



## West Virginia Senate

### Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining

Minutes for March 28, 2025, 11:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Energy, Industry, and Mining met on March 28, 2025, 11:00 AM 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 from the meetings on March 24<sup>th</sup> were approved.

**S. B. 883** - Providing director of WV Office of Miners' Health, Safety and Training discretion and authority in certain appointments.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, 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 Queen, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

**Originating Bill #1** – Modifying authority of the local conservation district regarding dam control inspections

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the originating bill and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Judith Lyons, Director, West Virginia Conservation Agency, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

Senator Phillips moved to amend the bill on page 1, line 15, following the word "Protection" by inserting a period, followed by the words "The provisions of this subsection may not be

construed to affect or alter any state or federal funding to the West Virginia Conservation Agency”.

The same was put and agreed to.

The question being on agreeing to the originating bill, the same was put, and the originating bill was agreed to

On motion of Senator Queen, the committee reported the originating bill to the full Senate with the recommendation it do pass.

**Originating Bill #2** – Modifying diesel-powered equipment regulations for underground coal mines

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the originating bill and responded to questions.

Senator Garcia moved to amend the bill on page 2, line 11, by striking out the words “federal MSHA regulations as provided in 30 CFR 75.1900 *et seq.*” and inserting in lieu thereof the words “the federal MSHA regulations as provided in 30 CFR 75.1900 *et seq.* as the provisions of such regulations exist on July 1, 2025.” The same was put and agreed to.

With leave of the committee, Chad Francis, Representative, United Mine Workers of America, 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, Chris Hamilton, President, West Virginia Coal Association, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

Senator Phillips proposed an amendment to the committee to notify the director of a coal mine before equipment is put into service.

Senator Phillips withdrew his amendment.

The question being on agreeing to the originating bill, the same was put, and the originating bill was agreed to

On motion of Senator Queen, the committee reported the originating bill to the full Senate with the recommendation it do pass.

On Motion of Senator Queen the committee adjourned.

*Christopher Rose*

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Chris A. Rose

Chair

*Luke Bechtel*

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Luke Bechtel

Clerk



The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 28 day of March, 2025, in  
the Senate Committee on Energy, Industry, and 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."

Chad Francis

Print Witness Name

Chad Francis

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Chris A. Rose

Print Member Name

Christopher Rose

Sign Member Name