



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for March 25, 2025, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on March 25, 2025, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Azinger, Chapman, Martin, Tarr

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. 225 - Expanding powers of National Park Service law-enforcement officers.

Joni Nichols, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, 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. 745 - Strengthening and reforming lobbying requirements.

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

Senator Weld raised a point of order that the questions the Chair is asking counsel are not germane. Chairman Stuart ruled the point was not well taken.

The committee recessed until 15 minutes after floor session.

The committee reconvened.

With leave of the committee, David Keating, President, Institute for Free Speech, 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 Rucker, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 21, line 16, subsection (c), by striking the words "or lobbyist's employer".

On motion of Senator Taylor, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 13, subsection (a), line 2, by striking the number "\$1,000" and inserting in lieu thereof the number "\$7,500", and on line 3, by striking the number "\$500" and inserting in lieu thereof the number "\$2,500".

With leave of the committee, Kimberly Weber, Executive Director, West Virginia Ethics Commission, 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 Rucker the committee amended the committee substitute on page 14, line 17, subdivision (3), by striking the number "\$100" and inserting in lieu thereof the number "\$2,500".

On motion of Senator Rucker, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 4, subparagraph (iv), lines 65 and 66, by restoring the stricken language but striking the number "\$150" and inserting in lieu thereof the number \$1,000, and striking the new language on lines 66-68.

Senator Taylor moved to amend the committee substitute on page 13, subsection (a), line 1, after the word "person" by inserting the words "not a candidate for office".

The same was put, and the Chair being in doubt, a division of the body was demanded.

The vote being 7 in favor, and 6 opposed, the amendment was adopted.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 5, subparagraph (v), line 76, by striking the comma after the word "compensation" and inserting in lieu thereof a period and striking the remainder of the sentence through line 77.

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 13, line 102, by striking subsection (i) in its entirety.

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 20, line 84, by striking subparagraph (iii) in its entirety.

Senator Weld moved to amend the committee substitute on page 18, subsection (d), line 41, by striking language of initiatives, and adding an exception after line 51, to be new subdivision (4) for people using public spaces.

Senator Weld reformed the amendment to strike subsection (d) in its entirety from lines 39 through 51. The same was put and adopted.

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 19, paragraph (A), lines 64 and 65 by striking the words “to the office of financial management or request by the office of financial management” and inserting in lieu thereof “, or requests”

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 21, subsection (b), line 11, by striking the words “the minimum requirement will” and inserting in lieu thereof the words “four shall be”

Chairman Stuart moved the bill to a subcommittee consisting of Senators Helton, Garcia Taylor, Deeds, and Rose.

On Motion of Senator Willis the committee adjourned.



Michael B. Stuart
Chair



Beverly Douglas
Clerk/Analyst



The Senate of West Virginia

Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 25th 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."

David Keating
Print Witness Name

Beverly Douglas
Testimony Attested to
By Committee Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart
Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart
Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 25 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."

Kimberly Weber

Print Witness Name

Kim Weber

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Michael B. Stuart

Print Member Name

Michael B. Stuart

Sign Member Name