



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on Health and Human Resources

Minutes for February 18, 2025, 4:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Health and Human Resources met on February 18, 2025, 4:00 PM, in the House East Wing Committee Room 215-E.

Members present: Delegates Amos, Anders, Burkhammer, Chiarelli, Clark, W., Dean, Hamilton, Heckert, Hite, Jeffries, Hite, jeffries, Lewis, Masters, Mazzocchi, Miller, Petitto, Pinson, Pushkin, Smith, D., Stephens, Vance, Willis, Worrell.

Members absent: Delegates Hall, Rohrbach

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

On motion of Delegate Hite, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

### Committee Hearing:

Chair Worrell recognized Delegate Burkhammer, as lead sponsor to explain, HB 2354 - Banning certain products from food in West Virginia. Delegate Burkhammer explained HB 2354 and answered question of the committee. Chair Worrell recognized and swore in Lisa Lefferts, Environmental Health Consultant. Ms. Lefferts spoke on scientific studies, dyes and FDA experiences. Ms. Lefferts answered questions of the committee. Chair Worrell recognized and swore in Whitney Cawood, author, To Dye for: The Documentary. Ms. Cawood, spoke about personal family impacts, through process of elimination of foods and medications. Ms. Cawood answered questions of the committee. Chair Worrell recognized and swore in Brandon Cawood, filmmaker, To Dye For: The Documentary. Mr. Cawood spoke about products and pricing in the UK, Europe and Canada. Mr. Cawood answered questions of the committee. Chair Worrell recognized and swore in Bridget Lambert, representing the WV Retailer Association, mentioning some dye free products on retailers' shelves and possible impacts on retailers. Ms. Lambert answered questions of the committee.

Chair Worrell advanced HB 2354 to the mark up and passage process, to the Standing committee on Health and Human Resources.

Chair Worrell recognized Delegate Burkhammer as lead sponsor to explain, HB 2350 - Relating to enhancing nutrition in the supplemental nutrition assistance program. Delegate Burkhammer explained HB 2350 and answered questions of the committee. Chair Worrell recognized Will Swann, representing the West Virginia Beverage Association. Mr. Swann spoke about why the West Virginia Beverage Association adamantly opposes HB 2350. Mr. Swann answered questions of the committee. Chair Worrell recognized and swore in Norman Bailey, Department of Agriculture. Mr. Bailey discussed the departments connection with the USDA

waivers, snap stretch, innovations and opportunities for the West Virginia to be a leader and model. Mr. Bailey answered questions of the committee. Chair Worrell recognized and swore in Jeremiah Samples, Registered Lobbyist for the Opportunities Solution Project. Mr. Samples spoke about SNAP, his knowledge from his previous employment and experience in working with SNAP program and provided information such as, the number one purchased item with SNAP card is soda. Mr. Samples answered questions of the committee. Chair Worrell recognized and reminded Ms. Lambert of the oath taken on the previous bill. Bridget Lambert, Retailers Association. Ms. Lambert spoke about streamline sales tax and healthy snack options. There were no questions from the committee.

Chair Worrell advanced HB 2350 to the mark up and passage process, to the Standing committee on Health and Human Resources.

On Motion of Delegate Hite the committee adjourned.

Evan Worrell

Chair

Martha White

Administrator/Clerk