



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 24, 2025, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 24, 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. 50 - Requiring municipal elections to be held on same day as statewide elections.

Chris Etheridge, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Susan Economou, Executive Director, West Virginia Municipal League, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

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 Weld the committee amended the committee substitute on page 4, line 13, by striking the words "by July 1, 2026" and inserting the words "effective by July 1, 2030" on line 14 after the word "code"; on page 4 line 13 by striking the word "meet" and inserting in lieu thereof the word "make"; and finally on page 4, line 35 by striking "2026" and inserting in lieu thereof "2030".

On motion of Senator Rose, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 4, line 35, by striking the words “Beginning on” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “By”.

On motion of Senator Tarr, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 2, by restoring subsection (c) in its entirety and adding the words “Until July 1, 2030, after “(c)”.

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

On motion of Senator Willis, the committee reported the committee substitute, as amended, to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

S. JR. 2 – Incorporation of Churches or Religious Denominations Amendment.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the resolution and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Willis, the committee reported the joint resolution to the full Senate with the recommendation that it be adopted, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. B. 369 - Department of Agriculture rule relating to select plant-based derivatives and select plant-based derivative products.

Debra Graham, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Lora Greer Walker, General Counsel, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

Phillip Childs, Counsel, explained the remainder of the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

Mark Hunt, West Virginia State Auditor, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, David Cook, General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State, addressed the committee and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Amber Shawver Legg, Executive Director, Board of Respiratory Care, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee, Warren Elmer, Board Chair, State Board of Sanitarians, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee, Linda Lyter, Executive Director, Funeral Board, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee, James Fuerhoff, Legislative Director, West Virginia State Treasurer, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, 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 Willis, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

On Motion of Senator Willis the committee adjourned.



Michael B. Stuart
Chair



Beverly Douglas
Clerk/Analyst