



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for March 20, 2025, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on March 20, 2025, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Azinger, Bartlett, 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.

H. B. 2382 - Camping ban on certain public property.

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

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the bill on page 4, lines 72 and 73, subsection (e) by striking subdivision (1) in its entirety and inserting in lieu thereof the following: "Persons camping in a lawful manner in areas specifically authorized for camping pursuant to this code or other applicable laws."

With leave of the committee, Mark Phillips, President and CEO, Catholic Charities of West Virginia, 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 Tarr, the committee amended the bill on page 3, subsection (d), at the end of subdivisions (1), (2), and (3) by adding a proviso that states: "Provided, That in lieu of the penalties set forth in this subdivision, law enforcement may provide a list of entities that provides transportation services to a place within or without the state of West Virginia that has been identified as having an excess capacity for services to those experiencing homelessness, a need for addiction services, or a need for mental health services."

On motion of Senator Weld the committee amended the bill on page 4, line 74, after the word “manner” by striking the remainder of the subdivision and inserting in lieu thereof the words “as permitted by the Division of Natural Resources;”

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

Chairman Stuart moved **S. B. 705** next on the agenda.

S. B. 705 - Allowing Board of Education to promulgate rules for submission to Legislature.

Kyler Carlisle, Law Clerk Extern, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Kelli D. Talbott, General Counsel, West Virginia Department of Education, 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.

Senator Willis moved to report the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

The Chair being in doubt, a division of the body was demanded by Chairman Stuart.

The vote being 11 in favor, and 3 opposed, the motion was adopted.

S. B. 655 - Providing for immunity for mental health providers who are involved in mental hygiene checks.

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

With leave of the committee, Craig Zappin, COO, Pretera Health Services, 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, Kelly Elswick-Hall, Attorney, Masters Law Firm, 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 Willis, the committee reported the bill 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 20th 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."

MARK PHILLIPS

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 20th 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.”

Kelli D. Talbott

Print Witness Name

Kelli D. Talbott

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 20th 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.”

Craig Zappin

Print Witness Name

CZappin

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 20th 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."

Kelly Elswick - Hall

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name