



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for March 10, 2025, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on March 10, 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. 727 - Directing study of child welfare system be conducted by independent third party.

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

With leave of the committee, Alex Mayer, Cabinet Secretary, Department of Human Services, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

Chairman Stuart laid over **S. B. 727**.

With leave of the committee, David McMahon, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Stuart, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

H. B. 2042 - Relating to allowing a guardian ad litem to request the appointment of a court appointed special advocate.

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

Senator Weld moved to amend the committee substitute on page 5, line 103, by striking the word “request” and inserting in lieu thereof “file a civil petition requesting”.

Senator Weld reformed the amendment to also insert after the word “petition” the following: “in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Child Abuse and Neglect Proceedings”.

The same was put, and the reformed amendment was adopted.

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

S. B. 604 - Requiring Department of Human Services to notify PSC that person is eligible for discount on utility bills.

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

With leave of the committee, Jane Marks, State Volunteer President, AARP, 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 by striking all references to “AFDC” and “AFDC-U” and replacing with “TANF” and “TANF-UP” and all references to “food stamps” be replaced with “SNAP”.

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 Finance.

On Motion of Senator Willis the committee adjourned.



Michael B. Stuart

Chair



Beverly Douglas

Clerk/Analyst