



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for March 05, 2025, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on March 05, 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: Senators 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.

Chairman Stuart moved **S. B. 521** to the foot of the agenda.

S. B. 257 - Providing protection for property owner when someone visiting private cemetery causes damage to property.

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

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

S. B. 585 - Relating to Craddock Student Athlete Safety Act.

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

With leave of the committee, Ryan Craddock, Father of Cohen Craddock, 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, Javier Cárdenas, MD, Director, NeuroPerformance Innovation Center, Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute, West Virginia University, 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, Raymond Harrell, Jr, General Counsel & Chief External Affairs Officer, Boone Memorial Health, 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, Rod Zide, Zides Sports Shop, 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, C. David Price, Executive Director, West Virginia Secondary School Activities Commission (WVSSAC), 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, Tony Erwin, DC, Chiropractor, volunteer team physician Hurricane High School football team, 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, Jahzeiah Wade, committee intern, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Erin Hanson, Co-Founder and CEO, Guardian Sports, creator of the Guardian Cap, 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 3, section 4, (a) by inserting at the beginning of the sentence "To the greatest extent practicable as permitted by the availability of grant funding," and on page 4, line 6 after the word helmet, by inserting a colon and inserting the following "*Provided*, That the requirements of this subsection shall become permissive should grant funding for the purchase of soft-shell helmet covers not be available."

The question being on agreeing to the committee substitute as amended, 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 as amended, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Chairman Stuart recessed the committee for five minutes.

The committee reconvened.

S. B. 521 - Requiring party affiliations be listed for all candidates.

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

With leave of the committee, Beth Walker, Justice, Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

Senator Weld moved to amend the committee substitute to adopt the Louisiana election system that entails all judicial candidates be on the same ballot in the May primary election and if no person achieves 50% of the vote, then it will proceed to a runoff of the top two candidates in the November general election.

The same was put and rejected.

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

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 5th day of March, 20 25, 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."

Ryan Crowder
Print Witness Name

[Signature]
Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart
Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart
Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 5th day of March, 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.”

Javier Cardenas

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name



The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 5th day of March, 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."



Print Witness Name



Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name



Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 5th day of March, 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."

For Life

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 5th day of March, 20 25, 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."

C. David Price

Print Witness Name

C. David Price

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 5th day of March, 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."

Tom Erwin

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 5th day of March, 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.”

ERIN HANSON

Print Witness Name

Erin Hanson
Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name