



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

Minutes

March 24, 2025, 5:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on March 24, 2025, 5:00 PM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

Members present: Delegates Bridges, Cannon, Crouse, DeVault, Dillon, Eldridge, Fehrenbacher, Green, Hansen, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Linville, Maynor, Moore, Parsons, Riley, Sheedy, Sr., Street, Young, Zatezalo.

Members absent: Delegates Anderson B., Campbell, G. Howell, Lucas, Steele.

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

On motion of Delegate Fehrenbacher, the minutes of the previous meeting, March 20, 2025, were approved.

MARKUP & PASSAGE:

House Bill 2645, Requiring certain non-discretionary procedures be strictly complied with by the West Virginia Parkways Authority before tolls, rents, fees or charges may be increased.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of counsel. Questions and discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Zatezalo called for amendments to the bill. Hearing none, Chairman Zatezalo recognized Vice-Chairman Fehrenbacher for purposes of making a motion for passage of the bill.

Vice-Chairman Fehrenbacher moved to report House Bill 2645 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Zatezalo called for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, Chairman Zatezalo put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for passage of the bill. Chairman Zatezalo declared the motion was adopted and the bill would be reported as moved.

COMMITTEE HEARING(S):

Committee Substitute For House Bill 2014, Certified Microgrid Program.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Curtis Capehart, Director of Policy, West Virginia Governor's Office, as sponsor for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. With leave of the committee and having been placed under oath by Chairman Zatezalo, Mr. Capehart, explained the committee substitute and answered questions from the committee members.

Further discussion and questions of multiple witnesses by members followed and, with leave of the committee, and having each been placed under oath by Chairman Zatezalo, the following witnesses answered questions from the committee members:

- ▶ Nick Preservati, Director, Office of Energy
- ▶ Matthew Irby, State Tax Commissioner, Tax Department
- ▶ John Scalzo, Vice President, American Electric Power
- ▶ John Doyle, Lobbyist, West Virginia Citizen Action Group

Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

House Bill 3179, Funding for failing public utilities.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Delegate D. Cannon as sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Cannon explained the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of Delegate Cannon. Questions and discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

House Bill 3276, Provide mechanism for rate increases for water and sewer utilities.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Delegate Hott as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Hott explained the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of Delegate Hott. Questions and discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

House Bill 3377, Non-State-Owned Roads Improvement Act.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Delegate DeVault as sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate DeVault explained the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of Delegate DeVault. Questions and discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

House Bill 3429, Prequalifying consultants for WVDEP- Abandon Mine Lands.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Delegate Riley as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Riley explained the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of Delegate Riley. Hearing none, Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

On Motion of Delegate Fehrenbacher the committee adjourned.

Mark Zatezalo

Committee Chair

Mari Humphrey

Committee Clerk