



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 17, 2025, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 17, 2025, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

Members present: Senators Stuart, Willis, Bartlett, Chapman, Charnock, Deeds, Fuller, Hart, Helton, Rose, Rucker, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, Garcia

Members absent: Senators Azinger and Martin

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

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

S. B. 138 - Enhancing penalties for fleeing officer.

Joni Nichols, 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 Willis, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

S. B. 139 - Requiring one-year residency within district or county to fill vacancy in Legislature.

Chris Etheridge, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Tarr, the committee amended the bill on page 1, subsection (a), line 10, after "occurred.", by inserting the following: "Notwithstanding any provision of this code to the contrary, the process to compose and submit the list submitted by the political party of the person holding the office immediately preceding the vacancy shall be governed by the rules of the state executive committee of that political party."

With leave of the committee, David Cook, General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

On motion of Senator Willis, the committee recommended the bill for passage, as amended.

On Motion of Senator Willis the committee adjourned.



Michael B. Stuart
Chair



Beverly Douglas
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 17th day of February, 2025, in
the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

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

David P. Cook

Print Witness Name

[Handwritten Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name