



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for March 06, 2025, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on March 06, 2025, 3:00 PM in Room 208W.

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

Members absent: Senator Fuller

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. 264 - Allowing death penalty for intentionally killing law-enforcement officer or first responder in line of duty.

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

Senator Weld moved to amend the by requesting a technical change that would align the phrases "aggravating factors" and "aggravating circumstances". The same was put, and the motion was adopted.

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, but first be referred to Finance.

S. B. 474 - Ending diversity, equity, and inclusion programs.

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

With leave of the committee, Sean Whalen, General Counsel for the Governor, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

Senator Rucker moved to amend the committee substitute on page 14, line 4, by striking out the word "ant-racism" and on page 15, line 28, by striking out the word "anti-racism". The same was put and the motion was adopted.

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, but first be referred to Finance.

Chairman Stuart asked for unanimous consent to request the dispense of the second reference.

Objection was heard.

Senator Rucker moved to request a waiver of the second reference. The same was put, and the motion was adopted.

On Motion of Senator Willis the committee adjourned.



Michael Stuart
Chair

Adair Burgess
Clerk

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 6th 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."

Sean Whelan

Print Witness Name

[Signature]
Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name