other limitations as apply to other covered services: *Provided*, That preauthorization or precertification shall not be required.

(b) From July 1, 1998, the following provisions apply:

(1) Every insurer shall provide coverage for emergency medical services, including prehospital services, to the extent necessary to screen and to stabilize an emergency medical condition. The insurer shall not require prior authorization of the screening services if a prudent layperson acting reasonably would have believed that an emergency medical condition existed. Prior authorization of coverage shall not be required for stabilization if an emergency medical condition exists. Payment of claims for emergency services shall be based on the retrospective review of the presenting history and symptoms of the covered person.

(2) The coverage for prehospital screening and stabilization of an emergency medical condition shall include ambulance services provided under the provisions of §16-4C-1 et seq. of this code, excluding air ambulance services as defined in §16-4C-3(a) of this code. The insurer shall pay claims for prehospital screening and stabilization of emergency condition by ambulance service if the insured is transported to an emergency room of a facility provider or if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice. The coverage under this section is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan.

~~(2)~~ (3) An insurer that has given prior authorization for emergency services shall cover the services and shall not retract the authorization after the services have been provided unless the authorization was based on a material misrepresentation about the covered person's health condition made by the referring provider, the provider of the emergency services, or the covered person.

~~(3)~~ (4) Coverage of emergency services shall be subject to coinsurance, copayments, and deductibles applicable under the health benefit plan.

~~(4)~~ (5) The emergency department and the insurer shall make a good faith effort to communicate with each other in a timely fashion to expedite post evaluation or post stabilization services in order to avoid material deterioration of the covered person's condition.

~~(5)~~ (6) As used in this section:

(A) "Emergency medical services" means those services required to screen for or treat an emergency medical condition until the condition is stabilized, including prehospital care;

(B) "Prudent layperson" means a person who is without medical training and who draws on his or her practical experience when making a decision regarding whether an emergency medical condition exists for which emergency treatment should be sought;

(C) "Emergency medical condition for the prudent layperson" means one that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the person could reasonably expect the absence of immediate medical attention to result in serious jeopardy to the

individual's health, or, with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child; serious impairment to bodily functions; or serious dysfunction of any bodily organ or part;

(D) "Stabilize" means with respect to an emergency medical condition, to provide medical treatment of the condition necessary to assure, with reasonable medical probability, that no medical deterioration of the condition is likely to result from or occur during the transfer of the individual from a facility: *Provided*, That this provision may not be construed to prohibit, limit, or otherwise delay the transportation required for a higher level of care than that possible at the treating facility;

(E) "Medical screening examination" means an appropriate examination within the capability of the hospital's emergency department, including ancillary services routinely available to the emergency department, to determine whether or not an emergency medical condition exists; and

(F) "Emergency medical condition" means a condition that manifests itself by acute symptoms of sufficient severity, including severe pain, such that the absence of immediate medical attention could reasonably be expected to result in serious jeopardy to the individual's health or with respect to a pregnant woman, the health of the unborn child, serious impairment to bodily functions or serious dysfunction of any bodily part or organ.

~~(6)~~ (7) Each insurer shall provide the enrolled member with a description of procedures to be followed by the member for emergency services, including the following:

(A) The appropriate use of emergency facilities;

(B) The appropriate use of any prehospital services provided by the health maintenance organization;

(C) Any potential responsibility of the member for payment for nonemergency services rendered in an emergency facility;

(D) Any cost-sharing provisions for emergency services; and

(E) An explanation of the prudent layperson standard for emergency medical condition.

§33-25A-8y. Coverage of Emergency Medical Services to Triage and Transport to Alternative Destination or Treat in Place.

(a) The following terms are defined:

(1) "911 call" means a communication indicating that an individual may need emergency medical services;

(2) "Alternative destination" means a lower-acuity facility that provides medical services, including without limitation:

(A) A federally-qualified health center;

(B) An urgent care center;

(C) A rural health clinic;

(D) A physician office or medical clinic as selected by the patient; and

(E) A behavioral or mental health care facility including, without limitation, a crisis stabilization unit.

"Alternative destination" does not include a:

(A) Critical access hospital;

(B) Dialysis center;

(C) Hospital;

(D) Private residence; or

(E) Skilled nursing facility;

(3) "Emergency medical service agency" means any agency licensed under §16-4C-6a of this code to provide emergency medical services: *Provided*, That rotary and fixed wing air ambulances are specifically excluded from the definition of an emergency medical service agency;

(4) "Medical command" means the issuing of orders by a physician from a medical facility to emergency medical service personnel for the purpose of providing appropriate patient care; and

(5) "Telehealth services" means the use of synchronous or asynchronous telecommunications technology or audio-only telephone calls by a health care practitioner to provide health care services, including, but not limited to, assessment, diagnosis, consultation, treatment, and monitoring of a patient; transfer of medical data; patient and professional health-related education; public health services; and health administration. The term does not include e-mail messages or facsimile transmissions.

(b) An insurer which issues or renews a health insurance policy on or after January 1, 2025, shall provide coverage for:

(1) An emergency medical services agency to:

(A) Treat an enrollee in place if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;

(B) Triage or triage and transport an enrollee to an alternative destination if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint;
or

(C) An encounter between an ambulance service and enrollee that results in no transport of the enrollee if:

(i) The enrollee declines to be transported against medical advice; and

(ii) The emergency medical service agency is coordinating the care of the enrollee through telehealth services or medical command with a physician for a medical-based complaint or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint.

(c) The coverage under this section:

(1) Only includes emergency medical services transportation to the treatment location;

(2) Is subject to the initiation of response, triage, and treatment as a result of a 911 call that is documented in the records of the emergency medical services agency;

(3) Is subject to deductibles or copayment requirements of the policy, contract, or plan;

(4) Does not diminish or limit benefits otherwise allowable under a health benefit plan, even if the billing claims for medical or behavioral health services overlap in time that is billed by the ambulance service also providing care; and

(5) Does not include rotary or fixed wing air ambulance services.

(d) The reimbursement rate for an emergency medical services agency that triages, treats, and transports a patient to an alternative destination, or triages, treats, and does not transport a patient, if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice, if the ambulance service is coordinating the care of the enrollee through medical command or telemedicine with a physician for a medical-based complaint, or with a behavioral health specialist for a behavioral-based complaint under this section, shall be reimbursed at the same rate as if the patient were transported to an emergency room of a facility provider.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 533—A Bill to amend and reenact §16-4C-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §16-4C-26; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §33-15-4x; to amend and reenact §33-15-21 of said code; to amend and reenact §33-16-3i of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated, §33-16-3rr; to amend and reenact §33-24-7e of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §33-24-7y; to amend and reenact §33-25-8d of said code; to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated 33-25-8v; to amend and reenact §33-25A-8d of said code; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new section, designated §33-25A-8y, all relating to emergency medical services; defining terms; providing that an emergency medical services agency may triage and transport a patient to an alternate destination in certain circumstances; mandating insurance coverage; providing that covered services include pre-hospital screening and stabilization of emergency conditions by an ambulance service; providing that air ambulance service is excluded from coverage; providing that coverage is subject to deductibles or copayment; providing that coverage be provided if the patient declines to be transported against medical advice; and providing effective date.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 533, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 533) passed with its House of Delegates amended title.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 632, Relating to Dangerousness Assessment Advisory Board multi-disciplinary study group.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

On page 5, line 93 by striking, "upon a requisition upon" and inserting in lieu thereof, "upon a requisition of";

And,

On page 5, line 95, by striking, "(g) The study group steering committee comprised of the Chairman of the Dangerousness Assessment Advisory Board, the Statewide Forensic Clinical Director, and the Statewide Forensic Coordinator may:" and inserting in lieu thereof the following, "(g) The study group steering committee comprised of members as selected by Commissioner for the Bureau of Behavioral Health may:".

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House amendment, except as to the amendment on page 5, line 95, by striking, "(g) The study group steering committee comprised of the Chairman of the Dangerousness Assessment Advisory Board, the Statewide Forensic Clinical Director, and the Statewide Forensic Coordinator may:" and inserting in lieu thereof the following, "(g) The study group steering committee comprised of members as selected by Commissioner for the Bureau of Behavioral Health may:".

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 632, as amended, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 632) passed with its title.

Senator Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

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. 632) takes effect from passage.

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

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

Eng. Senate Bill 732, Requiring cooperation between law-enforcement agencies and military authorities.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

On page 1 by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof as follows:

ARTICLE 10. COOPERATION BETWEEN LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

§15-10-7. Cooperation with military authorities.

(a) The head of a law-enforcement agency or head of a campus police department, as those positions are defined in §15-10-3 of this code, may assign law-enforcement personnel under his or her command, or a prosecuting attorney of any county within the state, may assign an assistant prosecutor within their office to provide assistance, cooperation, and information to the National Guard of this state or any service component of the armed forces of the United States Department

of Defense located in this state upon the written request of the Adjutant General or commanding officer of the unit or facility.

~~(b) The assistance authorized by subsection (a) of this section may be provided for, but not be limited to: A law-enforcement agency, campus police department, or prosecuting attorney shall, within a reasonable time after receiving a written request made by the Adjutant General or commanding officer of a National Guard unit located within the state, disclose all records and information pertaining to the following in which an alleged offender or victim is a member of the National Guard of this state or any service component of the armed forces of the United States located in this state:~~

- (1) Alleged violations of the federal and state Codes of Military Justice;
- (2) Alleged violations of the criminal laws of the United States and the State of West Virginia;
- (3) Investigations and other actions related to reports of sexual assault or sexual harassment, to include any cases of reprisal or retaliation;
- (4) Violations of military directives, regulations, or instruction; and
- (5) ~~Other reasonable requests by the National Guard~~ Notwithstanding the provisions of §61-8B-19 of this code, alleged violations of the offenses enumerated in §61-8A-1 et seq., §61-8B-1 et seq., §61-8C-1 et seq., or §61-14-1 et seq. of this code, or for the offenses included in §61-8D-3a, §61-8D-5, and §61-8D-6 of this code.

(c) The purpose of this section is to support the military by providing it objective, qualified law-enforcement services.

(d) The purpose of the amendments made to this section during the regular session of the Legislature, 2024, are to ensure force readiness of the National Guard and the armed forces by providing objective, relevant, and timely information related to military personnel; protecting members who may be the victims of a crime; and ensuring command awareness of members who may be subject to a criminal investigation.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendment to the bill.

Engrossed Senate Bill 732, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 732) passed with its title.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 751, Creating online charitable raffles.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

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

ARTICLE 21A. ONLINE CHARITABLE RAFFLES.

§47-21A-1. Legislative intent.

The Legislature, in recognition of the need for charitable and public service organizations to have for a practicable way of raising funds by means of the internet, declares its intent to grant the privilege of holding online raffles to those organizations as provided in this article.

§47-21A-2. Definitions.

For purposes of this article, unless specified otherwise:

"Charitable or public service activity or endeavor" means any bona fide activity or endeavor which directly benefits a number of people by:

(1) Contributing to educational or religious purposes;

(2) Relieving them from disease, distress, suffering, constraint, or the effects of poverty;

(3) Increasing their comprehension of, and devotion to, the principles upon which this nation was founded and to the principles of good citizenship;

(4) Making them aware of, or educating them about, issues of public concern so long as the activity or endeavor is not aimed at supporting or participating in the campaign of any candidate for public office;

(5) Lessening the burdens borne by government or voluntarily supporting, augmenting, or supplementing services which government would normally render to the people;

(6) Providing or supporting nonprofit community activities for youth, senior citizens, or the disabled;

(7) Providing or supporting nonprofit cultural or artistic activities; or

(8) Providing or supporting any political party executive committee.

"Charitable or public service organization" means a bona fide, not-for-profit, tax-exempt, benevolent, educational, philanthropic, humane, patriotic, civic, religious, fraternal, or

eleemosynary, incorporated or unincorporated association, or organization; or a volunteer fire department, rescue unit, or other similar volunteer community service organization or association; but does not include any nonprofit association or organization, whether incorporated or not, which is organized primarily for the purposes of influencing legislation or supporting or promoting the campaign of any single candidate for public office.

"Commissioner" means the State Tax Commissioner.

"Conduct" means to direct the actual holding of an online raffle by activities including, but not limited to, selling tickets, collecting money, drawing or arranging for the drawing of the winning numbers or names, announcing the winning numbers or names, posting the winning numbers or names, verifying winners, and awarding prizes.

"Expend net proceeds for charitable or public service purposes" means to devote the net proceeds of an online raffle occasion or occasions to a qualified recipient organization or as otherwise provided by this article and approved by the commissioner pursuant to §47-21A-13 of this code.

"Gross proceeds" means all moneys collected or received from the conduct of an online raffle held by a licensee during a license period.

"Licensee" means any charitable or public service organization or association granted an annual or limited occasion license pursuant to the provisions of this article.

"Net proceeds" means all moneys collected or received from the conduct of an online raffle or online raffles at occasions held by a licensee during a license period after payment of the online raffle expenses authorized by §47-21A-11, §47-21A-12, and §47-21A-13 of this code.

"Person" means any individual, association, society, incorporated or unincorporated organization, firm, partnership, or other nongovernmental entity or institution.

"Patron" means any individual who participates in an online raffle by purchasing an online raffle ticket other than an individual who is participating in the conduct of the online raffle.

"Platform provider" means any third-party entity that contracts by written agreement with a licensee to host, conduct, or otherwise administer an online raffle by using a software system, web application, method, or other process for the purpose of conducting online raffles over the Internet.

"Qualified recipient organization" means any bona fide, not-for-profit, tax-exempt, incorporated or unincorporated association or organization which is organized exclusively for charitable or public services activities or endeavors.

"Online Raffle" has the same meaning as "raffle" as defined in §47-21-2 of this code but conducted using a software system, web application, method, or other process for the purpose of conducting online raffles over the Internet.

"Online raffle occasion" or "occasion" means a single online session at which a series of one or more successive online raffles is conducted by a single licensee.

"Tax-exempt association or organization" means an association or organization which is, and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect stating that the organization is, exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(a) and described in subsection 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), 501(c)(19), or 501(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; or is exempt from income taxes under subsection 527(a) of that code.

"Virtually Present" means live, real-time availability by online or other electronic means and includes, but is not limited to, audio or video appearance or by an instant, live chat or messaging program.

§47-21A-3. Authorizing the conduct of certain online raffles without a license.

Notwithstanding any other provisions of this article to the contrary, any charitable or public service organization which has been in existence in this state for at least one year may conduct online raffles without compliance with the licensing provisions of this article: *Provided*, That any prize awarded in any single online raffle in an online raffle occasion may not exceed in \$4,000 value: *Provided, however*, That the cumulative gross proceeds derived from the conduct of online raffle occasions by the charitable or public service organization may not exceed \$15,000 during any calendar year: *Provided further*, That the charitable or public service are not subject to the record keeping provisions of §47-21A-14 of the code but shall maintain a separate accounting for the operation of online raffles. All records required by this section shall be maintained for at least three calendar years and shall be available for reasonable inspection by the commissioner.

§47-21A-4. Who may hold online raffles; application for license; licenses not transferable.

(a) Except as provided in §47-21A-3 of this code, only persons who are residents of this state and who are active members of any charitable or public service organization which has been in existence in this state for at least two years prior to filing an application for an online raffle license issued pursuant to §47-21A-5 and §47-21A-6 of the code may hold online raffle occasions in accordance with the provisions of this article and only during the time it holds a valid license.

(b) The charitable or public service organization applies for an online raffle license to the Tax Commissioner and shall be on a form supplied by him or her. The application shall contain the information required by §47-21A-8 of the code and any other information which the commissioner considers necessary. An online raffle may not be held and online raffle tickets may not be sold pursuant to this article until the online raffle application has been approved by the Tax Commissioner and the license has been received by the applicant: *Provided*, That an online raffle occasion may not be held and online raffle tickets may not be sold until a 60-day filing period, which is that time period between the receipt of that application by the Tax Commissioner and the first online raffle occasion, has expired: *Provided, however*, That the Tax Commissioner shall send the applicant its license within five days after the application is approved. If the 60-day filing period has expired and the application has not been denied and the online raffle license has not been received by the applicant, the applicant may consider the application approved and begin to sell tickets for the online raffle or hold the online raffle occasion. The Tax Commissioner shall send the applicant its license within five days after the expiration of the filing period if the application has not been otherwise denied.

(c) An online raffle license issued pursuant to this article may not be transferred.

§47-21A-5. Annual license; conditions on holding of online raffles.

(a) A charitable or public service organization or any of its auxiliaries or other organizations otherwise affiliated with it, may apply for an annual license. Only one license per year in the aggregate may be granted to a charitable or public service organization and all of its auxiliaries or other associations or organizations otherwise affiliated with it: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the various branches, chapters, or lodges of any national association or organization or local churches of a nationally organized church are not considered affiliates or auxiliaries of each other. The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code, to provide for the manner for determining to which organization, whether the parent organization, an affiliate, or an auxiliary, the one license allowed under this section is granted. An annual license is valid for one year from the date of issuance. Charitable or public service organizations may not hold a joint online raffle occasion under any annual licenses.

(b) A licensee shall utilize geo-location or geo-fencing technology to ensure that online charitable raffles patrons are located in the state of West Virginia. A licensee shall maintain in the state of West Virginia its servers used to transmit information for the purposes of patron participation.

(c) The Tax Commissioner shall provide on his or her website a list of every active and approved licensee to conduct an online raffle occasion. A licensee shall provide a conspicuous hyperlink on any online raffle ticket that is purchased by a patron to the Tax Commissioner's website. A licensee shall conspicuously display at its physical location, that was provided on its application, the approved license to conduct an online raffle.

§47-21A-6. Limited occasion license; conditions on holding of online raffles.

(a) Two or more charitable or public service organizations may hold a joint online raffle occasion provided each participating organization has been granted a limited occasion online raffle license for the jointly held occasion: *Provided*, That a licensee which holds an annual license may not obtain more than one limited occasion license.

(b) A limited occasion license is valid only for the time period specified in the application and entitles only the licensee to hold two online raffle occasions during the specified time period which may not exceed six months from the date of issuance of the limited occasion license.

(c) Subject to the limitations set forth in this section for charitable or public service organization having an annual license, a charitable or public service organization and all of its auxiliaries or other associations or organizations otherwise affiliated with it, may be granted only three limited occasion licenses per year in the aggregate. For purposes of this section the various branches, chapters, or lodges of any national association or organization or local churches of a nationally organized church are not considered affiliates or auxiliaries of each other. The commissioner shall by rulemaking provide the manner for determining to which organization, whether the parent organization, an affiliate, or an auxiliary, the three licenses allowed under this section are granted.

(d) The Tax Commissioner shall provide a hyperlink on its website that will display a list of every active and approved licensee to conduct an online raffle occasion. A licensee shall provide this hyperlink on any online raffle ticket that is purchased by a patron. A licensee shall conspicuously display at its physical location, that was provided on its application, the approved license to conduct an online raffle.

§47-21A-7. License fee and exemption from taxes.

(a) A license fee shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner for annual licenses in the amount of \$500. A license fee shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner for a limited occasion license in the amount of \$50. All revenue from the license fees shall be deposited in the special revenue account established under the authority of §11-9-2a of this code and used to support the investigatory activities provided for in that section. The license fee imposed by this section is in lieu of all other license or franchise taxes or fees of this state and a county or municipality or other political subdivision of this state may not impose a license or franchise tax or fee on any online raffle or online raffle occasion.

(b) The gross proceeds derived from the conduct of an online raffle occasion are exempt from state and local business and occupation taxes, income taxes, excise taxes, and all special taxes. Any charitable or public service organization conducting an online raffle occasion pursuant to the provisions of this article is exempt from payment of consumers sales and service taxes, use taxes, and all other taxes on all purchases for use or consumption in the conduct of an online raffle occasion and is exempt from collecting consumers sales taxes on any admission fees and sales of online raffle tickets.

§47-21A-8. Information required in application.

An application for an online raffle license shall include the following information:

(a) The name of the applicant and the name and headquarter's address of any state or national organization of which the applicant is a local branch or lodge;

(b) The address and telephone number of the applicant organization, if any, and if the applicant organization has no telephone, then the address and telephone number of the person applying on behalf of the organization shall be supplied;

(c) For a limited occasion license, the names and addresses of two or more bona fide active members of the applicant organization who are charged with overall responsibility for the applicant's online raffle operations, at least one of whom shall be virtually present and available when the winning numbers or names are drawn, announced, posted, and verified and present when the prizes are awarded; and the names and addresses of the highest elected officer of the licensee and his or her officially appointed designee, one of whom shall be virtually present and available when the winning numbers or names are drawn, announced, posted, and verified and present when the prizes are awarded; for an annual license, the names, addresses and telephone numbers of three or more bona fide active members of the applicant organization who are charged with overall responsibility for the applicant's online raffle operations, at least one of whom shall be virtually present and available when the winning numbers or names are drawn, announced, posted, and verified and present when the prizes are awarded; and the names and addresses and telephone numbers of the highest elected officer of the licensee and his or her officially appointed designee, one of whom shall be virtually present and available when the winning numbers and names are drawn, announced, posted, and verified and present when the prizes are awarded;

(e) The address and the location of any platform provider that manages a website software system, web application, method, or process for the purpose of collecting moneys related to the sale of online raffles, securing and safekeeping all moneys collected related to the sale of online raffle tickets, disbursing moneys collected from the sale of online raffle tickets to the licensee before or after the online raffle or online raffle occasion, and conducting licensed online raffles over the Internet. A copy of all written agreements between the licensee and the platform provider

providing these services shall specifically provide a statement of all costs and fees to be incurred by the licensee for receiving these services by the platform provider. A copy of any written agreements shall be provided to the Tax Commissioner;

(f) Information required by the commissioner to satisfy him or her that the applicant meets the requirements of:

(1) Being a charitable or public service organization as defined by this article; and

(2) Being in existence in this state for at least one year prior to filing an application for an online raffle license.

(g) Designate the date or dates and the time or times when the online raffle occasions will be held;

(h) State whether the applicant has ever had a previous application for any online raffle or raffle license refused, or whether any previous online raffle license or raffle license has been revoked or suspended;

(i) State the charitable or public service purpose or purposes for which the online raffle proceeds will be expended;

(j) Provide statements to the effect that the individuals specified in subdivision (c) of this section and the officers of the applicant understand:

(1) That it is a violation of this article to allow any persons other than those authorized by this article to conduct the online raffle;

(2) That they are required to file the reports and keep the records as provided by this article; and

(3) That it is a crime to violate the provisions of this article and that a violation of the provisions may result in suspension or revocation of the online raffle license or other raffle license and denial of applications for subsequent online raffle licenses or raffle licenses;

(k) Provide a sworn statement by an authorized representative of the applicant that the information contained in the application is true to the best of his or her knowledge;

(l) Provide a list and description of estimated expenses to be incurred in connection with the holding of the online raffle occasions and the name and address of each payee;

(m) A list of the names and addresses of all officers and members of the board of directors, governors or trustees, if any, of the applicant organizations; and

(n) Any other necessary and reasonable information which the commissioner may require.

§47-21A-9. Amendment of license.

If circumstances beyond the control of the licensee prohibit it from holding any online raffle occasion in accordance with the information provided by it in its license application form, the licensee may request approval by the commissioner to modify the terms and conditions of its license.

§47-21A-10. Licensee rules and regulations.

(a) Each licensee may adopt rules and regulations, not inconsistent with or in violation of the provisions of this article, or rules promulgated to govern the conduct of online raffle occasions.

(b) Any rules and regulations adopted by the licensee shall be made available for inspection at all raffle occasions held by way of advertising these rules and regulations on its website and by being posted conspicuously at their place of operation that was provided on its application for a license. Any adopted rules and regulations are a part of the records required to be kept by §47-21A-14 of this code.

§47-21A-11. Limits on prizes awarded; general provisions.

Prizes may be money, real or personal property, or merchandise other than beer, wine, spirits, or alcoholic liquor as defined in §60-1-5 of this code. If the prizes are real or personal property or merchandise, the value assigned to them is their fair market value at the time of acquisition for the online raffle or at the time of purchase.

§47-21A-12. Compensation.

(a) A licensee may pay a salary, the minimum of which is the federal minimum wage and the maximum of which is not more than 120 percent of the state minimum wage to operators of charitable online raffles who are either:

(1) Active members of the licensee organization and who have been active members in good standing for at least two years prior to the date of filing of the application for an online charitable raffle license or the most recent filing of an application for renewal of the license; or

(2) Employees of the licensee organization or its authorized auxiliary organization.

(b) If the licensee's gross receipts from online raffle occasions equal or exceed \$100,000 for the licensee's most recently filed annual financial report, a salary may be paid to not more than eight operators.

(c) If the licensee's gross receipts from online charitable raffle occasions are less than \$100,000, but equal or exceed \$50,000 for the licensee's most recently filed annual financial report, a salary may be paid to not more than five operators.

(d) If the licensee's gross receipts from online charitable raffle occasions are less than \$50,000 for the licensee's most recently filed annual financial report, a salary may be paid to no more than three operators.

§47-21A-13. Payment of reasonable expenses from proceeds; net proceeds disbursement.

(a) The reasonable, necessary and actual expenses incurred in connection with the conduct of online raffle occasions, not to exceed 40 percent of the gross proceeds collected during a license period, may be paid out of the gross proceeds of the conduct of the online raffle, including, but not limited to:

(1) Rent paid for the use of any premises: *Provided*, That a copy of the rental agreement was filed with the online raffle license application with any modifications to the rental agreement to be

filed within 10 days of being made: *Provided, however,* That in no event may the rent paid for the use of any premises exceed the fair market value of rent for the premises;

(2) The cost to the licensee organization for equipment and supplies used to conduct the online raffle occasion;

(3) The cost to the licensee organization for advertising the online raffle occasion;

(4) The costs involved in the licensee using technology, Internet service providers, servers, or other necessary infrastructure by which to advertise and conduct the online raffle or online raffle occasion;

(5) The costs relating to any platform provider that manages a website software system, web application, method, or process for the purpose of collecting moneys related to the sale of online raffles, securing and safekeeping all moneys collected related to the sale of online raffle tickets, disbursing moneys collected from the sale of online raffle tickets to the licensee before or after the online raffle or online raffle occasion, and conducting licensed online raffles over the Internet.

(b) The actual cost to the licensee for prizes, not to exceed the amounts as specified in §47-21A-11 of the code, may be paid out of the gross proceeds of the conduct of an online raffle.

(c) The licensee shall expend all net online raffle proceeds and any interest earned on the net online raffle proceeds for the charitable or public service purposes stated in the application within one year after the expiration of the license under which the online raffle occasions were conducted. A licensee which does not qualify as a qualified recipient organization may apply to the commissioner at the time it applies for an online raffle license for permission to apply any or all of its net proceeds to directly support a charitable or public service activity or endeavor which it sponsors.

(d) Gross proceeds from any online raffle occasion may not be devoted or in any manner used by any licensee or qualified recipient organization for the construction, acquisition, or improvement, of real or personal property except that which is used exclusively for one or more charitable or public service purposes or as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

(e) The Tax Commissioner may disapprove any contract for sale of goods or services to any online raffle licensee for use in or with relation to any online raffle operation or occasion, or any lease of real or tangible personal property to any online raffle licensee for use in or with relation to any online raffle operation or occasion, if the contract or lease is unreasonable or not representative of fair market value. Disapproved contracts or leases shall be considered to be in contravention of this article, and are void. Any attempt by any online raffle licensee to engage in transactions under the terms of any disapproved lease or contract is grounds for revocation or suspension of the online raffle license or other charitable raffle license and for refusal by the Tax Commissioner to renew the online raffle license or raffle license.

(f) Any licensee which, in good faith, finds itself unable to comply with the requirements of subsections (a) through (e) of this section shall apply to the commissioner for permission to expend its net proceeds for one or more charitable or public service purposes other than that stated in its license application or for permission to expend its net proceeds later than the one-year time period specified in this section. The application shall be on a form furnished by the commissioner and shall include the particulars of the requested changes and the reasons for the changes. The application shall be filed no later than 60 days before the end of the one-year period

specified in this section. In the case of an application to extend the time in which the net proceeds are to be expended for a charitable or public service purpose, the licensee shall file periodic reports with the commissioner as directed until the proceeds are expended.

§47-21A-14. Records; commissioner audit.

Any licensee which holds an online raffle occasion as provided by this article shall maintain a separate account and separate bookkeeping procedure for its online raffle operations. All records required by this article shall be maintained for at least three years and shall be open to the commissioner for reasonable inspection. Whenever the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe a licensee has violated any of the provisions of this article, he or she may perform or cause to be performed an audit of the licensee's books and records.

§47-21A-15. Advertising.

A licensee may advertise its online raffle occasions in a manner reasonably necessary to promote the occasion.

§47-21A-16. Annual Platform Provider license; conditions on holding of online raffles.

A platform provider may apply for an annual Platform Provider license: *Provided*, That a platform provider that has a principal place of business located within this state shall be registered with the West Virginia Secretary of State and also possess a Business Registration Certificate from the West Virginia State Tax Department: *Provided, however*, That a platform provider that has a principal place of business located outside of this state shall be registered as an appropriate foreign corporation with the West Virginia Secretary of State and also possess a Business Registration Certificate from the West Virginia State Tax Department.

§47-21A-17. Annual Platform Provider License fee and exemption from taxes.

A license fee shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner for annual Platform Provider licenses in the amount of \$500. All revenue from the license fee shall be deposited in the special revenue account established under the authority of §11-9-2a of this code and used to support the investigatory activities provided for in that section.

§47-21A-18. Information required in application for an Annual Platform Provider License.

An application for an Annual Platform Provider license shall include the following information:

(a) The name of the applicant, the legal name of the entity, the jurisdiction and locale of incorporation, telephone number, e-mail address, and the physical and mailing address of its principal place of business;

(b) A description of methods by which they manage, administer, or oversee a website software system, web application, method, or other process for the purposes of collecting moneys related to the sale of online raffles, securing and safekeeping all moneys collected related to the sale of online raffle tickets, disbursing moneys collected from the sale of online raffle tickets to the licensee before or after the online raffle or online raffle occasion, and conducting licensed online raffles over the Internet;

(c) Provide statements that detail the costs and fee structures for any services that are provided by the platform provider.

(d) State whether the applicant has ever had a previous application for any license relating to the regulation of an online raffle refused, or whether any previous license relating to the regulation of an online raffle has been revoked or suspended;

(e) Provide statements to the effect that the individuals and entities specified in subdivision (a) of this section understand:

(1) That it is a violation of this article to allow any persons other than those authorized by this article to conduct business related to being a platform provider;

(2) That it is required to file the reports and keep the records as provided by this article; and

(3) That it is a crime to violate the provisions of this article and, that a violation of such provisions may result in suspension or revocation of the platform provider license and denial of applications for subsequent platform provider licenses;

(f) Provide a sworn statement by an authorized representative of the applicant that the information contained in the application is true to the best of his or her knowledge;

(g) A list of the names and addresses of all officers and members of the board of directors, if any, of the platform provider; and

(h) Any other necessary and reasonable information required by the commissioner.

§47-21A-19. Records; commissioner audit.

Any licensee which holds an Annual Platform Provider License as provided by this article shall maintain a bookkeeping procedure for all of its activities relating to being a platform provider for any charitable or public service organization conducting online raffles in the state. All records required by this article shall be maintained for at least three years and shall be open to the commissioner for reasonable inspection. Whenever the commissioner has reasonable cause to believe a licensee has violated any of the provisions of this article, he or she may perform or cause to be performed an audit of the licensee's books and records.

§47-21A-20. Fraud; penalties.

In addition to any other offense set forth in this code, any person, platform provider, or licensee that knowingly conducts or participates in a fraudulently or deceptively conducted, or administered online raffle with intent to defraud is guilty of a felony, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$10,000, or imprisoned in a correctional facility not less than one, nor more than five years, or both fined and imprisoned.

§47-21A-21. Obtaining license fraudulently; penalty.

In addition to any other offense set forth in this code, any person, platform provider, or licensee that knowingly obtains or assists another person in obtaining an online raffle license or platform provider license under false, deceptive, or fraudulent pretenses is guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$500 nor more than \$10,000.

§47-21A-22. Violation of provisions; crime; civil penalties.

(a) Any person, entity, or platform provider that knowingly violates any provisions of this article, other than the provisions of §47-21A-20 or §47-21A-21 of this code is guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$1,000; and, upon a second or subsequent conviction thereof, shall be fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$100,000 or confined in jail not more than one year, or both fined and confined.

(b) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, any person, licensed or unlicensed under this article, who violates any provisions of this article, or who fails to perform any of the duties or obligations created and imposed upon them by the provisions of this article, other than the provisions of §47-21A-20 or §47-21A-21 of this code is subject to a civil penalty determined by the Tax Commissioner in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.

§47-21A-23. Administration; rules and regulations.

(a) The commissioner shall propose rules for legislative approval, in accordance with the provisions of §29A-3-1 et seq. of this code, to administer the provisions of this article. The commissioner may promulgate emergency rules pursuant to the provisions of §29A-3-15 of this code, to administer the provisions of this article.

(b) The commissioner shall deny an application for any license or modification thereof if he or she finds that the issuance thereof would be in violation of the provisions of this article.

(c) The commissioner may revoke, suspend, or refuse to renew any license if the licensee or any member of a licensee organization has been convicted pursuant to §47-21A-20, §47-21A-21, or §47-21A-22 of this code, and the commissioner finds that it would be in the public interest to do so; or if the licensee has violated any of the provisions of this article: *Provided, That* before revoking or suspending any license issued under the authority of this article, the commissioner shall give at least 10 days' notice to the licensee. The notice shall be in writing, state the reason for revocation or suspension, and inform the licensee of its right to petition the Office of Tax Appeals for a hearing at which the licensee may show cause why the license should not be revoked or suspended. The notice required by this section shall be by personal or substituted service, in accordance with the West Virginia rules of civil procedure for trial courts of record, on the person who applied for the license on behalf of the licensee. The licensee may, at the time designated for the hearing, present evidence in its behalf and be represented by counsel. A decision of the Office of Tax Appeals upholding in whole or in part the revoking or suspending a license is subject to judicial review as provided in §11-10A-19 of this code.

(d) The commissioner may suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew any license issued under this article for a material failure to maintain the records or file the reports required by this article if the commissioner finds that the failure will substantially impair the commissioner's ability to administer the provisions of this article with regard to the licensee.

(e) The provisions of §29A-5-1 et seq. of this code apply to the denial, revocation, suspension of, or refusal to renew any license.

(g) The burden of proof in any administrative or court proceeding is on the applicant to show cause why any license should be issued or renewed and on the licensee to show cause why any license should not be revoked or suspended.

(h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article, the commissioner may issue an emergency order suspending any license under the following circumstances and in the following manner:

(1) An emergency order may be issued only when the commissioner believes that:

(i) There has been a criminal violation of this article;

(ii) The action is necessary to prevent a criminal violation of this article; or

(iii) The action is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, safety, morals, good order, or general welfare.

(2) The emergency order shall set forth the grounds upon which it is issued, including a statement of facts constituting the alleged emergency necessitating such action. This order shall be served by personal or substituted service on the licensee or the person who applied for the license on behalf of the licensee.

(3) The emergency order is effective immediately upon issuance and service upon the licensee.

(4) Within five days after issuance of an emergency order, the licensee may petition the Office of Tax Appeals to set a time and place for a hearing where the licensee may appear and show cause why its license should not be revoked.

§47-21A-24. Filing of reports.

(a) Each licensee holding an annual, limited occasion, or platform provider license shall file with the commissioner a financial report summarizing its online raffle operations within 30 days after the expiration date of the license. The time period covered by an annual report is the full license year or, at the election of a licensee receiving state or federal funding, the most recently ended state or federal fiscal year.

(b) The reports required by this section relating to a platform provider license shall additionally contain the name, address, and telephone number of each charitable organization to which the platform provider provided services. The report shall also list the specific online raffle occasions in which platform provider participated, including the date of each online raffle occasion, any costs and fees associated with these online raffle occasions, and any other information required by the commissioner.

(c) The reports required by this section relating to an annual license or a state fair license shall additionally contain the name, address, and social security number of any individual who received during the course of an online raffle occasion prizes the aggregate value of which exceeded \$100, and other information required by the commissioner: *Provided*, That any licensee failing to file the report when due is liable for a penalty of \$25 for each month or fraction of a month during which the failure continues, the penalty not to exceed \$100: *Provided, however*, That annual financial reports shall contain either a compilation or review of the financial report by a certified or licensed public accountant, or may be audited by a certified or licensed public accountant, if a licensee's gross receipts exceed \$50,000.

§47-21A-25. Filing of copy of license; application open to public inspection.

Whenever any license is granted pursuant to this article, the commissioner shall cause a copy of the license to be filed and recorded with the clerk of the county commission of the county in which the licensee's physical operations exist as provided in its application: *Provided, That a platform provider license issued to an entity that has a principal place of business outside of the state shall provide a hyperlink on their website which will be directed towards a viewable version of the platform provider license. A copy of any application shall be made available for public inspection in the office of the commissioner.*

§47-21A-26. Prohibited acts by convicted persons.

Any person convicted of any felony, or a misdemeanor for a gambling offense, or of a violation of any provision of §47-20-1 *et seq.* of this code, is prohibited from directly or indirectly obtaining an online raffle license, conducting an online raffle occasion, or leasing or providing to a licensee any premises where online raffle occasions may be overseen or held, within 10 years from said conviction.

§47-21A-27. Proceeds of state fair.

The Legislature declares that the net proceeds of any online raffle game which accrue to the West Virginia state fair are considered used for charitable or public service purposes as defined in §47-21A-2 of this code. Any proceeds allowed by the state fair board to be paid to or retained by persons who conduct or oversee online raffle occasions are considered to be expenses incurred by the state fair board.

§47-21A-28. State fair online raffle license; rules and regulations.

The West Virginia state fair board may apply annually to the Tax Commissioner for a state fair online raffle license to provide for the conduct of online raffle occasions. The license shall permit the state fair board to have one or more persons conduct online raffle occasions who have conducted online raffle occasions on a regular basis for a least one year prior to the date of the state fair board's application. The state fair shall pay a license fee of \$500 which shall be paid to the Tax Commissioner for the state fair online raffle license. The provisions of §47-21A-11, §47-21A-12, and §47-21A-13 of the code do not apply to a state fair raffle license. A state fair online raffle license may not be issued unless the application includes a copy of any agreement entered into between the state fair board and the persons or entities who are to conduct online raffle occasions. The state fair board may adopt reasonable rules and regulations, not inconsistent with or in violation of the provisions of this article, to govern the holding of online raffle occasions.

§47-21A-29. Additional remedies for the commissioner; administrative procedures; deposit of money penalties.

(a) Additional remedies. Notwithstanding any provision of this article to the contrary, the commissioner may:

(1) Revoke or refuse to renew any license issued under this article for any material violation of the provisions of this article or legislative rules of the commissioner promulgated under this article;

(2) Suspend the license of any licensee for the period of time the commissioner considers appropriate, not to be less than one week nor more than 12 months, for any material violation of the provisions of this article or legislative rule of the commissioner promulgated under this article;

(3) Place any licensee on probation for not less than six months nor more than five years: *Provided*, That if a licensee is placed on probation, as a condition of the probation, the licensee shall pay to the commissioner a probation supervision fee in an amount equal to two percent of the gross proceeds derived by the licensee from the conduct of online raffle occasions, or a probation supervision fee in an amount equal to two percent of the gross proceeds derived by the licensee from the conduct of providing a platform within the state during the period of the suspension, but, in no event, may the probation supervision fee be less than \$2,000. All probation supervision fee revenue shall be placed in a special account and used by the commissioner to offset the expenses and costs incurred by the Tax Division to supervise the licensee;

(4) Require any licensee to replace any officer who knew or should have known of a material violation of the provisions of this article or legislative rules of the commissioner promulgated under this article;

(5) Require any licensee to prohibit one or more members, supporters, volunteers, or employees of the licensee involved in acts of material violation of the provisions of this article or legislative rules of the commissioner promulgated under this article, from all future online raffle occasions held under the license, or for the period of time specified by the commissioner;

(6) Impose a civil money penalty in an amount not less than \$100 nor more than two times the annual gross proceeds derived by any licensee, for each material violation of the provisions of this article or legislative rules of the commissioner: *Provided*, That in setting any monetary penalty for a first offense, the commissioner shall take into consideration the ability of the licensee to continue to exist and operate. For each material violation which is a second or subsequent offense, the amount of the civil penalty that may be imposed may not be less than \$500 and may not exceed two times the annual gross proceeds of the licensee. The commissioner may file this rule as an emergency rule. Any licensee aggrieved by the amount of the civil penalty may surrender its license, or, after exhausting all administrative remedies, have the matter reviewed in the West Virginia Intermediate Court of Appeals; or

(7) Order any one or more, or any combination, of the penalties provided for in subdivisions (1) through (6) of this subsection: *Provided*, That no sanctions or other remedy shall be imposed under this article on a licensee which is exempt or qualified to be exempt from federal income taxation under subsection 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, but does not have bona fide members, due to failure to operate online raffle occasions with members if the occasions are or were operated by residents of this state who have been employed by the licensee or been meaningfully associated with the licensee for one or more years before the date of the licensee's application for a license under this article, or its last application for renewal of a license under this article.

(b) *Administrative procedures.*

(1) An order issued under this section shall be served by certified mail or in the manner provided in rule 4(d) of the West Virginia rules of civil procedure for trial courts of record, as amended.

(2) A licensee may appeal an order of the commissioner issued under this section by petitioning the Office of Tax Appeals within 20 days after the licensee is served with a copy of the order.

(3) When a petition is filed timely, the provisions of §11-10A-1 *et seq.* of this code apply.

(4) The burden of proof in any administrative or court proceeding is on the licensee to show cause why the order of the commissioner under this section should be modified, in whole or in part, or set aside.

(c) Deposit of money penalties. — All fines, money penalties, and fees imposed pursuant to this section, except the probation supervision fee imposed by subdivision (3), subsection (a) of this section, shall be deposited into the General Revenue Fund of this state.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendment to the bill.

Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 751, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 751) passed with its title.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

A message from the Clerk of the House of Delegates announced the amendment by that body, passage as amended with its House of Delegates amended title, and requested the concurrence of the Senate in the House of Delegates amendment, as to

Eng. Senate Bill 874, Relating to WV Division of Multimodal Transportation.

On motion of Senator Weld, the bill was taken up for immediate consideration.

The following House of Delegates amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk:

On page 11, section 17-16F-10c, line 19, after the word "division" by striking the period, inserting a colon and the following text:

Provided, That the power of eminent domain may only be exercised by the Division itself and not by any local port authority district.;

And,

By striking out the title and substituting therefor a new title, to read as follows:

Eng. Senate Bill 874—A Bill to amend and reenact §17-16F-1, §17-16F-3, §17-16F-4, and §17-16F-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding thereto three new sections, designated §17-16F-10a, §17-16F-10b, and §17-16F-10c, all relating to the West Virginia Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities; providing for additional

legislative findings; modifying definitions; authorizing division to create local port authority districts; authorizing division to propose legislative rules for application process for creation of local port authority districts; providing that political subdivisions and certain joint ventures may create local port authority districts in accordance with a certain procedure; establishing an application and approval process for creation of local port authority districts; directing division to make certain considerations relating to creation of local port authority districts; providing for creation of board of directors for local port authority districts and membership composition; authorizing board to exercise certain powers; limiting eminent domain powers to the Division itself and prohibiting its imposition directly by local port authority districts; and directing board to prepare a certain annual plan.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate concurred in the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Engrossed Senate Bill 874, as amended by the House of Delegates, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—33.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members elected to the Senate having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. S. B. 874) passed with its House of Delegates amended title.

Ordered, That the Clerk communicate to the House of Delegates the action of the Senate.

Senator Weld announced that in the meeting of the Committee on Rules previously held, the committee, in accordance with Rule 17 of the Rules of the Senate, had placed consideration of **Engrossed House Bill 4945** and **Engrossed House Bill 5430** preceding consideration of the remainder of bills on today's third reading calendar.

Eng. House Bill 4945, Relating generally to the Hope Scholarship Program.

On third reading, coming up out regular order, with the unreported Finance committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on March 6, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was read a third time.

At the request of Senator Tarr, as chair of the Committee on Finance, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Finance committee amendment to the bill was withdrawn.

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

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

ARTICLE 8. COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE.

§18-8-12. Issuance of a diploma or other appropriate credential by public, private, or home school, microschool, or learning pod administrator.

A person who administers a program of secondary education at a public school, private school, or home school, microschool, learning pod, or individualized instructional program pursuant to the Hope Scholarship Act that meets the requirements of this chapter may issue a diploma or other appropriate credential to a person who has completed the program of secondary education. Such diploma or credential is legally sufficient to demonstrate that the person meets the definition of having a high school diploma or its equivalent. No state agency or institution of higher learning in this state may reject or otherwise treat a person differently solely on the grounds of the source of such a diploma or credential. Nothing in this section prevents an institution, once a student has been fully admitted, from administering placement tests or other assessments to determine the appropriate placement of students into college-level course sequences or to assess the content thereof for the purposes of determining whether a person meets other requirements for a specific program.

ARTICLE 9A. PUBLIC SCHOOL SUPPORT.

§18-9A-25. Funding for Hope Scholarship Program.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this article to the contrary, for fiscal year 2023 and each fiscal year thereafter, in addition to all other amounts required by this article, the Department of Education shall include in its budget request, and the Governor shall include in each budget bill submitted to the Legislature, an appropriation to the Department of Education for the greater of an amount not less than two percent of net public school enrollment adjusted for state aid purposes or the total number of ~~eligible Hope Scholarship applications received by the Hope Scholarship Board, if available~~ estimated Hope Scholarship applications for the fiscal year, multiplied by the prior year's statewide average net state aid allotted per pupil. The Hope Scholarship Board shall certify the estimated number of Hope Scholarship applications for the fiscal year to the Department of Education by December 10 of each year. The amount appropriated shall be transferred by the Department of Education to the Hope Scholarship Board to be used solely to meet the Hope Scholarship Program obligations set forth in §18-31-1 *et seq.* of this code except as otherwise provided in this section. The Governor shall also provide in each budget for the reappropriation for expenditure during the ensuing fiscal year the unused accumulated balance in the Hope Scholarship Fund. ~~to the Department of Education that was not transferred to the Hope Scholarship Board due to an accumulated balance from prior years as provided under subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~(b) Each fiscal year, the amount required to be requested and included in the budget bill for appropriation under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by the sum of:~~

~~(1) Any unused accumulated amounts transferred to the Hope Scholarship Board for these purposes from previous years; and~~

~~(2) Any unused appropriations made to the Department of Education for these purposes that were not transferred to the Hope Scholarship Board due to an accumulated balance from prior years.~~

(b) Each fiscal year, the amount required to be requested and included in the budget bill for appropriation under subsection (a) of this section shall be reduced by an amount equal to the

unused accumulated amounts transferred to the Hope Scholarship Board for these purposes from previous years.

ARTICLE 31. HOPE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

§18-31-2. Definitions.

The following words have the meanings ascribed to them unless the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

(1) "Account" or "scholarship" means a Hope Scholarship account, awarded pursuant to this article, to which funds are allocated by the board to the parent or parents of an eligible Hope Scholarship student in order to pay qualifying elementary and secondary education expenses to educate the student pursuant to the requirements and conditions of this article;

(2) "Board" means the Hope Scholarship Board created pursuant to §18-31-3 of this code;

(3) "Curriculum" means a complete course of study for a particular elementary or secondary education content area or grade level including, but not limited to, textbooks; workbooks; student and teacher curriculum kits; activity, learning, or study guides; or any supplemental materials required by the curriculum;

(4) "Education service provider" means a person or organization that receives payments from Hope Scholarship accounts to provide educational goods and services to Hope Scholarship students;

(5) "Eligible recipient" means a child who:

(A) Is a resident of this state; and

(B) Is enrolled full-time and attending a public elementary or secondary school program in this state for at least 45 calendar days during an instructional term at the time of application and until an award letter is issued by the board under §18-31-5(c) of this code, or enrolled full-time in a public elementary or secondary school program in this state for the entire instructional term the previous year, or is eligible at the time of application to enroll in a kindergarten program in this state pursuant to §18-8-1a of this code, except that if on July 1, 2024, the participation rate of the combined number of students in the Hope Scholarship Program and students eligible who have applied to participate in the Hope Scholarship program during the previous school year is less than five percent of net public school enrollment adjusted for state aid purposes for the previous school year, then, effective July 1, 2026, a child is considered to meet the requirements of this paragraph if he or she is enrolled, eligible to be enrolled, or required to be enrolled in a kindergarten program or public elementary or secondary school program in this state at the time of application;

(6) "Hope scholarship funds" means the moneys deposited in a Hope Scholarship student's account in accordance with the requirements of this article:

(7) "Hope scholarship student" means a student who receives a scholarship pursuant to this article;

(8) "Individualized Instructional Program (IIP)" means a customized educational experience that takes place either at home or another location. Hope Scholarship students participating in an IIP are not enrolled in a participating school and shall be governed by the requirements of this article, unless otherwise stated, and not any other compulsory school attendance exemption requirements;

~~(8)~~ (9) "Parent" means a biological parent, legal guardian, custodian, or other person with legal authority to act on behalf of an eligible recipient or Hope Scholarship student;

~~(9)~~ (10) "Participating school" means any private school that provides education to elementary and/or secondary students and has notified the board of its intention to participate in the program and comply with the program's requirements;

~~(40)~~ (11) "Resident school district" means the county school district in which the student resides; and

~~(44)~~ (12) "Treasurer" means the West Virginia State Treasurer.

§18-31-2a. Educational privileges and programs available to Hope Scholarship students.

(a) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, a Hope Scholarship student that pursues an individualized instructional program is exempt from the requirements of compulsory school attendance pursuant to §18-8-1(m) of this code and shall be subject to the requirements of this article unless otherwise stated: *Provided*, That a Hope Scholarship student that pursues an individualized instructional program shall have the same privileges and access to programs that this code makes available to students exempt from compulsory school attendance pursuant to §18-8-1(c) of this code including, but not limited to:

(1) The ability to receive a diploma from the student's secondary educational program administrator according to the requirements of §18-8-12 of this code;

(2) The ability to receive the PROMISE scholarship according to the requirements of §18C-7-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(3) The ability to receive a work permit without prior review by a school administrator pursuant to §21-6-3 of this code; and

(4) The ability to participate in an ACE program according to the requirements in §18-2E-11 of this code.

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, a Hope Scholarship student that attends a participating school shall have the same privileges and access to programs available to students exempt from compulsory school attendance pursuant to §18-8-1 of this code by virtue of attendance of a nonpublic school including, but not limited to:

(1) The ability to receive a diploma from the student's school administrator according to the requirements of §18-8-12 of this code;

(2) The ability to receive the PROMISE scholarship according to the requirements of §18C-7-1 *et seq.* of this code; and

(3) The ability to participate in an ACE program according to the requirements in §18-2E-11 of this code.

(c) Nothing in this section may be construed as subjecting homeschool students or nonpublic school students not participating in the Hope Scholarship Program to the requirements of this article.

§18-31-3. West Virginia Hope Scholarship Board; members; terms; compensation; proceedings generally.

(a) The West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program shall be administered by the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Board.

(b) The board shall consist of nine members and include the following:

(1) The State Treasurer, or his or her designee;

(2) The State Auditor, or his or her designee;

(3) The State Attorney General, or his or her designee;

(4) The State Superintendent of Schools, or his or her designee;

(5) The Chancellor of Higher Education, or his or her designee;

(6) The Director of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs, or his or her designee; and

(7) Three members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate who are parents of Hope Scholarship students, or for the initial appointments of board members following the effective date of this article, parents who intend to apply for the Hope Scholarship on behalf of eligible recipients, to be appointed as follows:

(A) Only state residents are eligible for appointment to the board;

(B) The parent members shall reside in geographically diverse areas of the state;

~~(C) Members shall be initially appointed to staggered terms as follows:~~

~~(i) One member appointed by the Governor to a one-year term;~~

~~(ii) One member appointed by the Governor to a two-year term; and~~

~~(iii) One member each appointed by the Governor to a three-year term.~~

(C) For appointments made after July 1, 2024, the parent members shall represent parents of students engaged in a diverse range of educational options, such as microschools or other individualized instruction;

The Governor shall make appointments necessary to satisfy the requirements of subdivision (7) of this section to staggered terms as determined by the Governor. After the initial staggering

of terms, appointed parent board members shall serve for three-year terms and are eligible for reappointment at the expiration of their terms; and

(D) If there is a vacancy among appointed members, the vacancy shall be filled by appointment to the unexpired term of a person meeting the requirements of this section by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. Members of the board shall serve until the later of the expiration of the term for which the member was appointed or the appointment of his or her successor.

(c) Members of the board shall serve without compensation. The board may reimburse members for all reasonable and necessary expenses, including travel expenses, actually incurred by board members in the conduct of their official duties. Any expense reimbursements shall be made from the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program Expense Fund at the same rate paid to state employees.

(d) The Treasurer is the chairman and presiding officer of the board. The Treasurer may provide office space and staff to the board upon request of the board.

(e) The State Superintendent of Schools may provide staff to the board, upon request of the board.

(f) A majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of the business of the board.

(g) Members of the board are subject to the ethical standards and financial disclosure requirements of the West Virginia Governmental Ethics Act in §6B-1-1 *et seq.* of this code.

§18-31-4. Powers of the board.

The board is authorized to take any action necessary to effectuate the provisions of this article and to successfully administer the Hope Scholarship Program, subject to applicable state and federal law including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Adopt and amend bylaws;

(2) Execute contracts and other instruments for necessary goods and services, employ necessary personnel and engage the services of private consultants, actuaries, auditors, counsel, managers, trustees, and any other contractor or professional needed for rendering professional and technical assistance and advice: *Provided*, That election of these services is not subject to the provisions of §5A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code;

(3) Implement the program through the use of financial organizations as account depositories and managers;

(4) Develop and impose requirements, policies, procedures, and guidelines to implement and manage the program;

(5) Determine whether an expenditure of Hope Scholarship funds is or was a qualifying expense to educate a Hope Scholarship student pursuant to §18-31-7 of this code. The board may approve or deny expenditures by a majority vote;

(6) Review any appeals made pursuant to §18-31-10(b) and §18-31-10(d) of this code;

(7) Establish the method by which moneys in the Hope Scholarship Expense Fund shall be allocated to pay for administrative costs and assess, collect and expend administrative fees, charges, and penalties;

(8) Authorize the assessment, collection, and retention of fees and charges against the amounts paid into and the earnings on the Hope Scholarship funds by a financial institution, investment manager, fund manager, West Virginia Investment Management Board, West Virginia Board of Treasury Investments, or other professional managing or investing the Hope Scholarship funds and accounts;

(9) Invest and reinvest any of the funds and accounts under the board's control with a financial institution, an investment manager, a fund manager, the West Virginia Investment Management Board, West Virginia Board of Treasury Investments, or other professionals investing the funds and accounts: *Provided*, That investments made under this article shall be made in accordance with the provisions of §44-6C-1 *et seq.* of this code; ~~and~~

(10) Solicit and accept gifts, including bequests and other testamentary gifts made by will, trust, or other disposition; grants; loans; aid; and property, real or personal of any nature and from any source, or to participate in any other way in any federal, state, or local governmental programs in carrying out the purposes of this article: *Provided*, That the board shall use the property received to effectuate the desires of the donor, and shall convert the property received into cash within 180 days of receipt;

(11) Take any issues relating to Hope Scholarship student participation in established public charter schools to the West Virginia Professional Charter School Board; and

(12) Request such information from the Department of Education and the county boards as is necessary for the completion of the board's responsibilities pursuant to this article.

§18-31-5. Award of Hope Scholarships.

(a) The Hope Scholarship Program is established to provide the option for a parent to better meet the individual elementary and secondary education needs of his or her eligible child. The program shall be operational no later than July 1, 2022.

(b) The board shall create a standard application form that a parent can submit to establish his or her student's eligibility for the award of Hope Scholarship funds, to be placed in a personal education savings account to be used for qualifying education expenses on behalf of the eligible recipient as provided for in §18-31-7 of this code. Information about scholarship funds and the application process shall be made available on the board's website.

(c) The board shall ~~make such applications available no later than March 1, 2022 and shall begin accepting applications immediately thereafter~~ process, accept, and make available Hope Scholarship applications and awards at any time during the calendar year. The board may update the application as needed. The board shall issue an award letter to eligible recipients within 45 days of receipt of a completed application and all required documentation.

(d) The board shall approve an application for a Hope Scholarship if all of the following circumstances are met:

(1) A parent submits an application for a Hope Scholarship in accordance with the legislative rules promulgated by the board;

(2) A student on whose behalf the parent is applying is an eligible recipient, as provided for in §18-31-2(5) of this code;

(3) The parent signs an agreement with the board, promising to do all of the following:

(A) To provide an education for the eligible recipient in at least the subjects of reading, language, mathematics, science, and social studies;

(B) To use the Hope Scholarship funds exclusively for qualifying expenses incurred in providing the student an elementary or secondary education as provided for in §18-31-7 of this code;

(C) To comply with the rules and requirements of the Hope Scholarship Program; ~~and~~

(D) To afford the Hope Scholarship student opportunities for educational enrichment such as organized athletics, art, music, or literature; and

(E) To notify the Hope Scholarship Board immediately and cease use of Hope Scholarship funds upon the student's reenrollment in a public school or when the student graduates from or otherwise successfully completes a secondary school program;

(4) The board confirms with the West Virginia Department of Education that the student satisfies §18-31-2(5) of this code: *Provided*, That if the department does not reply within 30 days, this criteria is considered satisfied.

~~(e) An application for a Hope Scholarship is~~ All records accepted or maintained by the board containing personally identifying information of a Hope Scholarship student, applicant, or parent are confidential and not a public record subject to release pursuant to the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as codified in §29B-1-1 et seq. of this code.

§18-31-6. Funding of Hope Scholarships; program and expense funds.

(a) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special revenue fund designated and known as the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program Fund. The fund shall be administered by the Treasurer and shall consist of funds transferred by the Department of Education in accordance with §18-9A-25 of this code. All interest and other returns derived from the deposit and investment of moneys in the Hope Scholarship Fund shall be credited to the fund. Any balance, including accrued interest and other returns, remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Revenue Fund but shall remain in the fund and be expended as provided by this section.

(b) The amount of Hope Scholarship funds made available to an eligible recipient on a yearly basis shall be equal to 100 percent of the prior year's statewide average net state aid share allotted per pupil based on net enrollment adjusted for state aid purposes, subject to the provisions of subsection (c) of this section: *Provided*, That the amount of the funding to an eligible recipient who is awarded a Hope Scholarship account for less than a full fiscal year shall be prorated based on the portion of the fiscal year the eligible recipient is awarded the Hope Scholarship account. On or prior to the submission of the Department of Education's budget request each year, the

board shall notify the Department of Education of ~~the total number of eligible Hope Scholarship applications received by the board~~ the estimated number of Hope Scholarship applications for the fiscal year for purposes of facilitating the necessary transfer of moneys pursuant to §18-9A-25 of this code.

(c) Expenditures from the Hope Scholarship Fund shall be limited to the purposes set forth in this article: *Provided*, That an amount not to exceed five percent of the fund shall be transferred annually to the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program Expense Fund established in subsection (h) of this section to cover the annual administrative costs of the Hope Scholarship Program. If the number of Hope Scholarship accounts increases significantly after any fiscal year, the Treasurer may request an appropriation by the Legislature to the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program Expense Fund in an amount equal to the administrative costs associated with the increase in Hope Scholarship accounts.

(d) The first deposit of Hope Scholarship funds into an eligible recipient account shall be subject to the execution of the parental agreement required by §18-31-5 of this code. Upon execution of the required parental agreement, and subject to the provisions of §18-31-9(e) of this code, one half of the total annually required deposit shall be made no later than August 15 of every year into an eligible recipient's Hope Scholarship account, and one half of the total annually required deposit shall be made no later than January 15 of every year. Any funds remaining in a Hope Scholarship account at the end of the fiscal year may be carried over to the next fiscal year upon successful renewal of the account.

(e) Funds deposited in a student's Hope Scholarship account, other than those funds expended on transportation services pursuant to §18-31-7(11) of this code, do not constitute taxable income to the parent or the Hope Scholarship student.

(f) The board shall continue to make deposits into an eligible recipient's Hope Scholarship account in accordance with the provisions of this section unless any of the following conditions have occurred:

(1) A parent of an eligible recipient fails to renew a Hope Scholarship account or withdraws from the Hope Scholarship Program;

(2) The board determines that a student is no longer eligible for a Hope Scholarship;

(3) The board suspends or revokes participation in the Hope Scholarship Program for failure to comply with the requirements of this article;

(4) The Hope Scholarship student successfully completes a secondary education program or does not commence kindergarten-level education in the year that eligibility is based on the student's kindergartener status; or

(5) The Hope Scholarship student reaches 21 years of age.

(g) If any of the conditions in subsection (f) of this section occur, the board shall notify the parent that the eligible recipient's account will be closed in 45 calendar days. If a parent fails to adequately address the condition or conditions upon which closure is based or does not respond within 30 calendar days of receipt of notice, the board shall close the account and any remaining moneys shall be returned to the state.

(h)(1) There is hereby created in the State Treasury a special revenue fund designated and known as the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Program Expense Fund. The account shall consist of moneys received pursuant to this section; moneys, if any, transferred from special revenue funds administered by the Treasurer; or any governmental or private grants and any state general fund appropriations, if any, for the Hope Scholarship Program. All interest and other returns derived from the deposit and investment of moneys in the Hope Scholarship Program Expense Fund shall be credited to the fund. Any balance, including accrued interest and other returns, remaining in the fund at the end of each fiscal year shall not revert to the General Revenue Fund but shall remain in the fund and be expended as provided by this section.

(2) All expenses incurred by the Treasurer or the board in developing and administering the Hope Scholarship Program shall be payable from the West Virginia Hope Scholarship Expense Fund.

§18-31-7. Qualifying expenses for Hope Scholarship accounts.

(a) Parents of a Hope Scholarship student shall agree to use the funds deposited in their student's Hope Scholarship account only for the following qualifying expenses to educate the student:

(1) Ongoing services provided by a public school district pursuant to §18-31-8(f) of this code, including without limitation, individual classes and extracurricular activities and programs: Provided, That notwithstanding the provisions of §18-5G-3 of this code, a public charter school may invoice a Hope Scholarship student's account for said services;

(2) Tuition and fees at a participating school;

(3) Tutoring services provided by an individual or a tutoring facility: *Provided*, That such tutoring services are not provided by a member of the Hope Scholarship student's immediate family;

(4) Fees for nationally standardized assessments, advanced placement examinations, any examinations related to college or university admission, and tuition and/or fees for preparatory courses for the aforementioned exams;

(5) Tuition and fees for programs of study or the curriculum of courses that lead to an industry-recognized credential that satisfies a workforce need;

(6) Tuition and fees for nonpublic online learning programs including, but not limited to, online curriculum courses and tutorial programs;

(7) Tuition and fees for alternative education programs;

(8) Fees for after-school or summer education programs;

(9) Educational services and therapies including, but not limited to, occupational, behavioral, physical, speech-language, and audiology therapies;

(10) Curriculum as defined in §18-31-2 of this code;

(11) Instruments or equipment required as part of a music education course or curriculum;

~~(11)~~ (12) Fees for transportation paid to a fee-for-service transportation provider for the student to travel to and from an education service provider; and

~~(12)~~ (13) Any other ~~qualified~~ qualifying expenses as approved by the board established pursuant to §18-31-3 of this code: Provided, That the board may adopt rules and procedures for Hope Scholarship students who want to continue to receive services provided by a public school or district.

(b) Hope Scholarship funds may only be used for educational purposes in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. Nothing in this section requires that a Hope Scholarship student be enrolled, full- or part-time, in either a private school or nonpublic online school.

(c) Hope Scholarship funds may not be refunded, rebated, or shared with a parent or student in any manner: Provided, That the Hope Scholarship Board shall promulgate legislative rules to ensure that an education service provider with 15 or more students can provide compensation to employees of the provider in the provider's regular course of business, notwithstanding the fact that an employee's child receives services from the education service provider.

(d) The board may adopt procedures for establishing a reimbursement process for any qualifying expenses not available for purchase by a Hope Scholarship parent through the existing online Hope Scholarship Program portal. Any refund or rebate for goods or services purchased with Hope Scholarship funds shall be credited directly to a student's Hope Scholarship account.

(e) Nothing in this section prohibits the parents of a Hope Scholarship student from making payments for the costs of educational goods and services not covered by the funds in their student's Hope Scholarship account. However, personal deposits into a Hope Scholarship account are not permitted.

§18-31-8. Renewal Annual continuation of Hope Scholarship accounts; participation in public school system.

~~(a) A parent must renew an eligible recipient's Hope Scholarship on an annual basis. Notwithstanding any changes in eligibility, effective January 1, 2025, a Hope Scholarship student who has previously qualified for a Hope Scholarship account remains eligible to apply for renewal may continue participation in the program from school year to school year without reapplying for the program~~ until one of the conditions set forth in §18-31-6(f) occurs: *Provided*, That the board shall verify with the Department of Education the following information by July 1 of every year:

(1) A list of all active Hope Scholarship accounts;

(2) The resident school district of each Hope Scholarship student;

(3) For a Hope Scholarship student who chooses to attend a participating school, annual confirmation of his or her continued attendance at a nonpublic school that complies with all requirements that other nonpublic school students must comply with; and

(4) For a Hope Scholarship student who chooses an individualized instructional program:

(A) (i) He or she has annually taken a nationally normed standardized achievement test of academic achievement in the subject areas of reading, language, and mathematics, and when available for the student's grade-level, science and social studies;

(ii) The mean of the child's overall test results in the subject areas of ~~reading, language, mathematics, science, and social studies~~ tested for any single year is within or above the fourth stanine or, if below the fourth stanine, show improvement from the previous year's results; and

(iii) The mean of the child's overall test results are reported to the county superintendent; or

(B) (i) A certified teacher conducts a review of the student's academic work annually;

(ii) The certified teacher determines that the student is making academic progress commensurate with his or her age and ability; and

(iii) The certified teacher's determination is reported to the county superintendent.

(b) As a condition of continued participation in the Hope Scholarship Program from one school year to the next, a parent must annually meet the following requirements, according to the deadlines and procedures established by the Board:

(1) The parent must submit proof of the student's continued West Virginia residency;

(2) The parent must execute the parent agreement with the Board described in §18-31-5(d)(3) of this code ahead of each school year; and

(3) The parent must report to the county superintendent of the student's county of residence that the student has complied with all attendance and academic requirements in accordance with subsection (a) of this section for the most recent school year.

~~(b)~~ (c) Each county superintendent shall submit the test results and determinations reported to him or her pursuant to subsection (a) of this section to the board and the Department of Education each year on or before June 15.

~~(c)~~ (d) If a parent fails to ~~renew an eligible recipient's Hope Scholarship~~ meet the annual conditions for continued participation in the Hope Scholarship Program described in subsection (b) of this section, the board shall notify the parent that the eligible recipient's account will be closed in 45 calendar days. If a parent ~~chooses not to renew or declines continued participation in the program or~~ does not respond within 30 calendar days of receipt of notice, the board shall close the account and any remaining moneys shall be returned to the state.

~~(d)~~ (e) If an eligible recipient decides to return to the Hope Scholarship Program after failing to ~~renew~~ meet the conditions for continued participation described in subsection (b) of this section, they must reapply.

~~(e)~~ The board, in consultation with the Department of Education, may adopt rules and policies to provide the least disruptive process for Hope Scholarship students who desire to stop receiving Hope Scholarship payments and return full time to a public school.

(f) The board, in consultation with the Department of Education, may adopt rules and policies for Hope Scholarship students who want to continue to receive services provided by a public school or district, including individual classes and extracurricular programs, in combination with an individualized instructional program. The board, in consultation with the Department of Education, shall ensure that any public school or school district providing such services receives the appropriate pro rata share of a student's Hope Scholarship funds based on the percentage of

total instruction provided to the student by the public school or school district. County boards and charter school governing boards shall charge tuition to Hope Scholarship students who enroll for services in a public school within the county or in a public charter school. Hope Scholarship students who enroll for services part-time in public school shall not be included in net enrollment for state aid funding purposes under §18-9A-2 of this code. Nothing in this subsection prohibits a Hope Scholarship student from using the funds deposited in his or her account on both services provided by a public school or district and other qualifying expenses as provided for in §18-31-7 of this code.

(g) The board, in consultation with the Department of Education, may adopt rules and policies to provide the least disruptive process for Hope Scholarship students who desire to stop receiving Hope Scholarship payments and return full-time to a public school.

§18-31-10. Auditing of Hope Scholarship Program; suspension of accounts and providers.

(a) The board may propose legislative rules for approval pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code for the auditing of individual Hope Scholarship accounts and shall conduct or contract for the random auditing of individual Hope Scholarship accounts as needed to ensure compliance with the requirements of this article and rules promulgated pursuant to this article.

(b) As part of the auditing process, the board may remove a parent or eligible recipient from the Hope Scholarship Program and close a Hope Scholarship account for failure to comply with the terms of the parental agreement required by §18-31-5 of this code, failure to comply with the applicable laws, failure of the student to remain eligible, or intentional and fraudulent misuse of Hope Scholarship funds: *Provided*, That the board shall create procedures to ensure that a fair process exists to determine the removal of a parent or eligible recipient from the Hope Scholarship Program and a parent or Hope Scholarship student may appeal the decision to make the student ineligible for funds to the board.

~~(c) The board may conduct or contract for the audit of education service providers accepting payments from Hope Scholarship accounts. if it determines that the education service provider has:~~

~~(1) Intentionally and substantially misrepresented information or failed to refund any overpayments in a timely manner; or~~

~~(2) Routinely failed to provide students with promised educational goods or services.~~

(c) The board may propose legislative rules for approval pursuant to §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code for the auditing of education service providers and shall conduct or contract for the random auditing of individual providers as needed to ensure compliance with the requirements of this article and rules promulgated pursuant to this article.

(d) If the board determines that an education service provider has intentionally and substantially misused Hope Scholarship funds, the board may bar the education service provider from continuing to receive payments. The board shall create procedures to ensure that a fair process exists to determine whether an education service provider may be barred from receiving payment from Hope Scholarship accounts and an education service provider may appeal a decision to bar it from receiving payments to the board. If the board bars an education service provider from receiving payments from Hope Scholarship accounts, it shall notify parents and students of its decision as quickly as possible.

(e) If the board obtains evidence of potential fraudulent use of Hope Scholarship funds, it may refer suspected cases to the State Auditor for purposes of investigation, collection, and potential criminal investigation.

§18-31-11. Requirements for and rights of education service providers.

(a) To be eligible to accept payments from a Hope Scholarship account, an education service provider shall:

(1) Submit notice to the board that they wish to participate in the Hope Scholarship Program;

(2) Provide participating parents with a receipt for all qualifying educational expenses for the Hope Scholarship student;

(3) Agree not to refund, rebate, or share Hope Scholarship funds with parents or students in any manner, except that funds may be remitted or refunded to a Hope Scholarship account in accordance with §18-31-7(c) of this code;

(4) Certify that it will not discriminate on any basis prohibited by 42 U.S.C. 1981;

(5) ~~Agree to~~ Submit any employee or other person who will have contact with Hope Scholarship students receiving services from the provider to a criminal background check; and certify that said background check does not indicate conviction of a felony involving violence to the person and that the employee or other person is not on a federal or state sex offender registry; and

(6) In the case of a participating school, provide notice of each Hope Scholarship student's enrollment annually to the county superintendent of any student for which a student's tuition is being paid through the Hope Scholarship Program.

(b) This article does not limit the independence or autonomy of an education service provider or make the actions of an education service provider the actions of the state government.

(c) Education service providers shall be given maximum freedom to provide for the educational needs of Hope Scholarship students without governmental control.

(d) A participating school or education service provider is not required to alter its creed, practices, admission policy, hiring policy or curriculum in order to accept eligible recipients whose parents pay tuition or fees from a Hope Scholarship account pursuant to this article: Provided, That an education service provider is prohibited from requiring a student or family to pay tuition, costs, or fees above or in addition to the provider's regular tuition or fee schedule based in whole or in part upon a student or family member's participation in the Hope Scholarship Program.

(e) This article does not expand the regulatory authority of the state, its officers, or any school district to impose any additional regulation of education service providers beyond those necessary to enforce the requirements of the program.

§18-31-14. Reporting.

(a) The board shall provide a comprehensive report on the status of the Hope Scholarship Program to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Education Accountability on or before

December 31, 2026, and annually on or before December 31 of each year thereafter, addressing the progress of the program throughout the state. As part of the annual report, the board, in collaboration with the state and county boards of education, shall survey participating Hope Scholarship families to determine:

(1) The types of educational services chosen by Hope Scholarship students;

(2) Demographic and geographic data of participating students;

(3) Number of students participating with special needs;

(4) For Hope Scholarship students who withdrew from a public school, the stated reason for withdrawing;

(5) County superintendent and board compliance with Hope Scholarship reporting requirements; and

(6) Parent satisfaction with the Hope Scholarship Program.

(b) The board shall use only aggregate, nonidentifying evaluation data when compiling any such public reports.

Engrossed House Bill 4945, as just amended, was then put upon its passage.

Senator Smith requested a ruling from the Chair as to whether he should be excused from voting under Rule 43 of the Rules of the Senate.

The Chair replied that any impact on Senator Smith would be as a member of a class of persons and that he would be required to vote.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: Caputo—1.

Absent: Takubo—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. H. B. 4945) passed.

At the request of Senator Tarr, as chair of the Committee on Finance, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Finance committee amendment to the title of the bill was withdrawn.

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

Eng. House Bill 4945—A Bill to amend and reenact §18-8-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend and reenact §18-9A-25 of said code; to amend and reenact §18-31-2, §18-31-3, §18-31-4, §18-31-5, §18-31-6, §18-31-7, §18-31-8, §18-31-10, and §18-31-11 of said code; and to amend said code by adding thereto two new sections, designated

§18-31-2a and §18-31-14, all relating generally to the Hope Scholarship Program; providing that microschoools, learning pods, and individualized instructional programs have the authority to issue secondary school diplomas; providing that the annual Hope Scholarship Program appropriation calculation will be based on the estimated number of participating students instead of the number of participating students in the prior year; defining terms; providing that Hope Scholarship students have certain educational privileges made available to other nonpublic school students; permitting the State Treasurer to appear by designee at Hope Scholarship Board meetings; modifying qualifications for certain Board members for future appointments; clarifying that the Hope Scholarship Board may take issues involving Hope Scholarship students in charter schools to the West Virginia Professional Charter School Board; authorizing the Hope Scholarship Board to request certain information from county superintendents and county boards of education; clarifying that Hope Scholarship funds may only be utilized for expenses incurred in a kindergarten through secondary school education; requiring a year-round application and awards process; requiring parental agreement to include provisions requiring parents to notify the board if a student reenrolls in public school or graduates from a secondary school program; clarifying that all records and personally identifying information of a Hope Scholarship student, applicant, or parent is confidential and not subject to disclosure pursuant to the West Virginia Freedom of Information Act; clarifying that a kindergarten-level applicant's Hope Scholarship participation does not commence if the student does not begin kindergarten-level education that school year; clarifying that a public charter school may invoice a Hope Scholarship student for educational services; modifying qualifying expenses for Hope Scholarship accounts; authorizing the Board to adopt rules and procedures regarding Hope Scholarship student receipt of services from a public school or school district; requiring the Board to promulgate legislative rules permitting certain providers to compensate employees who are parents of Hope Scholarship students; authorizing the Board to adopt certain reimbursement procedures; clarifying annual renewal process for Hope Scholarship parents and students; modifying annual academic assessment requirements for certain grade levels; authorizing the Board to propose legislative rules related to audit of education service providers; requiring education service providers conducting background screenings of employees and other persons in contact with students to certify screening results to the board; clarifying that providers may not assess increased or additional fees against Hope Scholarship students based on participation in the program; and adding reporting requirements.

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

Eng. House Bill 5430, Relating to per diem compensation and expenses of newly elected or appointed judicial officers receiving education and training prior to taking the oath of office.

On third reading, coming up out of regular order, with the unreported Judiciary committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was read a third time.

At the request of Senator Weld, as vice chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, and by unanimous consent, the unreported Judiciary committee amendment to the bill was withdrawn.

On motion of Senator Weld, the following amendment to the bill was reported by the Clerk.

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

ARTICLE 3. COURTS IN GENERAL.

§51-3-20. Judicial officer education and training.

(a) The Supreme Court of Appeals may, in its discretion, pay a newly appointed or elected circuit judge, family court judge, or magistrate per diem compensation and expenses for attending any training and education session prior to taking the oath of office and beginning his or her term.

(b) The Supreme Court of Appeals may compensate the judicial officers specified in subsection (a) of this section up to a rate equivalent to the daily per diem rate of senior status circuit judges, senior status family court judges, or senior status magistrates for each required day of attendance, plus travel expenses.

Senator Trump requested a ruling from the Chair as to whether he should be excused from voting on any matter pertaining to the bill under Rule 43 of the Rules of the Senate, as he is a candidate running for the office of West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

The Chair replied that Senator Trump should be excused from voting on any matter pertaining to the bill and, without objection, Senator Trump was excused from voting on any matter pertaining to the bill.

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

Engrossed House Bill 5430, as just amended, was then put upon its passage.

On the passage of the bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Maroney, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Takubo—1.

Excused from voting: Trump—1.

So, a majority of all the members present and voting having voted in the affirmative, the President declared the bill (Eng. H. B. 5430) passed.

The following amendment to the title of the bill, from the Committee on the Judiciary, was reported by the Clerk and adopted:

Eng. House Bill 5430—A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §51-3-20, relating to authorizing Supreme Court of Appeals to pay per diem compensation and expenses of certain newly appointed or elected judicial officers receiving training and education prior to taking oath of office and beginning term; and establishing rate of compensation.

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 5668, Creating the Responsible Gaming and Research Act.

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

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

Eng. House Bill 5694, Relating to the Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, with the unreported Government Organization committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar, with the right to amend on third reading remaining in effect and with the unreported Government Organization committee amendment pending.

Eng. House Joint Resolution 21, Amending the Constitution to prohibit persons not United States citizens from voting in any election held within this state.

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Joint Resolution 28, Protection from medically-assisted suicide or euthanasia in West Virginia Amendment.

On third reading, coming up in regular order, with the unreported committee amendments pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, the resolution was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar, with the right to amend on third reading remaining in effect and with the unreported committee amendments pending.

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4753, Relating to providing health insurance coverage concerning biomarker testing.

On third reading, coming up out of regular order, with the unreported Health and Human Resources committee amendments pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar, with the right to amend on third reading remaining in effect and with the unreported Health and Human Resources committee amendment pending.

Eng. House Bill 4793, Relating to distilled liquor.

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4880, Relating to personal income tax social security exemption.

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4883, Relating to increasing annual salaries of certain employees of the state.

On third reading, coming up out of regular order, with the unreported Finance committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar, with the right to amend on third reading remaining in effect and with the unreported Finance committee amendment pending.

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5105, To eliminate the vaccine requirements for public virtual schools.

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5262, Relating generally to teacher's bill of rights.

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

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

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4956, Creating the Oral Health and Cancer Rights Act.

On third reading, coming up out of regular order, with the unreported Health and Human Resources committee amendments pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar, with the right to amend on third reading remaining in effect and with the unreported Health and Human Resources committee amendments pending.

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 5162, Establish a program to promote creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs.

On third reading, coming up out of regular order, with the unreported Education committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on yesterday, Thursday, March 7, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar, with the right to amend on third reading remaining in effect and with the unreported Education committee amendment pending.

Eng. House Bill 5548, Relating to modifying requirements imposed on any owner, operator, or manager within a tourism development project.

On third reading, coming up out of regular order, with the unreported Economic Development committee amendment pending, and with the right having been granted on March 6, 2024, for further amendments to be received on third reading, was reported by the Clerk.

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, the bill was laid over one day, retaining its place on the calendar, with the right to amend on third reading remaining in effect and with the unreported Economic Development committee amendment pending.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate reconsidered its action by which in earlier proceedings today it amended the House of Delegates amendments (*shown in the Senate Journal of today, pages 30 to 33, inclusive*), as to

Eng. Com. Sub. for Senate Bill 675, Establishing accreditation deadline for convention and visitors bureaus.

The vote thereon having been reconsidered,

The question again being on the adoption of Senator Weld's motion that the Senate amend the House of Delegates amendments to the bill.

Thereafter, at the request of Senator Weld, and by unanimous consent, his foregoing motion was withdrawn.

On motion of Senator Weld, the Senate refused to concur in the House amendment to the bill (Eng. Com. Sub. for S. B. 675) and requested the House of Delegates to recede therefrom.

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

At the request of Senator Weld, and by unanimous consent, the Senate returned to the consideration of

Eng. Com. Sub. for House Bill 4975, Relating to establishing a foster parent information system.

Passed by the Senate in earlier proceedings today,

The bill still being in the possession of the Senate,

Senate Weld moved that the bill take effect from passage.

On this question, the yeas were: Azinger, Barrett, Boley, Caputo, Chapman, Clements, Deeds, Grady, Hamilton, Hunt, Jeffries, Karnes, Martin, Maynard, Nelson, Oliverio, Phillips, Plymale, Queen, Roberts, Rucker, Smith, Stover, Stuart, Swope, Tarr, Taylor, Trump, Weld, Woelfel, Woodrum, and Blair (Mr. President)—32.

The nays were: None.

Absent: Maroney and Takubo—2.

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. 4975) takes effect from passage.

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

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

The Senate proceeded to the thirteenth order of business.

At the request of Senator Weld, unanimous consent being granted, a leave of absence for the day was granted Senator Takubo.

Under the provisions of Rule 15 of the Rules of the Senate, the following senators were added as co-sponsors to the following resolution on March 7, 2024:

Senate Resolution 71: Senators Hamilton and Caputo.

On motion of Senator Weld, at 7:43, the Senate adjourned until tomorrow, Saturday, March 9, 2024, at 10 a.m.

SENATE CALENDAR

Saturday, March 09, 2024
10:00 AM

THIRD READING

- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 5668 - Creating the Responsible Gaming and Research Act - (Com. title amend. pending)
- Eng. H. B. 5694 - Relating to the Firearms Industry Nondiscrimination Act - (Com. amend. and title amend. pending) - (With right to amend)
- Eng. H. J. R. 21 - Amending the Constitution to prohibit persons not United States citizens from voting in any election held within this state
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. J. R. 28 - Protection from medically-assisted suicide or euthanasia in West Virginia Amendment - (Com. amend. pending) - (With right to amend)
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 4753 - Relating to providing health insurance coverage concerning biomarker testing - (Com. amends. and title amend. pending) - (With right to amend)
- Eng. H. B. 4793 - Relating to distilled liquor
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 4880 - Relating to personal income tax social security exemption - (Com. title amend. pending)
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 4883 - Relating to increasing annual salaries of certain employees of the state - (Com. amend. and title amend. pending) - (With right to amend)
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 5105 - To eliminate the vaccine requirements for public virtual schools.
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 5262 - Relating generally to teacher's bill of rights - (Com. title amend. pending)
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 4956 - Creating the Oral Health and Cancer Rights Act - (Com. amends. pending) - (With right to amend)
- Eng. Com. Sub. for H. B. 5162 - Establish a program to promote creation and expansion of registered apprenticeship programs - (Com. amend. and title amend. pending) - (With right to amend)
- Eng. H. B. 5548 - Relating to modifying requirements imposed on any owner, operator, or manager within a tourism development project - (Com. amend. pending) - (With right to amend)