



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Government Organization

Minutes for March 27, 2025, 9:30 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Government Organization met on March 27, 2025, 9:30 AM in Room 208-W.

Members present: Senators Rucker, Woodrum, Barrett, Chapman, Charnock, Hamilton, Helton, Jeffries, Maynard, Rose, Thorne

Members absent: Senators Phillips, Willis, Woelfel

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

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

Com. Sub. For S.B. 921-Creating WV Medical Services Oversight and Support Act

Candace Kraus, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. The question on agreeing to the committee substitute, was put, and adopted. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 921 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the committee on Finance.

Com. Sub. For S.B. 892- Relating to property valuation

Candace Kraus, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. With leave of the committee, William Scott Lemley, Assessor, Wetzel County, addressed the committee, and responded to questions (see attached oath). Senator Hamilton moved to amend the committee substitute. The question on adopting the amendment was put, the amendment was rejected. The question on agreeing to the committee substitute, was put, and adopted. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 892 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass; but under the original double committee reference to the committee on Finance.

Com. Sub. For S.B. 790- Increasing oversight and regulatory authority of PSC over public service districts

Carl Fletcher, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. The question on agreeing to the committee substitute, was put, and adopted. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 790 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the committee on Finance.

Com. Sub. For S.B. 890- Relating to auctioneers

Carl Fletcher, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. With leave of the committee, Rocky Peck, Auctioneer, Board of Auctioneer Review, addressed the committee, and responded to questions (see attached oath). Senator Rose moved to amend the committee substitute. The question on adopting the amendment was put, the amendment was adopted. The question on agreeing to the committee substitute as amended, was put, and adopted. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 890 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the committee on Finance.

Com. Sub. For S.B. 593- Relating to electronic voting and preserving voting data

Carl Fletcher, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. With leave of the committee, Donald “Deak” Kersey, Chief of Staff, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. With leave of the committee, Edward Fisher, member, Citizens for Election Integrity, addressed the committee, and responded to questions (see attached oath). The question on agreeing to the committee substitute, was put, and adopted. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 593 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

Com. Sub. For S.B. 916- Creating Agritourism Modernization Act

Candace Kraus, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. The question on agreeing to the committee substitute, was put, and adopted. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 916 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass; but under the original double committee reference first be referred to the committee on Finance.

S.B. 837- Eliminating WV Office of Equal Opportunity

Carl Fletcher, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 837 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

Com. Sub. For S.B. 626- Relating to qualifications of regional airport authority members

Carl Fletcher, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. The question on agreeing to the committee substitute, was put, and adopted. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 626 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

Com. Sub. For S.B. 801- Creating WV Public Waterway Access Act

Candace Kraus, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. With leave of the committee, Zack Brown, Assistant Chief of Operations, WV Division

of Natural Resources, addressed the committee, and responded to questions (see attached oath). With leave of the committee, Nate Tawney, General Counsel, WV Department of Transportation, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. The question on agreeing to the committee substitute, was put, and adopted. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 801 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

S.B. 940- Relating to Water Pollution Control Act

Candace Kraus, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. On motion of Senator Woodrum, S.B. 940 was reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

Originating Bill #1- Relating to zoning ordinance and definition of use of property

Carl Fletcher, Committee Counsel, explained the purpose of the bill and responded to questions. Senator Barrett moved to amend the bill. The committee recessed. The committee reconvened to adjourn.

On Motion of Senator Woodrum the committee adjourned.



Patricia Puertas Rucker, Chair



Sierra Williams, Clerk