



# West Virginia Senate

## Committee on the Judiciary

### Minutes for January 31, 2024, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary met on January 31, 2024, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

Members present: Senators Trump, Barrett, Caputo, Deeds, Hamilton, Hunt, Martin, Maynard, Rucker, Stover, Stuart, Takubo, Taylor, Woelfel

Members absent: Senators Weld, Azinger, Swope

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Senator Woelfel, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chairman Trump moved S. B. 516 first on the agenda.

**S. B. 516 - Determining venue for custodial allocation actions independent of divorce.**

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Susan Riffle, Judge, Nineteenth Family Court Circuit, Marion County, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Brittany Ranson Stonestreet, Judge, Eleventh Family Court Circuit, Kanawha County, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

The question being on agreeing to the committee substitute, the same was put, and the committee substitute was agreed to.

On motion of Senator Woelfel, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

**S. B. 504 - Modifying felony offense of sexual misconduct of school employee or volunteer.**

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Lara K. Bissett, Counsel, West Virginia Department of Education, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Trump, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

On motion of Senator Woelfel, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 1, line 1, after the word "volunteer", by adding the words "or school resource officer".

Senator Hunt moved to amend the bill by inserting an alternative penalty of chemical castration for the offense of rape of a child.

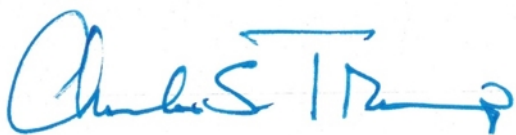
Senator Caputo raised a point of order that the amendment of Senator Hunt was not in order, because it was not germane to the bill.

Chairman Trump ruled that the point was well taken and that the amendment offered by Senator Hunt was not in order.

The question being on agreeing to the committee substitute, the same was put, and the committee substitute was agreed to.

On motion of Senator Woelfel, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

On Motion of Senator Woelfel the committee adjourned.



Charles S. Trump  
Chair



Beverly Douglas  
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 31<sup>st</sup> day of January, 2024, in  
the Senate Committee on The Judiciary.

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony I shall give shall be  
the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me  
God."

Lara K. Bissett

Print Witness Name

Lara K. Bissett

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Charles S. Trump

Print Member Name

Charles S. Trump

Sign Member Name