



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 26, 2025, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 26, 2025, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senator 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. 484 - Relating to disclosures and penalties associated with use of synthetic media and artificial intelligence.

Joni Nichols, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, David L 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 bill on page 2, subsection (b), subdivision (1), after the word "knows" by inserting the words "or has reasonable cause to know".

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

S. B. 486 - Clarifying eligibility requirements to vote in WV elections.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, David L Cook, General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State, 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. 488 - Clarifying definition of electioneering.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

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

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 3, subsection(i), after the words “deputy county clerk” by inserting “municipal election official”; and on page 4, subsection (j), after the words “county clerk,” by deleting the word “or” and after the words “deputy county clerk” insert the words “or municipal election official”.

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. 489 - Relating to election law violation complaints and procedures.

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

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

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 3, line 28, after the word “email” by inserting the words “or other writing”; and line 35, by striking the word “email” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “report”; and line 36, after the word “email” by

inserting the words “or other writing”; and, on page 5, line 85, after the word “email” by inserting the words “or other writing”.

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. 490 - Prohibiting ranked-choice voting in elections in West Virginia.

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

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

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

On Motion of Senator Willis the committee adjourned.



Michael B. Stuart
Chair



Beverly Douglas
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 26th 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

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name