



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining

Minutes for March 24, 2025, 2:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining met on March 24, 2025, 2:00 PM in Room 208-W.

Members present: Senators Rose, Queen, Azinger, Charnock, Fuller, Hart, Helton, Jeffries, Phillips, Taylor, Garcia

Members absent: Senators Boley, Stuart

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

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

At the request of Senate Queen, unanimous consent being granted, the committee reconsidered the vote by which it reported **S. B. 505** to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

At the request of Senate Queen, unanimous consent being granted, Senator Queen withdrew his motion to report **S. B. 505** to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

S. B. 505 - Ensuring Reliable and Affordable Electricity Act.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Isaac Orr, Co-Founder & Vice President of Research, Always On Energy Research, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Rose, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

Chairman Rose vacated the chair and Senator Queen presided.

Senator Rose requested to be excused from voting under the provisions of Senate Rule 43 as he is an electric utility worker.

Chairman Queen replied that any impact of the Senator would be a member of a class of persons possibly to be affected by the passage of this bill, and refused to excuse Senator Rose from voting.

Chairman Queen vacated the chair and Senator Rose presided.

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

On motion of Senator Queen, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass, but first be referred to Committee on Government Organization.

S. B. 899 - Protecting coal and gas minerals from carbon capture practices.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, John Bane, Director of Government Affairs, EQT Corporation, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Rose, 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 Queen, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

S. B. 730 - Establishing Forest Carbon Registry.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Jeremy McGill, Assistant State Forester, West Virginia Division of Forestry, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Rose, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee, Dwayne O'Dell, Director of Government Affairs, West Virginia Farm Bureau, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Rose, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

Senator Garcia moved to amend the committee substitute by changing the civil penalty to a \$1,000 fine for first and subsequent offenses, and to remove subsection (2).

Senator Garcia reformed the amendment to include a change on page 3 line 7 by striking "30-day" and inserting "90-day". The same was put and agreed to.

Senator Queen moved to amend the committee substitute on page 2, line 11 by striking "2035" and inserting "2027", as well as striking "and landowners are" and inserting "is". The same was put and agreed to.

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

On motion of Senator Queen, the committee reported the committee substitute, as amended, to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. B. 763 - Creating Public Electrical Savings Act.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

Chairman Rose laid over S.B. 763 due to time.

On Motion of Senator Queen the committee adjourned.



Chris A. Rose

Chair



Luke Bechtel

Clerk

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 24 day of March, 2025, in
the Senate Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining.

"I swear to tell the truth, nothing but the truth, under penalty of
false swearing in a legislative proceeding, so help me God."

Isaac Orr

Print Witness Name

Linda R. W. [Signature]

Testimony Attested to
By Committee Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Chris A. Rose

Print Member Name

Christopher Rose

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 24 day of March, 2025, in
the Senate Committee on Energy, Industry, Mining.

"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."

John Bantz

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Chris A. Rose

Print Member Name

Christopher Rose

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 24 day of March, 2025, in
the Senate Committee on Energy, Industry, & Mining.

"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."

Jeremy McMill

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Chris A. Rose

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 24 day of March, 2025, in
the Senate Committee on Energy, Industry, & Mining.

"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."

DWAYNE O'DELL

Print Witness Name

DWAYNE O'DELL

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Chris A Rose

Print Member Name

Christopher Rose

Sign Member Name