



# West Virginia Senate

## Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 12, 2024, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary met on February 12, 2024, 3:00 PM in Room Room.

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

Members absent: Senator Stover

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

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

**S. B. 556 - Relating to DNA data maintained for law-enforcement purposes.**

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

With leave of the committee, Melissa Runyon, Forensic Lab, West Virginia State Police, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Weld, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee, Ashley Spence, Founder, DNA Justice Project, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Weld, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

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

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

**S. B. 622 - Updating time period of voting inactivity for removal from voter registration.**

Liz Schindzielorz, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Donald “Deak” Kersey, Chief of Staff, West Virginia Secretary of State, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Weld, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee, Brian Wood, Putnam County Clerk, County Clerks Association, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Weld, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

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

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

**S. B. 623 - Requiring DMV to provide images of certain individuals to Secretary of State for voter identification purposes.**

Liz Schindzielorz, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Donald “Deak” Kersey, Chief of Staff, West Virginia Secretary of State, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Michelle Holly, Fayette County Clerk, County Clerks Association, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Weld, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee, Jennifer Rutherford, Manager, Division of Motor Vehicles Legal Services, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Weld, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

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

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

**S. B. 624 - Cancelling voter registration records for individuals no longer WV residents.**

Liz Schindzielorz, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Donald "Deak" Kersey, Chief of Staff, West Virginia Secretary of State, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Michelle Holly, Fayette County Clerk, County Clerks Association, 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 Trump, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

On Motion of Senator Trump the committee adjourned.



Ryan W. Weld  
Chair



Beverly Douglas  
Analyst/Clerk

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 20 24, 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."

Melissa Runyan

Print Witness Name

Beverly Douglas

Testimony Attested to by Committee  
Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Ryan W. Weld

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 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."

Ashley Spencer  
Print Witness Name

Beverly Douglas  
Testimony Attested to by Committee  
Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Ryan W. Weld  
Print Member Name

[Signature]  
Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



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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."

[Signature]  
\_\_\_\_\_

Print Witness Name

[Signature]  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Ryan W. Weld  
\_\_\_\_\_

Print Member Name

[Signature]  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



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"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."

Brian Wood

Print Witness Name

Brian Wood

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Ryan W. Weld

Print Member Name

R.W.

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February 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."

Michelle Holly  
Print Witness Name

Michelle Holly  
Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Ryan W. Weld  
Print Member Name

[Signature]  
Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 20 24, 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."

Jennifer Ruthford

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Ryan W. Weld

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name