

69th Annual



# WEST VIRGINIA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

Legislative

**April 22 ~ 24 2026**

*Youth Governor ~ Sarah McBee*

*John Marshall YLA*

*Youth Chief Justice ~ Shelby Plants*

*Point Pleasant YLA*



**2026 69<sup>th</sup> WEST VIRGINIA  
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT**

April 22 -24, 2026

Capitol - Charleston

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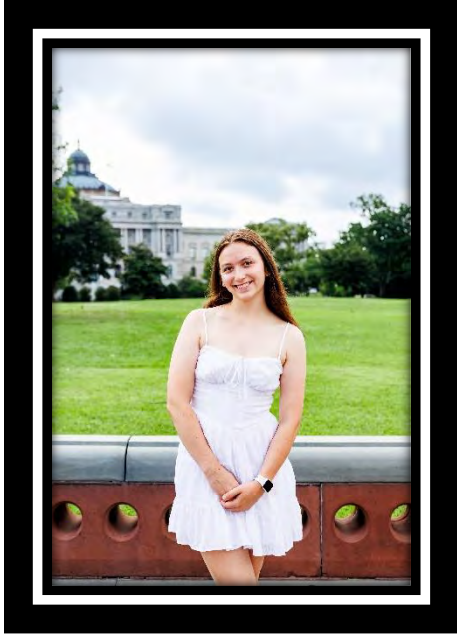
# Thank You...

Thank you to all the advisors for the hard work, dedication, and support you put into your YLA Chapter and the Youth in Government program. You are the strength that keeps our staff pushing forward every year to try to produce the best program possible. You are the inspiration your students need to strive for successful futures.

Thank you to the Youth in Government officers and participants. You encourage us to keep striving to make the program better for the upcoming youth. We listen to your suggestions and do our best to implement what we can. The YLA staff hopes we have instilled in you to keep on bettering your community, school, state, country and the world. You are the future!

If this is your last year in YLA, your time with us doesn't have to be over. You now have the chance to be that alumni/mentor that uplifts a struggling youth to see who they can become and find their purpose. We hope you will keep in touch with YLA after high school. Email, call, text or volunteer...we want to know how you are, where you are, and what you are doing because YOU are going places for the betterment of the world.

Thank you for attending the 2026 Youth in Government. We hope you have enjoyed it as much as we have.



**From the Office of the WV  
Youth Governor**

*Sarah McBee*

**John Marshall YLA**

Welcome legislators, attorneys, officers, press members, lobbyists, pages, and advisors to West Virginia's 69<sup>th</sup> Youth in Government conference.

Here, in our beautiful state Capitol, I invite you to three days of education, collaboration, and success.

To those in legislative—I eagerly await your legislation and debate. My excellent cabinet and I have developed a strong platform that we feel best represents the interests of our state, and I am curious to see your alignment with my positions. Regardless of how different our approaches may be, we share a common goal: to improve the state we love.

To pages—you are more valuable than you know. Without your swiftness, this conference could not exist. I appreciate your consistent and timely efforts, and I hope you are exposed to many great ideas, procedures, and people throughout your time here.

I implore you to make this Youth in Government your own.

Eager,

Sarah McBee

2026 WV Youth Governor



**From the Desk of the WV  
Youth Chief Justice**

*Shelby Plants*

**Point Pleasant YLA**



Hello everyone, and welcome to the 69th Annual West Virginia Youth in Government!

For those of you who I have not had the chance to meet yet, my name is Shelby Plants, and I am from Point Pleasant, West Virginia. I have the privilege of serving as the 2026 Youth Chief Justice, and it is truly an honor to be here with all of you today. I am excited to see so many familiar faces and even more excited to welcome the many new students who are attending Youth in Government for the first time.

Programs like Youth in Government give students a unique opportunity to experience how our government works firsthand. Through debates, court cases, and discussions, we are able to step into the roles of leaders and learn what it truly means to be involved in civic life. Experiences like this help us better understand the responsibilities that come with participating in our democracy. When I first became involved in Youth in Government, I never imagined the impact it would have on my future. This program helped spark my interest in law and public service and showed me how important it is for young people to be engaged in government. Because of my experiences here, I plan to attend West Virginia University, where I will major in Political Science, before continuing to law school. While I am still exploring what type of law I want to practice, I know that my time in Youth in Government played a major role in inspiring that path.

I would like to thank everyone here for being part of this incredible program and for contributing to the future of our state. Youth in Government would not be possible without the many people who dedicate their time and effort to making it happen. First, I want to thank my parents, who have supported me throughout this journey. From driving me to events across the state to listening to me practice speeches over and over again, they have always encouraged me to keep pushing forward. I would also like to thank the amazing

advisors and organizers who work behind the scenes to make this program possible. Their dedication allows students like us to have opportunities that truly shape our futures. A special thank you to Leslie and Alicia for always taking the time to answer my many emails and questions throughout the year. Also, a major thank you to David King for being the director for so many years for this program. We couldn't do it without you.

Finally, I want to thank all of you, my fellow students. The friendships, experiences, and memories we create here are what truly make Youth in Government so special. It has been an honor to serve alongside so many passionate and dedicated young leaders. Thank you all for being here, and I hope you have an amazing experience at the 69th Annual West Virginia Youth in Government.

Thank you.

*Shelby Plants*

2026 Youth Chief Justice

# MEET YOUR YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

## 2026



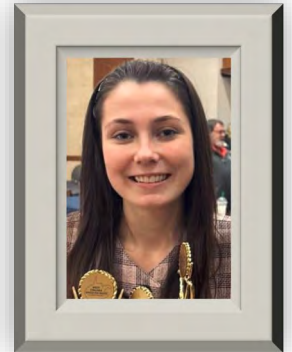
Sarah McBee  
Youth Governor



Reghan Carson  
Cabinet Member



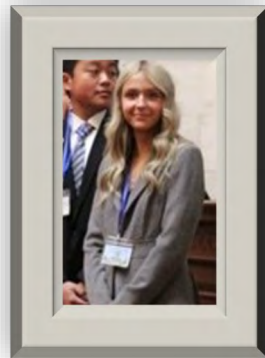
Avery Etzel  
Cabinet Member



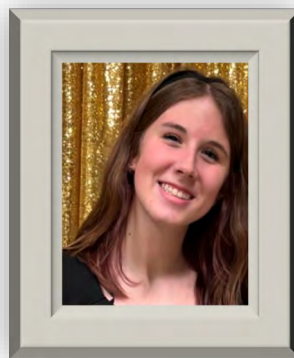
Danielle Scantlin  
Cabinet Member



Zoe Zervos  
Speaker of the House



Holly Lewis  
President of the Senate



Taylor Norman  
House Clerk



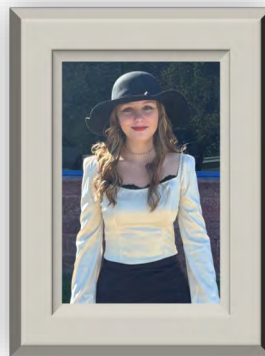
Johnny Chen  
Senate Clerk



Zane Cook  
House Chaplain



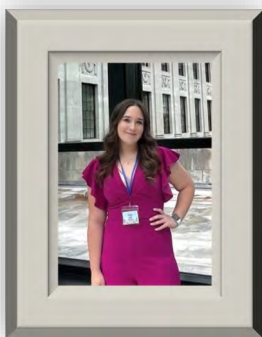
Apollo Brown  
Senate Chaplain



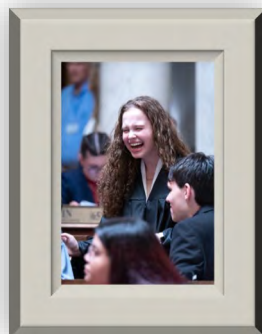
Shelby Hamrick  
Press Secretary



Shelby Plants  
Youth Chief Justice



Olivia Hanna  
Associate Justice



Cheyenne Harvey  
Associate Justice



John "Tripp" McMillion  
Associate Justice



Lysie Perdue  
Associate Justice

# 2026 WEST VIRGINIA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT DIRECTORY

## EXECUTIVE

NAME	TITLE	DELEGATION
Peyton Brown	Senate Chaplain	John Marshall
Reghan Carson	Cabinet Member	Lewis County
Johnny Chen	Senate Clerk	Buckhannon-Upshur
Zane Cook	House Chaplain	Wyoming East
Avery Etzel	Cabinet Member	John Marshall
Olivia Hanna	Associate Justice	Point Pleasant
Holly Lewis	President of the Senate	Buckhannon-Upshur
Sarah McBee	Youth Governor	John Marshall
John "Tripp" McMillion	Associate Justice	James Monroe
Taylor Norman	House Clerk	John Marshall
Danielle Scantlin	Cabinet Member	Ripley
Zoe Zervos	Speaker of the House	John Marshall

## JUDICIAL

NAME	DELEGATION
Aubreigh Anderson	John Marshall
Brady Barnhart	John Marshall
Madison Bell	Notre Dame
Piper Boggs	Point Pleasant
Tripp Bonds	John Marshall
Isabella Bowers	Buckhannon-Upshur
Emma Collett	Buckhannon-Upshur
Jamie Collins	Wirt County
Hadleigh Cossin	Point Pleasant
Harper Currence	Buckhannon-Upshur
Brylea Daugherty	Buckhannon-Upshur
Kaitlin Davis	Buckhannon-Upshur
Khloe Davis	Wirt County
Maddelynn DeNapoli	Point Pleasant
Danni Dunbar	James Monroe
Lora Fernatt	Wirt County
Estelle Gentilozzi	Robert C. Byrd
Juliana Haddix	Robert C. Byrd
Kristofer Halstead	James Monroe

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DELEGATION</b>
Cheyenne Harvey	John Marshall
Gracie Hunter	John Marshall
Caleb Ireland	Buckhannon-Upshur
Lyda King	James Monroe
Tristan Korn	Notre Dame
Zachery Lane	Notre Dame
Bobbyann Mabery	James Monroe
Michelle Maduafokwa	Point Pleasant
Emma Mann	James Monroe
Leia Martin	Wirt County
Leila McBeath	Point Pleasant
Emily McBee	John Marshall
Mirabella Minnich	Notre Dame
Gabriella Mullens	Buckhannon-Upshur
Quang Nguyen	John Marshall
Lynsie Perdue	Wirt County
Chloe Pickett	John Marshall
Grazia Pishner	Notre Dame
Shelby Plants	Point Pleasant
Harleigh Rosenbohm	Wirt County
Dezmend Roth	John Marshall
Carol Russell	Wirt County
Azzruia Russell	Point Pleasant
Lylla Shorter	James Monroe
Emily Shriver	Notre Dame
Katherine Sinsel	Robert C. Byrd
Leah Skidgel	John Marshall
Lilly StClair	James Monroe
Avery Stewart	Robert C. Byrd
Kenton Stump	Buckhannon-Upshur
Emily Suarez	John Marshall
Ben Supple	Point Pleasant
Rylie Surface	James Monroe
Mazey Thomas	Point Pleasant
Aiden Turner	Buckhannon-Upshur
Lena Rose Walker	Buckhannon-Upshur
Kamryn Watson	Point Pleasant
Kaelyn Williams	Notre Dame
Kyanna Williams	Notre Dame

## LEGISLATIVE

NAME	DELEGATION	HEARD IN	MEMBER OF	SEAT
Kofi Ackon-Annan	Woodrow Wilson	H 04	H 05	H 87
Brayden Adkins	Ripley	H 04	H 02	H 76
James Alkire	Lewis County	S 01	S 02	S 27
Sophia Austin	Grafton	H 03	H 04	H 71
Nathan Barnes	Lewis County	H 02	H 03	H 91
Lyric Bauguess	Independence	S 02	S 01	S 02
Elaina Beard	Morgantown	H 05	H 01	H 36
Daphne Beaudry	Buckhannon-Upshur	S 02	S 03	S 06
Landon Beaudry	Buckhannon-Upshur	S 01	S 03	S 01
Kellen Bruffey	Lewis County	S 01	S 02	S 26
Kate Burdette	Ripley	S 03	S 01	S 05
Sebastian Calvert	Woodrow Wilson	S 01	S 03	S 17
Gordon Cantrell	Ripley	H 05	H 01	H 67
Alivia Cogar	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 05	H 02	H 68
Kelton Cowger	Buckhannon-Upshur	S 01	S 03	S 07
Lily Cross	Wirt County	S 01	S 02	S 09
Logan Dalek	John Marshall	H 01	H 04	H 14
Josie Day	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 01	H 04	H 79
Alissa Depoy	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 05	H 03	H 30
Kai Derifield	Point Pleasant	H 01	H 02	H 23
Alexis Dillon	Wyoming East	S 02	S 03	S 31
Tyler Donohew	Ripley	S 03	S 01	S 14
Kyler Doss	Ripley	S 03	S 02	S 04
Teagan Drennen	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 01	H 03	H 21
Claire Flanagan	Woodrow Wilson	H 01	H 04	H 33
Cole Fogus	James Monroe	S 02	S 01	S 32
Lily Garcia	Woodrow Wilson	S 03	S 02	S 34 B
Hugo Gonzalez	Point Pleasant	S 01	S 03	S 22
Valeria Gonzalez	Point Pleasant	S 01	S 03	S 21
Cameron Good	Ripley	S 03	S 01	S 13
Victor Greathouse	Ripley	H 02	H 04	H 20
Lindsey Hacker	Point Pleasant	H 04	H 02	H 27
Gabriel Hamner	Buckhannon-Upshur	S 01	S 03	S 08
Nicholas Haught	Lewis County	H 05	H 01	H 85
Cole Holcomb	Cross Lanes Christian	H 02	H 04	H 82
Carder Holden	Lewis County	H 04	H 03	H 37
Ryann Howell	Woodrow Wilson	S 03	S 01	S 25
Grayson Hughes	Ripley	H 05	H 01	H 66
Bryce Isner	Grafton	S 03	S 02	S 23

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DELEGATION</b>	<b>HEARD IN</b>	<b>MEMBER OF</b>	<b>SEAT</b>
M. Sayid Jaweed	Woodrow Wilson	H 04	H 05	H 88
Eli Jenkins	Ripley	H 03	H 05	H 26
Allie Johnson	Robert C. Byrd	H 04	H 03	H 18
Elio Johnson	Lewis County	H 04	H 05	H 42
Carlee Lane	Wyoming East	H 03	H 02	H 92
Loretta Laraba	Woodrow Wilson	H 05	H 03	H 44
Isabella Lee	Ripley	H 03	H 05	H 16
Katelynn Lefler	Woodrow Wilson	H 03	H 01	H 83
Jessie Li	Point Pleasant	S 03	S 02	S 28
Leigha Manspeaker	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 04	H 05	H 73
Kylie Marlow	Lewis County	H 02	H 05	H 81
Madelyn Martin	Ripley	H 03	H 05	H 17
Ryan Matheny	Point Pleasant	S 03	S 02	S 29
Adelaide McVey	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 02	H 01	H 69
Carson Merritt	Ripley	H 04	H 02	H 75
Dylan Miller	Robert C. Byrd	H 04	H 03	H 65
Eian Mullenex	Tucker County	S 01	S 02	S 20
Addison Nethken	Grafton	S 03	S 02	S 24
Ichiro Ng	Ripley	H 02	H 04	H 19
Becca Pastorius	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 05	H 02	H 74
Terri Perdue	James Monroe	S 02	S 01	S 33
Easton Rice	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 05	H 03	H 31
Ava Roach	Point Pleasant	H 02	H 04	H 78
Alaysia Rogers	Woodrow Wilson	H 01	H 04	H 34
Katie Samples	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 04	H 05	H 72
Sarah Setterlund	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 01	H 03	H 22
Bernard Shackelford	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 01	H 04	H 80
Autumn Shaffer	Lewis County	H 03	H 02	H 89
Hunter Shaffer	Elkins	H 03	H 05	H 77
Aubry Shay	Buckhannon-Upshur	S 03	S 01	S 12
Raina Shearlock	Wirt County	S 02	S 01	S 18
Brandon Shrewsbury	Wyoming East	S 02	S 03	S 30
Kinley Snelson	Tucker County	S 01	S 02	S 19
Alexa Solis	Woodrow Wilson	S 03	S 02	S 34
Logan Stacy	Wyoming East	H 01	H 01	H 90
Zane Stewart	Lewis County	H 04	H 03	H 38
Jaylin Summers	Grafton	H 05	H 01	H 28
Rylan Taylor	Grafton	S 02	S 03	S 10
Alaina Tenney	Buckhannon-Upshur	S 03	S 01	S 11
Arabella Tomassetti	John Marshall	H 01	H 02	H 32
Zoey Torres	Ripley	S 02	S 03	S 15

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DELEGATION</b>	<b>HEARD IN</b>	<b>MEMBER OF</b>	<b>SEAT</b>
CJ Tucker	East Fairmont	H 01	H 02	H 86
Jade Underwood	Woodrow Wilson	H 03	H 01	H 84
Jackson Vanhooose	Ripley	S 03	S 02	S 03
Lilly Vanhooose	Ripley	H 03	H 05	H 25
Emalie Vincent	Robert C. Byrd	H 04	H 03	H 64
William Wagoner	Lewis County	H 04	H 05	H 41
Ke'Moni Warner	Woodrow Wilson	H 05	H 03	H 43
Vivian Webb	Woodrow Wilson	S 03	S 01	S 25 A
Zakk Wells	John Marshall	H 05	H 01	H 35
Ali Wilfong	Grafton	H 05	H 01	H 29
McKenna Wilson	Grafton	H 03	H 04	H 70
Sadie Wilt	Buckhannon-Upshur	H 02	H 01	H 24
Elyssa Woolwine	Independence	H 02	H 01	H 15
Peyton Young	Ripley	S 02	S 03	S 16

## LOBBYIST

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DELEGATION</b>
Logan Lafferty	Wyoming East

## PRESS

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DELEGATION</b>
Bailey Brubaker	James Monroe
Skylar Brubaker	James Monroe
Aaliyah Dodrill	Robert C. Byrd
Sophia Eagle	Robert C. Byrd
Callee Fowler	Point Pleasant
Mia Gallo	Robert C. Byrd
Juliana Hall	Grafton
Shelby Hamrick	Lewis County
Alina Holliday	John Marshall
Wade Hunter	James Monroe
Gianna Johnson	Robert C. Byrd
Hope Lamb	Lewis County
Ava Leard	Grafton
Irelyn Lowe	John Marshall
Addison Page	Point Pleasant
Paige Powers	Lewis County
Kade Riffe	James Monroe
Cayden Smith	Lewis County

## PAGES

NAME	DELEGATION	ASSIGNMENT
Ethen Lower	Tucker County	H 01 & House Chamber
Emma Null	Hedgesville	H 03 & Governor
Nathaniel Palmer	Martinsburg	H 02 & House Chamber
Isabella Partain	Robert C. Byrd	H 04 & House Chamber
Carly Singleton	Lewis County	H 05 & House Chamber
BrookeLynn Smith	Wyoming East	S 01 & Senate Chamber
**** no page available ****		S 02
Hadley White	Martinsburg	S 03 & Senate Chamber

**When committees are in session, you will page for your assigned committee. When the House or Senate are in session, you will page for the chamber floor or Governor as assigned. During election of officers, you will collect ballots from the chamber floor & return them to YLA Staff.**

## ADVISORS

NAME	DELEGATION	ASSIGNMENT
Brian Allman	Buckhannon-Upshur	Senate Advisor & Sen Commit ee # 03
Kenly Arbogast	Point Pleasant	Judicial Advisor
Christy Cardwell	Wyoming East	House Commit ee # 02
Mindy Dawson	Buckhannon-Upshur	House Commit ee # 03
Kristin DeWees	Ripley	Bill Coordinator
Jennifer Eiler	Lewis County	Senate Commit ee # 02
Josh Gary	John Marshall	House Advisor
Christina Gary	John Marshall	Hotel Advisor
Deborah Gump	Lewis County	House Committee # 01
Tiffany Hersman	Point Pleasant	Senate Committee # 03
Candace McBee	John Marshall	Court
Rebekah McCloy	Wirt County	Court Advisor
Erika Osborne	Tucker County	Senate Commit ee # 01
Amanda Palmer	Martinsburg	Page & Lobbyist Advisor
Jacob Powers	Morgantown	House Commit ee # 01
Caleb Price	Robert C. Byrd	House Committee # 03
John Quesenberry	Woodrow Wilson	House Committee # 02
Gabriel Rhodes	Robert C. Byrd	House Committee # 05
Sara Rockwell-White	Martinsburg	Page & Lobbyist Advisor
Stormy Thorne	James Monroe	Press Advisor
Rebecca Torchia	Notre Dame	Court
Jennifer Whaley	Cross Lanes Christian	House Commit ee # 04
Renee Wilson	James Monroe	House Committee # 04
Brittany Worley	Woodrow Wilson	House Committee # 05
Richard Zukowski	Grafton	Senate Co-Advisor & Sen Committee # 02

# ROOM ASSIGNMENTS

<b>HOUSE SIDE OF CAPITOL</b>				
	<b>BUILDING</b>	<b>FLOOR</b>	<b>ROOM</b>	<b>Additional Info.</b>
<b>House Chamber</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor		
<b>Bill Coordinator</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor		Right side of House Chamber Entrance
<b>YLA Office</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor		Left side of House Chamber Entrance
<b>Youth Governor's Office</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor	236 M	Room behind Speaker of the House's Podium
<b>Lobbyists</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor		Great Hall – Table outside of House Chamber
<b>Pages</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor		Great Hall – Table outside of House Chamber
<b>H # 01</b>	Main Building	3rd Floor	410 M	House Judiciary
<b>H # 02</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor	252 M	McManus Conference
<b>H # 03</b>	Main Building	3rd Floor	460 M	House Finance
<b>H # 04</b>	East Wing	2nd Floor	215 E	Across the roof use covered walkway
<b>H # 05</b>	Main Building	3rd Floor	434 M-A	House Education-same side of hall as 410 M—go through Education Staff offices behind gallery

<b>SENATE SIDE OF CAPITOL</b>				
<b>Senate Chamber</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor		
<b>Press</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor	249 M	Senate Reception Room
<b>S # 01</b>	Main Building	3rd Floor	451 M	Senate Finance
<b>S # 02</b>	West Wing	2nd Floor	208 W	Senate Judiciary—across the roof
<b>S # 03</b>	Main Building	2nd Floor		Senate Chamber

**\*\*\*Judicial program will use H 315-W on Thursday at 10:10 for an hour due to scheduling conflict with the Supreme Court.**

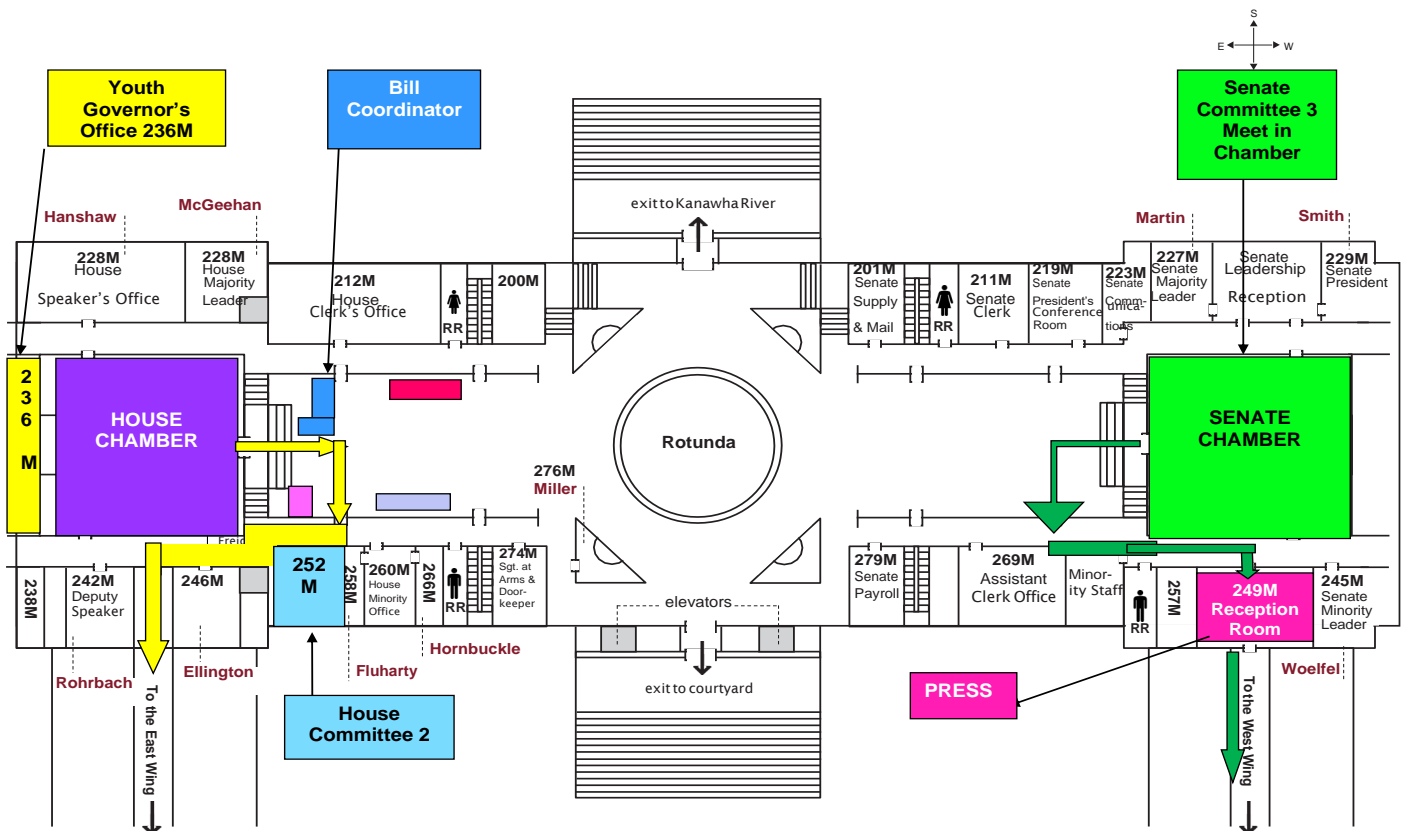
# MEETING ROOMS and MAPS

# Main Building 2nd Floor

<b>House Chamber</b>	2nd Floor
<b>Senate Chamber</b>	2nd Floor
<b>Bill Coordinator</b>	Outside of House Chamber—Right side of entrance
<b>YLA Office</b>	Outside of House Chamber—Left side of entrance
<b>Youth Governor's Office</b>	Room 236 M—Behind House Chamber
<b>Lobbyists</b>	Great Hall—Table outside of House Chamber
<b>Pages</b>	Great Hall—Table outside of House Chamber
<b>House Committee 2</b>	Room 252 M McManus Conference Room
<b>Senate Committee 3</b>	Senate Chamber
<b>Press</b>	Senate Reception Room 249 M

## WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL MAPS

### Main Building - Second Floor



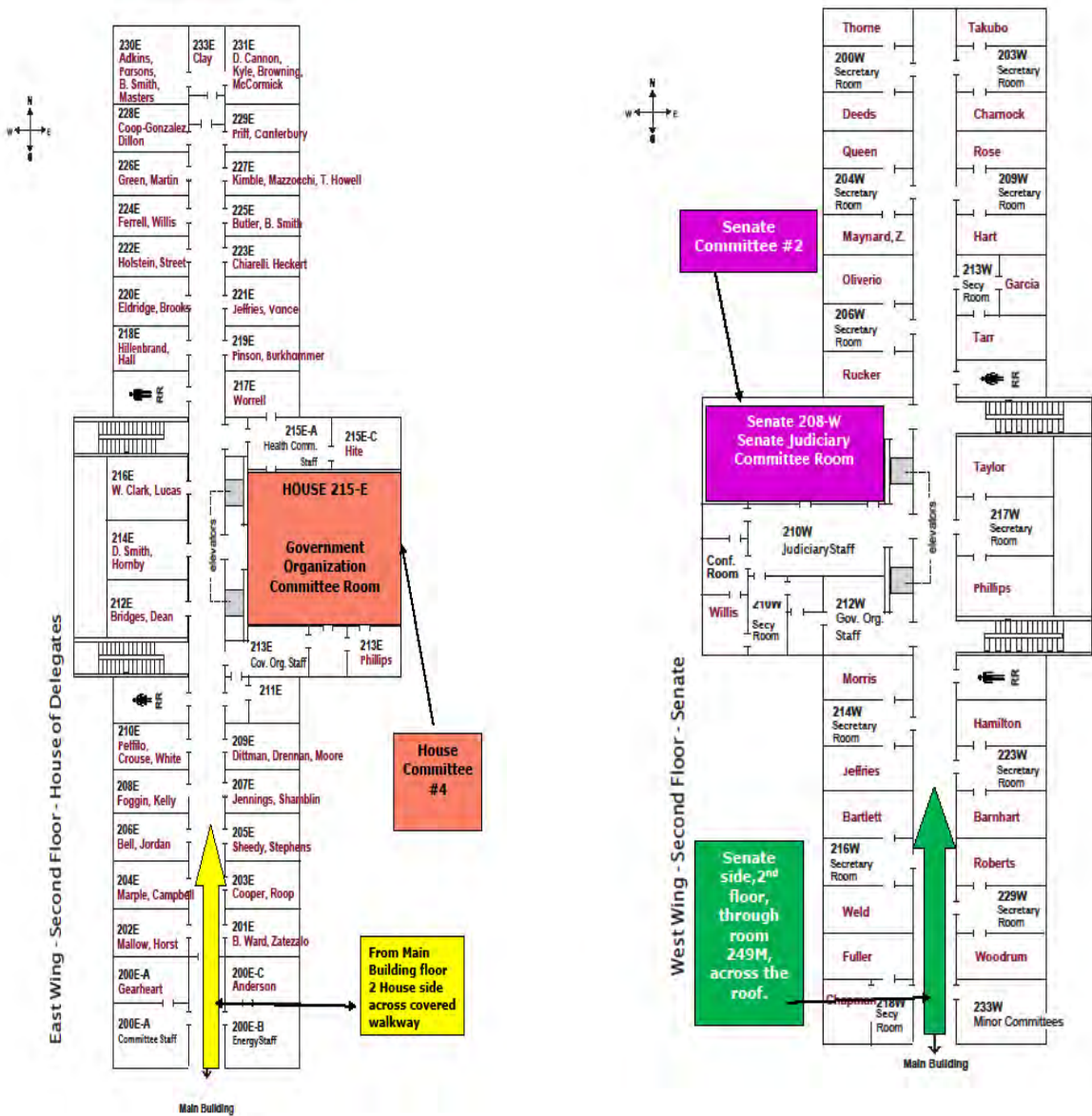
# Meeting Rooms Continued—West Wing Maps

<b>House Committee #01</b>	H 410 M—House Judiciary Committee Room
<b>House Committee # 02</b>	H 252 M—McManus Conference Room
<b>House Committee # 03</b>	H 460 M—House Finance Committee Room
<b>House Committee # 04</b>	H 215 E—Government Organization Committee
<b>House Committee # 05</b>	H 434 M—House Education Committee Room
<b>Senate Committee # 01</b>	S 451 M—Senate Finance Committee Room
<b>Senate Committee # 02</b>	S 208 W—Senate Judiciary Committee Room
<b>Senate Committee # 03</b>	Senate Chamber

## House East Wing

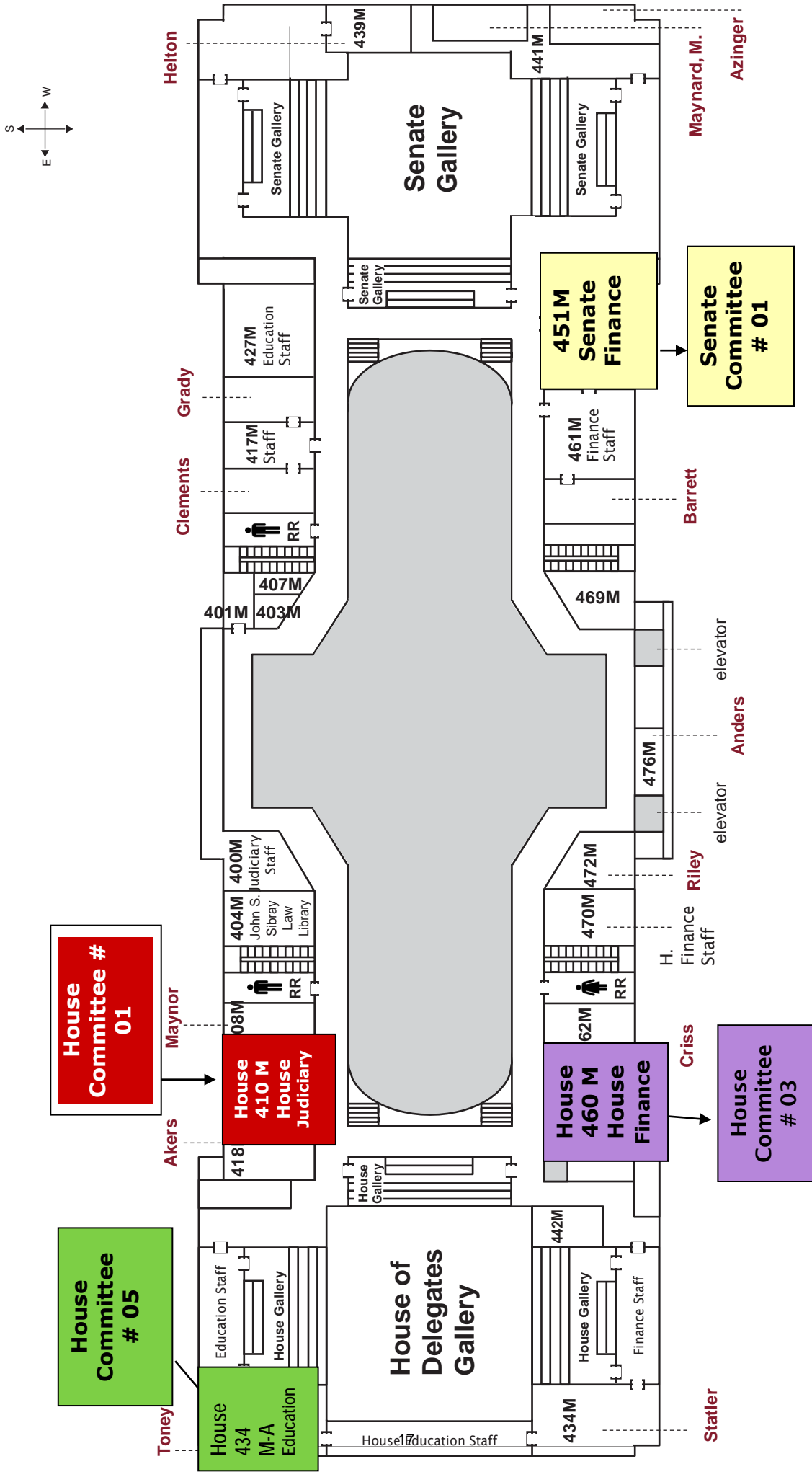
## Senate West Wing

Same floor as each Chamber but across the roof



# WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL MAPS

## Main Building - Third Floor





## ***Welcome* to our 69th YLA West Virginia Youth in Government!**

**Ohio-West Virginia  
Youth Leadership Association**

For 69 years, West Virginia's best and brightest students have been meeting annually to participate in Youth in Government! Cecil Underwood was Governor when he worked with our HI-Y students, advisors and staff to plan our first YG. Their work convened our first WV YG in 1958 at the Capitol. The founding principles Governor Underwood and those helping him built into Youth in Government remain our foundation today – integrity, volunteer service, responsibility, and citizenship.

YLA Youth in Government is distinctly different. We're about citizenship, not politics, political careers, talk, or debate. YG seeks solutions for the common good as we lift others up to become their very best, work to change conditions so all succeed, and to make our schools, communities and state better than we found them.

In these two days at the Capitol, experience the process of state government, make decisions to move West Virginia forward, create connections with peers and adults from across our state, and have a great time with a purpose. Make friends, learn all you can, put your best ideas forward, and make differences for good now and throughout your life.

YLA began as a State YMCA in 1867. The Youth Leadership Association is inclusive, signaling an invitation to all to participate. New doors of opportunity are opening for more youth to benefit in all YLA programs. YLA youth will make even greater contributions to improving our communities, states, and nation.

***Now – enjoy, learn, help others, and make lasting differences for good!***

## **Use & Care of the Statehouse/Capitol**

Use of the Statehouse/Capitol requires the highest level of care and respect for the facility, its furnishings, equipment and its traditions. Each student participant and adult is to exercise the **highest level of individual responsibility for the Statehouse/Capitol and to hold everyone else to that same level of responsibility.**

**No chewing gum in the Statehouse/Capitol.**

**No food, snacks, candy or drinks (including water bottles) in any Statehouse/Capitol room.**

The **desks**, chairs and other furniture in the Senate and House are easily scratched or marred. Use deliberate caution in placing items on the desk or lifting things off. Do not slide anything as they easily can scratch the finish. Do not "toss" books, purses, brief cases or anything on a desk as that can easily damage the finish of the desk. Staples are a problem too. Do not put a stapler on a desk top. *Do not write on any single sheet of paper on a desk as the pencil/pen can leave an impression on the desk finish.*

**Do not** sit or lean on any desk top or desk.

**Check** the desk, chair, tables and rooms one is using. Report any damage observed to the Advisor in that room and/or YG Staff. Advisors, pass on damage reports in writing to YG Staff.

**Extend** to all members of the Senate and House of Representatives/Delegates as well as to all Statehouse/Capitol staff every courtesy including *Thank you*.

**Clean up!** Straighten up any room one uses. Any papers one no longer wants, put in trash can. Leave every room clean.

Review with your total student and adult delegation the Use and Care of the Capitol.

### **Responsibility**

Responsibilities of students and adults are more completely explained in this Bill Book and in the YG Manual.

Briefly –

Every student and adult through the act of registering to attend Youth in Government has agreed to support the Code of Conduct.

Local delegations select their own participants and are responsible for their conduct at all times.

One adult supervisor is to accompany every ten youth members of a delegation. Adults are to be 21 years of age or older, registered participants with the YG program and must stay at the hotel with their delegations. The Adult Delegation Leader is responsible for the conduct, supervision, and control of all youth and adult members of their delegation. Adults also have assignments to help with the YG program.

Delegation Leaders and Advisors prepare their students in advance of YG. Adults do not influence legislation or judicial decisions. Adults encourage their students to meet students from other delegations and to interact with other students throughout the weekend. Advisors do not "keep" their students away from other students during YG sessions.

## **Dress**

Youth in Government is a model of government in action. Included is the way we act, speak, conduct ourselves, and the way we dress. Youth in Government sessions require professional business attire.

Men wear coats and ties during the program sessions. No sports shirt or jeans. Women wear professional business attire. No spaghetti straps or exposed midriffs are allowed. A business pants outfit is allowed.

**Dresses or skirts must be at or below your fingertips when your arms are down at your side.**

Casual attire including jeans is appropriate at recreation and the hotel.

**Meals - Breakfast is the only meal provided.** All other meals are on your own.

## **Housing**

Everyone is required to stay at the Youth in Government hotel. Lodging is included in your program fee. Additional information is available on the Participation Agreement. Please note that if a group does not have enough students to fill up a room, expect your student(s) to be housed with students from another delegation or you may "buy" out rooms for your students. Contact the YLA for costs to buy out one or more rooms.

## **Parking**

Parking is at your expense. Parking is available at the hotel or in nearby parking lots for a fee.

## **Cancellations and Refund Policy**

The best laid plans can go awry. However, since all our program fees are set below our actual costs, we have no flexibility to provide refunds. Therefore, **our policy is NOT to provide refunds for the Participation Agreement or the Final Fee.** Actually the person cancelling should reimburse the program for the costs the program has incurred on their behalf by paying the scholarship received back to the program. The program does permit delegations to send a replacement.

1. Delegations who want to provide refunds need to set aside money to provide refunds to their students.
2. Delegations don't refer parents to the YG Office with billing/refund questions. Handle these locally.
3. After a delegation is registered, it is responsible for the entire payment for that number of student/adult delegates.
4. There are no refunds from the Youth Leadership Association so do not ask nor have others call to ask.

### **Code of Conduct: YLA Family of Programs**

Participants – youth and adults - in YLA programs demonstrate responsibility and the highest levels of personal and group character. Due to that, few rules are required.

In general, our rules are summarized in these three (3) points:

1. Treat others as one wants to be treated.
2. Do not fail to do something that would help others, make the place we are using cleaner, safer, and a better experience for all.
3. Do not do anything that hurts or could potentially harm another person, place, or thing.

Some specifics may be helpful –

1. Attend all sessions of the program;
2. Wear name badges as called for by the program;
3. Names of anyone absent from a session are referred to the program director and the appropriate advisor;
4. Adult sponsors and chaperones are responsible for the supervision of their Delegation;
5. **ABSOLUTELY NO FOOD, DRINK, or GUM** are permitted in the House, Senate, Committee rooms, Supreme Court, or other government facilities used at YG;
6. Not permitted at YLA programs are tobacco, alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or weapons;
7. There is no coed visiting in housing rooms;
8. All delegates are in their own room, observe quiet hours at the time indicated by the curfew and will not leave their room until the end of curfew;
9. Room changes are not made unless made by YLA staff;
10. Participants do not invite or receive visitors unless approved by the Advisor and YLA staff. Visitors, alumni, etc. are not permitted in the lodging facility guest sleeping rooms at any time. Guests are restricted to lobbies and visitor areas.

## Summary of Procedure

### How a YLA Youth in Government "Bill" Becomes a "Law"

A Bill is a proposed law. Only legislative delegates can introduce Bills into the Student Legislature. A Bill must successfully complete the following steps to become a "law".

1. Be rated for position in the Bill Book.
2. Be assigned to a Committee for consideration and passed on to the Floor.
3. Be introduced on the Floor of the House or the Floor of the Senate of its origin and passed.
4. Be signed by the Governor.

#### **STEP 1 - BILL RATING**

Bills are rated on a scale of 1-75 points (see How to Write a Bill). Each Bill is given a number and is considered in its numerical order both in Committee and on the Floor. Before each Legislative Session, the Order of the Day is re-arranged with the highest ranked Bills considered first.

#### **STEP 2 - COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION**

Bills are assigned to a Committee other than the author's. To speak for their Bill, the authors appear before the Committee hearing their Bill. Legislative Committees give each Bill a complete hearing and determine the Bills reported out to the House or Senate and to prepare Committee members to take an active part in Floor debate.

#### **STEP 3 - FLOOR CONSIDERATION**

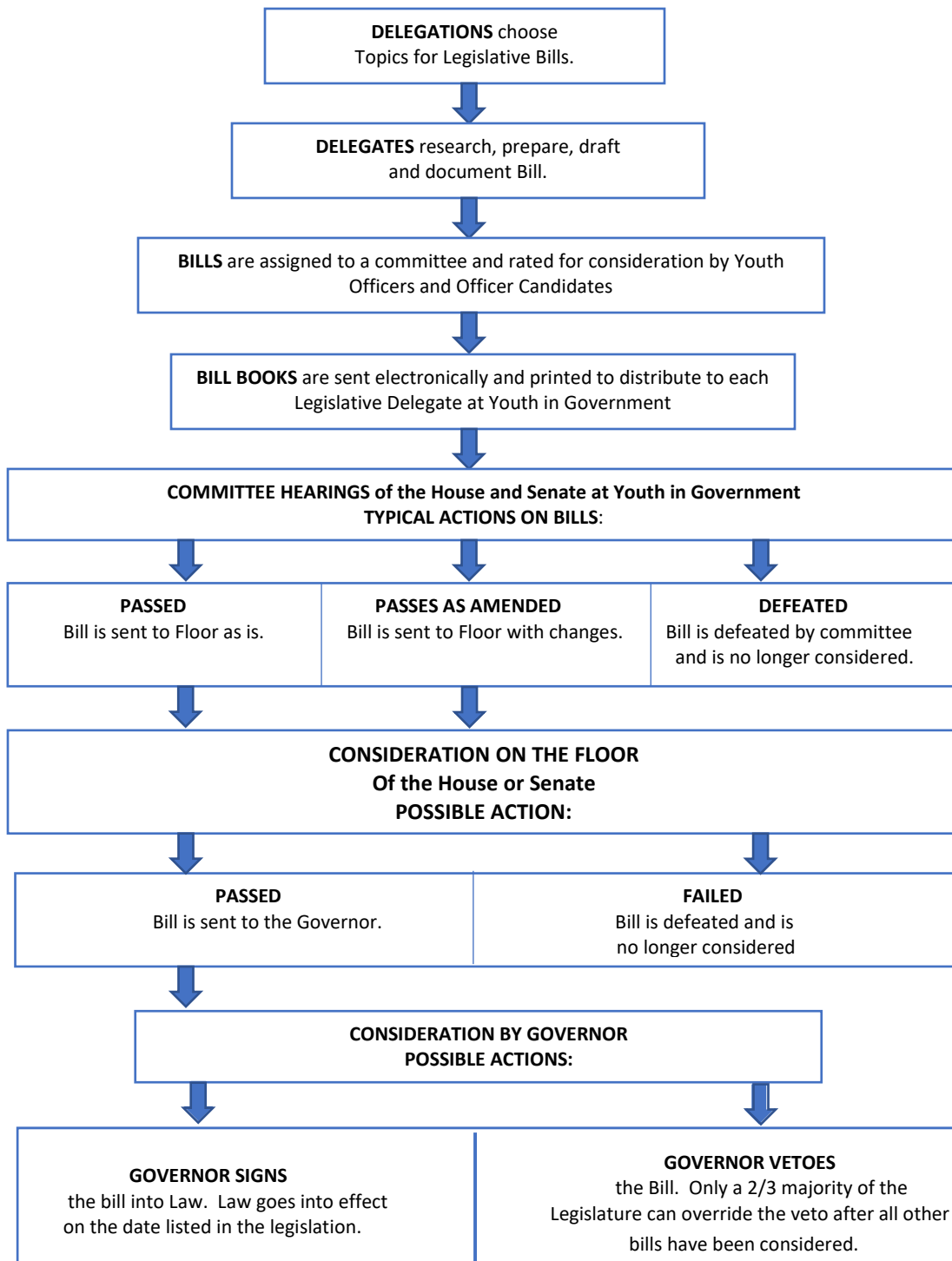
Bills reported out of Committee are scheduled for consideration by the House or Senate. Time may not allow consideration of all Bills referred to the Legislature. Those Bills passed by the House or Senate are then sent to the Governor.

#### **STEP 4 - GOVERNOR CONSIDERATION**

Bills passed by both the House or Senate are sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign or veto the legislation.



# How a Bill Becomes Law at the Student Legislature



# Committees

**Committees are the first to consider proposed legislation.**

**Committees accomplish three (3) tasks**

1. Committees decide what legislation is sent to the House or Senate.

Committees give each Bill a complete and respectful hearing including presentations by Authors, Cabinet, and Lobbyists as well as a thorough discussion and debate by all Committee members.

The procedure Committees use is somewhat different than that used by the Legislature. Please read both procedures carefully. Since Committees are smaller groups than a legislature, they do not need all the procedures required by a legislature. Committees are only as formal as needed to effectively get their work done.

Committees work to send good legislation to the floor. If a Bill is a good idea but needs improved, then amend it. ***Bills rated # 1 - 5 should pass Committee as student Committee Chairs, Vice Chairs, legislative leaders and candidates rated these the best bills to improve our state. There is no reason to kill them in Committee.***

2. Committees prepare their members to take the lead on the floor to pass (majority of the members) or defeat (minority of the members) legislation the Committee sends to the floor.

It is the responsibility of the Committee sending legislation to the floor to have all their members take an active role in floor discussion and debate of the Bill.

3. Committees clearly and completely inform members of the Legislature what the Committee found out about the Bill, why it should be passed (majority) and why it should be defeated (minority).

The Majority and Minority Reports inform the Legislature of the content of the Committee's consideration of the Bill, tell the Legislature the answers to any significant questions asked the Authors, give the Legislature any significant information provided by the Authors, Cabinet or Lobbyists, and explain why the Bill should pass (majority) or be defeated (minority).

The time for questions is in Committee. The Legislature has very limited time for questions (actually only three questions) as their time needs to be in considering the Bill . . . discussion, statement of positions, debate.

**Committee Members and Chairpersons are Responsible Individually and as a Group to:**

## Participate

- Every member participates
- Everyone creates a positive atmosphere that encourages involvement by everyone
- Every member helps everyone else do their best
- Every member sits in a different chair beside different people at each committee meeting

### Be Prepared

- Know and understand the procedure and use it
- Understand and be informed on the legislation in your Committee before YG

### Be Respectful, Extend Courtesy to Everyone

- Show respect for the Committee, the room and its equipment, Authors, Lobbyists, Cabinet, Advisor
- Be informed on the subject of the Bill
- Consider the merits of the Bill, listen with full attention

### Bill Authors, Lobbyists and Cabinet

- Ask permission of the Chair to appear before the Committee
- Know when to appear in Committee and be on time
- Respond to questions when asked
- Remember, the final decision on legislation is the Committee's

### Advisors

- Advisors are in Committee to help on procedure. Benefit from their knowledge and experience.

### Presence of Authors, Cabinet and Lobbyists

- Authors give their testimony before any given by others
- When testimony is complete and Committee questions have been answered these persons may leave or may stay for the Committee's consideration of the Bill. While these persons may not ask to join in the Committee's consideration of the Bill, they may respond to questions if asked by the Committee. Committees would be wise to remember these persons know the most about the proposed legislation and are a valuable source of information on the Bill.
- Authors, Cabinet and Lobbyists who may still be in the Committee leave for Bill's final consideration and the vote.

### Inform the Authors

- The Committee tells the Authors the vote on the Bill by giving them a completed Form Z.

### What is Done with Similar Bills?

- Bills on the same topic are often presented. Committees consider them separately on their own merits.

### **Scheduling Committee Time**

1. Committees meet for the total time assigned each session.
2. The Committee's time in each session is managed to accomplish three (3) things:
  - To consider Bills and determine those to be sent to the floor;
  - To prepare complete reports to the Legislature on the Committee's consideration of each

Bill sent to the floor including information learned during the testimony, answers to significant questions, and why the Committee wants the Bill passed by the Legislature (majority) or defeated (minority);

- To prepare every Committee member to participate in the Legislature's consideration of Bills sent to the House or Senate. Committees are to go on the floor with their members ready to get the Bill passed (majority) or defeated (minority).

3. Bills are assigned a time (session) so Authors, Cabinet and Lobbyists know when to appear in Committee. The assigned Bill times cannot be changed. If Authors, Lobbyists or Cabinet are unable to appear before Committee at that time, the Bill will be considered without them.
4. Bills not completed in the session they are assigned, may be carried over to the next Committee session.
5. Committees may not go ahead in the schedule to consider Bills scheduled for a later session of the Committee.
6. By the end of the final Committee, all Bills have had a complete hearing by their Committee.

### **Committee Procedure**

**\*\*Before going to committee, the Chair picks the bills up from the Bill Coordinator.**

1. The Chair welcomes everyone to the meeting and introduces anyone there to give testimony.
2. The Clerk (or Vice Chair) reads the Bill
3. The Authors present their Bill, explain why it is important for the state and should be passed, and answer any questions the Committee may have.
4. Lobbyists and Governor's Cabinet testify on the Bill and answer questions.
5. The Committee discusses the Bill, asks any questions to the Bill experts - Authors, Cabinet, Lobbyist - debates.

Chairpersons may find it helpful to hold their comments until later in the discussion so that other Committee members voice their views.

6. Amendments to strengthen and/or clarify the Bill are made at any time in the discussion. Amendments cannot change the intent of the Bill.
7. The Committee discusses, questions and debates to reach its decision. Committee members support legislation they believe is best for the people of the state. Legislation is not sent to the floor just because it will be a good debate. Legislatures exist to make serious decisions, not to entertain their members.
8. When the discussion/debate is complete, take the vote. A simple majority is required. The presiding person (Chair) does not vote except to break a tie.
9. After the vote, the Committee  
Prepares accurate and complete reports (majority and minority) for the Legislature that also give - reasons the Committee wants the Bill passed (majority) or defeated (minority).
  - Prepares Committee members to fully participate in the floor consideration of the Bill.
  - Be certain that each Committee member has a role for the debate on the floor. Assign a point, pro and con, etc. so every member participates on the floor.

## **Possible Motions in Committee**

1. To recommend a Bill without amendments out of Committee to the House or Senate, a member says, "I move this Bill reported to pass." If passed, the Bill goes to the House or Senate of its origin.
2. To amend a Bill, the motion is, "I move the following amendment . . . "

The author of the amendment gives it in writing to the Clerk (or Vice Chair) who reads the amendment. If adopted, the Clerk reads the amended Bill to be sure it is accurate. The amendment is then attached to the Bill and the Bill is considered in Committee as amended.

Amendments may not change the intent or meaning of the Bill. While authors do not have to agree to the amendment, they are to be informed of the amendment.

Riders to Bills are not permitted.

3. To recommend an amended Bill for passage, the motion is, "I move that this Bill be passed, as amended."

## **Committee Chairpersons**

Senate Chairs have been appointed by and are responsible to the President of the Senate and House Chairs the Speaker of the House. Chairs who do not carry out their responsibilities may be removed by their President or Speaker.

Vice Chairs are appointed by the President and Speaker. In Committees without a Vice Chair, the Chair may appoint a committee member to serve as Vice Chair. Bill partners are not to be Chairs as they both would leave the Committee to testify on their Bill.

## **Responsibilities of the Chair**

### At the First Meeting

- See that members can see each other
- Do introductions and "get acquainted" activities (avoid use of candy, food, or drinks as a get acquainted). Include the Committee Advisor in the get acquainted.
- Explain the purpose of the Committee and how it works (review previous pages) and do a practice Bill to give everyone experience in the procedure.
- Review the schedule, explain the order of Bills and how the Committee's time is used.

### The Chair and all Members are Responsible for the Care and Protection of their Committee Room

- Explain the use of the Committee room is a privilege given by the actual Committee Chairperson and review how we are to care for the room (no candy, food or drinks; do not move papers or materials left by Legislators, avoid playing with microphones, clean up after each session, etc.)

## The Chair

\*Gets the bill from the Bill Coordinator before each Committee meeting & returns them with a verbal report to the Bill Coordinator before going into the Chamber session..

- Acts and speaks in a way that helps everyone in the Committee succeed, involves everyone and gives Authors, Lobbyists and Cabinet a respectful experience.
- Represents the Committee to the Bill Coordinator. The Chair picks up the Committee folder from the Bill Coordinator before each Committee meeting and returns the folder to the Bill Coordinator immediately after the meeting and verbally tells the Coordinator the action taken on each bill.
- Has the Clerk or Vice Chair take attendance at each meeting.
- Manages time so the three tasks of the Committee are accomplished.
- Has the Committee meet for the total time and does not dismiss early.
- Considers Bills in numerical order as listed inside the front cover of the Committee Folder. Once a Bill is considered, draw a line through the Bill number.
- Manages amendment made in Committee. Amendments are made in writing and, if passed, attached to the Bill by paper clip. Do not write on the original Bill. Amendments note the line(s) being altered. Note on the Bill Disposition sheet the Bill is amended and if passed and, if passed, passed as amended. Amendments cannot change the intent of the Bill.
- Completes the Committee portion of the Bill Disposition sheet.
- Assures that the Majority and Minority reports are written to accurately inform the Legislature on what the Committee learned about the Bill, why the Committee took the action it did and the Committee's reasons for the Legislature to pass (majority) or defeat (minority) the Bill.
- Prepares all Committee members to actively participate in floor debate on Bills the Committee reports out to the Legislature.
- Leads the Committee member participation in floor debate.

## **Responsibilities of Committee Advisors**

- Be present. Don't be on your phone or computer. Help the Chair keep the process on schedule and the committee members focused on the task at hand.
- Committee Advisors assist with procedure and the Committee process. They may be asked for advice before, during or after Committee sessions. Chairs are to meet with the Committee Advisor after each session to get their observations and suggestions.
- **Advisors do not comment on the content or idea of legislation nor are they to influence voting on issues.**
- Advisors may have a few minutes at the end of each committee to engage the group in a review of how the committee did and what would make the next meeting even more successful.

## A Note to Bill Authors

Please remember that our purpose at Youth in Government is to adopt legislation that will benefit our state. Our time is limited, opinions among delegates vary, and very few proposals will be sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign or veto legislation. In our democracy the Executive is one of the three branches of government. Each branch is part of a system of "checks and balances." As part of this system, the Governor may veto even popular legislation if, in the Governor's judgment, it is not good for our state.

Participate in Youth in Government to do your best. Doing your best needs to be the "reward" you seek. The most to expect for your legislation is a complete hearing in Committee. Your Bill may be heard on the Floor and a few Bills will be sent to the Governor. The Governor may sign some of them. If your Bill is defeated in Committee, the Legislature, or is vetoed, be prepared to take that decision with good grace and not develop a personal vendetta against legislators or the Governor. Realize your Bill had its chance and now others are to have their chance.

Work to do your best and to help others do their best too!



# YOUTH GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE PROCEDURES

## BEFORE EACH MEETING

Chairman picks up committee folders from Bill Coordinator  
1st committee meeting  
Introductions and Get Acquainted  
Review Committee Procedures  
Practice with a provided Practice Bill

## WELCOME

Clerk or Vice Chair reads order of the day  
Clerk or Vice Chair takes attendance  
Committee Chair introduces all guests and sends for bill authors

## COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

Clerk or Vice Chair reads the Bill  
Authors give Opening Statements  
Governor's Cabinet and then Lobbyists testimony on the Bill and then answer questions

## QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Questions may be asked of Bill Authors, Lobbyists, and Governor's Cabinet  
Committee members speak for or against the bill

## AMENDMENTS

May not change the intent of the Bill  
Authors should be present and approve amendments  
Committee Chair fills out the Bill Form  
If an amendment is proposed, discuss the amendment and hold a vote for the amendment  
If an amendment is adopted, attach the amendment form to the Bill

## AFTER QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Bill Authors give Closing Statements and return to their Committees  
Hold a Caucus for members to discuss if the bill is good for the people of the state

## HOLD A VOTE

Chair asks the committee if they are for or against passing the Bill to the Floor  
The Vice Chair or Clerk records the vote

## AFTER VOTE IS TAKEN

Prepare Bill Disposition Report  
Have a Page deliver the Z form to authors  
Bill Passes: prepare majority and minority reports  
Bill Passes: Chairperson prepares members to take an active role in the floor session consideration

## ADJOURN

Chairperson entertains a motion to adjourn  
Once adjourned, Chairperson and Committee Advisor compare notes on what went well and what can be done to make the next meeting more effective  
Chairperson takes Committee Folder back to Bill Coordinator noting which bills passed or failed



# YOUTH GOVERNMENT FLOOR PROCEDURES

## BEFORE EACH SESSION

Clerk picks up Calendar from Bill Coordinator  
1st Floor Session:  
Review Floor Procedures  
Practice with a provided Practice Bill  
Then, proceed with the first Bill in the Calendar

## PRESIDING OFFICER CALLS TO ORDER

Gavel and state "By the authority invested in me, I declare this House (Senate) in session"  
Call upon the Chaplain to deliver his/her message  
Call upon the Clerk to read the order of the day. Bills passed from the opposing chamber start the order of the day.

## READING OF THE BILL

Presiding Officer: "We are now ready for the third reading of the Bill."  
Clerk reads the number, author, title, full text of the bill, and approved amendments  
"The question is shall this Bill pass?"  
Call upon the authors to give their opening statements and minority/majority reports

## QUESTIONS AND DEBATE

The Presiding Officer begins, "The question is shall this bill pass? Is there a speech in favor or opposition?"  
Delegates may ask if the authors yield to a question. Delegates should address the Presiding Officer when speaking.

## AMENDMENTS

Amendments on the Floor are allowed. Members wanting to amend the Bill currently on the floor must obtain and amendment form to write their amendment on and send it to the Clerk. It is then the members' responsibility to seek recognition from the Presiding Officer once the amendment has reached the Clerk's desk. Only then can any action be taken on the amendment. Once the member is recognized by the Presiding Officer and the Clerk reads the amendment from this time on until a vote is taken on the amendment, all remarks and questions are directed to the amendment and the amendment authors, not the Bill as a whole. Following the vote, the debate returns to the Bill.

## AFTER QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

Presiding Officer is responsible to manage the time for the consideration of each Bill. Try to limit question to 3 per Bill. After you feel the Bill has been debated sufficiently then move on to the Authors closing statements.

## HOLD A VOTE

Presiding officer will then say, "The question is, shall the Bill pass?" All those in favor of the Bill, please stand."  
A count is made recorded by the Clerk.  
The Presiding Officer then says, "Those opposed to passage of the Bill, please stand." Again, a count is recorded.  
If the majority favors the Bill, the Presiding Officer says, "I declare this Bill passes." If the majority is opposed, the Presiding Officer says, "I declare this Bill failed of passage."

## AFTER THE VOTE

Once a Bill is declared passed or failed the Clerk is to fill out the Bill Disposition Record attached to the Bill, sign it, and have the Presiding Officer also sign. At the end of the Floor Session the Clerk takes the "Calendar" folder back to the Bill Coordinators office.

# Parliamentary Procedure for the Student Legislature

Organizations use Roberts Rules of Order, other standard rules of order or adopt their own. Youth in Government has adopted its own Rules of Order.

YG rules allow as much time as possible on proposed legislation rather than on parliamentary procedure and recognize that three days make it impossible to completely follow the rules of the actual House and Senate.

All the information needed to consider a Bill in the Student Legislature is in the next few pages. Every delegate has equal access to these rules. Changes are not made during YG. Proposed changes suggested by YG Officers may be made at their annual planning session at June's YLA Leadership Summit for inclusion in the next program YG Manual.

Committees carefully consider Bills on their merit and select those for the Legislature that offer an opportunity to improve our state.

The number of Bills some years allows consideration by both the House and Senate. A Bill first passed in one will then be considered by the other. The second hearing will only be on the Floor and will include the Authors. Bills passed in both or one legislative body will be sent to the Youth Governor. Obviously those passed by both the House and Senate will have more weight when considered by the Youth Governor.

## Procedure

### Order of the Day

- ◆ The "Calendar" at the Bill Coordinator's Office provides the order of business before the House and Senate. The "Order of the Day" is also read by the Clerk before each session starts. The Calendar cannot be changed.
- ◆ The Bill Coordinator serves as the Youth in Government Rules Committee. Bills are assigned to Committees and, when passed by Committee, put on the House or Senate Calendar only by the Bill Coordinator. If a Committee combines two or more Bills, they create a new Bill. This new Bill must be assigned a number and a Committee by the Bill Coordinator.
- ◆ Committees and the Legislature only consider Bills given them by the Bill Coordinator. The order Bills are considered is the numerical order they appear in the Bill Book as determined by the rating of Bills by the Legislative Officers, Committee Chairpersons, and Officer Candidates in February. This advance rating also serves to provide as much time as possible to consider Bills during YG. The Student Legislature cannot suspend the rules to change the order of consideration.

Each Bill is considered separately. Several Bills cannot be grouped together for consideration or voting.

### **Call to Order**

- ◆ At the opening of each session, the Presiding Officer uses the gavel and states, "By the authority vested in me, I declare the House (Senate) in session."
- ◆ The Presiding Officer calls upon the Chaplain to deliver a message.
- ◆ The Presiding officer calls upon the Clerk to read the "Order of the Day."
- ◆ Bills passed from the opposite Chamber coming in, will take precedence in the "Order of the Day".

### **Reading of the Bill**

The Presiding Officer says, "We are now ready for the third reading of the Bill."

The Clerk reads the Bill that appears at the top of the Order. The Clerk reads the number, author, title, the full text of the Bill, and any amendments approved by Committee.

### **Author's Statement**

- ◆ At the conclusion of the reading of the Bill, the Presiding Officer says, "The question is, shall the Bill pass?" The authors may make their opening statement.
- ◆ The authors, combined, have three minutes to explain their Bill, present a strong case for the Legislature to pass their Bill, and move its adoption. The authors may share the time. The Author, who speaks last at the end of their presentation, moves the adoption of the Bill and urges members to support the Bill.

### **Committee Reports**

- ◆ The Presiding Officer will ask for the Majority and Minority Reports from the Committee that considered the Bill.
- ◆ The members presenting the Majority and Minority Report are to give a complete summary to the Legislature of the Committee consideration of the Bill and why the Bill should be passed (Majority Report) and why it should be defeated (Minority Report).

### **Seeking Recognition**

- ◆ Members seek recognition after the Presiding Officer has said, "The question is, shall the Bill pass?"
- ◆ To be recognized, a member stands at their desk. Once a member has been recognized, all others must be seated until there is another opportunity to be recognized.
- ◆ The member who was recognized must remain standing and address the Presiding Officer as "Mr. Speaker" (House) or "Mr. President" (Senate) before making statements or asking the Presiding Officer's help in asking a question of the Bill authors. If a woman is presiding, the prefix is "Madame" instead of "Mister."

### **Statements and Debate by Members**

- ◆ Once the authors have spoken and moved the adoption of their Bill, and the Committee Majority and Minority Reports have been given, the Presiding Officer says, "The question is, shall the Bill pass?" At this time any member may speak by obtaining recognition from the Presiding Officer.
- ◆ Statements by members, speaking in support or in opposition to the Bill, take most of the time. Members speak on the issue. Members do not make personal remarks about other members of the Legislature.
- ◆ When members speak in support or opposition to a Bill, they say, "Mr. (or Madame) Speaker

(or President), I speak in favor (or opposition) of this Bill because . . . (give reasons you support or oppose the Bill) and urge others to vote for (or against) the Bill.

- ◆ Statements of support or opposition are not taken in any order. Whoever gets the floor may speak even if more than one pro or con speaker follows another.
- ◆ If there are many speeches, the Presiding Officer may rule that all speeches must be kept within a time limit and/or that no member may speak more than once until all others who want to speak have done so.

### **Asking Questions of the Authors**

- ◆ Authors of a bill may be questioned by another member. The authors are not required to yield to a question.
- ◆ The time for questions is limited to **three (3) questions**. Most time is spent with statements by members supporting or opposing Bills.
- ◆ Asking questions of an author gives the author a chance to respond. Members who oppose a Bill will find direct statements a better way to oppose the Bill.
- ◆ Members request permission of the authors, through the Presiding Officer, to ask a question. After being recognized, the member says, "Mr. (Madame) President (Speaker), will the author yield to a question?" The Presiding Officer will then ask the same question of the authors and then deliver their reply to the member.
- ◆ **Each** member is **limited to one question** until all members who want to have asked a question.
- ◆ When asking questions, members are to be brief and only ask their question. Statements are not to be made.

### **Motion to Amend**

- ◆ Amendments are made in writing on the amendment form. The member sends the amendment to the Clerk via a Page.
- ◆ Amendments indicate the line(s) to be amended by placing quotation marks around the amended language, and using wording such as "delete" and "add."
- ◆ All amendments must be signed by the author of the amendment.  
It is the responsibility of the author of the amendment to seek recognition from the Presiding Officer once the amendment has reached the Clerk's desk. Only then can any action be taken on the amendment.
- ◆ Once recognized, the member says, "Mr. /Madame Speaker (President), I have an amendment before the Floor.
- ◆ The Presiding Officer then instructs the Clerk to read the amendment. From this time until a vote is taken on the amendment, all remarks are directed to the amendment, not the Bill as a whole. Questions related to the amendment are asked of the authors of the amendment.
- ◆ The author of the amendment speaks first. The authors of the Bill then have two minutes to comment on the amendment.
- ◆ Before voting on the amendment, the author of the amendment has one minute to make a closing statement. A simple majority is needed for passage of the amendment. Voting may be by voice vote or by a standing vote.

Following the vote, the debate returns to the Bill.

- ◆ Amendments are best handled in Committees although they may be attempted on the Floor. Time devoted to amendments on the floor is to be kept to a minimum.
- ◆ Amendments cannot change the intent of the Bill
- ◆ Riders to Bills are not accepted.

### **Motion to Refer to Committee**

- ◆ Many amendments proposed during legislative debate may indicate the Committee needs to take another look at the Bill.
- ◆ If this occurs, a motion to “refer to Committee” may be in order. This motion must be seconded and then can be debated. A simple majority is needed for passage.
- ◆ Upon approval of the motion, the Bill is sent back to its Committee for further work and reconsideration. This Bill becomes the first item of business in the next Committee session.

### **Voting Procedures**

- ◆ The Presiding Officer is responsible to manage the time for the consideration of each Bill. The Presiding Officer has flexibility to allow more time to consider a Bill that generates a lot of interest and debate and to allow less time for a Bill that does not or clearly has significant support or opposition. The Presiding Officer will also end consideration of Legislation when discussion or debate becomes repetitive.

Prior to ending consideration of a Bill, the Presiding Officer will announce only one (or two) more pro and con statements from Legislators will be recognized.

The Presiding Officer takes the initiative in calling the vote. The motion of “Previous question”, used to end debate, is not an acceptable motion made from the Floor.

- ◆ Prior to voting, the authors (combined) have up to three minutes to make a closing statement and to urge the Legislature to support their Bill.
- ◆ The Presiding Officer will then say, “The question is, shall the Bill pass? All those in favor of the Bill, please stand.” A count is made and recorded by the Clerk.
- ◆ The Presiding Officer then says, “Those opposed to passage of the Bill, please stand.” Again, a count is made and recorded.
- ◆ When voting on the final passage of the Bill, the vote must be a standing vote. For the purposes of YLA Youth in Government, the majority (constitutional majority) needed to pass legislation is one more than half of those voting.
- ◆ Abstentions are not asked for nor are they recorded. If a member abstains from voting, they must leave the Floor during the vote. All members remaining on the Floor are assumed to be voting.
- ◆ If the majority favors the Bill, the Presiding Officer says, “I declare this Bill passed.” If the majority is opposed, then the Presiding Officer says, “I declare this Bill failed of passage.” There is no emergency legislation in Youth in Government.
- ◆ After a Bill is declared passed, the Clerk will read the Bill by number and title in the event any changes should be made to the title. The Presiding Officer will then say, “Without objection, the title is agreed to.” The Presiding Officer then moves on to the next order of business.

## **Other Possible Motions**

- ◆ Division of the House. If after a voice vote a member wants to challenge the decision of the Presiding Officer, the member may call, without waiting for recognition, "Division of the House." After the motion receives approval of the Presiding Officer or by a simple majority of the members, the vote is retaken as a standing vote. Roll call votes, however, are not permitted at Youth in Government.
- ◆ Point of Order. This motion is used by a member to question the procedures of the Presiding Officer or another member has used or to seek clarification of procedures. Again, a member need not wait recognition to make this motion.

The Presiding Officer has the sole authority to accept or reject the motion. The Presiding Officer does not call Point of Order.

- ◆ Point of Personal Privilege. This motion is used by a member to bring the Presiding Officer's attention to a disturbance in the chamber or to request that a member, who is speaking, raise their voice to be heard more clearly. Again, the Presiding Officer rules on the motion.
- ◆ Motion to Recess. This motion is normally used to allow members to caucus for a few minutes. Recess is not the same as adjournment. All members are required to remain in the chamber and the Legislature must reconvene at some time before adjournment. This motion may be made by a member without being recognized but must be seconded. The motion and the length of time of the recess are not debatable. A simple majority is needed for approval of the motion. NOTE: This motion is rarely used because debate on it takes too much time and proves to be counterproductive.
- ◆ Removal. After giving a member a private and a public warning, the Presiding Officer has the power to expel a member whose behavior is inappropriate for the Legislature. Circumstances that may lead to a member's expulsion include, but are not limited to:
  - inappropriate attire
  - not wearing their official name tag
  - great disregard for the procedure of the Legislature
  - interfering in or obstructing the proceedings

The Presiding Officer may have the official Sergeant-At-Arms expel the member.

- ◆ Suspension of the Rules. For the purposes of YLA Youth in Government, a motion to "Suspend the Rules" cannot be used to alter the legislative calendar, the dress and conduct rules, the conference's pre-printed agenda, the procedures of the Model Legislature, or the rules of YLA Youth in Government.

## **Procedure for the Governor's Office**

- ◆ Once a Bill is passed, the Clerk takes it to the Bill Coordinator who records it. When action is taken on the Bill by the Governor, the Bill is returned to the Bill Coordinator who records the Governor's action.
- ◆ An attempt to override the Governor's veto may be considered after action has been taken on all Bills before the Model Legislature.

Our purpose is to allow as many authors as possible to present their Bill to the Model Legislature rather than focus on overriding the Governor's veto.

A Senator or Delegate (not the Bill's author) offer a motion from the Floor (after being recognized) to consider overriding the veto. The Presiding Officer has the Clerk read the Bill.

- ◆ The Presiding Officer, in presenting vetoed Bill, says, "The question is, shall the Bill pass, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?" The author of the Bill then, once recognized by the Presiding Officer, may proceed to speak for passage of their Bill. The Governor or the Governor's representative may speak for four minutes on the vetoed Bill. A two-thirds majority of the House or Senate is required to override a Governor's veto.
- ◆ The Governor is to sign or veto all Bills passed by the Legislature. No Bills are to be left unsigned at the closing of the final joint session.
- ◆ The Governor is part of the "checks and balance" system of our government. The Governor must carry out the constitutional mandate to act on legislation. The Governor cannot "rubber stamp" legislative acts of the Legislature.

## Youth Governor and Governor's Cabinet

Cabinet members represent the Governor's interests to Committees and with Legislators. Cabinet members listen to Committee hearings and floor debates in their area of interest, act as the Governor's advocate on related legislation, and report to and advise the Governor on legislation that reaches the Governor's desk.

Cabinet members are available to advise legislators on the Governor's position on legislation. Legislators may find Cabinet members helpful in understanding YG procedures. Cabinet members are available to listen and help legislators. Just ask.

Cabinet members may speak to Committees on legislators and may speak with legislators outside Committee and floor sessions. Cabinet members may not speak on the floor of the House or Senate.

Cabinet members represent the Governor's position on the legislation listed below. The Governor's position on Legislation is indicated so sponsors of legislation may provide information to Cabinet member and to the Governor in their work to gain the Governor's support.

### Governor & Cabinet's Position

#### SENATE BILLS

Bill	Position	Bill	Position	Bill	Position	Bill	Position	Bill	Position	Bill	Position	Bill	Position	Bill	Position
S 01	Scantlin - For	S 02	Etzel - For	S 03	Carson -For	H 01		H 02	For	H 03	For	H 04		H 05	For
S 04		S 05	For	S 06		H 06	Carson - For	H 07	Etzel - For	H 08		H 09		H 10	For
S 07	Scantlin - For	S 08		S 09	Etzel - Against	H 11	For	H 12	Carson - Against	H 13		H 14		H 15	
S 10	Against	S 11		S 12	Etzel - Against	H 16		H 17		H 18	Scantlin - Against	H 19	Against	H 20	
S 13		S 14	Scantlin - For	S 15		H 21	Carson -For	H 22		H 23		H 24		H 25	
S 16		S 17	For	S 18		H 26	Etzel - Against	H 27		H 28		H 29		H 30	
S 19		S 20		S 21		H 31		H 32		H 33		H 34		H 35	
S 22						H 36									

#### HOUSE BILLS

# Lobbyist Delegates

Lobbyists represent special interests. Lobbyists work to PERSUADE Legislative Delegates to amend, support, or oppose bills. These delegates work independently and in groups of other Lobbyists who share similar and group interests. Youth in Government Lobbyists work to influence 5 – 10 pieces of legislation and may join with other Lobbyists to work on other legislation.

Lobbyists may appear before committees to testify on legislation by arranging with the Chair a time on the committee’s agenda. Lobbyists may also “lobby” legislators at other times in the Capitol or Statehouse. Lobbyists may not speak on the Floor of the House or Senate. Lobbyists may present their case to the Governor’s Cabinet, Officers, Youth in Government Press and the Youth Governor. The following chart indicates bills to be lobbied by each Lobbyist Delegate.

Bill Number	Lobbyist/Position	Bill Number	Lobbyist/Position	Bill Number	Lobbyist/Position
House 1		House 2		House 3	
House 4	Lafferty - For	House 5		House 6	
House 7		House 8		House 9	Lafferty - For
House 10		House 11		House 12	
House 13		House 14		House 15	
House 16		House 17		House 18	
House 19		House 20		House 21	
House 22		House 23		House 24	Lafferty - Against
House 25		House 26		House 27	
House 28		House 29	Lafferty - For	House 30	
House 31		House 32		House 33	
House 34					
Senate 1		Senate 2		Senate 3	
Senate 4		Senate 5		Senate 6	
Senate 7	Lafferty - For	Senate 8		Senate 9	
Senate 10		Senate 11	Lafferty - Against	Senate 12	
Senate 13		Senate 14		Senate 15	
Senate 16		Senate 17		Senate 18	
Senate 19	Lafferty - For	Senate 20		Senate 21	
Senate 22					

# Schedule of Legislation

Day & Time	SENATE			HOUSE					
	Com 1	Com 2	Com 3	Com 1	Com 2	Com 3	Com 4	Com 5	
<b>Wednesday</b>									
<b>3:00 - 3:15 pm</b>	LEGISLATIVE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOUSE CHAMBER								
<b>3:25 - 3:45 pm</b>	Committee Introductions & Orientation								
<b>3:45 - 4:00 pm</b>	A	B	C		A	B	C	D	E
<b>4:00 - 4:20 pm</b>	1	2	3		1	2	3	4	5
<b>4:30 - 5:00 pm</b>	Floor Practice Bills				Floor Practice Bills				
<b>5:15 PM</b>	Bus Loop - Bus Back to the Hotel								

## Thursday

<b>9:00 - 9:20 am</b>	6	5	4		10	9	8	7	6
<b>9:25 - 9:45 am</b>	7	8	9		11	12	13	14	15
<b>9:50 - 10:10 am</b>	12	11	10		20	19	18	17	16
<b>10:20 am - 12:00 pm</b>	Senate in Session				House in Session				
<b>12:00 - 1:15 pm</b>	Lunch on your Own								
<b>1:15 - 1:45 pm</b>	GROUP PICTURES - Back Capitol Steps								
<b>2:00 - 2:20 pm</b>	13	14	15		21	22	23	24	25
<b>2:25 - 2:45 pm</b>	18	17	16		30	29	28	27	26
<b>2:50 - 3:10 pm</b>	20	<b>19</b>	21		31	32	33	34	35
<b>3:20 - 5:00 pm</b>	Senate in Session				House in Session				
<b>5:15 p.m.</b>	Bus Loop - Bus Back to the Hotel								

## Friday

<b>8:45 - 9:05 am</b>			22						36
<b>9:05 - 9:15am</b>	Complete exit surveys & hand out ballots - DO NOT VOTE IN COMMITTEE								
<b>9:25 - 10:45 am</b>	Senate in Session				House in Session				
<b>10:45 - 11:00 am</b>	Election of Senate Officers				Election of House Officers				
<b>11:15 am</b>	Joint Session - Election of Governor								
<b>12:15 pm</b>	Board Buses to Return to the Hotel - Bus Loop								
<b>12:30 pm</b>	Have a safe trip home!								

**WEST VIRGINIA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT**

**SIXTY-NINTH ANNUAL**

**STUDENT LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION – 2026**

A RESOLUTION

TO THANK THE WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE FOR THE USE OF THEIR CHAMBERS.

WHEREAS: The Legislature of the State of West Virginia has provided for the YLA Youth in Government Program the ideal facilities for the Sixty-Ninth Student Legislature Regular Session 2026, and

WHEREAS: This authentic environment has afforded the delegates better understanding of our State Government, and,

WHEREAS: The members of the West Virginia Legislature have graciously given valuable time and effort to ensure the continuing success of the YLA Youth in Government Program;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

Section 1. The delegates and all those connected with the YLA Youth in Government Program do Express their heartiest appreciation and most sincere gratitude to the West Virginia Legislature for the privilege granted us.

Section 2. The delegates and all other persons connected with the YLA Youth in Government Program earnestly hope that the forthcoming Student Legislature will be afforded the same opportunity.

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**SIXTY-NINTH STUDENT LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION – 2026**

A RESOLUTION

TO GRANT THE PRESS THE PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

WHEREAS: The Sixty-Ninth Annual YLA Student Legislature is convened on the twenty second day of April 2026, and

WHEREAS: It is customary and necessary that the representatives of the Press be given the privilege of the Floor so that the proceedings of this House can be reported easily and accurately to the people of West Virginia through the media of the Press, Television, Radio, and Social Media;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THIS STUDENT LEGISLATURE HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

The duly accredited members of the Student Legislature Press Delegation be granted the right to be on the Floor of the Legislative Chambers at all times for the purpose of Reporting the news of this House.

---

**A BILL**  
**REVISING CANDIDATE CONTRIBUTION LIMITATIONS**

*A Bill to amend the code of West Virginia in chapter 3-5-5C, changing the maximum limitation number through sections (A)-(B).*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1.

3 Definitions: A "candidate" being recognized as any individual seeking an elected office. A "person"  
4 being a body that wishes to give an endorsement to a candidate directly. A "lobbyist" as a person  
5 who attempts to influence legislatures in an organized fashion. A "political action committee" any  
6 organization that pools campaign contributions from members and donates those funds to candidates  
7 running for office directly or indirectly.  
8

9 Section 2.

10 The Purpose of this bill is to change the maximum contribution amount. Changing the peak amount  
11 form \$2,800 to the former amount of \$1,000.

12 Section 3.

13 By passing this bill, it will help confine the influence of money on any candidate. Ensuring that all  
14 candidates work for the people rather than a person, lobbyist, or political action committee. Passing  
15 this legislation will also, create a level playing field for all candidates running for office by not  
16 allowing an unfair advantage through finances.

17 Section 4.

18 This bill requires no additional funding from the state of West Virginia.

19 Section 5.

20 This bill will go into effect 60 days after passage.

---

**A BILL**

**Legal Vape and Tobacco Possession Age**

*To make changes to Article 9A of Chapter 16 to modify the legal age to purchase, possess, or use vapor and tobacco products across West Virginia and to require schools to report instances of this behavior.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2     Section 1. Replace “eighteen” with “twenty-one” in subsections (b) and (d) of Section 16-9A-2:

3     (b) No person, firm, corporation or business entity may sell, give or furnish, or cause to be sold, given  
4     or furnished, to any person under the age of ~~eighteen~~ twenty-one years: [...]

5     (d) Any individual who knowingly and intentionally sells, gives or furnishes or causes to be sold,  
6     given or furnished to any person under the age of ~~eighteen~~ twenty-one years any cigar, cigarette,  
7     snuff, chewing tobacco, tobacco product or tobacco-derived product, in any form, is guilty of a  
8     misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, for the first offense shall be fined not more than \$100;  
9     upon conviction thereof for a second or subsequent offense, is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be  
10    fined not less than \$100 nor more than \$500.

11    Section 2. Replace “18” with “twenty-one” in Section 16-9A-3:

12    A person under the age of ~~18~~ twenty-one years shall not have on or about his or her person or  
13    premises or use any cigarette, or cigarette paper, or any other paper prepared, manufactured or made  
14    for the purpose of smoking any tobacco products, in any form; any pipe, snuff, chewing tobacco,  
15    tobacco product, or tobacco-derived product: [...]

16    Section 3. Add a new subsection (b) to Section 16-9A-4 and make the existing language  
17    subsection (a):

18    (b) All elementary, middle, and high schools or their equivalent are required to notify the  
19    agencies mentioned in subsection (a) for any purchase, possession, or use of vapor and/or tobacco  
20    products by students under the legal age.

21    Section 4. This section shall become effective upon passage. The modifications to Article 9A of  
22    Chapter 16 shall be implemented at the start of 2027

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**A BILL**  
**EXPULSION AND MANDATORY COUNSELING FOR ANYONE WHO**  
**ENCOURAGES ANOTHER TO COMMIT SUICIDE**

*To be added to Chapter 18 of the West Virginia State Code.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2. Section 1. (a) expulsion- the action of depriving someone from membership in an organization or
3. forcing someone to leave a place. (b) counseling- giving psychological help and advice to someone. (c)
4. suicide- the act of taking one's own life voluntarily or intentionally. (d) bullying- one using superior
5. strength to harass and intimidate someone to make them feel inferior or force to do what one wants.
6. Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to decrease suicide and suicide attempts, decrease bullying, draw
7. attention the issue of suicide, and to punish anyone who encourages another to take their own life by
8. automatic 1-year expulsion and provide them with 1-year mandatory counseling to get them the
9. psychological help and advice on how to treat others they need before returning to schooling the
10. following year.
11. Section 3. By passing this bill West Virginia would promote anti-suicide by setting consequences and
12. punishments for one who encourages another to commit suicide. Currently the teen suicide rate for
13. West Virginia is 313 deaths by suicide per 100,000, making 12.69% of teen death in West Virginia
14. suicides. If passed, this bill is expected to lead to a decrease in suicide rates.
15. Section 4. This bill will not require and additional funding.
16. This bill will go into affect July 1, 2026.

**A BILL**  
**Offenses, and exempted behaviors for Medical cannabis**

*To amend bill §16-8A-14*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Definitions: a “physician” is a person who is licensed to practice medicine, or a person who is  
3 skilled in healing. A “parent” is a father or mother. A “dispensary” is a room where medicines are prepared and  
4 provided. A “medical facility” is a place where sick or injured people are given care or treatment. A “felony” is a  
5 crime, typically one involving violence, regarded as more serious than a misdemeanor, and usually punishable  
6 by imprisonment for more than one year or by death. A “dermatologist” is a medical practitioner qualified to  
7 diagnose and treat skin diseases. A “gynecologist” is a person who works with the female reproductive  
8 system.

9 Section 2. (a) The following persons when acting in strict compliance with the provisions of this article  
10 are not subject to arrest, prosecution, civil or administrative penalty, including a civil penalty or disciplinary  
11 action by a professional licensing board, or be denied any right or privilege, for:

12 (1) A qualifying patient in possession of more than four ounces of cannabis or two immature and two  
13 mature cannabis plants grown by the patient.

14 (2) A grower licensed under section six of this article, or a grower agent registered under section six of  
15 this article;

16 (3) A certifying physician not including gynecologists, and dermatologists;

17 (4) A parent or guardian who is carrying the cannabis for their child under the age of 18

18 (5) A dispensary licensed or a dispensary agent registered pursuant to this article;

19 (6) A processor licensed or a processor agent registered pursuant to this article; or

20 (7) A hospital, and medical facility, where a qualifying patient is receiving treatment.

21 Section 3. Any person who knowingly distributes, possesses with intent to distribute, possess or manufactures  
22 cannabis that has been diverted in violation of the provisions of this article from a qualifying patient, licensed  
23 grower, or licensed dispensary, is guilty of a felony and, upon conviction, shall be imprisoned in a state  
24 correctional facility for not less than five nor more than ten years, and fined not more than \$5,500

25 Section 4. The offense set forth in this subsection is separate and distinct from other provisions of this code  
26 prohibiting the manufacture, possession, or distribution of marijuana under this code.

27 This bill will go into affect July 1, 2026

---

**A BILL**

**To Help Find Missing Endangered Adults More Quickly**

*To be added to chapter 15 §15-3D-4 of the West Virginia Code.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. (a) Missing person is defined as any person who is reported missing to a law  
3 enforcement agency.

4 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to require immediate action by law enforcement to search and  
5 investigate for any person over the age of eighteen who is missing.

6 Section 3. By passing this bill, law enforcement will be required to fully investigate the reasoning  
7 behind the person's disappearance without delay. West Virginia is ranked ninth among other states  
8 with 6.76 per 100,000 people missing. Enacting this bill could potentially protect the complete  
9 disappearance of future missing persons in West Virginia.

10 Section 4. No funding will be required. Some investigations may require law enforcement officers  
11 to work overtime.

12 Section 5. This bill will go into effect January 1, 2027

2026

69th Annual WV YG  
House of Delegates



Youth Speaker of the House

Zoe Zervos

John Marshall YLA

2026 YLA West Virginia Youth in Government

House Committees

House Chamber Advisor ~ Josh Gary, John Marshall YLA

**Committee 1**  
House 410 M

**Committee Chair:**  
Elyssa Woolwine

Elaina Beard
Gordon Cantrell
Nicholas Haught
Grayson Hughes
Katelynn Lefler
Adelaide McVey
Logan Stacy
Jaylin Summers
Jade Underwood
Zakk Wells
Ali Wilfong
Sadie Wilt
Elyssa Woolwine
Ethan Lower, <b>Page</b>
Deborah Gump Jacob Powers <b>Advisors</b>

**Committee 2**  
House 252 M

**Committee Chair:**  
CJ Tucker

Brayden Adkins
Alivia Cogar
Kai Derfield
Lindsey Hacker
Carlee Lane
Carson Merritt
Becca Pastorius
Autumn Shaffer
Arabella Tomassetti
CJ Tucker
Nathaniel Palmer, <b>Page</b>
Christy Cardwell John Quesenberry Advisors

**Committee 3**  
House 460 M

**Committee Chair:**  
Alissa Depoy

Nathan Barnes
Alissa Depoy
Teagan Drennen
Carder Holden
Allie Johnson
Loretta Laraba
Dylan Miller
Easton Rice
Sarah Setterlund
Zane Stewart
Emalie Vincent
Ke'Moni Warner
Emma Null, <b>Page</b>
Mindy Dawson Caleb Price Advisors

**Committee 4**  
H 215-East

**Committee Chair:**  
Cole Holcomb

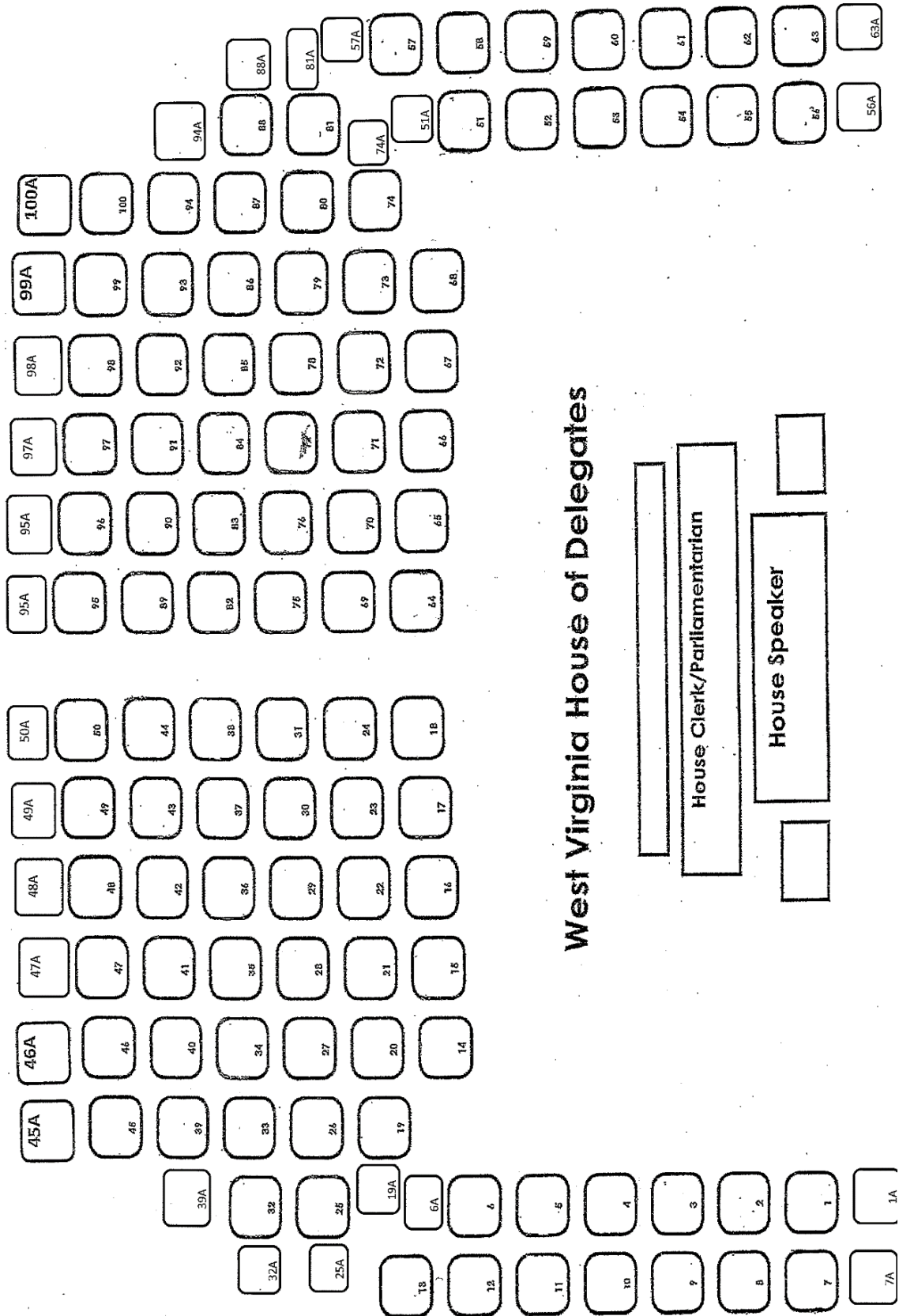
Sophia Austin
Logan Dalek
Josie Day
Claire Flanagan
Victor Greathouse
Cole Holcomb
Ichiro Ng
Ava Roach
Alaysia Rogers
Bernard Shackelford
McKenna Wilson
Isabella Partain, <b>Page</b>
Jennifer Whaley Renee Wilson Advisors

**Committee 5**  
H 434 M

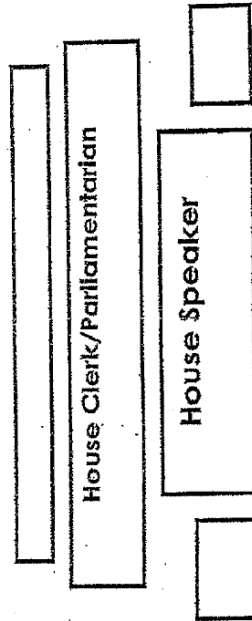
**Committee Chair:**  
Kylie Marlow

Kofi Ackon-Annan
M. Sayid Jaweed
Eli Jenkins
Elio Johnson
Isabella Lee
Leigha Manspeaker
Kylie Marlow
Madelyn Martin
Katie Samples
Hunter Shaffer
Lilly Vanhoose
William Wagoner
Carly Singleton, <b>Page</b>
Gabriel Rhodes Brittany Worley Advisors

# House of Delegates



## West Virginia House of Delegates



**2026 WEST VIRGINIA YLA YOUTH in GOVERNMENT HOUSE BILLS**

BILL #	TITLE	COM	DISPOSITION			GOV	Override
			COM	HOUSE FLOOR	SENATE FLOOR		
1	Protect Athletes of All Genders	H 01					
2	Mandatory Pre-School Education for All Children	H 02					
3	AI Transparency in Education Act	H 03					
4	A Bill Prohibiting Credit and Debit Card Surcharges	H 04					
5	Mental Health Days Off for Students	H 05					
6	Ban the Administration of Single-Use Plastic Bags	H 05					
7	To Reduce Cancer Patients' Out-of-Pocket Costs Through Income-Based Discounts and Pre-Debt Bill Approval	H 04					
8	To Implement Timely License Renewal Notification	H 03					
9	To Provide Mental Health Specialist for Students in Schools	H 02					
10	Telehealth Expansion Plus Act	H 01					
11	West Virginia Responsible Dog Breeding and Sales Act	H 01					
12	Electric Vehicle Road Tax	H 02					
13	Requiring Youth Impact Statements for Certain Legislation	H 03					
14	A Bill Relating to Physician-Assisted Suicide in Terminally Ill Adults	H 04					
15	The C.L.A.S.S. Act Criminal Limits for Applicants in School Settings Act	H 05					
16	To Improve Privacy in Public Restroom Stalls by Limiting Gaps in Stall Doors	H 05					
17	Animal Protection and Responsible Owner Act	H 04					
18	Legislative School District Reshaping	H 03					
19	West Virginia Reduced School Week Act	H 02					
20	To Allow a Limited Number of Excused Mental Health Day for Students in West Virginia Public School	H 01					
21	Performance-Based Nonprofit Funding Act	H 01					
22	To Ban the Creation of Sisters Cities between West Virginia and China	H 02					
23	Surreptitious Administration of Date Rape Narcotics Act	H 03					
24	War on Obesity	H 04					
25	Sexual Offenders Rehabilitation and Safety Act	H 05					
26	Homeless Education and Housing Program	H 05					
27	State-Run Prisoner Disaster Response Unit Act	H 04					
28	Construction Change	H 03					

**2026 WEST VIRGINIA YLA YOUTH in GOVERNMENT HOUSE BILLS**

BILL #	TITLE	COM	DISPOSITION			GOV	Override
			COM	HOUSE FLOOR	SENATE FLOOR		
29	WV School Uniform Provision	H 02					
30	Circular Economy and Sustainable Procurement Act	H 01					
31	West Virginia Online Safety for Minors Act	H 01					
32	Designate "Island in the Sun" by Weezer as an Official State Song of West Virginia	H 02					
33	Prom Promise Safe Driving Awareness Program	H 03					
34	West Virginia Energy Dependency Act	H 04					
35	Artificial Intelligence Ethics in Education Act	H 05					
36	Officer Bod Cameras Mandate Act	H 05					

<b>ACTION ON LEGISLATIVE BILLS DISPOSITION INDEX</b>	
Died in Committee	D Com
Defeated in Committee	Com Def
Passed in Committee	PC
Passed as Amended in Committee	PAC
Died in Senate	DS
Died in House	DH
Senate Defeated	S Def
House Defeated	H Def
Passed Senate	PS
Passed House	PH
Passed as Amended in Senate	PAS
Passed as Amended in House	PAH
Governor Signed	GS
Governor Vetoed	GV
Unsigned By Governor	GU

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**A BILL**  
**PROTECT ATHLETES OF ALL GENDERS**

*Wherein state law discriminates against transgender athletes; this bill's purpose is to repeal and replace West Virginia Code §18-2-25D*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1 Section 1.

2 (a) Transgender refers to an individual with a clinical diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria whose gender  
3 identity is different from their sex assigned at birth. (b) Gender Dysphoria is defined as the  
4 significant distress that may accompany the incongruence between one's experienced gender  
5 and one's assigned sex, as diagnosed by a licensed mental health or medical professional.

6 Section 2.

7 West Virginia Code §18-2-25d is hereby repealed in its entirety and reenacted with the provisions  
8 established in this bill.

9 Section 3.

10 (a) Students with a diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria shall be permitted to participate on athletic  
11 teams consistent with their gender identity provided they meet the medical requirements in  
12 subsection (b). (b) Transgender female athletes (MTF) must provide medical documentation of  
13 one (1) calendar year of continuous testosterone suppression treatment before competing on a  
14 female team or against female competitors in gender divided athletics. (c) Athletes qualifying  
15 under subsection (b) must continue said treatment for the remainder of the time they are an  
16 athlete and a student of the West Virginia Department of Education.

17 Section 4.

18 This bill shall go into effect July 1, 2026.

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**A BILL**

**Mandatory Pre-School Education for All Children**

*To amend §18-5-44 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1: (a) Pre-School Education- an early education program created for children who  
3 have attained the age of four prior to July 1 of the school year in which the children enter the  
4 program.

5 Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to make pre-school education(a) mandatory for all  
6 children who reside in the state of West Virginia. The program will be available at every  
7 school in each county.

8 Section 3: If this bill were to pass, it would provide children with the educational foundations  
9 needed for future education. As found in the West Virginia Code, early childhood education  
10 improves overall readiness when students enter school, decreases behavioral issues, improves  
11 student attendance, increases scores on achievement tests, decreases the percentage of  
12 students repeating grades, and decreases the number of students placed into special education  
13 programs.

14 Section 4: This bill will be funded by 20 U. S. C. §6301 as stated in the West Virginia State  
Code.

15 Section 5: This bill will go into effect at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

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**A BILL**

**AI TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION ACT**

*To add to §5A-6-9 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Definitions: Artificial Intelligence (AI): Any computational system that performs tasks  
3 typically requiring human intelligence, including but not limited to content generation, automated  
4 grading, tutoring, or decision-making. Educational Institution: Any public or private K–12 school,  
5 college, or university. Student Data: Any personal, academic, or behavioral information related to a  
6 student. AI-Assisted Content: Any material generated in whole or in part by an AI system.

7 Section 2. The purpose of the AI Transparency in Education Act is to ensure that schools are open  
8 and honest about how artificial intelligence is used in teaching, grading, and decision-making. The  
9 Act seeks to protect student privacy, promote fairness, and ensure that students and families  
10 understand when and how AI systems affect educational outcomes.

11 Section 3. Any use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) used by teachers or administrators must disclosed  
12 somewhere for parents or students to see. The Act would be implemented by requiring schools to  
13 clearly state when AI tools are being used. This information could be posted on the school’s website,  
14 included in the student handbook, or written at the bottom of assignment sheets when AI is used for  
15 grading or instruction. Teachers would briefly explain how the AI tool is being used and remind  
16 students of the school’s rules about acceptable AI use.

17 Section 4. This Act shall be funded using existing state and school district technology budgets.  
18 Schools may use current education funds to cover minor costs such as updating websites, printing  
19 handbook changes, and providing staff training. No new taxes shall be required to implement this  
20 Act.

21 Section 5. This bill will go into effect in the 2026-2027 school year.

**A BILL**

**A BILL PROHIBITING CREDIT AND DEBIT CARD SURCHARGES**

To add new definitions to §46A-6-102 and add a new section, §46A-6-111, to improve consumer protections by prohibiting surcharges and requiring fee disclosures on purchases made with debit and credit cards.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:**

1    Section 1: Amend West Virginia Code section §46A-6-102 by adding definitions as follows:

2            (a) “Surcharge” means any increase of the regular price, or fees imposed on the cardholder  
3 that are not imposed on a customer paying by cash, check, or other means.

4            (b) “Credit card” means any physical or electronic payment instrument that enables a person to  
5 obtain cash, goods, or services by accessing a line of credit, with repayment deferred under agreed terms.

6            (c) “Debit card” means any physical or electronic payment instrument that enables a person to  
7 obtain cash, goods, or services by directly accessing funds on deposit in an account, with amounts  
8 deducted at or near the time of the transaction.

9            (d) “Governmental entity” means the State of West Virginia, any county or municipality  
10 within the state, any department, agency, board, or commission of the state, or any political  
11 subdivision, including boards, authorities, or other instrumentalities of the state established under law.

12    Section 2: Amend code by adding a new section, designated §46A-6-111, as follows:

13            (a) A seller may not impose a surcharge onto a cardholder who elects to use a debit card or credit  
14 card in lieu of payment by cash, check, or other means.

15            (b) Nothing in this section prohibits a seller from offering a discount to encourage the buyer to  
16 pay by other means, if such discount is offered to all prospective buyers and clearly disclosed.

17            (c) Nothing in this section prohibits a seller from setting minimum purchase amounts for debit or  
18 credit card payments, if it is clearly disclosed to the buyer before purchase.

19 (d) A governmental entity may impose a surcharge for payments made with a credit or debit card  
20 for taxes, fines, fees, or other charges authorized by law.  
21 (1) The surcharge must be clearly disclosed to the consumer, prior to payment.  
22 (2) The consumer must be informed, prior to payment, that the surcharge may be avoided by payment  
23 with cash, check or other means.  
24 (3) The surcharge must not exceed the actual cost incurred by the governmental entity for processing the  
25 transaction.  
26 (4) This subsection is intended to supplement and not limit any other provision of this code authorizing a  
27 governmental entity to recover processing costs associated with accepting credit and debit card payments.  
28 Section 3: This Bill will go into effect 180 days following the passage of this bill.

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**A BILL**  
**Mental Health Days Off For Students**

*To amend §18-8-4 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2    Section 1. Let “mental health” be defined as a person’s condition with regard to their psychological  
3    and emotional well-being. “Let “excused absences” as time away from school that has been approved  
4    by administrators.

5    Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to allow each student to be excused up to one day per grading  
6    period that the student may be feeling down, depressed or simply overwhelmed due to constant  
7    instruction or external personal hindrances. This will act as a loss of instruction for the student, which  
8    will be made up by the students improved mental health and ability to focus on days of instruction.

9    Section 3. Students are not permitted to take more than one mental health day off per nine weeks  
10    without a doctor’s excuse in which case they may take additional days off school. For each of the 4  
11    dates per year, a parent note will suffice, but if there are additional days need, a doctor’s note or  
12    excuse is needed.

13    Section 4. This bill will require no additional funding.

14    Section 5. This bill will be effective as of the 2026-2027 school year to ensure positive  
15    psychological health among students as soon as possible.

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**A BILL**

**Ban the Administration of Single-Use Plastic Bags**

*To amend §16-63-2 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1 Section 1. Definitions: (a) Let “single-use plastic bag” be defined as items that are made of polymer,  
2 mainly used once, then thrown away. Typically used for the purpose of carrying or encasing food,  
3 groceries, or merchandise. This definition does not include trash bags or medical packaging. (b) Let  
4 “institutions” be defined as any public or private business with the intent of selling food, goods, or  
5 services to a consumer. These include restaurants, grocery stores, markets, department stores, and  
6 small businesses.

7 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to ban the production and importation of single-use plastic bags  
8 in all public and private institutions in West Virginia. This will reduce the volume of plastic waste in  
9 the state, which will aid our animal and plant conservation and boost tourism aspects like outdoor  
10 recreation by reducing plastic pollution. Both residents and tourists will benefit from the social and  
11 environmental effects.

12 Section 3: If this bill were to pass, the state of West Virginia will join the 12 other states in our  
13 country as a less polluted state. This ban can aid our state by allowing less taxpayer money to be  
14 spent on litter cleanup and reduce landfill overflow. Tourism will aid from this bill by preserving  
15 outdoor recreational areas such as state parks, rivers, trails, and scenic landscapes that attract visitors.  
16 All residents and tourists will be directly affected by this bill with a cleaner environment. The ban of  
17 single-use plastic bags will also help wildlife within the state by reducing up to 25%-47% of plastic  
18 bags found in forests, rivers, lakes, and streams as seen in states with similar bans.

19 Section 4: This bill will not require any funding.

20 Section 5: This bill will go into effect January 1<sup>st</sup> of the next year calendar (2027).

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A BILL

**To reduce cancer patients' out-of-pocket costs through income-based discounts and pre-debt bill approval**

To be amended §16-5Q-1. Creation of the James "Tiger" Morton catastrophic illness fund.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. (A) Insured- Covered under a health care plan. (B) Out of pocket costs- Expenses for  
3 medical care that are not included in insurance. (C) Co-pay – A flat fee that you pay on the spot each  
4 time you go to your doctor or fill a prescription. (D) Medicaid- A public health insurance program for  
5 some people or families with limited incomes and resources, including children, pregnant women,  
6 older adults, and people with disabilities. People who receive Medicaid have most or all their health  
7 care services paid for by U.S. Federal, State, and Local governments. (E) Charity Care- Discounts or  
8 bill forgiveness based on income offered by hospitals. (F) Lower Income- Federal guideline defines  
9 low income as \$15,650 annually for one person and. \$32,150 for a family  
10 in 2025

11 Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to prevent medical debt among cancer patients by applying  
12 income-based discounts before billing. This ensures patients can continue treatment without financial  
13 collapse, helping them remain employed and recover physically and economically. West Virginia  
14 will benefit through reduced cancer mortality, improved workforce retention, and lower rates of  
15 medical debt.

16 Section 3: If this bill were to pass, hospitals will be required to assess a patient's income before  
17 issuing bills for cancer-related treatment. Patients who are insured but do not qualify for Medicaid or  
18 Charity Care, and whose income falls below \$35,000 annually, will receive discounts on out-of-  
19 pocket costs. This includes reduced co-pays and deductibles. The goal is to prevent medical debt  
20 before it begins, ensuring access to care and financial stability.

- 21 Section 4: Hospitals and charities already pay for and write off the bill, so no new fund is needed.
- 22 Section 5: This bill will go into effect immediately after passage.

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**A BILL**

**To Implement Timely License Renewal Notification**

*To amend W. Va State Code §17B-2-12a and §30-28-14,*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

Section 1: Definitions – “Agency” refers to any state board, commission, department, or division that issues licenses, permit, certificates, registrations, for authorization subject to renewal under West Virginia code. “Licensee” means any individual or entity, holding a state issued license, permit, certificate, or registration that is subject to renewal. “Renewal notice” refers to a written or electronic notice, informing a licensee of an upcoming renewal, deadline, applicable fees, and renewal process instructions.

Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to ensure that individuals and businesses holding state issued professional licenses, permits, certificates, and business registrations receive timely reminders before expiration.

Section 3: Each agency shall send a renewal notice to the licensee not less than 60 days prior to the expiration date of any license, permit, certificate, or registration issued by that agency. The notice shall be sent by two methods: first class mail and electronic notice. First class mail will be addressed to the licensee’s last known mailing address on file with the agency. Additionally, the licensee will receive an automated email and phone call reminder of their renewal, given the licensee has provided the agency with a valid email address and mobile contact information. A renewal notice shall contain the expiration date of the current license, permit, certificate, or registration, the deadline for submitting a renewal application (including any applicable fees), clear instructions for how to renew, and any continuing education or documentation requirements for renewal.

Section 4: This bill requires no additional funding.

Section 5: This bill shall go into effect January 1, 2027.

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**“TO PROVIDE MENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST FOR STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS”**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1: Let “specialist” be defined as a person who is devoted to one particular branch of  
3 subject, “suicide” be defined as a person who intentionally takes their own life, “depression” be  
4 defined as the state of being depressed, “anxiety” be defined as distress or uneasiness of mind caused  
5 by fear of danger or misfortune.

6 Section 2: This is an act to provide a mental health specialist for students in middle and high  
7 schools. We have noticed that middle and high school kids are more affected by mental health issues  
8 than others. Therefore, there will be an assigned behavioral therapist to focus on mental health for the  
9 student body in the middle and high schools.

10 Section 3: If this bill were to pass it will provide a specialist in middle and high schools for  
11 mental health. Like a school counselor a therapist would be provided for students with mental health  
12 problems. Having a therapist in the schools all the time would be beneficial because there would be  
13 an adult with advanced training to aid students with mental health struggles. It should help the  
14 prevention and support of thoughts of suicide, depression, and anxiety. This will affect adolescent  
15 children who are in between the ages of 10-19 years of age.

16 Section 4: Funding for the specialist’s salary will come from the local school district. They can  
17 receive that money from enrollment in schools, local property taxes, or federal grants. This position  
18 will be especially important to the student body and will be as or even more important than a school  
19 counselor. They will be paid a determined amount decided by the school district, but the estimate will  
20 be around \$40,000-\$70,000.

21 Section 5: This bill will go into effect by the summer of 2027, when the job position is to be  
22 opened and filled by the school district. Then the specialist will be hired and start their job in the fall  
23 of the 2027-2028 school year.

**Telehealth Expansion Plus Act**

*To be added OR amend §30-1-26*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1    Section 1: (a) Telehealth-The provision of healthcare remotely by means of telecommunications  
2    technology. (b) Health Care Provider-A licensed person or organization that provides health care  
3    services. (c) Medicaid-Insurance program that provides free or low-cost health coverage.

4    Section 2: The Telehealth Expansion Plus Act calls for the expansion of low-cost, and no-cost  
5    telehealth services for residents of West Virginia. The goal is to strengthen provider participation,  
6    while also promoting health care for all long-term West Virginia residents.

7    Section 3: If the Telehealth Expansion Plus Act were to pass, West Virginia would see a significant  
8    jump in health care providers, and a drop in suicides and mental health crisis per year. Telehealth  
9    expansion means more accessible programs relating to mental health consultations for the low-  
10   income, long-term residents in West Virginia. This bill would be administered and programmed  
11   through existing DHHR and Medicaid programs in West Virginia in order to make it more accessible  
12   for all residents.

13   Section 4: This bill requires provider incentives and participation, meaning it will require on-going  
14   funding from insurance companies such as Medicaid. Medicaid reimburses Telehealth, and Federal  
15   Government covers 50-70% of all Medicaid costs.

16   Section 5: The Telehealth Expansion Plus act will go into effect immediately after passage.

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**A BILL**  
**WEST VIRGINIA RESPONSIBLE DOG BREEDING AND SALES ACT**

*To be amended (19-20-26)*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

- 2 Section 1. Definitions: let “seller” be defined as any person or business that sells, offers a sale, or  
3 transfers ownership of a dog or compensation. Let “adequate care” be defined as proper food, clean  
4 water, veterinary care, sanitary housing, and humane treatment.
- 5 Section 2. (Purpose: to protect the health and welfare of dogs bred and sold in West Virginia, so we  
6 can prevent inhumane breeding practices, including puppy mills. To ensure transparency and  
7 accountability among sellers and consumers and to protect buyers within the state.)
- 8 Section 3: If this bill were to pass, it would aim to stop the mass number of dogs being bred  
9 within the state of West Virginia. The hope is to cutdown on the sheer thousands of dogs that go  
10 into the shelter every year. We want to make sure that breeders are qualified to bred and sell dogs and  
11 require the basic standard of animal care. The goal would be to enforce getting licensed to sell and or  
12 breed dogs. To get licensed applicants must be over the age of eighteen, and a licensing fee varying  
13 on whether they are a small breeder or a commercial breeder. They should adhere to the standards of  
14 care, providing necessary veterinary care including vaccinations. Breeders shall keep records of the  
15 dogs they breed including the date of birth, medical history breeding history and the date of sales and  
16 transfers. This information can be used for situations where a dog who is bred is having a health  
17 issue, keeping this information can help decide what all needs to be done for the dog treatment wise,  
18 and if the dog is safe with its current owner. The department will also be able to conduct announced  
19 or unannounced inspections of licensed facilities. Law enforcement agencies may aid in enforcement  
20 when needed. Defying this and doing wrong such as selling dogs without a license, forging records,  
21 selling a dog under the age of 8 weeks, and not keeping dogs in proper conditions will result in  
22 penalties. Violations will result in a minimum \$1000 fine and if it happens more then once it will be

23 increased, licenses will be suspended or revoked, or animals will be taken. This act does not apply to  
24 nonprofit animal shelters or rescue organizations as well as individuals who breed dogs solely for  
25 personal use (when they do not transfer ownership it becomes even more so of a problem).

26 Section 4: Funding: this bill requires funds for slight costs such as a small fee which could come from  
27 the WVDA (West Virginia Department of Agriculture Animal Health Division) for the department to  
28 check on the animals well being. This would be the money would be raised from the licensing fee.

29 Section 5: Date: This bill will go into effect 6 months after passage to allow people time to get a  
30 license and finish their current litters.)

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**A BILL**  
**Electric Vehicle Road Tax**

*To amend §17A-10-3c of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. (a) Electric Vehicle (EV): A motor vehicle powered fully or partly by electricity  
3 and not reliant solely on gasoline or diesel fuel. (b) Fuel Tax: A per-gallon tax imposed on  
4 gasoline and diesel fuel used to fund transportation infrastructure, including road construction and  
5 maintenance. (c) Miles Per Gallon (MPG): A measure of a vehicle’s fuel efficiency, representing the  
6 number of miles traveled per gallon of fuel consumed.

7 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to ensure equal contribution to road maintenance funding by  
8 establishing a road usage tax for electric vehicles comparable to the fuel tax paid by gasoline-  
9 powered vehicles. This bill is intended to provide a fair and sustainable funding mechanism for  
10 transportation infrastructure.

11 Section 3. The existing two-hundred-dollar annual registration fee on electric vehicles will be  
12 removed and replaced by a road usage tax based on total miles driven annually. The tax rate shall be  
13 calculated to be equal with gas-powered vehicles. The current average cost per mile is \$0.358. The  
14 average MPG in West Virginia is 24.5. EVs shall be given a tax of \$0.35 per 24.5 miles driven.

15 Section 4. This bill does not require any additional funding.

16 Section 5. This bill will go into effect January 1, 2027.

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**A BILL**  
**Requiring Youth Impact Statements for Certain Legislation**

*To add section §4-1-24 to the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Definitions: The term “Youth” means individuals under the age of eighteen or students  
3 enrolled in kindergarten through twelfth grades. “Youth Impact Statement” means a brief written  
4 analysis describing the potential effects of proposed legislation on youth populations. “Consultation”  
5 means the act of seeking input from youth, youth-serving organizations, educators, or professionals  
6 with expertise in youth-related issues.

7 Section 2. (a) Any bill reasonably expected to affect youth in areas including, but not limited to,  
8 education, labor, public health, juvenile justice, technology, or privacy shall include a Youth Impact  
9 Statement prior to committee consideration. (b) The Youth Impact Statement shall include: 1)  
10 Identification of the youth population affected, 2) A summary of potential short-term and long-term  
11 impacts, 3) Consideration on impacts on vulnerable or underserve youth populations, and 4)  
12 disclosure of whether youth consultation occurred, including brief summary of input received, or an  
13 explanation if consultation did not occur.

14 Section 3. (a) A Bill required to have a Youth Impact Statement may not advance to a committee  
15 vote until the statement is completed. (b) Failure to include a Youth Impact Statement shall not  
16 invalidate enacted pursuant to this section.

17 Section 4. This bill does not require any additional funding.

18 Section 5. This bill will go into effect January 1, 2027.

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**A BILL**

**A Bill Relating to Physician-Assisted Suicide in Terminally Ill Adults**

*To amend WV Code §16-30-25, and to resolve conflict with Article 3, Section 23 of the WV Constitution*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1 Section 1. For the purpose of this bill, let physician-assisted suicide be defined as a medical practice in which a  
2 licensed physician, at the voluntary and informed request of a mentally competent, terminally ill patient,  
3 prescribes medication that the patient may choose to self-administer in order to bring about a peaceful and  
4 dignified death. Terminal illness means an incurable and irreversible condition that is expected to result in  
5 death within a limited timeframe. Mentally competent means the ability to understand one's medical  
6 conditions, available treatment options, and the consequences of the decision. Section 2. The purpose of this  
7 bill is to allow mentally competent, terminally ill adults in West Virginia to choose physician-assisted suicide  
8 under strict limits and protections, while ensuring patient autonomy, informed consent, and safeguards against  
9 coercion or abuse.

10 Section 3. If this bill were to pass, physician-assisted suicide would be permitted only for individuals who are  
11 at least eighteen years old, are legal residents of West Virginia, and have been diagnosed with a terminal  
12 illness. The patient must be mentally competent and must make the request voluntarily, without  
13 pressure or coercion. The patient is required to make two oral requests to the primary physician with at  
14 least fifteen days between requests, as well as one written request signed in the presence of two  
15 witnesses. At least one witness must not be related to the patient or benefit financially from the patient's  
16 death. The primary physician must inform the patient of all end-of-life options, including palliative and  
17 hospice care. A second physician must independently confirm the diagnosis, prognosis, mental  
18 competence, and voluntariness of the request. If either physician believes the patient's judgment may be

19 impaired by a mental health condition, the patient must be referred for a mental health evaluation. No  
20 physician or healthcare provider is required to participate, and refusal to participate should not result in  
21 punishment.

22 Section 4. This bill does not require additional state funding, as it would be implemented through  
23 existing medical and regulatory systems. Any associated costs will be managed through current health  
24 department resources.

25 Section 5. This bill is to take effect ninety days after passage.

A BILL

The C.L.A.S.S. Act

Criminal Limits for Applicants in School Settings Act

*To ensure the safety of students and teachers in educational facilities*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Section 1: “Teacher” is defined as any individual required to hold a professional teaching certificate, license, or permit for employment in a public or private K-12 educational facility.

“Misdemeanor” is defined as a criminal offense less serious than a felony, punishable by fine or short-term imprisonment in a local facility.

Section 2: The goal of this bill is to ensure student safety be hold teacher to a higher standard of law abidance. Following the passage of this bill, all incoming teachers will be expected meet the standards outlined in section 3

Section 3: The offenses that will disqualify a teacher from eligibility of a certification, renewal of a certification, or continued employment as a teacher if they have been convicted are as follows: felony convictions, two or more misdemeanor convictions, or a single misdemeanor involving violence, sexual misconduct involving minors, or controlled substances.

Section 4: This bill requires no additional funding.

Section 5: This bill shall go into effect 90 days after its passage, and it will apply to all employees that are receiving a background check.

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**A BILL**  
**To Improve Privacy in Public Restroom Stalls**  
**by Limiting Gaps in Stall Doors**

*To be added §15A-11-5*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

Section 1. (a) Bathroom stall door – a door used within an enclosed stall in a multi-user restroom. (b)

Side gap – the vertical space between a bathroom stall door and the adjoining divider when the door is

closed. (c) Partition – a structure, wall, or panel that separates or divides an area into distinct sections. (d)

Public restroom - a multi-user restroom located in a publicly accessible facility, including but not limited to gas stations, rest areas, retail establishments, schools, and government buildings. (e) New construction or renovation - the construction of a new facility or a renovation that includes the replacement or reinstallation of bathroom stall doors.

Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to improve privacy, comfort, and safety in public restrooms throughout West Virginia. Excessive gaps between bathroom stall doors and partitions reduce personal privacy and may create discomfort for restroom users. This bill establishes reasonable installation standards while remaining practical for public facilities.

Section 3: If this bill were to pass, it would require bathroom stall doors in public restrooms, when part of new construction or major renovations, to limit excessive vertical side gaps when the door is closed. The bill does not regulate the gap beneath stall doors and applies only to public and government-funded facilities, such as schools and other publicly accessible buildings. Compliance would be reviewed through existing building inspection and permitting processes. Building inspection will fail to pass if compliance is not met. This bill primarily affects contractors and public facility administrators and benefits the public by improving privacy in shared restroom spaces.

Section 4: This bill does not require additional state funding. Enforcement shall occur through existing inspection and permitting systems. Because the bill applies only to new construction and renovations, no immediate replacement of existing stall doors is required.

Section 5: This bill shall go into effect on January 1, 2027.

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**A BILL**  
**ANIMAL PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE OWNER ACT**  
*To amend §61-8-19 of the West Virginia State Code*

2    Section 1.    Definitions: a) Animal Abuse- the infliction of unnecessary suffering to an animal,  
3    including physical, sexual, and emotion harm. b) Misdemeanor- non- lethal, but still intentional harm  
4    or neglect to and animal. c) Felony- severe, intentional, deadly animal torture.

5    Section 2.    The purpose of this bill is to not only help prevent animal abuse but to enforce more harsh  
6    punishments to those who do and to make it more difficult for those convicted of the crime to adopt,  
7    reside with, or own animals in the future.

8    Section 3.    For both a felony and a misdemeanor, in addition to the already state implemented  
9    punishments, there will be mandatory community service in the amount determined by a judge.  
10    Those convicted of a felony will be no longer permitted to own, live with, or be in possession of any  
11    animal, unless they complete the mandatory psychological evaluation, proper animal-care classes,  
12    and anger counseling as determined by a judge. These must be funded by the person that committed  
13    the crime and can only be completed following the mandated up to 15-year time-period without  
14    living with, owning, or adopting any animal.

15    Section 4.    This bill will not require funding any funding by the state government.

16    Section 5.    This bill will go into effect six months after passage.

**A BILL**

**LEGISLATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT RESHAPING**

*To be added to Chapter 1 and Chapter 18 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

- 1 Section 1. (a) school district - a specific, legally defined geographic area and local  
2 government entity responsible for managing, financing, and operating public elementary, and  
3 secondary schools within its jurisdiction. (b) school district reshaping - for purposes of this  
4 bill, school district reshaping shall refer to the legislative act of changing school district  
5 boundary lines and establishing a new school district on a larger scale.
- 6 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to consolidate county school districts into  
7 larger regional districts. This bill aims to widen funding for public school districts, and to  
8 spread out funds for public schools administratively. Finally, this bill aims to help struggling  
9 school districts from state takeover, and bankruptcy.
- 10 Section 3. This bill, after passage shall direct the West Virginia Department of Education to  
11 adjust the Public School Funding Formula to \$35/enrolled student/day. This bill, also after  
12 passage shall direct the West Virginia Department of Education to consolidate all county  
13 school systems into larger regional school districts. (a) these regional school districts shall  
14 shall follow these guidelines: each regional school district shall have no more than  
15 twenty-five thousand students and shall contain no more than ten West Virginia counties.

16 (b) the West Virginia Department of Education shall use the adjusted school funding  
17 formula to appropriate funds to new regional districts. (c) the West Virginia Department  
18 of Education shall also appoint one Superintendent of Schools to run each regional school  
19 district. Superintendents' salaries shall be no more than \$220,000. (d) each regional school  
20 district shall submit reports to the West Virginia State Treasurer and West Virginia  
21 Department of Education detailing where state appropriated funds were used during  
22 each school year. (e) each regional school district shall have up to an 8 member  
23 board of education. These boards shall consist of one elected member from each  
24 county encompassed by each regional district. Each board member shall be payed  
25 no more than \$10,500/fiscal year or no more than \$262/meeting with no more than 40  
26 meetings/fiscal year. subject to the decision of the West Virginia Board of Education.  
27 Section 4. This bill shall go into effect at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

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**A Bill**

West Virginia Reduced School Week Act

*To amend §18-5-45 of the West Virginia state code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

- 1 Section 1. Definitions: Reduce- To make something smaller in size, amount, degree, or number  
2 Week- A period of seven days.
- 3 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to reduce the school week to four days. School districts in  
4 West Virginia will turn their schedules from Monday through Friday, to Monday, Tuesday,  
5 Thursday, and Friday. Giving students a break on Wednesday. The goal is to enrich West  
6 Virginia's education system by entertaining the idea of a "brain break" for students.
- 7 Section 3. If this bill were to pass, all West Virginia schools will change their schedule for  
8 student's Pre-K through twelfth grade. Staff will continue to go all five days; teachers will use  
9 Wednesday as a planning day. School will not be extended into the summer, the school year will  
10 remain the same length. The brain break for the students and the enhanced performance for the  
11 teachers is aimed to help improve West Virginia's education system. Teachers will improve their  
12 educating abilities by allowing them to refine their lesson plans after analyzing how their  
13 students comprehend the curriculum at the beginning of the week. This new week system will  
14 help improve behavioral issues by giving children a break from their everyday sit-down class.  
15 The school will host non-mandatory daycare for students on Wednesday, and buses will still  
16 complete routes. Teachers will switch off daycare duty and planning throughout the day,  
17 following the student to teacher ratio. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.
- 18 Section 4. There would be no funding needed form the state
- 19 Section 5. If passed this bill will go into effect with the new school year, August 2026

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**A BILL**  
**TO ALLOW A LIMITED NUMBER OF EXCUSED MENTAL HEALTH**  
**DAY FOR STUDENTS IN WEST VIRGINIA PUBLIC SCHOOL**

To be added to chapter 18 article 8 of the West Virginia State Code.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

1    Section 1:

2    Definitions:

3    “Mental health day” refers to an excused school absence taken by a student to address  
4    emotional, psychological, or stress related health needs.

5    “Eligible student” refers to any student enrolled in a public middle or high school in West  
6    Virginia.

7    “Absenteeism” refers to a student’s failure to attend school for any reason during a regularly  
8    scheduled school day, including excused and unexcused absences.

9    Section 2:

10   Purpose: The purpose of this bill is to support student well-being by recognizing mental health as  
11   equally important as physical health and by allowing a limited number of excused mental health  
12   days to reduce stress, burnout, and long-term absenteeism.

13   Section 3:

14   If this bill were to pass, students would be allowed to take up to three excused mental health days  
15   per school year. These absences would be treated the same as physical illness absences and  
16   would not result in disciplinary action. Parental or guardian confirmation may be required for  
17   students under the age of 18. Students will be given reasonable time to make up missed  
18   assignments. Students, parents, teachers, and schools will be affected by improved attendance,  
19   better student focus, and healthier learning environments.

20   Section 4:

21   Funding: This bill requires no additional state funding, as it uses existing school attendance  
22   systems and counseling resources currently in place.

23   Section 5:

24   Date: This bill will go into effect the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

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A BILL

“Performance-Based Nonprofit Funding Act”

To Amend West Virginia Code §5B-2-4 to allocate funding to the necessary nonprofit organizations that positively affect our local communities within the great state of West Virginia deemed by performance based qualifications. .

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:**

Section 1) Definitions: (A) Let “Nonprofit” be defined as an organization that exists to serve a mission or support a cause not to make money. (B) Let "Performance Based Funding” be defined as funding allocated as a result of delivering deserving results for members of the West Virginia community.(C) Let “Mission” be defined as a set goal to improve a community through assistance. (D) Let “Poverty & economic inequality assistance” be defined as food banks, housing assistance, shelters, and financial literacy. (E) Let “Education assistance” be defined as tutoring, scholarships, school access, adult literacy, and early childhood programs. (F) Let “Healthcare assistance” be defined as free clinics, health education, counseling, and substance abuse recovery. (G) Let “Environmental assistance” be defined as climate action, conservation, clean water, and wildlife protection. (H) Let “Human rights assistance” be defined as civil rights, legal aid, and immigrant & refuge support. (I) Let “Youth & child welfare assistance” be defined as foster care support, after school programs, and child protection. (J) Let “ Disability services” be defined as accessibility access advocacy, job training, and independent living support. (K) Let “Elder care” be defined as senior services, meal delivery, companionship, and caregiver support. (L) Let “Domestic violence & sexual assault prevention” be defined as survivor services, shelters, and legal advocacy. (M) Let “Arts & culture services” be defined as museums, community arts, and cultural preservation. (N) Let “Community development services” be defined as neighborhood revitalization, job creation, and local leadership. (O) Let “ Disaster relief” be defined as emergency response, rebuilding, and crisis recovery. (P) Let “Animal welfare” be defined as shelters, rescue, and abuse prevention.

Section 2) Purpose- To amend West Virginia Code §5B-2-4 to protect nonprofits in our state and provide them with adequate funding to continue to the best of their ability to help our communities.

Section 3) Process- The process will be simple, of the >9,000 and counting nonprofits in the State Of West Virginia shall be analyzed thoroughly based on the effect they each have on their community and if they fall under the qualifications to be included in the budget. This process will be handled as a joint venture between the Executive Branch Of West Virginia. The State Treasurer along with the State Auditor will work hand in hand to deliver on financial promises and to the extent of how much each organization should receive. Once that stage is over the Attorney General's office will analyze the legality, practices, and finances of each nonprofit that is qualified to prevent fraud and corruption. Following that the Governor and Secretary Of State will be in charge of carrying out and enforcing this.

Section 4) Funding- Funding will come from Federal Grants, State agencies, and the annual Legislative Budget. (If passed this bills funding would need to be approved every four years after passage)

Section 5) This bill will go into effect January 1, 2027.

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A BILL

**(To Ban the creation of sisters cities between West Virginia and China)**

*To be added OR amend (insert State Code)*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1 Section 1. Let “sister cities be defined as a formal, long-term partnership between two communities in  
2 different countries, established to promote cultural, educational, economic, and diplomatic ties through  
3 exchanges of people, ideas, and practices, fostering international understanding and cooperation. Let China  
4 be defined as a vast, sovereign socialist state in East Asia. Let Chinese cities be defined as any city under the  
5 Government of China. Let West Virginia cities be defined as any city within the State of West Virginia

6 Section 2. This bill will ban the formation, and existence of sister cities between West Virginia cities  
7 and Chinese cities

8 Section 3: If the bill were to pass it would eliminate the existence of sister cities between West Virginia  
9 cities and Chinese cities. This bill will benefit the people of the State of West Virginia by protecting West  
10 Virginian, and American foreign Interests. It will also protect American national security. China has used the  
11 sister cities arrangement since its opening up in 1978 as a political strategy to 'infiltrate' the western world. If  
12 breaking the sister cities ties with the Chinese cities develops into a domino effect, it might severely damage  
13 China's strategic plan of dominating the world.

14 Section 4: It will require no funding

15 Section 5: This bill will go into effect January 1st, 2027

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A BILL

SURREPTITIOUS ADMINISTRATION OF DATE RAPE NARCOTICS ACT

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Purpose. (a) The Legislature finds that the surreptitious administration of narcotics and other intoxicating substances to facilitate sexual assault is a grave threat to public safety and bodily autonomy. (b) The purpose of this Act is to clearly criminalize the secret administration of such substances without a person’s knowledge or consent, to deter such conduct through appropriate felony penalties, and to support enforcement through clear definitions and procedural provisions.

Section 2. Definitions. As used in this Act: 3.1 “Administer” means to directly or indirectly cause a substance to be ingested, inhaled, absorbed, or otherwise introduced into the body of another person, including by adding a substance to any beverage, food, or consumable item. 3.2 “Narcotic” means any controlled substance in Schedules I–V under [State Controlled Substances Act reference] that has central nervous system depressant, sedative, hypnotic, anesthetic, or dissociative effects, including but not limited to opioids, benzodiazepines, gamma-hydroxybutyrate (GHB), gamma-butyrolactone (GBL), ketamine, and flunitrazepam. 3.3 “Intoxicating substance” means alcohol or any drug, chemical, or compound that impairs a person’s normal mental or physical faculties. 3.4 “Without knowledge or consent” means that the person did not know of the presence, identity, or quantity of the administered substance and

did not voluntarily and affirmatively agree to its administration. 3.5 “Serious bodily injury” has the meaning set forth in state penal code. 3.6 “Minor” means a person under 18 years of age.

Section 3. Offense—Surreptitious Administration of Date Rape Narcotics. 4.1 A person commits the offense of Surreptitious Administration of Date Rape Narcotics if the person knowingly or intentionally administers a narcotic or other intoxicating substance to another person without that person’s knowledge or consent, and: (a) does so with the purpose of impairing the person’s ability to appraise or control their conduct; or (b) knows or reasonably should know that the person will be thereby rendered incapable of appraising or controlling their conduct. 4.2 It is not a defense that the substance was administered by means of a beverage, food, or other consumable item offered as a gift or in a social setting. 4.3 The offense is complete upon administration of the substance; commission or completion of any sexual act is not required for liability under this section.

Section 4. Penalties. 5.1 Except as provided in Sections 5.2 and 5.3, Surreptitious Administration of Date Rape Narcotics is a felony of the second degree, punishable by imprisonment for a term of 2 to 8 years, a fine of up to \$15,000, or both. 5.2 If the offense results in serious bodily injury, the offense is a felony of the first degree, punishable by imprisonment for a term of 5 to 20 years, a fine of up to \$25,000, or both. 5.3 If the victim is a minor or the defendant has a prior conviction under this section or any substantially similar offense, the offense is a felony of the first degree, punishable by imprisonment for a term of 5 to 25 years, a fine of up to \$30,000, or both. 5.4 The court shall order, as part of any sentence, restitution for: (a) reasonable medical, forensic, counseling, and related expenses incurred by the victim; and (b) costs of testing and analysis under Section 7.

Section 5. Aggravating Circumstances and Consecutive Sentencing. 6.1 If the offense is committed in connection with an attempted or completed sexual offense, any sentence imposed

under this Act shall run consecutively to any sentence imposed for the sexual offense, unless the court states on the record substantial and compelling reasons to impose concurrent terms.

6.2 Use of multiple substances, or administration to multiple victims, constitutes separate offenses for each substance and each victim.

Section 6. Victim Testing, Medical Care, and Toxicology Preservation. 7.1 Law enforcement shall offer prompt transport or referral for medical evaluation, including toxicology testing, to any person reporting an offense under this Act. 7.2 Health care providers receiving such referrals shall, with the patient's consent, collect and preserve biological samples in accordance with [state forensic evidence] protocols for a period of not less than [one year], subject to extension upon written request of law enforcement or the victim. 7.3 Testing results shall be provided to the victim upon request, consistent with privacy laws.

Section 7. Evidentiary Provisions. 8.1 Expert testimony may be offered to explain the pharmacological effects of substances covered by this Act, including memory impairment, delayed onset, and detection windows. 8.2 Proof that the defendant procured, possessed, or had access to a covered substance, together with evidence of the victim's impairment consistent with such substance and lack of knowledge or consent, may be considered by the trier of fact along with all other evidence; however, no presumption of guilt arises therefrom. 8.3 Lack of detection of a substance in a victim's biological sample does not, by itself, preclude conviction if other evidence establishes administration beyond a reasonable doubt.

Section 8. Defenses. 9.1 It is an affirmative defense that the administration was performed by a licensed health care professional in the course of bona fide medical treatment with the informed consent of the patient or the patient's lawful representative. 9.2 It is a defense that the alleged victim provided express, voluntary, and informed consent to the specific substance, dose, and

timing administered; consent to consume a beverage or food, without disclosure of added substances, is not consent under this Act.

Section 9. Jurisdiction. 10.1 This Act applies to conduct that occurs wholly or partly within this State, including where the administration occurs in this State or where the victim ingests the substance in this State. 10.2 Venue is proper in any county where the administration occurred, where the victim ingested the substance, or where material evidence or effects of the substance manifested.

Section 10. Reporting and Training. 11.1 The Department of Public Safety/Attorney General shall develop and disseminate training materials for law enforcement on investigation of offenses under this Act, including evidence collection, victim-centered approaches, and toxicology. 11.2 The Department of Health shall issue guidance to health care facilities on recommended clinical and forensic responses, including prompt toxicology screening panels relevant to suspected date rape drugs.

Section 11. Construction. 12.1 Nothing in this Act limits prosecution under any other applicable offense, including sexual assault, poisoning, battery, or administration of a harmful substance. 12.2 The penalties in this Act are in addition to any penalties for other offenses arising from the same conduct.

Section 12. Severability. If any provision of this Act or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this Act are severable.

Section 13. Effective Date. This Act takes effect on July 1, 2026, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

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**A BILL**  
**War on Obesity**

*To create incentives and provide education for people to be proactive in their weight management health care.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2     Section 1. Definitions: Marathon- A race that is 26.2 miles in distance. Seminar- informal and  
3     educational meetings that are held for anyone.

4     Section 2. This bill will implement several resources to help combat the obesity epidemic in West  
5     Virginia. The resources include tax relief, label warnings, education programs and criteria, as well as  
6     scholarship opportunities. This gives citizens both tools and incentives to help extend and increase the  
7     quality of their lives.

8     Section 3. The State of West Virginia will hold monthly county wide seminars on public land chosen  
9     and run by their mayor. The seminars will include information on topics like food, exercise, and  
10    anatomy. Holding these meetings will become part of the mayor's duties. If a citizen attends 9 or more  
11    in a Calander year and completes one marathon, they will be granted a 15% state income tax refund.  
12    Refunds can be filed at the courthouse by providing marathon evidence (official times) and the  
13    courthouse checking attendance records of county seminars. The high school health curriculum will  
14    also spend one full semester on obesity and obesity related topics. In Physical Education, there will be  
15    an annual presidential fitness test. If a WV student passes every year from grades 6-12, they will be  
16    granted a 500-dollar scholarship. Finally, it will be mandatory for a company whose products contain  
17    more than 15 grams of sugar per serving to have a “Sir Stewarts Warning” stating that this product  
18    may cause obesity.

19    Section 4. All money needed for scholarships and seminars will be paid for by a 100% tax increase on

20 all candy, soda, and alcohol. Any excess money will be put into next year's government budget.

21 Section 5. The bill will be enacted on January 1, 2027, and businesses will have until January 1, 2028,

22 to add the label to their products.

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**A BILL**

**Sexual Offenders Rehabilitation and Safety Act**

*The purpose of this act is to enhance public safety and reduce risk of repeat sexual offenses by allowing use of court ordered chemical castration as a condition of parole or sentencing for high-risk male sex offenders, while ensuring constitutional protections and medical oversight.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

Section 1. Let “chemical castration” be defined as the use of court approved, medically prescribed medication intended to reduce sexual drive and arousal through hormonal suppression. Let “qualifying offender” be defined as a male individual, eighteen (18) years of age or older, convicted of Multiple sexual offenses, or one aggravated sexual offense involving a minor. Let “aggravated sexual offense” be defined as a sexual offense involving force, coercion, repeat conduct, or a victim under the age of 18, as defined by state law. Let “condition of parole or supervised release” be defined as a legal requirement imposed by a court or parole board that must be followed in order for an offender to remain outside of incarceration. Let “high risk of reoffending” be defined as a determination made by the court, based on psychological evaluation and criminal history that an offender poses a significant likelihood of committing future sexual offenses. Let “psychological treatment” be defined as a court ordered program of counseling or therapy provided by a licensed mental health professional and intended to address behavioral patterns, reduce the risk of reoffending, promote rehab, and rehabilitation. Psychological treatment may include individual therapy, group therapy, or other evidence based interventions approved by the department of corrections. Let “psychological evaluation” be defined as a court order assessment conducted by a licensed mental health professional to determine an offender’s risk of reoffending the suitability for treatment under this act.

Section 2. Courts may order chemical castration only if the offender meets the definition of a qualifying offender, a psychological evaluation determines that the offender poses a substantial risk of reoffending, and the court finds that chemical castration is necessary to protect public safety.

Section 3. (a) Chemical castration may be imposed as a condition of parole or supervised release, or as an alternative to extended incarceration where permitted by law.

(b) Treatment shall be administered and monitored by licensed medical professionals. The offender shall be required to participate in mandatory psychological treatment while under the order.

(c) Any offender released under the provisions of this action shall be required to complete mandatory community service as a condition of parole or supervised release. Community service assignment shall be approved by the department of corrections and shall be non-

sensitive and non-contact in nature and designed to benefit the public and promote accountability.

(d) Failure to complete required community service shall result in violation of parole or supervised release and may result in appropriate legal consequences.

Section 4. Chemical castration under this act shall be non-surgical and reversible. Failure to comply with treatment requirements shall result in revocation of parole or supervised release. Nothing in this action shall be interpreted to violate protections against cruel and unusual punishment or to deny due process of law.

Section 5. The Department of Corrections shall maintain records on the use of chemical castration and shall report annually on its effectiveness and ethical compliance.

Section 6. The cost of chemical castration treatment ordered under this act, including medication, medical supervision and required monitoring, shall be primarily funded by the Department of Corrections subject to available appropriation. The court may require an offender subject to this act contribute to the cost of treatment, in whole part based on the offender's demonstrated ability to pay, as determined by the court. No offender shall be denied treatment or subjected to additional incarceration solely due to inability to pay. The Legislature finds that based on correctional cost data and sentencing outcomes, chemical castration treatment, when combined with supervise release and psychological treatment, represents a cost-effective alternative to long-term incarceration and serves the public interest by reducing repeat offenses and promoting public safety.

Section 7. This bill shall take effect on the beginning of the 2028 calendar year.

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**A BILL**

**“Homeless Education and Housing Program”**

*"To provide resources to allow WV homeless citizens the ability to gain employment and housing. "*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Definitions: (A) Homeless – Registered citizen of WV, as defined by §17A-3-1a of this code, without

3 a regular nighttime residence, or a nighttime residence that is either unsafe, meaning that the environment is an

4 active hazard to the inhabitant’s physical health or unfit for human habitation. (This includes sleeping outside, in

5 unowned or abandoned land, or any land by which you do not have safety or permission to be sleeping in.)

6 (B) Able body and mind – Those of able body and mind are those who are deemed fit to be in a standard

7 working environment without any precautions needing to be taken that are outside of what would be expected in

8 a normal working environment.

9 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to require all West Virginia public school students to be

10 required to wear school uniforms. That will be picked out by each school board. Each student will

11 be given 3 pairs of uniforms and a jacket at the beginning of each school year, and will be responsible for

12 cleaning and maintaining them.

13 Section 3. Passing this bill will ensure students are provided with appropriate attire and reduce bullying and gang

14 activity. Studies show that uniforms improve academic performance and reduce noise levels in classrooms.

15 Section 4. It will be up to the school's discretion to reallocate funding for uniforms.

16 Section 5. This bill will take effect at the start of the 2027-2028 school year.

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**A BILL**

**State-Run Prisoner Disaster Response Unit Act**

*"To allow non-violent, low-risk inmates to voluntarily enroll in a state-run disaster response unit for a reduced sentence."*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2. **Section 1.** Let "state-run" be defined as operated, overseen, or funded by the state of West
3. Virginia. Let "inmate" be defined as an incarcerated individual in the state of West Virginia. Let
4. "good time credit" be defined as a reduction in an inmate's sentence based on good behavior and
5. participation in approved programs, as defined by the WVDCR (West Virginia Department of
6. Corrections and Rehabilitation.) Let "disaster response unit" be defined as any volunteer-based
7. program that serves the purpose of responding to natural disasters, including but not limited to
8. floods, wildfires, storms, and landslides. Let "low-risk" be defined by the WVDCR as an inmate
9. classified as Level I or Level II. Let "Level I" be defined as a level of classification used by the
10. WVDCR to classify inmates that is of the least restrictive custody. Let "Level II" be defined as a
11. level of classification used WVDCR to classify inmates that allows inmates to function more freely
12. within the facility and qualify for outside work crews.
13. **Section 2.** The purpose of this bill is to allow non-violent, low-risk inmates in the state of West
14. Virginia to voluntarily enroll in a state-run disaster response unit for good-time credits to reduce
15. their sentence formed within the West Virginia Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation (WV
16. DRC), in coordination with the West Virginia Emergency Management Division (WVEMD) This
17. would help the state by having more individuals that can respond to natural disasters in rural areas
18. in West Virginia that otherwise would have to wait an extended period of time to get the necessary
19. help for their communities.
20. **Section 3.** Eligibility Criteria
  - (a) Only non-violent, low-risk inmates shall be eligible to participate in the program.  
Eligibility shall be determined based on:
    - The inmate's disciplinary history.
    - Risk assessment results.
    - Nature of the inmate's conviction.
  - (b) Inmates with a history of violent offenses or repeated behavioral infractions shall be excluded from participation in the program.
  - (c) Participation in the program shall be strictly voluntary, and inmates must maintain good behavior to remain eligible.

(d) Final selection and enrollment of inmates shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or warden of the correctional facility, in consultation with program administrators.

21. **Section 4.** Inmates Tracking and Program Oversight

(a) A centralized database shall be established and maintained by WV DRC to monitor:

- Inmate enrollment
- Training completion
- Deployment history
- Sentence credits earned

(b) The database shall be made available to WVEMD and other relevant agencies for coordination during declared disaster events.

(c) Regular program audits and reports shall be submitted to the state legislature and relevant oversight bodies.

22. **Section 5.** Funding

(a) The estimated cost to establish and operate the program shall range from \$5 million to

23. \$10 million per year, depending on participation levels.

24. (b) Funding shall be secured through a combination of:

25. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding, specifically through the Emergency

26. Management Performance Grant (EMPG) program; and

27. Allocations from the State General Revenue Fund, including but not limited to the budgets of the

28. Department of Homeland Security and the Division of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

29. **Section 6.** The program shall be developed and launched no later than July 1, 2026, with pilot

30. programs in at least two correctional facilities, and full statewide implementation by July 1, 2027,

31. subject to appropriated funding.

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**Construction Change**

*“To change construction work from hourly pay to salary pay”*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2. Section 1. The purpose of this bill is to modernize how construction workers are paid in West  
3. Virginia. Many construction workers are currently paid only by the hour. This bill would  
4. allow construction companies and workers to choose a salary payment option. A salary  
5. system may provide steadier income, better financial planning, and increased job stability for  
6. workers and their families.

7. Section 2. Definitions for the purpose of this act: (A) Construction Worker – Any person  
8. employed in building, repairing, remodeling, or maintaining homes, roads, bridges, or other  
9. structures in West Virginia. (B) Hourly Pay – A payment system where a worker is paid based  
10. on the number of hours worked. (C) Salary Pay – A fixed, agreed-upon amount of pay given  
11. regularly (weekly or biweekly) regardless of minor changes in hours worked. Employer – Any  
12. company, contractor, or business that hires construction workers within the state of West  
13. Virginia.

14. Section 3. Construction employers in West Virginia shall be allowed to offer workers the  
15. option to be paid a salary instead of only hourly wages. Workers must voluntarily agree in  
16. writing before being placed on a salary payment plan. Salary pay must be equal to or greater  
17. than what the worker would earn at minimum wage for a 40-hour work week. Employers  
18. must clearly state expected weekly work hours in the employment contract. If a salaried  
19. construction worker works more than 50 hours in a week, they must receive overtime pay at  
20. 1.5 times their regular hourly equivalent rate. Employers may not force employees to switch  
21. to salary pay. Workers may request to return to hourly pay with a two-week written notice.

22. Section 4. Employers cannot reduce benefits, safety standards, or rest breaks because a worker  
23. is salaried. Employers must keep records of hours worked to prevent overworking employees.  
24. Any employer violating this act will be fined up to \$1,000 for the first offense and \$2,500 for  
25. additional offenses. The West Virginia Division of Labor will oversee and enforce this law.

26. Section 5. This act will not require new taxes. Enforcement will be handled using the current  
27. staff and budget of the West Virginia Division of Labor. Employers will have 6 months after  
28. the passage of this bill to adjust contracts and payment systems.

29. Section 6. This act shall take effect on January 1st following its passage and approval by the

30. Governor of West Virginia.

31. Section 7. By allowing salary payment options, this bill gives construction workers more

32. financial stability while still protecting them from being overworked. It also gives employers

33. flexibility in managing projects and payroll. Overall, this law aims to improve fairness, job

34. security, and economic stability for workers across West Virginia.

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**A BILL**  
**WV School Uniform Provision**

*"To provide uniforms to WV Students "*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2. **Section 1.** Definitions: (A) Uniforms: Mandated clothing that is required by students to wear to
3. school, and school functions or events (B) Student: Any person that is currently enrolled in a West
4. Virginia public school.
  
5. **Section 2.** The purpose of this bill is to require all West Virginia public school students to be
6. required to wear school uniforms. That will be picked out by each school board. Each student
7. will be given 3 pairs of uniforms and a jacket at the beginning of each school year and the
8. student will be held responsible to clean and maintain the uniform.
  
9. **Section 3.** By passing this bill, it will ensure students are provided with proper attire and will
10. reduce acts of bullying and gang activity, furthermore studies show that uniforms improve
11. academic performance and reduces noise levels in classrooms.
  
12. **Section 4.** It will be up to the schools discretion to reallocate funding for uniforms.
13. **Section 5.** This bill will go into effect at the beginning of the 2027-2028 school year.

Circular Economy and Sustainable Procurement Act

“To add to section §22-15A-21 of the West Virginia Code”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Section 1 (a) Circular economy – a sustainable, restorative industrial system designed to eliminate waste and pollution, keep products and materials in use for as long as possible, and regenerate natural systems. (b) Procurement- the action of obtaining or procuring something.

Section 2 The purpose of this bill is that it aims to shift purchasing models from linear to regenerative systems by prioritizing the acquisition of goods that are reusable, repairable, and recyclable.

Section 3 By passing this bill, it would create a mandatory shift in government and private spending toward products designed for repair and reuse.

Section 4 Funding for this bill will come from public-private partnerships, green bonds, sustainability-linked loans and fiscal incentives like tax credits or grants for circular solutions

Section 5 This bill will go into effect on January 1, 2027

**A BILL**  
**WEST VIRGINIA ONLINE SAFETY FOR MINORS ACT**  
**BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA**

Section 1. Legislative Findings and Purpose. (a) Social Media platforms are widely used by minors and have become primary means for communication, entertainment, and information sharing among young people, while these platforms provide benefits. Such as connection and educational opportunities, they can also expose minors to risk, including cyber bullying, harassment, harmful, or inappropriate content, and threats to personal privacy. Excessive use of social media by minors has been associated with negative effects on sleep patterns, academic performance, and mental well-being. Parents and guardians play an important role in guiding minor online behavior, but many lack adequate tools to monitor and manage your children's social media activity. The state of West Virginia has a legitimate interest in protecting the safety and well-being of minors while respecting the role of parents and guardians and supervising their children. (b) The purpose of this Act is to improve the safety of minors using social media by requiring parental consent for certain accounts, encouraging responsible digital habits, and ensuring that social media companies provide tools that allow guardians to monitor and limit their children's online activity. This act also seeks to promote digital literacy and awareness among minors regarding responsible internet use.

Section 2. Definitions. As used in this act: 2.1 "Minor" means any individual under the age of sixteen (16) years. 2.2 "Social Media Platform" means any internet-based service or mobile application that allows users to create personal profiles, share content such as messages, images, or videos, and interact publicly or privately with other users. 2.3 "Guardian" means a parent, legal guardian, or other adult who has legal responsibility for the care and supervision of a minor. 2.4 "Parental consent" means verifiable permission granted by a parent or guardian allowing a minor to create or maintain a social media account. 2.5 "Parental control tools" means technological features provided by a platform that allow guardians to monitor activity, limit usage time, restrict certain content, or approve connections.

Section 3. Restrictions. 3.1 A minor under the age of sixteen may not create or maintain a social media account unless verified parental or guardian consent has been obtained. 3.2 Social media platforms operating within the state of West Virginia must take reasonable efforts to verify the age of account holders and confirm parental consent for minor accounts. 3.3 Platforms shall provide parental controls tools that allow guardians to: (a) Monitor a minor's daily time spent on the platform. (b) Establish reasonable limits on daily usage. (c) Restrict communications with unknown users when possible. 3.4 Social media use by minor accounts shall be restricted between hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:30 a.m. unless a guardian manually overrides the restrictions through parental control tools. 3.5 Social media companies must provide clear information to guardians regarding available safety features and how they may be used to supervise a minor's account.

Section 4. Offense- Circumventing Online Safety Restrictions. 4.1 A person commits the offense of circumventing online safety restrictions if they knowingly or intentionally: (a) Provide false information about their age in order to create or maintain a social media account without parental consent; or (b) Attempt to bypass parental control settings established by a guardian. 4.2 A social media platform may also be found in violation of this Act if it knowingly fails to provide required parental control tools or fails to make reasonable efforts to verify age and parental consent.

Section 5. Penalties. 5.1 A minor found to have violated Section 4 of this Act shall be subject to the following measures: (a) First offense: A written warning and completion of a digital safety education program approved by the

state. (b) Second offense: A civil fine not exceeding fifty dollars issued to the minor's guardian and temporary suspension of the account for up to thirty days. (c) Third or subsequent offense: A civil fine not exceeding one hundred fifty dollars and suspension of the account for up to ninety days. 5.2 A social media platform that fails to comply with the provisions of this Act may be subject to civil penalties not exceeding \$5,000 per violation, as determined by the Attorney General. 5.3 Revenue collected from fines under this act shall be directed toward digital literacy and online safety education programs within the state.

Section 6. Enforcement. 6.1 The Office of the Attorney General of the State of West Virginia shall have authority to enforce the provisions of this Act. 6.2 The Attorney General may investigate complaints, issue warnings, and pursue civil penalties against entities found to be in violation. 6.3 State agencies may collaborate with schools and community organizations to provide education programs on responsible internet use and digital safety.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect on Jul 31, 2026, allowing sufficient time for social media platforms and guardians to comply within its provisions, and applies to committed on or after that Date.

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A BILL

**Designate “Island in the Sun” by Weezer as an Official State Song of West Virginia**

*“To designate “Island in the Sun” by Weezer as an official state song of West Virginia.”*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2. **Section 1.** Let “state song” be defined as a type of musical symbol selected by state legislatures
3. to represent the state. Let “Weezer” be defined as an American rock band formed in Los
4. Angeles, California, in 1992. Members being Rivers Cuomo, Brian Bell, Patrick Wilson, and
5. Scott Shriner. Let “Island in the Sun” be defined as a song by the American rock band Weezer
6. released in 2001 as part of their album “Weezer”, also commonly referred to as “The Green
7. Album.”
8. **Section 2.** The purpose of this bill is to designate "Island in the Sun" by the American rock band
9. Weezer as an official state song of West Virginia. This song is recognized for its cultural
10. significance, and its selection aims to embrace an iconic piece of American culture and promote
11. the booming tourism industry in West Virginia.
12. **Section 3.** By selecting "Island in the Sun" as an official state song, West Virginia will embrace a
13. piece of iconic American rock music that has captured the hearts of not just American and West
14. Virginians, but an international audience as well. This designation will help highlight the state's
15. cultural connection to popular music and culture, and its role in the broader music history.
16. Furthermore, this bill will help solidify West Virginia’s place in American music history and bring
17. business, tourism, and new people to our state.
18. **Section 4.** This bill requires no additional funding.
19. **Section 5.** This bill will go into effect immediately after passage.

**A BILL**

**PROM PROMISE SAFE DRIVING AWARENESS PROGRAM**

To be added to Chapter 17 of the West Virginia State Code relating to highway safety and impaired driving prevention.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1 Section 1. Prom Promise – a voluntary pledge made by high school students  
2 attending prom stating that they will not drive while distracted or under the  
3 influence of alcohol or drugs and will not ride with anyone who is impaired.

4 Section 2. High schools hosting prom events shall be encouraged to organize  
5 a Prom Promise program prior to prom night. Students attending prom may  
6 sign the pledge committing to safe driving practices including not texting  
7 while driving and not operating a vehicle while under the influence.

8 Section 3. Schools participating in the Prom Promise program may invite  
9 guest speakers such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency

10 medical personnel, or individuals affected by impaired driving incidents

11 to educate students on the dangers and consequences of distracted or

12 impaired driving.

**A BILL**

**WEST VIRGINIA ENERGY DEPENDENCY ACT**

“The retrofitting of retired coal-fired power plants into natural gas or small modular reactor (SMR) nuclear facilities”

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1 Section 1: (a) energy - the quantitative, conserved property that a physical system

2 must possess to perform work, move objects, or generate heat and light.

3 (b) dependency - a state of being reliant on someone or something else for support,

4 functioning, or survival. (c) retrofitting - to adapt to a new purpose or need: modify.

5 (d) small modular reactor (SMR) - advanced nuclear reactors designed for factory

6 construction, transportability, and lower upfront capital costs.

7 Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to encourage job support within the fields of both

8 mining and electricity, in order to conserve as much resource from our natural coal

9 reserves as possible. This will be performed by repurposing “retired” coal power

10 plants into new facilities to increase energy production rather than abandoning

11 already existing foundations set in place. This bill aims to introduce around 1,600

12 more new jobs to the surrounding areas around the new SMR plants, along with

13 gain worths of around \$450 million in local community services and generate

14 around 16 million to the state in taxes for each plant. If met, this will cover well over

15 the initial \$100 million average it would take to repurpose coal power plants into

16 nuclear SMR power plants.

17 Section 3: By passing this bill, West Virginia's state growth will be multiplied by  
18 the gross means of the 173 "retired" coal power plants within the state that are all  
19 still feasible for energy generation, if converted. Through its implementation, West  
20 Virginia's economic standpoint will be improved. The costs surrounding the  
21 multi-million dollar project that will repay themselves in due time, ultimately giving  
22 back to the communities through the creation of jobs, along with more stable  
23 methods of tax revenue generation which could be put towards other issues that  
24 could be subjugated with more money in the state's capacities.

25 Section 4: As of now, the current Department of Energy (DOE) has already  
26 allocated \$109 million to this cause of repurposing abandoned coal plants into  
27 nuclear SMR locations. However, in order for the first 22 retired coal mines to be  
28 repurposed, it will take around \$2.2 billion overall to pay for these expenses. Hopes  
29 are for this plan that will repay itself by 2030, resulting in a return of around \$10.3  
30 billion to both local communities, the job market, and the state.

31 Section 5: This bill will go into effect January 1st, 2027, according to the Gregorian  
32 calendar.

**YLA Student Legislature**

**2026**

**Bill # H 35**

**Authors: Ke'Moni Warner, Loretta Laraba**

**Committee # H 05**

**School: Woodrow Wilson High School**

**Member of # H 03**

**A BILL**

**Artificial Intelligence Ethics in Education Act**

To be added to Article 2 §18-2-47 of the West Virginia State Board Of Education.

Creating guidelines on how AI tools can be used for assignments and ensuring equitable access.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF WEST  
VIRGINIA**

**1** *Section 1* as used in this section “Artificial intelligence” or AI means the

**2** application of computer systems able to: Perform tasks or produce output

**3** normally requiring human intelligence.

**4** “FERPA” is the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, this act

**5** protects the privacy of student education records.

**6** “COPPA” is the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act.

**7** This law requires operators to get explicit parent or guardian consent

8 before collecting data from a child under 13 years old.

9 **Section 2** Strict adherence to FERPA and COPPA is required.

10 Student data must not be used for non-educational commercial purposes or to  
11 train secondary AI models without explicit, informed consent.

12 **Section 3** Educational AI must be "explainable," meaning interested persons  
13 can understand how the system reached a specific conclusion, such as a  
14 grade or a learning recommendation.

15 **Section 4** Educators must clearly communicate when AI tools are used for  
16 grading or content generation.

17 Conversely, students must provide proper attribution for any  
18 AI-assisted work.

19 **Section 5** As a guideline for original work, no more than 30% of a student's  
20 submission should be generated by AI to ensure the remaining 70% reflects  
21 original thoughts and research.

22 This should be known as the 30/70 rule.

23 **Section 6** This bill will go into effect at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school  
24 year.

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**A BILL**

**Officers Bod Cameras Mandate Act**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST  
VIRGINIA:

Section 1: Definitions

(a) Let body-worn cameras be defined as a wearable audio-video recording device utilized by law enforcement to document interactions with the public.

(b) Let on-duty law enforcement officers be defined as members of a law-enforcement agency who are actively working to maintain public peace and order, prevent and detect crime, make arrests, and enforce West Virginia state, county, or municipal laws.

Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to ensure the safety of all convicted citizens in West Virginia, as well as to uphold accountability for all law enforcement officers within the state of West Virginia.

(a) This Act seeks to reduce incidents of misconduct and excessive use of force by establishing clear standards for body-worn camera usage and limiting discretionary deactivation.

- (b) Promoting accountability by establishing consequences for unauthorized deactivation, tampering, or failure to use body-worn cameras as required.

Section 3: All officers are required to have their body-worn cameras on while in the field.

- (a) Continuous Operation Requirement: All on-duty law enforcement officers shall wear and operate a body-worn camera at all times while performing official duties, including patrol, traffic stops, arrests, searches, and interactions with the public.
- (b) Officers shall not intentionally deactivate, disable, obstruct, or tamper with body-worn cameras while on duty.
- (c) Body-worn cameras may be turned off in the following limited circumstances:
  - (i) When required by law or court order.
  - (ii) During private conversations unrelated to law enforcement duties, such as personal breaks, provided no civilian interaction is occurring.
- (d) Must include documentation of deactivation; any deactivation of a body-worn camera must be verbally recorded on camera before shutting off, stating the reason for deactivation, and documented in a written report.
- (e) Data Storage and Access:
  - (i) All footage shall be securely stored for a minimum period determined by law, no less than 180 days.
  - (ii) Footage related to use-of-force incidents, arrests, or complaints shall be preserved until all investigations and legal proceedings are completed.

Section 4: Penalties for Non-Compliance

- (a) Failure to comply with requirements may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension, legal penalties, and fines.
- (i) Fines up to 120 dollars for officers who turn their cameras off without documentation or verbal reason in need for deactivation of the body cameras.
  - (ii) Fines up to 1000 dollars for officers would was tampered with body cameras and caused irreversible damage to video and audio equipment.
- (b) Intentional tampering or deletion of footage shall be considered misconduct and may result in criminal charges.

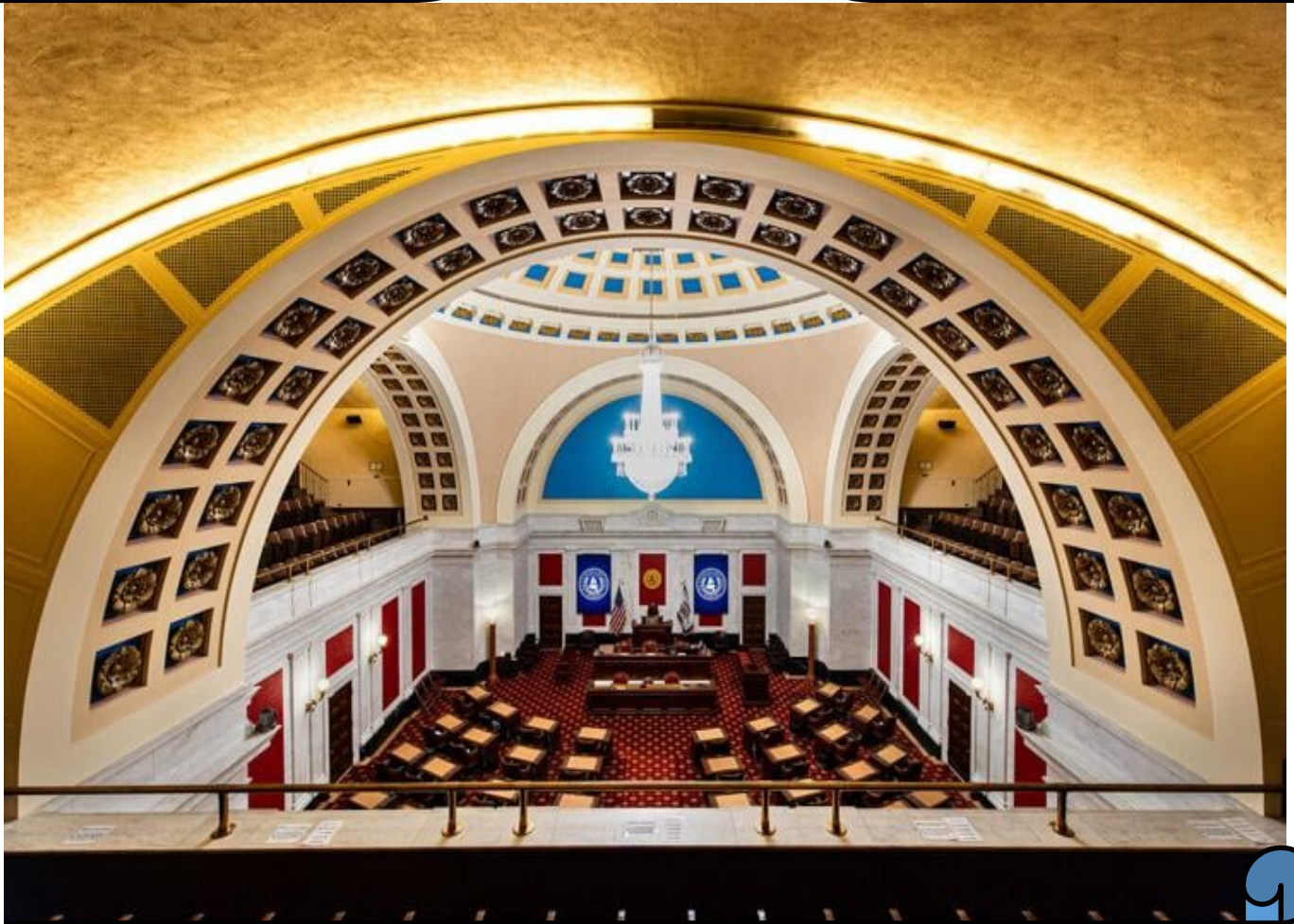
Section 5: This act shall take effect June 1, 2026



2026

69th Annual WV YG

Senate



Youth President of the Senate

Holly Lewis

Buckhannon ~ Upshur YLA

2026 West Virginia Youth in Government

**Senate Committees**

**Senate Chamber Co-Advisors**  
**Brian Allman, Buckhannon-Upshur**  
**Richard Zukowski, Grafton**

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**Senate 451**

**Committee Chair:**  
**Cole Fogus**

Lyric Bauguess
Kate Burdette
Tyler Donohew
Cole Fogus
Cameron Good
Ryann Howell
Terri Perdue
Aubry Shay
Raina Shearlock
Alaina Tenney
Vivian Webb

Brookelynn Smith,  
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Erika Osborne  
April Petrovsky  
**Advisors**

**Committee 2**  
**Senate 208 W**

**Committee Chair:**  
**Lily Cross**

James Alkire-Co Chair
Kellen Bruffey
Lily Cross
Kyler Doss
Lily Garcia
Bryce Isner
Jessie Li
Ryan Matheny
Eian Mullenex
Addison Nethken
Kinley Snelson
Alexa Solis
Jackson Vanhooose

Jennifer Eiler  
Richard Zukowski  
**Advisors**

**Committee 3**  
**Senate Chamber**

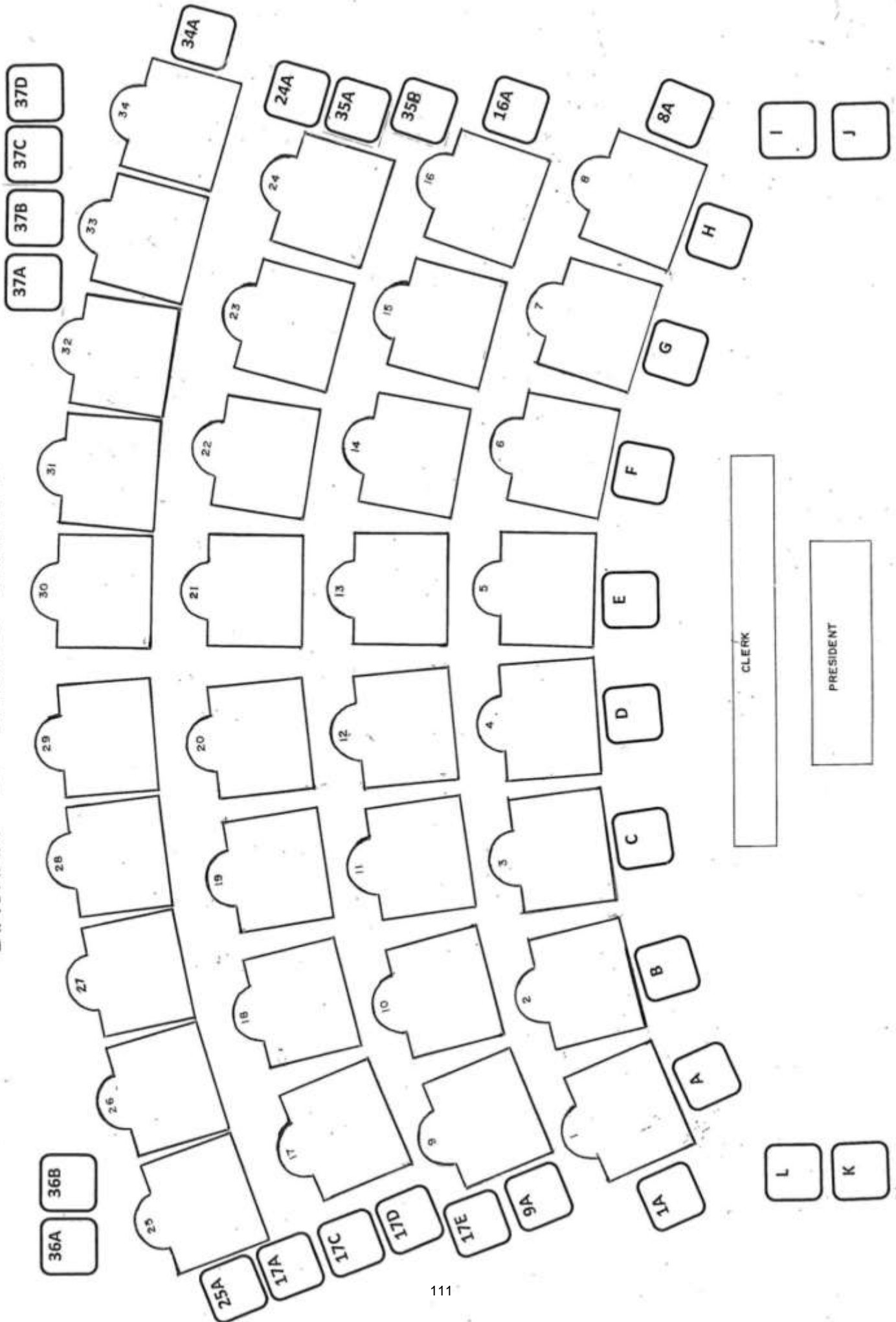
**Committee Chair:**  
**Landon Beaudry**

Daphne Beaudry
Landon Beaudry
Sebastian Calvert
Kelton Cowger
Alexis Dillon
Hugo Gonzalez
Valeria Gonzalez
Gabriel Hamner
Brandon Shrewsbury
Rylan Taylor
Zoey Torres
Peyton Young

Hadley White,  
**Page**

Brian Allman  
Tiffany Hersman  
**Advisors**

# DIAGRAM OF SENATE CHAMBER



**2026 WEST VIRGINIA YLA YOUTH in GOVERNMENT SENATE BILLS**

BILL #	TITLE	COM	DISPOSITION			GOV	Override
			COM	SENATE FLOOR	HOUSE FLOOR		
1	To Eliminate Sales Tax on School Supplies	S 01					
2	Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide	S 02					
3	West Virginia Reinvestment and Resource Accountability Act	S 03					
4	Student Representation on County Boards of Education	S 03					
5	To Ban the Practice of Conversion Therapy	S 02					
6	Child Protection and Sentencing Enhancement Act	S 01					
7	Prohibit ICE from Targeting Schools	S 01					
8	Project Serenity	S 02					
9	To Add a mental Health Check to Athletes' Physical	S 03					
10	Student Noninstructional Electronic Access Clarification Act	S 03					
11	School Staff Attendance Incentive	S 02					
12	The West Virginia Pro-Choice Act	S 01					
13	Implementing Future Leaders Programs in All Public High Schools	S 01					
14	Culinary Health Education & Food-Handling Act	S 02					
15	Homeless Aid Act	S 03					
16	West Virginia Drive After 65 Act	S 03					
17	Vape Removal Act	S 02					
18	West Virginia Artificial Intelligence Media Transparency Act	S 01					
19	The Easy Register and Vote Act	S 02					
20	Affordable Housing for Population Influx	S 01					
21	Clean Water for Southern West Virginians	S 03					
22	Reducing the Number of Required School Days in West Virginia Public Schools	S 03					

## **ACTION ON LEGISLATIVE BILLS DISPOSITION INDEX**

Died in Committee	D Com
Defeated in Committee	Com Def
Passed in Committee	PC
Passed as Amended in Committee	PAC
Died in Senate	DS
Died in House	DH
Senate Defeated	S Def
House Defeated	H Def
Passed Senate	PS
Passed House	PH
Passed as Amended in Senate	PAS
Passed as Amended in House	PAH
Governor Signed	GS
Governor Vetoed	GV
Unsigned By Governor	GU

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**A BILL**

**To Eliminate Sales Tax on School Supplies**

*To amend (§11-15-9)*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Let “Sales Tax” be defined as the additional fee added to each item purchased excluding  
3 its exceptions. Let “School Supplies” be defined as any item that one could reasonably assume to find  
4 or need in a classroom setting.

5 Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to make school supplies with a purchase price of \$50 or less  
6 be exempt from state sales tax.

7 Section 3: If this bill were to pass, it would allow school supplies costing \$50 or less to be  
8 purchased free of sales tax. This would allow families to save money on school supplies year-round  
9 and would eliminate some stress that comes with purchasing school supplies. This will help more  
10 students in the state afford more of their supplies and could help to increase school graduation rates if  
11 more students are prepared.

12 Section 4: Funding will come from a 10-cent increase on the Motor Fuel Excise Tax as stated in  
13 §11-14C-5

14 Section 5: This bill will go into effect starting August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026

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**A BILL**

**Legalizing Physician-Assisted Suicide**

To amend §16-30-15 of the West Virginia State Code

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

- 2 Section 1: (a) Assisted Suicide- intentionally enabling or causing a patient's death to  
3 alleviate suffering, including prescribing lethal medication or counseling suicide. (b) Physician-  
4 a person licensed to practice allopathic (MD) or osteopathic (DO) medicine and surgery. (c) Mid  
5 Level Provider- advance nurse practitioners, nurse-midwives and physician assistants. (d) Terminal  
6 Illness- incurable, irreversible disease or condition that, without life-sustaining procedures, will soon  
7 result in death or a state of permanent unconsciousness from which recovery is unlikely. ( e)  
8 Debilitating- a serious weakening or loss of strength, energy, and/or vitality sustained most often from  
9 injury, illness, or aging. (f) Chronic Illness- an illness lasting three (3) months or more that may be  
10 manageable but not curable that does not disappear following all reasonable medical efforts. (g)  
11 Patients- any individual under the care of a licensed physician (b) or midlevel provider (c). (h)  
12 Legalize- amend and/or provide for new statutes that allow for a previously unlawful statute to be  
13 lawful upon the passage of the legislation thereof.
- 14 Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to legalize (h) Physician-Assisted Suicide(a) for patients (g)  
15 Experiencing terminal illnesses (d) or debilitating (e) chronic illnesses (f) that severely impact the  
16 patients quality of life.
- 17 Section 3- With the passage of this bill, Physician-Assisted Suicide would be made legal in the  
18 State of West Virginia. This bill would provide an outlet for hundreds of patients who experience  
19 debilitating pain daily. As it is in the West Virginia State Code, Physician-Assisted Suicide is

20 entirely unlawful within the State of West Virginia upon any capacity. With the legalization of this  
21 practice, both the quality of life and respect for individual liberties and personal autonomy for every  
22 West Virginian would be respected. Furthermore, and while this is not a financial bill, Physician-  
23 Assisted Suicide would reduce the overall cost of treatment for terminally ill individuals in  
24 the State of West Virginia. The bill would also increase provider opportunity and simultaneously  
25 increasing provider availability by allowing a midlevel provider © to provide treatment under the  
26 supervision of a physician (b).

27 Section 4: If granted to the State of West Virginia, funding of this bill would be provided through the  
28 federal Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP) as provided by the “One Big Beautiful Bill.”  
29 If necessary, funding may also be provided via taxation. Specifically, a five percent tax increase on e-  
30 cigarettes and vapes.

31 Section 5: This bill goes into effect ninety (90) days following passage.

---

**A BILL**

**West Virginia Reinvestment And Resource Accountability Act**

To reduce the economic exploitation of West Virginia by non-resident business entities, ensure that the state's natural resources generate long-term benefits for West Virginians, promote local reinvestment, and preserve our state's beauty.

*Addition to Chapter 31 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Let "Non-resident Business Entity" be any corporation, partnership, or LLC in which  
3 more than 50% of ownership is held by individuals or entities headquartered outside West Virginia.

4 Let "Extractive Industry" be any business engaged in the extraction of natural resources, including  
5 coal, natural gas, timber, or minerals. Let "Local Reinvestment" Be capital invested directly into  
6 West Virginia communities, including education, infrastructure, workforce training, and  
7 environmental restoration.

8 Section 2. Any non-resident business entity operating in an extractive industry within West Virginia  
9 shall be required to reinvest no less than 20% of in-state net profits into approved local reinvestment  
10 initiatives. These reinvestments will be directed toward the following: workforce training and  
11 apprenticeship programs for West Virginians, infrastructure improvements in affected counties,  
12 environmental remediation and land restoration, and public education and community development  
13 projects.

14 Section 3. Extractive companies must ensure that at least 60% of their workforce consists of West  
15 Virginia residents. Priority shall be given to hiring locally displaced workers and graduates of in-state  
16 vocational or higher education programs.

17 Section 4. All non-resident extractive companies shall submit an annual public report detailing  
18 profits generated within West Virginia, wages paid to West Virginia employees, funds reinvested  
19 locally, and environmentally impact and remediation efforts.

20 Section 5. West Virginia based extractive companies shall receive tax incentives, reduced permitting  
21 fees, and access to state contracts.

22 Section 6. The tax incentives, reduced permitting fees, and access to state contract will be paid for  
23 with the proceeds from the reinvestment requirements on non-resident extractive industries.

24 Section 7. Failure to comply with this Act shall result financial penalties, suspension or revocation of  
25 operating permits for repeated offense. All penalties collected shall be directed into a West Virginia  
26 Community Reinvestment Fund.

27 Section 8. This shall take effect one year following passage to allow businesses adequate time to  
28 comply.

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**A BILL**

**Student Representation on County Boards of Education**

*To add to §18-5-1 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1 Section 1. “County Board” the primary elected governing body of a U.S. county, acting as its legislative  
2 and administrative authority. “Student Representative” the formal process of involving students in  
3 institutional decision-making, governance, and quality assurance, allowing them to voice perspectives and  
4 influence policies.

5 Section 2. This act shall be known as the “Student Representation on County Boards of Education Act.”

6 Section 3. The purpose of this act is to ensure that students give a voice in decisions that directly affect  
7 their education by requiring student representation at county boards of education.

8 Section 4. (a) The student representative must be a currently enrolled high school student, along with  
9 being the school's Student Body President. (b) The Student Body President should be selected through a fair  
10 process between the school and the board of education such as an election or application process. The  
11 student representative shall serve a one-year term and may be eligible for reappointment or reelection  
12 according to county guidelines.

13 Section 5. The student representative shall:

14 (a) Attend board meetings

15 (b) Share student perspectives on policies and decisions.

16 (c) Communicate board actions

17 (d) Have meetings with the school when the information can be shared.

18 Section 6. This act shall require no additional funding.

19 Section 7. This act shall take effect at the beginning of the next academic year (2026-2027) following  
20 its passage.

---

**A BILL**

**TO BAN THE PRACTICE OF CONVERSION THERAPY**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. (a) conversion therapy- the pseudoscientific practice of attempting to change an  
3 individual's sexual orientation, romantic orientation, gender identity, or gender  
4 expression to align with heterosexual and cisgender norms. (b) LGBTQ- an abbreviation for  
5 lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and queer.

6 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to protect LGBTQ youth by banning the practice of  
7 conversion therapy which causes many negative psychological effects. The effects of this  
8 practice are linked to symptoms of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicidality.  
9 There is a 55% increase in the risk of suicide from LGBTQ youth who have experienced  
10 conversion therapy than LGBTQ youth who have not. This is because conversion therapy  
11 continues to marginalize and oppress LGBTQ youth. Conversion therapy has no scientific  
12 basis and, in most cases, does not do its intended purpose. It causes youth to suppress who  
13 they are and teaches self-hatred and that how they are needs to be changed.

14 Section 3: By passing this bill, LGBTQ youth will be less likely to develop depression and  
15 post-traumatic stress disorder. This will lower suicidal ideation and the risk of suicide in  
16 LGBTQ youth. The passing of this bill will also help to make LGBTQ youth feel less  
17 marginalized and be able to accept who they are.

18 Section 4: No funding for this bill is required.

19 Section 5: This bill will go into will go into effect on January 1, 2027.

A BILL

Child Protection and Sentencing Enhancement Act  
To be added to Chapter 61, article 8B of the West Virginia State Code

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

Section 1: Definitions

Let "Prepubescent Child" be defined as any individual under the age of 12 years old.

Let "Pedophile" be defined in this bill specially (without change of the current definition) as an individual who commits or attempts to commit a sexual act or sexual exploitation involving a prepubescent child under the age of 12.

Let "sexual abuse of a prepubescent child" be defined as a sexual act against an individual under the age of 12 involving force, coercion, grooming, or resulting in serious physical or psychological harm.

Section 2: Purpose

The purpose of this bill is to protect minors in the State of West Virginia by establishing further criminal penalties for sexual crimes committed against children ensuring accountability for the sexual offender.

Section 3: Provisions

If this bill passes, individuals convicted of sexual abuse against children shall be subject to life imprisonment upon conviction. This bill would affect individuals convicted of sexual crimes against minors and would expand sentencing authority. This legislation is intended to act as both a deterrent for pedophilia and ensuring justice for the victims and their families.

Section 4: Funding

Funding shall be provided through taxes on products, such as tobacco, alcohol, and legalized gambling.

Section 5: Date of Implementation

This bill will go into effect immediately after passage.

**A Bill**

**Prohibit ICE From Targeting Schools**

*To ensure the safety of all children in West Virginia schools*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

Section 1: (a) Let ICE be defined as Immigration and Customs Enforcements. (b) Let immigrant children be defined as children who were born in another country and have moved to live in the United States or children who are born in the United States from immigrant parents. (c) Let FERPA be described as Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to ensure the safety of immigrant children in the public-school systems in West Virginia and protect their right to learn. In the classroom, on the school bus, on the way to and from school, children *must* remain safe. With the worry that they may be detained by ICE in any of these settings or circumstances is detrimental to the well-being, not only to the targeted children, but to all children in West Virginia.

Section 3: If this bill is allowed passage it would prohibit ICE agents from entering school campuses, school functions, and targeting school buses. ICE loitering near school campuses would also be prohibited. School employees cannot disclose the immigration status of any child within the school system regardless of age, as stated in the FERPA policy.

Section 4: This bill requires no funding.

Section 5: This bill will go into effect immediately after passage.

## Project Serenity

A bill to amend and reenact §49-4-601 and §49-4-604 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to abuse and neglect proceedings; establishing a statewide program for intense court supervision and treatment compliance for parents with substance use disorders. Providing temporary placement of children, time-limited improvement periods, and required evaluations.

### BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

#### Section 1: Definitions as follows

Abuse- Active harm or any risk of harm to a child by a responsible adult, whether physical, emotional, sexual.

Neglected- Failure to meet the child's basic needs to protect them from harm due to omission, inability, or absence.

Substance disorders- "Substances" means alcohol, controlled substances under 60A of the code, or any substance consumed for psychoactive effect.

#### Section 2. Project Serenity Established

That 49-4-601 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, be amended and reenacted to read as follows:

49-4-601. Abuse and Neglect petition; pilot program (Project Serenity) authority.

A. In cases alleging abuse or neglect in whole or in part from parental substance use, the court shall determine whether continuation of the child in the home is of risk to the child's welfare.

B. The Supreme Court of Appeals of WV, with the Department of Health and Human Resources, shall establish a pilot program authorizing court supervision in abuse and neglect cases involving parental substance use.

C. Under the program, the court shall order temporary removal of the child(ren) and placement with a suitable relative, or foster care to protect the child during the parent's treatment.

### **Section 3. Improvement Periods & Monitoring**

That 49-4-604 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended and reenacted to read as follows:

#### **49-4-604 Improvement periods; pilot program requirements**

- A. A parent in the program may be granted an improvement period not to exceed six months with judicial review.
- B. During which the parent shall demonstrate progress towards recovery and parental fitness.
- C. During any improvement period under the program the court shall require:
  - 1. Completion of inpatient substance abuse program with step down components; and course of therapy with a certified substance abuse counselor.
  - 2. Random substance screenings
  - 3. Regular judicial review hearings every 30 days and not to exceed 45 days.
  - 4. Compliance with all treatment and monitoring ordered by the court.
- D. A child shall not be reunified with a parent unless the court finds clear evidence that the parent(s) has achieved sustained recovery, stability, and the capacity to provide safe care. If the parent fails to demonstrate progress within the time limits provided in this section, the court shall proceed with permanency planning as required by law.

### **Section 4: Duration & Reporting Requirements**

- A. The pilot program (Project Serenity) established by this act shall operate for five years from the effective date.
- B. The Supreme Court of Appeals of West Virginia shall submit a report to the Legislature no later than December 1 of the fifth year evaluating outcomes, child safety, reunification rates, and permanency rates.

### **Section 5: Funding**

- A. The pilot program established by this article shall be funded through appropriations made by the Legislature for this purpose.
- B. The department may also seek and receive federal funds, grants, or private donations to support the pilot program.

### **Section 6: Effective**

This bill will go into effect July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, after passage.

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**A BILL**

**To Add a Mental Health Check to Athletes' Physical**

*To be Amended to State Code § 18-2-25*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

- 1 Section 1: (a) Let “sports physical” be defined as an exam that is mandatory to make sure an  
2 athlete is physically able to play/do a sport without it being harmful to themselves or others. (b) Let  
3 “mental health” be defined as a person’s overall emotional, psychological, and social well-being,  
4 including how they think, feel, manage stress, and interact with others. (c) Let “exam” be defined as a  
5 formal assessment used to evaluate a person’s knowledge, skills, or mental and emotional well-being.  
6 (d) Let “student-athlete” be defined as adolescent students who take part in organized sports while  
7 also meeting academic and school responsibilities.
- 8 Section 2: The purpose of this bill is to improve mental health of athletes in the public school system  
9 of West Virginia.
- 10 Section 3: If this bill were to pass it would improve the mental health of student-athletes. This bill  
11 will help the state by improving the athletic system and ensure that athletes are mentally stable. These  
12 psychological evaluations primarily support student-athletes by improving mental health and overall  
13 well-being. Nurses, however, will adapt to new protocols that involve coordinating and scheduling  
14 the annual psychological evaluation alongside each student-athlete’s sport physical.
- 15 Section 4: Funding will only be necessary if/when a student-athlete would need more support based  
16 on their scores of the psychological evaluation. If/when that happens, funding will become available  
17 through the state general fund, subject to legislative appropriation.
- 18 Section 5: This bill will go into effect the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

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**A BILL**

**Student Noninstructional Electronic Access Clarification Act**

*To amend §18 - 2 - 46 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. (a) “Personal electronic device” means any student-owned phone, tablet, or  
3 communication device. (b) “Instructional time” means scheduled classroom instruction,  
4 examinations, or teacher-directed activities. “Noninstructional time” includes lunch, class transitions,  
5 free periods, or after scheduled instruction.

6 Section 2. The purpose of this act is to preserve classroom instructional focus while ensuring  
7 reasonable student access to personal electronic devices during noninstructional time and preventing  
8 overly restrictive blanket bans imposed by county boards of education.

9 Section 3. (a) Public schools shall permit students access to personal electronic devices during  
10 noninstructional time. (b) County boards may adopt reasonable safety or misuse regulations but may  
11 not enact bans eliminating access during noninstructional time. (c) Teachers retain full authority to  
12 confiscate devices during instructional time, and schools may restrict access during emergencies or  
13 disciplinary actions.

14 Section 4. This bill will not require any additional funding.

15 Section 5. County boards shall revise policies to comply with this act within 90 days of enactment.

16 This act takes effect at the beginning of the following academic year.

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**A BILL**  
**School Staff Attendance Incentive**

*To amend §18-4A-10 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

- 2 Section 1. (a) School Staff- professional and service personnel in a school building
- 3 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to compensate all staff with an attendance bonus not just the
- 4 teachers that get the bonus now. The rational of this change is that a school building requires both
- 5 professional and service personnel to insure functionality of the school.
- 6 Section 3. This bill will compensate service personal the same as the current law does for teachers. If
- 7 service personnel take four or less personal days per employment term, they will receive a \$500
- 8 bonus. Passing this bill ensures that all school personnel are fairly compensated for attendance.
- 9 Section 4. Any funding necessary will come from the Department of Education budget.
- 10 Section 5. This bill will go into effect at the start of the 2026-2027 school year.

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A Bill

The West Virginia Pro-Choice Act

*To protect the right of pregnant women when making medical decisions concerning their body.*  
*To amend chapter 16 of the West Virginia State Code.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

1. SECTION 1. Definitions: (a) Let abortion be defined as- the voluntary termination of
2. pregnancy. (b) Let Ectopic pregnancy be defined as- a pregnancy that happens outside
3. of your uterus. This occurs when a fertilized egg implants in a location that can't support
4. its growth. (c) Let fetus be defined as- An unborn offspring developing inside a uterus.
5. SECTION 2. The purpose of this bill is to give women in West Virginia the right
6. to choose what they want to do with their body. Abortion would not only be limited to
7. emergencies, but to the decision that the woman who is pregnant makes. This bill will
8. protect a broader right to reproductive healthcare. It will ensure safe and legal abortion
9. care beyond government limitation, including those restricted to nonviable pregnancies,
10. ectopic pregnancies, Etc...
11. SECTION 3. This bill will amend Chapter 16, Article 20 of the West Virginia State Code,
12. giving women the right to perform abortion from the beginning of pregnancy up until the
13. 21st week without limitation and from the 22nd week to the end of pregnancy in situations
14. where the fetus is no longer viable and/or the mother's life is in danger.
15. This includes medical and surgical abortions.
16. SECTION 4. Funding from medical equipment necessary for abortion will come from
17. medicare.
18. SECTION 5. This bill will go into effect January 1st, 2027.

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**A BILL**

**Implementing Future Leaders Program in All Public High Schools**

*To be added to Chapter 18 of the West Virginia State Code.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2. Section 1. (a) The West Virginia Future Leaders Program (FLP) is a four-year leadership based high school
3. curriculum instilling leadership, promoting citizenship, and teaching life skills. (b) Class – a course of 4.
4. instruction.
5. Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to ensure kids have the opportunity, and access to skills they
6. need in adulthood. The program teaches values of community service, leadership, citizenship, flag
7. etiquette, life skills, physical fitness, stress management, resiliency, relationships, emergency
8. preparedness, first aid, career direction, job interviews and resumes, and important US documents.
9. Section 3. The passing of this bill will provide the necessary skills and knowledge for teenagers as
10. they enter adulthood.
11. Section 4. The funding needed for the program will be provided by the West Virginia National Guard.
12. Any additional funding needed for a class may be provided by the West Virginia Board of Education.
13. Section 5. This bill will require every high school student to complete the first class of FLP, 14.
14. Foundations, earning 1 credit.
15. Section 6. This bill will go into effect at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

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**A BILL**

**Culinary Health Education & Food-handling Act**

*To ensure all students have equal opportunities*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

- 1 Section 1. The purpose of this bill is to equip high school students with essential culinary skills and knowledge of healthy eating habits, while simultaneously improving the quality and nutritional value of school lunches and preparing students for potential careers in the food industry.
- 2 Section 2. Each high school shall be required to offer a semester-long course focused on cooking and healthy eating habits. This course can be taken as an elective or in place of one semester of physical education. This curriculum will include the following: instructions on basic cooking techniques, education on nutritional science and balanced diets, meal planning and budgeting, and hands-on experience in preparing healthy and appealing meals.
- 3 Section 3. A portion of the school lunch program's preparation may be integrated into this class, under the supervision of qualified culinary instructors and school nutrition staff. This class provides students with real-world experience and can contribute to a more dynamic and potentially cost-effective lunch menu.
- 4 Section 4. Students who successfully complete the course and meet the program's requirements will be eligible to earn a food handler's or food safety certificate, recognized by relevant health authorities. This certification can serve as a valuable asset for future employment.
- 5 Section 5. The State Department of Education, in conjunction with the Department of Health, will establish guidelines for the curriculum, instructor qualifications, and certification process. Schools will be provided with resources and support for the program implementation. This bill shall take effect on the 2026-2027 school year.

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**A BILL**  
**Homeless Aid Act**

*To establish a comprehensive, statewide framework for homelessness prevention, emergency shelter expansion, supportive housing development, and legislative reporting.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

Section 1.

1. “Homeless person” means an individual or family lacking a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including persons residing in emergency shelters, transitional housing, or places not designed or ordinarily used for human habitation, consistent with federal definitions under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

2. “Emergency shelter” means a publicly or privately operated facility that provides temporary lodging, food, and essential services to homeless people on a short-term basis.

3. “Supportive housing” means permanent or transitional housing combined with supportive services designed to promote housing retention, stability, and self-sufficiency.

Section 2.

The Department of Health and Human Resources shall develop, implement, and administer a statewide program to expand emergency shelter capacity, supportive housing availability, and homelessness prevention initiatives, with priority given to populations experiencing chronic homelessness.

Section 3.

The Department of Health and Human Resources shall coordinate with other state agencies, county and municipal governments, housing authorities, and nonprofit organizations to ensure the efficient delivery of housing assistance and supportive services, reduce duplication of services, and promote data-driven strategies to reduce homelessness statewide.

Section 4.

4. Funding for the programs established under this section may consist of state appropriations, federal funds, grants, and any other lawful public or private funding sources.

5. The Department may award funds through competitive grants to counties, municipalities, housing authorities, or nonprofit organizations that demonstrate measurable effectiveness in homelessness prevention, emergency shelter operations, or supportive housing programs.

Section 5.

The Department of Health and Human Resources shall submit an annual written report to the Legislature on or before December 1st of each year. The report shall include, but not be limited to:

- (1) An accounting of all funds expended under this section;
- (2) The number of individuals and families served;
- (3) Housing placement and retention outcomes; and (4) Recommendations for statutory or administrative improvements.

Section 6.

6. Any entity receiving funds pursuant to this section shall comply with all programmatic requirements, performance standards, and reporting obligations established by the Department.

7. Failure to comply may result in corrective action, suspension, or termination of funding, subject to applicable administrative procedures.

Section 7.

This bill shall take effect immediately after passage.

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**A BILL**

**West Virginia Drive After 65 Act**

*To be added to section § 17B-2-1 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Definitions: Let “elderly” be any individual aged sixty-five (65) years or older. Let “age-  
3 induced decline” be defined as a gradual decrease in certain cognitive functions, reaction time, vision,  
4 hearing, and physical abilities that may occur as a result of aging. Let “driving assessment” be an  
5 evaluation administered by the WV Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to determine an  
6 individual’s ability to safely operate a motor vehicle.

7 Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to promote public safety by reducing the risk of automobile  
8 accidents related to age-induced decline while maintaining the independence of elderly drivers who  
9 remain capable of safely operating a motor vehicle.

10 Section 3. If this bill were to pass, any individual aged sixty-five (65) years or older who possesses a  
11 valid, state-issued driver’s license would be required to complete an additional driving assessment.  
12 The assessment shall be required upon license renewal or upon notification by the Department of  
13 Motor Vehicles, whichever occurs first. The assessment shall include, but not be limited to:

14 (a) A vision screening;

15 (b) A written knowledge test covering current traffic laws and road safety regulations; and

16 (c) A practical driving evaluation.

17 Section 4. Failure to complete the assessment within thirty (30) days shall result in the temporary  
18 suspension of the individual’s driver’s license until requirements are met. Upon successful completion  
19 of the driving assessment, the individual’s driving privileges shall be reinstated, and an updated  
20 driver’s license shall be mailed to the individual within two (2) weeks.

21 Section 5. The WV Department of Motor Vehicles shall be responsible for administering and  
22 enforcing this Act. Fees associated with the assessment shall be set by the Department and shall not  
23 exceed the cost necessary to administer the program.

24 Section 6. This bill will go into effect on January 1st of 2027.

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**A BILL**  
**Vape removal act.**

*To remove vapes from the state.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Vapes - a device to inhale vapors with nicotine, solvents, and flavoring. Disposable vape - a vaping device that is designed to be discarded after a certain number of uses. E-cigarettes - another name for vapes. Neuroteratogen – a Chemical agent that interferes with prenatal development and cause cognitive, functional, and Behavioral disabilities. Maturation – the development of something to its prime form

Section 2. This Bill will require the ban of all vaping products from West Virginia. Vapes, disposable vapes, and E-cigarettes are harmful accessories that people of all ages can use and abuse. Vapes can cause irreversible lung damage that can hospitalize and even kill users. More than 1 in 3 high school students in West Virginia report using vapes and e-cigarettes in 2017-2019 alone. Nicotine is a neuroteratogen, meaning it can cause long-term effects during critical stages in brain development. Until young adulthood (early to mid-20s), the brain has not completed its maturation. The prefrontal cortex, the area responsible for decision making and attention performance, is one of the last to mature. This makes youth more likely to experiment with e-cigarettes or other drugs and makes them more susceptible to their addictive effects. West Virginia is 50 out of 51 for lung cancer sitting at a 76.3 per 100,000 people while the national rate of 52.8 as well as being the number one in the country for adult of smoking at a astounding 20.4 percent of the population while the nationally the rate is 11.4 percent. By Removing vapes we can not only help lower these percentages but also help improve the life span of

people in West Virginia overall. The bill. Will have a delayed activation time to give people time to get the help they need to get over the addiction or to find safer alternative.

Section 3. By passing this bill it will cause all vapes, disposable vapes, and e-cigarettes to cease to be stored or distributed in any store or location in the state. All vapes should be upon activation of the bill should be taken back into vape companies' stock in locations outside West Virginia's borders.

Section 4. This bill should not need funding from state as its simply a banning act of a product.

Section 5. This Bill will go into effect in 24 months from.

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**A BILL**

**West Virginia Artificial Intelligence Media Transparency Act**

*To enhance transparency, protect the public from deception, and preserve trust in digital media by requiring that hyperrealistic artificial intelligence-generated photos and videos distributed within the State of West Virginia be clearly watermarked.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2     Section 1. Definitions: Let “Artificial Intelligence” or “AI” be defined as any machine-based system or software  
3     capable of generating images, audio, or video content that mimics real individuals, objects, events, or  
4     environments without direct human photography or videography. Let “Hyperrealistic AI Media” be defined as  
5     any AI-generated image or video that a reasonable person would believe to depict a real person, place, event,  
6     or occurrence, including but not limited to deepfake content. Let “Watermark” be defined as a visible, persistent,  
7     and unalterable digital label placed on AI-generated media indicating that the content was created or  
8     substantially modified by artificial intelligence. Let “Digital Platform” be defined as any website, social media  
9     application, streaming service, or online forum accessible within the State of West Virginia that allows users to  
10    upload or share media content. Let “Content Distributor” be defined as any individual, organization, or business  
11    entity that publishes, uploads, shares, or otherwise disseminates Hyperrealistic AI Media within the State of  
12    West Virginia. Let “Enforcing Agency” be defined as the Office of the Attorney General of West Virginia or  
13    any state agency designated to oversee compliance with this Act.

14    Section 2. Watermark Requirement: All Hyperrealistic AI Media created, distributed, or made publicly  
15    accessible within the State of West Virginia shall contain a clearly visible watermark stating “AI-Generated  
16    Content.” The watermark shall:

17    (a) Be placed in a location reasonably visible to viewers;

18    (b) Remain on screen for the entire duration of any video content;

19    (c) Be embedded in a manner that makes removal or alteration technically difficult; and

20 (d) Use a font size, color, and contrast sufficient to ensure readability.

21 Section 3. Platform Compliance: All Digital Platforms operating within the State of West Virginia shall  
22 implement reasonable measures to detect and label Hyperrealistic AI Media uploaded by users. Platforms shall:

23 (a) Provide users with a disclosure option at the time of upload to identify AI-generated content;

24 (b) Automatically append a visible watermark to such content if not already present; and

25 (c) Remove or restrict access to Hyperrealistic AI Media that fails to comply with this Act after notice from the  
26 Enforcing Agency.

27 Section 4. Exemptions: This Act shall not apply to:

28 (a) Clearly satirical or parody content that would not reasonably be mistaken for real events;

29 (b) Content produced by federal or state law enforcement agencies for investigative or training purposes; or

30 (c) Historical restorations or visual enhancements that do not materially alter the factual representation of  
31 events.

32 Section 5. Penalties: Any Content Distributor found in violation of this Act shall be subject to:

33 (a) A civil fine not exceeding \$5,000 per violation for individuals;

34 (b) A civil fine not exceeding \$25,000 per violation for organizations or business entities; and

35 (c) Injunctive relief requiring immediate compliance.

36 Repeated violations may result in increased penalties and referral for further legal action as determined by the  
37 Enforcing Agency.

38 Section 6. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

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**A Bill**

**The Easy Register and Vote Act**

*To Be Added to §3-1-22 of the West Virginia State Code*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

2 Section 1. Definitions: A.) Let “Poll Worker(s)” be defined as any official/volunteer that  
3 actively works the election polling centers on Election Day. B.) Let “Voter Registration” be  
4 defined as the act of a non-registered, eligible citizen filling out the proper forms and  
5 becoming a registered voter. C.) Let “Voter Registration Form” be defined as the official  
6 document/application filled out by a citizen that makes them a registered voter and therefore  
7 eligible to vote. D.) Let “Proper County Officials” be defined as county officials whose jobs  
8 entail election/voter registration work, such as County Clerks and County Clerks of Elections.  
9 Section 2. On any given Election Day in West Virginia, unregistered voters may go to their  
10 respective polling centers and simultaneously register to vote and then vote. Prospective  
11 voters that choose to register at their polling centers shall complete the official Voter  
12 Registration Form and turn said form in to the poll workers at their center. Before certifying  
13 any election results after this bill is enacted, all Voter Registration Forms must be properly  
14 input into the state’s database by the proper county officials. Once in the state database, the  
15 previously unregistered voter shall be seen in the eyes of the state (and nation) as an active  
16 voter and their prospective proper county officials shall send the newly registered voter their  
17 official Voter’s Registration Card in a timely manner.

18 Section 3. Proper County Officials shall send official Voter Registration Forms along with the  
19 other necessary voting materials (as the officials are already doing) to the respective county's  
20 polling centers/poll workers. In addition to the other voting materials and the newly added  
21 voter registration forms, a detailed information and instruction packet shall be provided to  
22 help the poll workers learn to help unregistered voters with their Voter Registration Forms.  
23 This packet shall be created by the proper county officials that oversee the election and Voter  
24 Registration processes within each county. The information put in the packets shall be at the  
25 free will of the proper county officials, given the packet solely, completely, and accurately  
26 describes to the poll workers how to assist unregistered voters with their Voter Registration  
27 Forms.

28 Section 4. This bill will require minimal funding. All funding shall come from existing funds  
29 in each county for election processes.

30 Section 5. This bill shall go into effect immediately after passage, allowing ample time for the  
31 proper county officials to prepare the information packets and Voter Registration Forms.

**A BILL**

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR POPULATION INFLUX**

*To be added to Chapter 11A (§11A-1-18) of the West Virginia State*

*Code.*

**BE IT INACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF  
WEST VIRGINIA**

1 Section 1. (a) affordable - item which can be reasonably,  
2 non-destructively paid by a person(s) intended long term source of  
3 income/savings. (b) housing - a place by which a person(s) can  
4 affordably, comfortably stay long term with access to living  
5 necessities (food, water, hygienics, warmth) without losing health  
6 coverage or employment due to economic cost/benefit choices.  
7 (c) population influx - the consistently large or suddenly  
8 impactful growth of people within recognized borders.  
9 Section 2. This bill allows steady, sufficient population growth  
10 within West Virginia, specifically the Southwest, Southeast, and  
11 Mid-Ohio Valley regions. This growth is stimulated by twelve  
12 month periods of property tax/cost cuts by the state. The  
13 cut's degree is determined by a person(s) marital, educational,  
14 and income statuses plus age and familial size.  
15 Section 3. This bill's intention is West Virginia (as the one state  
16 whose population reduced since 1950 and who ranks fourth in

17 states by oldest median age) has a growth in young, working  
18 people to bolster the state economies across diverse fields. This  
19 bill is for people aged 18-35, all housing cut eligible varying on  
20 other details. A marriage to another in the age group results in a  
21 15% housing cost reduction, if there are children it reduces 3%  
22 per child, up to five children. Income's importance is families  
23 below the poverty line receive 25% reduction, and those  
24 exceeding a yearly salary of \$165,000 or who own 3+ properties  
25 exceeding 100 accumulated acres are housing cost reduction  
26 ineligible. Educationally, collegiate degrees have workforce value.  
27 Associate's holders receive 10% reduction, bachelors 15%,  
28 masters 20%, and doctoral 25% reductions. All reductions  
29 accumulated must hit an absolute max of 70% reduction.  
30 Section 4. The bill makes fair home prices for people by cutting  
31 housing costs and taxes. If an international firm refuses to assent  
32 with this law, (despite being paid 50% the home's reduced price)  
33 the "Roosevelt Rule" uses §47-18-3, WV State Code to deem the  
34 corp unlawful, seizing the property as the state's, which gets  
35 redistributed to local housing agencies via bidding. Funding is  
36 provided by the remaining 50%, non compensated price of the  
37 houses. (assuming compliance) As well as fines against the corps  
38 if the home is below contractually required condition, fines are  
39 20% of the home's non-reduced cost if the firm is international.  
40 "Roosevelt Rule" also applies to local housing agencies, however  
41 compensation jumps to 75% and condition fine drops to 10%.  
42 Section 5. This bill acts, per person, for twelve months from the  
43 date of first paid job to a calendar year later. Exceptions are made  
44 under the "Five and Three Weeks" rule, if one fails to gain paid

45 employment within five weeks, they are given three weeks notice  
46 that employment lack results in subsequent cuts of lower costs  
47 and taxes on property. This rule also applies to employment  
48 loss via employer/employee's choice. In employment loss  
49 circumstances, the rule may be used thrice per state resident.  
50 Section 6. This bill will remain in act until state population  
51 exceeds 1.7% of national population (Roughly 5.8 Million, 2024)  
52 or state population exceeds 75% of border state average  
53 population (Roughly 7 Million, 2026)  
54 Section 7. Exceptions and changes for a new rentee or owner  
55 can be made if found fair by a jury and judge of good standing  
56 within the state of West Virginia other than the salary cap.

69th WV YLA Student Legislature

2026

Bill # S 21

Sponsors: Vivian Webb , Rya Howell

Committee # S 03

Woodrow Wilson High School

Member of # S 01

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A BILL

Clean Water for Southern West Virginians

*To be added to Chapter 22 (Environmental Resources) of the West Virginia State Code.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST  
VIRGINIA

Section 1: **a.)** Let “*mine blowout*” be defined as a catastrophic, release of water, mud, or debris from an abandoned mine, typically triggered by hydraulic pressure overwhelming structural barriers. **b.)** Let “*pollution*” be defined as anything introduced into the environment that makes it no longer drinkable, habitable, or safe. **c.)** Let “*coal ash*” be defined as residual waste left over by coal companies. **d.)** Let “*EPA*” be defined as the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Section 2: The *purpose* of this bill is to provide all Southern West Virginians in counties such as McDowell, Raleigh, Mercer, Fayette, Greenbrier, Monroe, Nicholas, Wyoming, and Summers with clean, healthy water that is not polluted by coal ash residuals from mines and other coal processing companies. Coal companies are one of the main contributors to the pollution of our creeks, rivers, and other rural water sources through persistent mine blowouts

from abandoned and active mines, leaving coal ash and other residuals that poison the community through its ingestion.

Section 3: This bill will be *funded* through the increase of taxes on nicotine products such as vapes, tobacco chews, and cigarettes. The taxes from this will go straight to creating an account within the Dept. Of Natural Resources, they will be given the power to investigate and enforce the legislation and issue fines.

Section 4: The companies will be required to dump their future excess waste to landfills specialized for this material or creating a more biodegradable form of wastage that can be recycled. eg.) using the wastes metals for new resources if their budget allows.

Section 5: Require bi-weekly water testing, eventually expanding the time gap once water quality improves. Ensures that water is improving or kept above 6.5 PH.

Section 6: In the future when companies retire their coal plants, they must clean up the toxic waste and leave communities with sites that will not harm their health, economy, or environment

Section 7: West Virginia shall prohibit the use of coal ash as a substitute for clean soil in construction (Known as structural fill) especially in inhabited areas and ensure either company or community where ash was previously used as fill.

Section 8 : Companies will adhere to this law via various forms of consequences such as fines, lawsuits by the state and potential shutting down of the business in its entirety.

Section 9 : Bill shall go into effect 5 months after passage in order to give the state time to prepare the materials necessary. Coal companies will be expected to comply with the law as soon as possible after its passage, given leeway of 5 months before receiving consequences by helping patch their leaks, removing any coal ash in contact with groundwater.

**YLA Student Legislature**  
**Authors: Alexa Solis, Lily Garcia**  
**Delegation: Woodrow Wilson**

**2026**

**Bill # S 22**  
**Committee # S 03**  
**Member of # S 02**

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**A BILL**

**REDUCING THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED SCHOOL DAYS IN WEST VIRGINIA  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*To be added to Chapter 18 of the West Virginia State Code.*

BE IT ENACTED BY THE STUDENT LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA:

1     Section 1. (a) "Instructional day" means a day in which students receive educational  
2     instruction as required by law. (b) "Public school" means any school operated by a  
3     county board of education in West Virginia.

4     Section 2. The purpose of this bill is to reduce the number of mandatory instructional  
5     days in public schools in order to improve student well-being, reduce burnout, and  
6     allow for greater flexibility in school scheduling.

7     Section 3. All public schools in the state of West Virginia shall require no more than  
8     one hundred seventy instructional days per school year.

9     Section 4. County boards of education may determine specific school calendar,  
10    provided that the total number of instructional days does not exceed one hundred  
11    seventy school days.

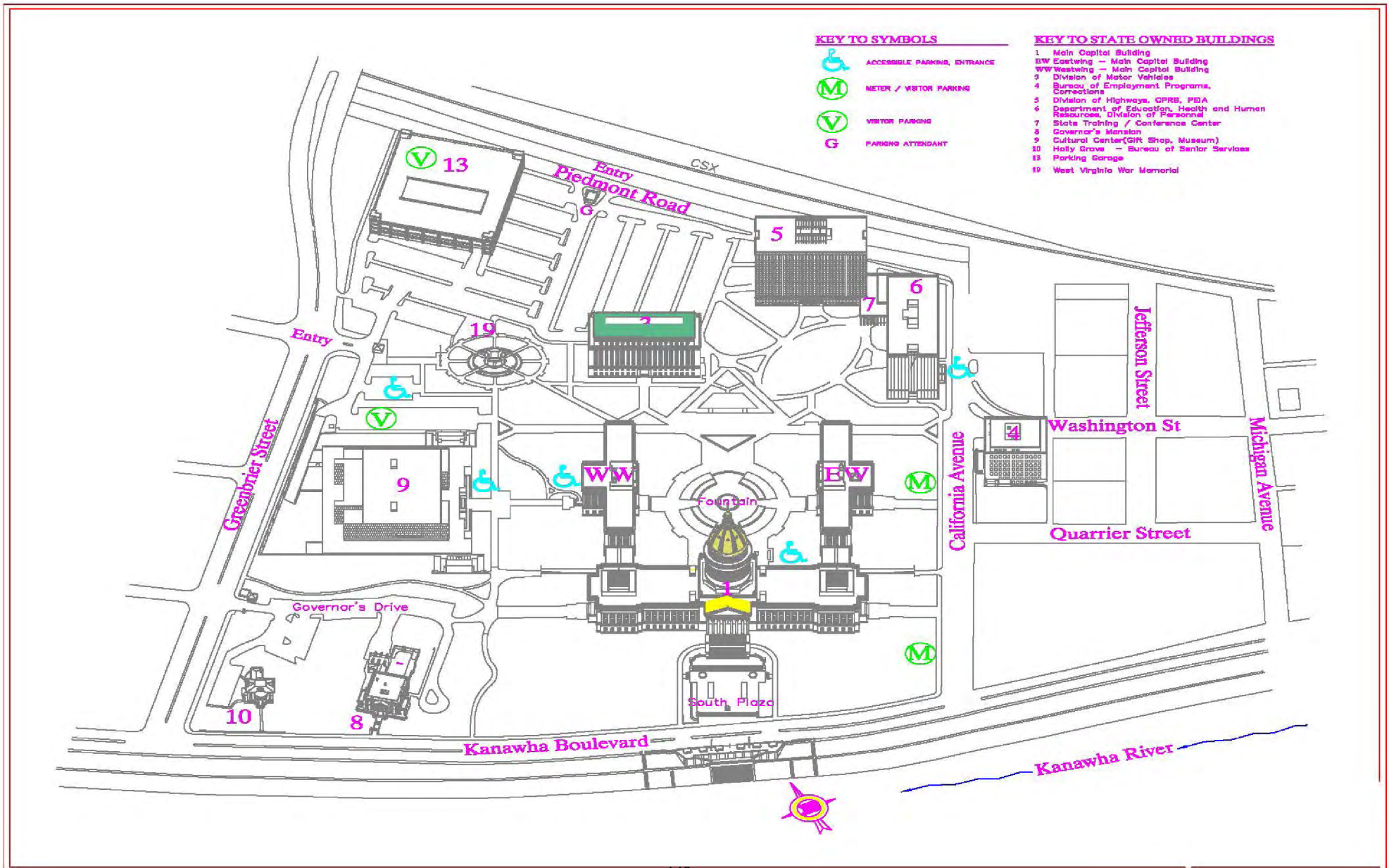
12    Section 5. Any laws or policies requiring one hundred eighty instructional days are  
13    hereby amended to reflect the new requirement of one hundred seventy instructional  
14    days.

15    Section 6. The West Virginia Department of Education shall oversee the  
16    implementation of this bill and ensure compliance by all county school systems.

17    Section 7. This bill shall go into effect at the beginning of the school year following  
18    its passage.

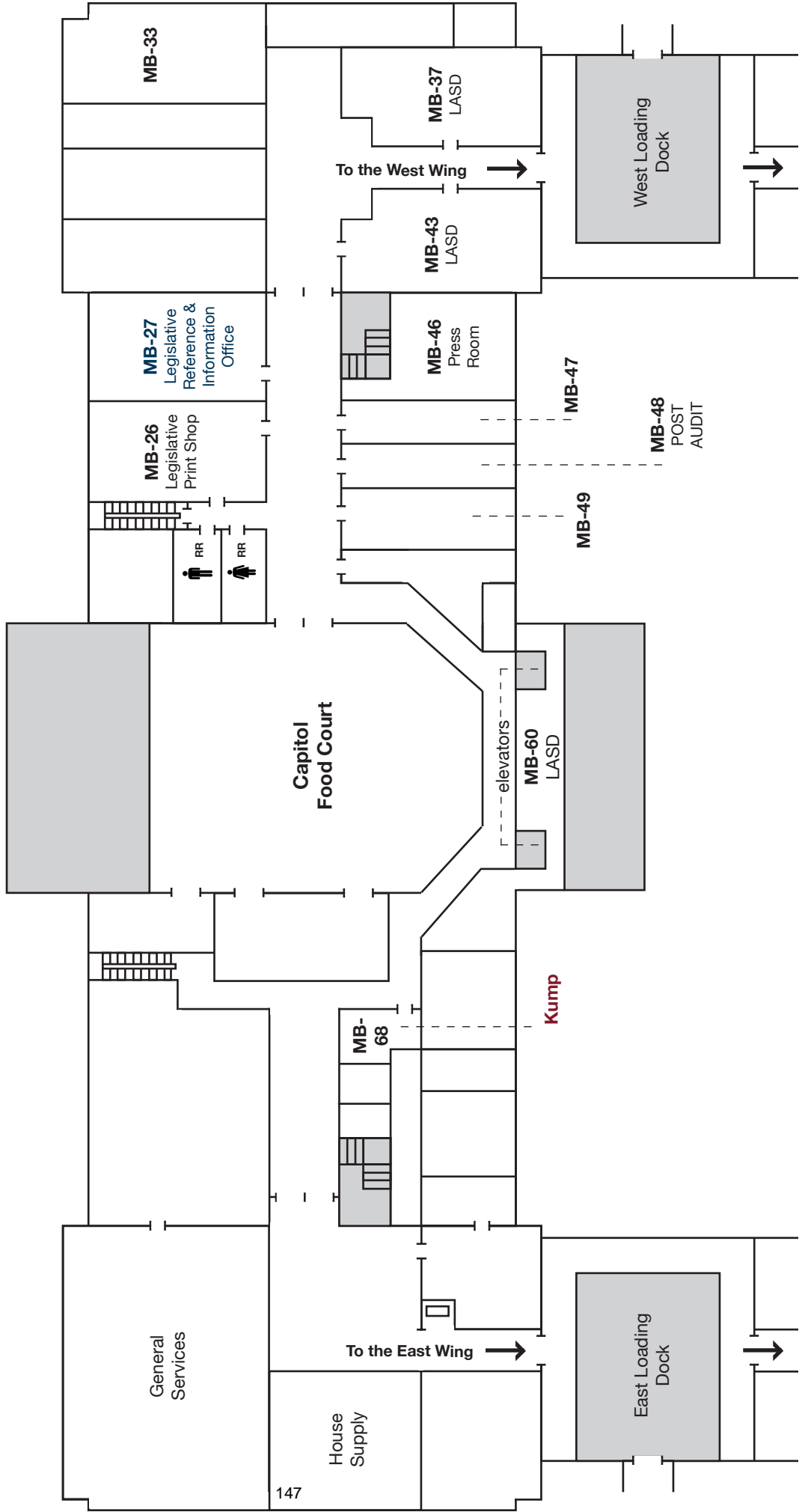
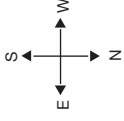
# West Virginia State Capitol Maps

## State Capitol Grounds



# WEST VIRGINIA STATE CAPITOL MAPS

## Main Building - Basement



## **Officer Leadership Corps**

YLA chapters, Youth in Government, Model United Nations Officers Lead in Building Better Futures

### **Officer Charter**

Student officers strengthen, improve and expand all our youth programs to involve more students building better homes, schools and communities across our two states. Student officers are program leaders – in effect the youth program arm of our Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association Board.

Officers convene at a Leadership Summit at Horseshoe in June to organize, identify and plan how to strengthen all our programs, increase the numbers of students involved and the impact students will have creating the future. The opportunity is there to make differences for good building on and adding to the legacy of officer and member accomplishments that already include –

- ◆ A network of YLAs developing more informed, involved and prepared teenagers capable of governance who take responsible volunteer actions tackling issues from hunger to literacy – homelessness- entrepreneurship – safety – elderly - environment – bullying and more;
- ◆ Building Horseshoe in West Virginia into a life changing experience for hundreds of teens and children each year that is renewing the base of volunteers and leaders for our communities, state and nation;
- ◆ Launching the creation of a new nationally significant Center for Community Leadership at Cave Lake in Ohio to renew family, organizational, community, and civic life across Ohio with on-site programs for 31,000 and a statewide outreach to 6,000 youth;
- ◆ Creating one of Ohio's top ten Make A Difference Day projects at Cave Lake;
- ◆ Volunteer Teen Corps helping needy boys and girls at the Governor's Youth Opportunity Camps turn their lives to achievement;
- ◆ Using real life experience to propose legislation to the annual YG Student Legislature that every year helps hundreds of teens understand the role of state government as they propose legislative solutions for a better state;
- ◆ Enhancing understanding of the judicial system as students appeal cases to YG's Student Supreme Court;
- ◆ Opening windows on the world to teenagers presenting Resolutions in Model United Nations to solve international issues that impact the future as well as their communities, state, nation and world;
- ◆ Producing thousands of better citizens, local volunteers and leaders plus state and national leaders including former Ohio Governor and Peace Corps Director Richard Celeste, the late Ohio Chief Justice Tom Moyer, and Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services;
- ◆ 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution granting the vote to 18 year olds;

### **A Call for Officers – Now is the Time to Build the Future!**

Students with the interest, commitment and time are called to step up as local YLA officers, YG and UN officers to lead YLA to increased participation, effectiveness and achievement locally and in our states. Officers begin in June's Leadership Summit at Horseshoe.

Contact the YLA Leadership Center or your Advisor to get involved.

## **Officer Leadership Corps**

### ***Strengthening, Improving, Building Impact in our Schools, Communities and our Two States***

The Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association Board counts on officers to lead YLA, YG and UN to success. Officers with the commitment, vision and time are needed. We need officers who want to make a difference! Our work begins at our Leadership Summits. The high school Summit and the middle school Summit are in June.

### **Officer Corps**

YLA groups are real-life laboratories of citizenship where students learn how to organize and tackle issues confronting families, their schools and communities by creating, leading and governing local YLAs. Students apply classroom and life lessons to identify, plan and take volunteer actions to improve family, school and community life. YLAs build better futures by making differences for good!

Secure your Officers before May 20th and submit their names and contact information to YLA.

Have as many officers as possible – and for sure your new President – represents you at the June Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. Assure success by getting your officers trained and on board as part of our Officer Corps.

### **Youth in Government Officer Corps**

YG officers review the just completed program, identify ways to improve YG for the New Year, establish goals for the year and lay out a plan of action. Officers engage other students in YG sessions to motivate them to participate and to return home ready to recruit their peers.

YG officers challenge everyone at the Summit to identify issues that need solved by the volunteer actions back home. Out of tackling issues like hunger, homelessness, the environment, needs of seniors, and other problems, students propose Legislation to YG's Student Legislature.

Officer positions elected by students at YG are Governor, Lt. Governor (Ohio only), Speaker, President, Clerks of the House and Senate, Chaplains of the House and Senate, Chief Justice. Appointment positions are Governor's Cabinet, Associate Justices, Press Editor and Committee Chairs.

### **Model United Nations Officer Corps**

UN officers review the just completed program, identify ways to improve UN for the New Year, establish goals for the year and lay out a plan of action. Officers engage other students in UN sessions to motivate them to participate and to return home ready to recruit their peers. YLA will offer separate high school and middle school UN Assemblies.

UN officers challenge everyone at the Summit to identify international issues that need solutions and gain understanding how world issues impact their communities and future. Resolutions presented by students to the Model UN extend YLA's impact beyond the community and state to the world. Hunger, the environment, illiteracy, health and energy are just some world issues confronting our communities that YLA students tackle.

Officer positions elected by students at UN are President of the General Assembly, Secretary General, and Council Presidents. Appointment positions are Vice President of Councils.

## **Officer Responsibilities and Qualifications**

YG officers are members of a YLA currently affiliated with the YLA Leadership Center. Officers are elected at the end of a YG session to serve through the next YG. The year of service is an opportunity to develop and use one's skills, improve YG, help other students have a positive YG experience, involve new schools and students, and advance YLA's youth leadership program.

### **Local YLA Nomination**

Before a YLA holds its nominating meeting, be sure every candidate has the competence, commitment, time, people and social skills as well as attitudes required for to develop and lead others. Officers must be at ease in diverse places including Horseshoe, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill/Case Rating and YG.

**Candidates must win the nomination of their local YLA for the office sought.**

*In other words, a person cannot just decide to run for an office. The person must secure the nomination of their local YLA.*

Delegations may nominate no more than one (1) candidate per office.

The local YLA must have an officer nominating meeting. Every candidate is to have a chance to seek nomination. If there is more than one candidate seeking the nomination for an office, their local YLA will take a vote. The winner of that vote becomes the nominee.

**Delegations submit their official nomination (s) on the Officer Candidate Nomination form in the Legislative manual by the deadline in the YG Calendar.**

### **Potential Candidates**

Before seeking the nomination for an office, make sure –

- ◆ Officers lead YG for a year in diverse places and programs. An officer must be at ease in YLA Summits, conferences and retreats, Bill/Case Rating, and YG. These places are intentionally chosen for the unique ways each calls people to engage with people in community building. YG is much more than parliamentary procedure, passing laws and debate.

Governor and Cabinet, Speaker, President, Chief Justice and Associate Justices participate in the Summer Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. All other officers including the appointed Press Editor are invited and welcome to join them at the Summit!

YG is about being a citizen with others . . . and this takes place in real places where people must act to build community. Because these places and programs are reality – not a virtual reality – they require real people (officers) whose positive attitudes and actions build responsible and engaged citizens.

- ◆ One can commit the time, work and money the position requires. Check one's calendar, check with parents and be sure the family's calendar will allow the commitment of the significant time the office requires. Check one's financial position – that of the family and the local YLA to be sure the money is available. If both time and money are available, lock them in to assure they will still be available if the office is won.

Do not seek the office, get it, and later ask to be excused from any of the position' responsibilities. Other defeated candidates were fully prepared to carry out their duties at these four programs and there were others who did not run because they could not.

- ◆ An officer who does not fulfill their responsibilities may resign or may be removed from office. If that happens, another person will be appointed or elected to the position. The new officer will complete the term of office through April YG.

## **Nomination for Office**

### **Responsibility of the Nominating YLA**

Nominate candidates with the competence to do the job. Please see Officer Duties, Local Nomination and Potential Candidates information above and Officer Responsibilities below.

### **Officer Responsibilities**

#### ***Lead from the bottom up – not the top down***

#### **Set the example:**

- ◆ Do what one asks and/or expects others to do;
- ◆ Help others do and become their best;
- ◆ Assert the purpose of YLA Youth In Government to peers;
- ◆ Insist peers achieve the highest levels of competence, personal and group conduct, respect for others Youth in Government and in facilities our program uses;
- ◆ Practice our core values of Respect – Responsibility – Caring – Trustworthiness – Honesty – Fairness – Citizenship.

### **Attitude**

- ◆ Positive, likes people, welcomes and involves others, helps others succeed.
- ◆ At ease in diverse places including Summit at Horseshoe, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill / Case Rating and at YG – each place is different and all are deliberately chosen to engage people with people building understanding and community building – wants to be in these places to enjoy the experience.
- ◆ Puts others first, thinks and acts based on what is best for the group.

### **Responsible**

- ◆ Accept and carry out responsibility;
- ◆ Recognize that Youth in Government is youth led and adult supported;
- ◆ Insist peers be responsible for their attitudes, decisions and actions and that they all support the purpose, procedures and conduct expected by YLA and its Youth in Government;
- ◆ Act responsibly – it is not acceptable to say “that is the Advisor’s job”;
- ◆ Capable and willing to carry out the responsibilities listed in this section of the manual.

### **Competence**

- ◆ Know and understand your job;
- ◆ Know the procedures, carry them out and insist peers do too;
- ◆ Select others for leadership positions based on their competence;
- ◆ Teach peers how to use the procedures;
- ◆ Mature in attitudes and actions.

## **Involvement**

- ◆ Involve others, encourage others, bring more schools and students into YG;
- ◆ Model the involvement expected by others

**Term of Office** - From election or appointment to the adjournment of the next YG; the job is done all year, not just at the spring YG session.

## **Officers at the Summer Leadership Summit**

- ◆ Train for and practice one's responsibilities
- ◆ Review YG Exit Surveys
- ◆ Determine how to strengthen the program
- ◆ Present YG to all participants, encourage their participation, train students to return home ready to prepare their members
- ◆ Learn how to connect YLA's service civic engagement and values to Youth in Government
- ◆ Build a statewide network of peers practicing YLA's core values, advancing YG, and building better futures for all.

## **Officers at YLA Conferences and Retreats**

- ◆ Be prepared in procedure, responsibility, how to do your job and do it so your example of competence sends the message everyone is to achieve the highest standards of conduct, competence, and participation.
- ◆ Involve and engage others—encourage new schools and students to participate.

## **At Bill/Case Rating**

- ◆ Know your job so well and be able to perform it with competence that the level of performance by everyone is raised to the highest levels.

## **Leadership Team**

### **Governor**

#### **Select Cabinet**

- ◆ Up to 4 persons
- ◆ Only one from a school
- ◆ Ideally no one from the governor's home school
- ◆ Cabinet Applications accepted at YG and the week after YG
- ◆ YLA sends applications to Youth Governor two days after due date
- ◆ Youth governor's selections made and YLA informed one week after receipt of applications from YLA
- ◆ YLA office sends letters of appointment or not appointed
- ◆ Governor and Cabinet begin work at Horseshoe Summer Leadership Summit in June

#### **Officers at Summit**

- ◆ Governor and Cabinet review Exit Surveys to determine how to improve for next year
- ◆ With the assistance of the Cabinet, develop a legislative platform

- ◆ By week's end, Governor determines Cabinet assignments
- ◆ Assist in training peers to participate and to train their members back home
- ◆ Recruit new schools and students to participate

### **Public**

- ◆ Serve as a member of the Youth in Government Committee
- ◆ Speak on behalf of the program at events as requested by YLA

### **President of the Senate and Speaker of the House**

- ◆ At Leadership Summit review Exit Surveys to determine ways to improve the Student Legislature, prepare the Legislative training portion of summit, conduct the training, identify students not in YG and recruit their participation
- ◆ Lead other legislative officers present
- ◆ Preside over legislative sessions, insist all participate on an intellectual and productive level
- ◆ Involve and engage other students, encourage new schools and students to participate in YG

### **Lt. Governor**

- ◆ Assist and support the Governor
- ◆ Preside over the Cabinet for the Governor and lead the Cabinet in its work
- ◆ Assist other students to have a successful YG experience. Encourage new school and student participation.

### **Clerks**

- ◆ Know and practice your duties
- ◆ At the Summer Summit, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill Rating, and YG perform your duties to assist in the operation of your House or Senate
- ◆ Assist your Speaker or President
- ◆ At YG, pick up Bills and the Order of the Day from the Bill Coordinator before legislative sessions
- ◆ Keep attendance at each session
- ◆ Read the Bills including amendments as directed by the Presiding Officer
- ◆ Count votes, report vote to Presiding Officer
- ◆ Record and sign all legislation
- ◆ Return Bills to Bill Coordinator, submit completed Bill Disposition and verbally report action taken on each Bill

### **Chaplains**

- ◆ Prepare messages with an impact calling participants to YG's purpose
- ◆ Share your leadership at summer Summit, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill Rating and of course YG
- ◆ Assist your Speaker or President

### **Press Editor**

- ◆ Take the opportunity to join the officers at the Summer Leadership Summit, YLA conferences and retreats, Bill / Case Rating to make connections helpful to you at YG and to be in on "the ground floor" of YG preparations and operations
- ◆ Take a lead in creating outstanding YG Press Corps
- ◆ Encourage, lead, involve and insist all Press Corps members perform with competence

## **Cabinet**

- ◆ Support and represent the Governor's view on proposed legislation
- ◆ Encourage new schools and students to participate in YG
- ◆ Help all participants succeed
- ◆ Report to the Governor legislative views of Committees, Legislature and members

### **Competence**

An important goal is to raise the level of competence of Legislators, Committee Chairs and all Officers. Success requires a joint effort by Officers, Staff and Advisors. Officers must accept their responsibility to lead their peers in directions required for a successful YG. Officers must take on responsibility to stand up to their peers when needed to correct or re-direct them and must always stand up to lead in positive ways. Any officer who cannot do this is expected to resign so that a person who can do the job with the right attitude can be appointed to get the job done.

### **Before Seeking Office**

Potential candidates are to be sure they have the attitudes to positively participate in and provide the leadership needed throughout the year. Candidates must be sure they can commit the time the position requires. Do not seek the office, get it and then later ask to be excused from any of the position's responsibilities. Others who ran and were defeated were fully prepared to carry out their duties and there were others who did not run because they knew they could not.

One year of previous Youth in Government experience required for Speaker and President. Governor Candidates must have two years of YG experience. Governor Candidates may count the current year participation as one of those two years.

***It is not just to get the office – it is to carry out the commitments of the office.***

## **Election Procedure at Youth in Government**

Candidates demonstrate their ability to do the responsibilities of the position they seek. There is no campaign, campaign speech, campaign material, electronic or phone campaigns. Campaigning for office in the manner regularly observed in real-life politics is prohibited.

No person should be eliminated from running for office because of finances. Candidates do not "buy" an election because of "stuff" (i.e. buttons, giveaways, posters, flashy websites, business cards, etc.). It is also essential that the process of the election not overshadow the actual work being done at YLA Youth in Government or Model UN.

Candidates are to be elected based on their positions on issues, leadership and an informed electorate. We encourage members to explore the qualifications, leadership record, and character of each candidate seeking their support.

YLA reserves the right to rule on campaign-related issues that arise as a result of evolving technology. Candidates who do not follow approved campaign procedures may be disqualified from the election process.

Each YLA member is encouraged to take an active part (as a candidate, or as a voting member). Our purpose is to select the most qualified candidates for the job. Our purpose in running for offices to serve should never be overshadowed by the election process (campaigning).

Delegates are responsible to vote for the best candidate and are not to be influenced by their Advisor or other adults seeking to determine the outcome of an election.

### **Campaign Do's and Don'ts:**

#### **YES**

- Conversations with delegates (one-on-one)
- Social Media use that is positive and does not attack other candidates. IF a candidate has a website, it must be created and hosted with absolutely no cost/expense associated with it whatsoever.
- Demonstration of abilities during each program

#### **NO**

- Speeches/campaigning during program (other than YLA-scheduled times)
- Buttons, posters, flyers, giveaways
- Social Media that attacks another candidate
- Signage/flyers at hotel or Capitol/Statehouse

### **Candidates Follow This Procedure**

**Chaplain** candidates give a three (3) minute presentation that calls (challenges) the Legislature to its purpose. Chaplain candidates make presentations that demonstrate how they will perform their duties as Chaplain. Candidates for Chaplain may be asked to perform the duties of Chaplain during a session.

**Clerk** candidates sight read a Bill selected by the Presiding Officer.

**Lt. Governor** is an elected office in Ohio, not in WV. In WV YLA Youth in Government, the Senate President is the Lt. Governor. Candidates for Lt. Governor speak for 2 minutes on the "Role of the Lt. Governor in the Student Legislature."

**President and Speaker** candidates preside over a session of the Legislature using a Bill before the Legislature as determined by the Legislative Calendar or a Bill of their choice. The candidate selects the Bill, a person to be Clerk, Authors, Minority and Majority Reporters and Legislators to speak for and against the Bill. Candidates exhibit their knowledge of the procedure by conducting the session that lasts no more than five (5) minutes. The procedure used is:

"The Student Legislature is in session." (gavel to order)

"This being an extraordinary session, we will dispense with the Chaplain's message, and the reading of the Journal and the Order of the Day."

"Is the Author of the Bill present?" (Recognize the Author for a 30 second presentation of the Bill) "Is there a Majority Report?" (no more than 30 seconds)

"Is there a Minority Report?" (no more than 30 seconds)

"The question is, shall the Bill pass?"

After 3 to 5 minutes of discussion and debate, the Chair will call for the question and proceed with

the vote. "The question is, shall the Bill pass?" Those in favor say "aye." Those opposed, say "nay." (The Chair then declares the Bill passed or defeated.)

**Governor** candidates speak for 3 minutes on their "Legislative Agenda for the Student Legislature." A word of advice to Governor candidates – Avoid making "deals" with other Governor candidates to appoint each other to the Governor's Cabinet. Upon election, one may find that defeated officer candidates may not be the best person(s) to appoint. Don't get boxed in.

There is always an opportunity during the appointment period to appoint one or more defeated candidates if they apply and appear the best person(s) for the job.

### **Voting Procedure**

A simple majority of these eligible votes determines the winning candidate.

### **Officer**

Governor  
Lt. Governor (Ohio only)  
Clerk & Chaplain  
Speaker  
President  
Chief Justice

### **Eligible to**

Legislators, Supreme Court Justices, Press, Lobbyists, Officers  
Legislators, Supreme Court Justices, Press, Lobbyists, Officers  
Legislators  
Members of the House  
Members of the Senate  
Supreme Court Justices

**Note** – In case of an office with only one candidate, voters mark their ballot with a "Yes" if they vote in favor of the candidate or write "No" if they oppose. Write in and unmarked ballots are not counted.

## **Committee Chair & Vice Chair Qualifications & Responsibilities**

### **Committee Chairs Qualifications**

1. Ideally, one year experience as a Legislative Delegate;
2. Know the procedure, implement, and engage all committee members;
3. Effective facilitating groups;
4. Participates on an intellectual and productive level;
5. Organized, keeps accurate records, works with Bill Coordinator and Committee Advisor, has excellent verbal and writing skills.

**Cannot be a Bill Partner with another Committee Chair or Vice Chair candidate.**

### **Selection Procedure**

1. Candidates submit an application that is endorsed by their Advisor.
2. The Speaker and President may begin Committee Chair appointments during the Summer Summit, at YLA conferences and retreats. In the event that Chair positions are open after these times, YLA staff may make appointments.

### **Opportunities to Learn and to Gain Leadership Experience as a Committee Chair**

1. Committee Chairs are invited and welcome to participate in the Summer Summit as well as YLA conferences and retreats for training, practice, relationship building with other students, and experience leading including leading committees.

Bill Rating/Officer Training/Committee Chair Training in February needs the active participation of Committee Chairs. This is the first time Committee Chairs get to see the student legislation proposed for the April YG. Committee Chairs also play a key role in setting the Legislative Calendar (determining when Bills are considered) by participating in the Bill Rating Process.

### **Responsibilities**

1. Prior to Youth in Government, study all Bills assigned to the Committee and review all Bills presented to YG. It is also helpful to contact the Bill Authors who will appear before the Committee, the Lobbyists, Cabinet members and Officers.
2. Represent the committee to the Bill Coordinator.
3. Carry out the Committee procedure.
4. Lead the Committee in active participation on the Floor in the debate on Bills referred by Committee. Get your Committee members to make the Committee's views known to all members during Floor sessions.

## **Committee Vice Chairs**

### **Qualifications**

- ◆ Able to preside in the absence of the Chair.

### **Selection**

- ◆ Senate Vice Chairs may be appointed prior to YG or may be appointed by a Committee Chair at YG if their Committee needs a Vice Chair. Not all Committees may have a Vice Chair. Chairs who may be away from their Committee may ask a Committee member to preside in their absence.

### **Responsibilities**

1. Serve as Clerk of the Committee.
2. Assist the Committee Chair.
3. Preside in the absence of the Chair. The Chair, Clerk or Vice Chair cannot be Legislative partners. Both cannot be absent from the Committee at the same time.

## **Youth Governor and Cabinet**

### **Governor's Cabinet**

The Governor appoints Cabinet members from those who meet the requirements for the office and who apply. Applications are accepted through the week after Youth in Government.

Cabinet members join the Governor and other officers at the June Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. The Officer Leadership Corps reviews the just completed Youth in Government, identifies improvements for the new year, train for their responsibilities and engage other students at the Summit in Youth in Government sessions so they will want to participate in YG as well as return home to encourage others to participate.

The Governor seeks the advice of the Cabinet as the Governor creates a Platform. At the end of the Summit the Governor assigns Cabinet members to head a department and/or area of interest (environment, economic development, safety, education, etc.). Cabinet members are then responsible to become expert in their area.

During the year, at YLA conferences and retreats and at Bill/Case Rating the Cabinet serves as resource persons in those interest areas plus advance the position of the Governor on the issues.

At Youth in Government the Cabinet represents the Governor's interests in Committees and with Legislators. Cabinet members listen to Committee hearings and floor debates in their area of interest, act as the Governor's advocate on related legislation, and report to and advise the Governor on legislation that reaches the Governor's desk.

Successful Cabinet members –

- ◆ Are informed in the areas they represent
- ◆ Understand the legislative process
- ◆ Have excellent people skills
- ◆ Can work on their own and as part of a team
- ◆ Are good listeners and good communicators
- ◆ Help Student Legislators, Lobbyists, Press, Page, and others succeed

## **Youth Chief Justice and Associate Justices**

### **Associate Justices**

The Chief Justice appoints Associate Justices from those who meet the requirements for the office and who apply. Applications are accepted through the week after Youth in Government. Associate Justices join the Chief Justice and other officers at the June Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. The Chief Justice and Associate Justices review the just completed Student Supreme Court, identify improvements for the new year, train for their responsibilities and engage other students at the Summit in a Supreme Court session so they will want to participate in the Student Supreme Court at YG as well as return home to encourage others to participate in the YG Judicial program.

During the year, at Fall Conference and at Case Rating the Associate Justices assist the Chief Justice in rating the cases for consideration at YG.

Successful Associate Justices –

- ◆ Understand the YG Judicial process
- ◆ Have excellent people skills
- ◆ Can work on their own and as part of a team
- ◆ Are good listeners and good communicators
- ◆ Help others succeed

## *Serving as an Officer in YG and UN*

1. Officer Candidates for YG and UN are determined by a Nomination Election conducted by local YLA Chapters. Chapters may nominate only one (1) candidate for each office. One must secure the nomination of one's Chapter to seek office. See Section 7 of the YLA Advisor Kit.

2. **YG and UN Officers must attend and participate in the total YLA Teen Leadership Summit at Camp Horseshoe June 14-20, 2026.**

**NO EXCEPTIONS, NO EXCUSE. Do not even ask.**

Not attending the total June 14-20, 2026, Summit means you forfeit your office. You have vacated your office. Another person may be appointed to the vacated office – or at the opening session of the program an election may be held.

3. The Summit is essential to YG and UN success. Here's why the Summit:

YLA is distinctly different – YLA is unique. Not a class, not a textbook, not lectures, not defeating another team. YLA is living the big questions to create community.

Officers and members in YLA Chapters, YG, UN Officers have significant responsibility. Many of us have experience in our school cheer, football, basketball, debate, and soccer teams. Our team's goal is to win – defeat other school teams. Team captains lead the team.

YLA is different in that the goal is a "win" for the greater good of our communities, state, nation and our world. YLA brings together students from different schools, communities, and backgrounds to work together.

How do we do that when much of our outlook and experience is to defeat the other person – defeat the other team.

**2027**

**West Virginia  
Youth in  
Government**

**Officer  
Candidates**



## **CANDIDATE FOR YOUTH GOVERNOR**

**Elio Johnson**

**Lewis County YLA**

### **1. Past Youth in Government participation:**

I first took part in YLA in 8<sup>th</sup> grade for the Youth and Government Seminars (YGS); I was selected along with three other students from my county to represent Lewis County at YGS. I have since took part in Youth in Government since my freshmen year as a delegate. I also attended Camp Horseshoe and Fall Con and got to experience areas of YG that I have not participated in such as the Supreme Court as well as Model UN.

### **2. Qualifications for the office:**

I've participated in YLA programs since 8th grade and have previously attended Camp Horseshoe. I hold other leadership positions in Key Club as an Event Coordinator and as a member of National Honor Society. But it is one's actions that show their leadership, not the positions they hold; I often partake in community service projects in and outside of school. When there is an event being held for our clubs, I try to get everyone to help and be involved. I love to hear other people's opinions and am not quick to disregard someone's feelings or beliefs. As your Youth Governor, I would always do my best to listen to your opinions, because you all are of course the most important part of this program. I would prioritize the most meaningful pieces of legislation to sign and see to it that I see most every piece of legislation, even if it doesn't cross my desk to be signed or vetoed. The purpose of this program is to prioritize the opinions and hopes of the young people of our great state. Through my leadership in office, I would make sure that these purposes are fulfilled to their fullest extent. This is why I believe my leadership would be a great uniting force for YG, not through the positions I hold, but through the actions I take.

### **3. Style of Leadership:**

My style of leadership can be described in one word: inclusive. I believe in everybody's right to voice their concerns, opinions, and beliefs, and I will never disregard somebody because of something they believe in. In fact, I believe every one of us has a responsibility to voice our beliefs, not only for the betterment of YG, but for the betterment of everything around us. If someone were to come to me with an idea, I would listen. If someone were to come to me with a critic, I would listen. The one of the purposes of this program is to learn and grow; all of us.

### **4. School Interest and activities:**

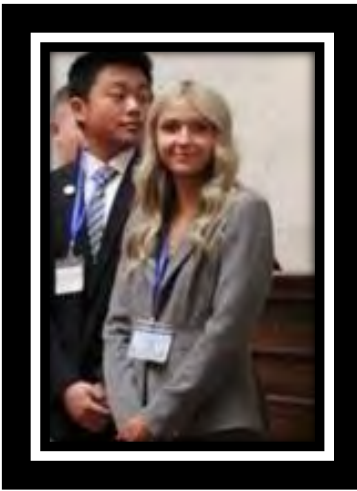
I am involved in various activities at my school. I am obviously involved in YLA. I am the event coordinator for Key Club, a community service club; as event coordinator, I help to plan community service events for the club. I play piccolo in my school's marching band and pep band, and when concert season rolls around, I play flute. As well as YLA, I am involved in Debate to help with my debating skills when the time for Youth in Government comes around. I have also recently been inducted into my school's National Honor Society!

### **5. Community interests and activities:**

I enjoy partaking in my local coffee shop's open mic nights, poetry nights, and karaoke nights as well as helping them with advertisements. I also love to help Hope Inc, a local non-profit organization that helps to combat domestic violence, with various fundraisers and community events. I help a community outreach center, Our Neighbor, with organizing food for families and collecting and organizing school supplies for a program called "Backpack Buddies" that is for children that cannot afford school supplies. It is through these experiences that I have gotten to truly connect with my community and help out in a very meaningful way.

### **6. An especially meaningful service experience:**

Every year, I help Hope Inc with our county's Trunk-or-Treat that happens at the middle school. It really makes me happy to be with friends and family, having a fun time while spreading awareness about domestic violence and spreading joy in our community. It makes me feel so grateful that I can have an enjoyable time while also educating people on something so important.



## **CANDIDATE FOR YOUTH GOVERNOR**

**Holly Lewis**

**Buckhannon-Upshur YLA**

- **Past Youth in Government Participation**

I am currently in my third year as a member of the Youth Leadership Association (YLA) and the Youth in Government program. This year, I have the honor of serving as Senate President. My involvement began in 9th grade, and since then I have continued to grow through opportunities such as the Camp Horseshoe Leadership Summit and the Fall Conference. These experiences have shaped my understanding of leadership, civic engagement, and the importance of youth voices in government.

- **Qualifications for Office**

My qualifications for the position of Governor are rooted in my extensive experience within the organization and my deep commitment to its mission. I have served on both committees, chaired a committee, actively participated in floor discussions, overridden a veto on my own bill, and passed legislation through both committee and floor sessions, earning a Governor's signature. These accomplishments have strengthened my understanding of the legislative process and prepared me to lead with confidence, clarity, and purpose.

As President of my delegation, I have gained valuable insight into effective governance, collaboration, and organizational procedures. If elected Governor, I will prioritize creating an environment where every delegate feels included, supported, and empowered. I want each participant to have a meaningful and enjoyable experience, one that helps them discover their voice, build confidence, and fully engage in the legislative process. I am committed to upholding all rules with fairness and consistency while fostering a respectful atmosphere where every idea is heard and every delegate feels valued. I feel the most myself when in front of larger groups or just individuals themselves, talking and making sure I get to know everyone around me. My goal is to help everyone not only understand the legislature but also feel excited to participate in it. With these experiences and values guiding me, I am ready to lead with integrity and make this session one where every delegate can thrive.

- **Leadership Style**

My leadership style is best described as adaptive. Strong leadership begins with listening, ensuring that every person has a voice in decision-making. I encourage input from all team members and value their perspectives, needs, and ideas. At the same time, I recognize the importance of structure and accountability to maintain order and ensure that everyone's contributions are integrated effectively. I strive to balance open collaboration with steady guidance, creating a leadership approach that is both inclusive and dependable.

- **School Involvement and Activities**

I am currently a junior at Buckhannon-Upshur High School, where I stay actively involved in a variety of leadership and extracurricular roles. I take part in YLA and Youth in Government, play on the varsity tennis team, and serve as a co-captain of the majorette group in our school band. I am also a member of the Principal Advisory Committee, where I work to strengthen school spirit, increase student involvement, and ensure that students' voices and concerns are communicated directly to administration. These roles have helped me develop strong skills in leadership, collaboration, and advocacy within my school community.

- **Community Involvement and Activities**

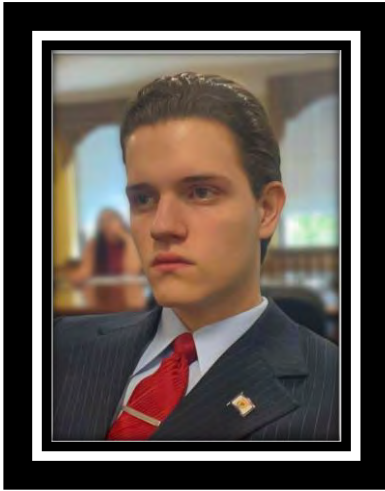
Beyond school, I am deeply committed to serving and strengthening my community. I coach a local baton group, mentoring younger students, helping them build confidence, and encouraging them to take pride in their abilities. I regularly take part in community clean-up initiatives to help keep our parks and neighborhoods clean, safe, and welcoming. I also have a strong passion for supporting the elderly whether through errands, companionship, or simply being someone they can rely on.

In addition, I volunteer at school and community events, aid with youth activities, and look for opportunities to help anyone in need. I believe that being part of a community means actively contributing to it, and I take pride in making a positive, lasting impact wherever I can.

- **Meaningful Service Experience**

One of the most meaningful service experiences I have taken part in was placing wreaths on veterans' graves for Wreaths Across America. This experience holds deep personal significance for me, not only because many of my grandparents proudly served our country, but because it allowed me to honor the sacrifices made by all who dedicated their lives to protecting our freedoms. Standing among the rows of headstones, I felt a profound sense of gratitude and responsibility, to remember their courage, acknowledge their service, and ensure their legacy is never forgotten.

Moments like this remind me why I am passionate about helping others. Whether supporting veterans' families, aiding the elderly, or serving my community in any way I can, I am driven by a genuine desire to make a positive difference. Giving back is more than something I do, it is a meaningful part of who I am and the kind of leader I strive to be.



**CANDIDATE  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

**Kelton Cowger**

**Buckhannon-Upshur YLA**

**Past Youth in Government Participation**

I'm proud to announce that this is my second year attending YG Legislative as a member of the Youth Leadership Association, along with experiencing my first year participating in the Model United Nations! I have been a member of Youth in Government since my freshman year, serving as a member of the House.

Since my 9<sup>th</sup> grade year, I have always felt that Youth in Government is truly something special. It has had a direct impact on my life by deepening my understanding of both the legislative and political process, as well as strengthening my confidence in being a leadership position. It was being a member of YG that encouraged me to run as a candidate for class President my freshman year.

In addition to Youth in Government itself, I also had the pleasure of attending the Youth Leadership Association Fall Conference in 2025, having a great time and an opportunity to make friends from across the state!

**Qualifications for office**

Since 2022, I have served as the Executive Editor of the Mountaineer Journal, a statewide West Virginia news publication. In that role, I have gained firsthand experience managing teams, meeting deadlines, and working in a professional setting. Additionally, I currently serve as the sophomore class treasurer on the student council, where I have helped oversee the class budget and had direct involvement in fundraising efforts.

**Style of Leadership and how it will help other delegates succeed**

I believe that effective leadership is not about control, but through understanding that the role of a leader is to properly represent its constituents. It is essential to create an environment where everyone feels heard and comfortable with sharing their unique perspectives. The whole idea behind YLA is to make our schools and communities a better place.

**School interests and activities**

In school, I am actively involved in student leadership (student council) and journalism through

acting as the managing editor for our school's newspaper, The Blue and White since my freshman year. Through our newspaper we provide a direct opportunity for student voices to be heard through the interview process, as well as contributing self-authored work to be submitted in quarterly creative collections.

### **Community interests and activities**

Outside of school, I actively attend local Buckhannon City Council meetings as a reporter for the Mountaineer Journal. In this role, I intend to provide an insight into local community events, the state of the city, and help inform residents about the topics and decisions discussed during each meeting. I have also remained engaged in state and local political events, in 2024 covering the West Virginia Gubernatorial Inauguration, the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC) 2025, the 2026 state of the state address, along with many more!

### **An especially meaningful service experience**

Community service was one of the main reasons I was attracted to join the Youth Leadership Association. One meaningful service experience for me has been volunteering in ceremonies to honor our veterans. For the past two years, during my freshman and sophomore years, I was honored to take part in the planting and raising of American flags at the Buckhannon cemetery, as well participating in the Wreaths Across America event held in Grafton. My grandfather was a veteran who served during the Korean war. Although I never had the opportunity to meet him, taking part in these memorial ceremonies has always and continues to be my favorite part.



**CANDIDATE  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

**Taylor Norman**

**John Marshall YLA**

Officer Nomination Questions.

1. I have Participated in Youth in government for what will be my second year this upcoming season. My first year I co-wrote a bill, this year I have the honor of holding clerk of the house.
2. I bring many things to the position of speaker of the house. I bring a sense of humility, and focus. I can have fun but also take this opportunity seriously. I also enjoy being at YG very much and would love to hold this position.
3. I am a highly organized and can help myself and others stay focused and keep folks on topic.
4. In school I am involved with the orchestra, and band as well as John Marshall YLA. I also involve myself with lots of honors and AP classes. Outside of school, I have auditioned for all state orchestra and am a member of the wheeling symphony youth orchestra.
5. In my community I have volunteered many hours, not only just for YLA but for other local organizations. I am involved at my church, playing music and taking part in their youth group. I also do volunteer work at a stable near me.
6. A very meaningful service experience for me is our annual Rise and Shine 5K. Our delegation always takes part, and it is always something special I look forward to. It is a simple job, but the people who participate always seem so grateful. It means lots to me to be able to support and share the experience with.



**CANDIDATE  
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE**

**CJ Tucker**

**East Fairmont YLA**

2025- Vice Chairman, 2026- House Committee Chairman.

I believe I'm a strong candidate and firmly believe I have the qualifications to become your next Speaker of the House. I am involved in not only YLA but I'm a member of the National Student Council, Founder and President of both East Fairmont YLA and Student Advocates of West Virginia. Along with that I serve as the state chairman of HSREPS. I get along with everyone and am always participating in any YLA activity. For the past 3 years I've attended almost every YLA sponsored event including Youth Government Seminars, for 3 years straight as a participant and came back to serve sort of as a role-model to the 8th graders participating so they can continue their YLA journey. I also love the summer programs YLA has to offer like Leadership camp; I also served as a volunteer councilor this past summer for our Youth Opportunity Camp. I attended YG this past year where I served as a vice committee chairman. I am getting ready to attend M.U.N for the first time this year, which should be very exciting. I attended WV Civics Day a couple years ago that included guest speakers like Former Secretary of State Mac Warner and the entirety of the WV State Supreme Court. I remain heavily involved in state and local politics and always heavily advocate and tell everyone about my participation in YLA. Along with my active participation in Politics and YLA I love and frequently study our legislature; I have a strong voice and know parliamentary procedure and how to preside over a governing body as an example my time in various organizations I must preside over meetings along with my upcoming duty as a committee chairman.

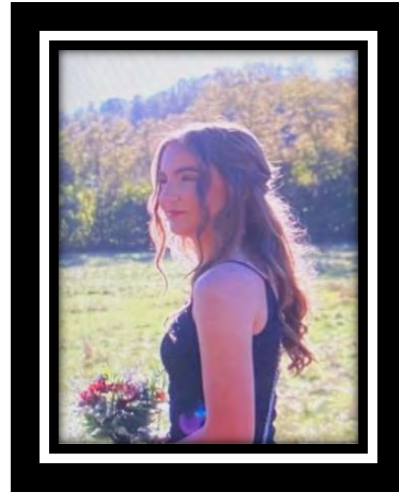
My style of leadership will be to make sure everyone is heard, too often I see people being overlooked, dismissed, and disrespected. As Speaker I'll try my best to get everyone talking and debating while keeping the chamber in order and in check. As I said I am no stranger to parliamentary procedure and will take time to work with everyone from the time I take my oath and help start new chapters and help existing chapters stay alive and running.

I am the president of East Fairmont YLA, Member of my School, State, and National Student Council, State Chairman of HSREPS, Founder and President of Student Advocates of West Virginia, Additionally I was on 25-26 Hoco Court at my school.

I am a member of Young Leaders of Marion County through the Marion County of Commerce; I exemplify leadership and community service throughout my county and state through organizations that I'm part of.

One of the most meaningful things I like to do in my community is to volunteer and attend different events for The Disability Action Center in Marion County along with the local Homeless shelter. Disabilities have a huge impact on my life and love to give back to the center because of the impact it has on local families of those who have disabilities. Because our family friend who is the owner of the DAC and how having a loved one with disabilities affected me and my family. My brother has Polymicrogyria a form of epilepsy, that he had to have brain surgery because of leaving him only able to use one side of his body. My experience as his big brother changed my perspective on how to treat people with disabilities and how important it is to so many people.

**CANDIDATE**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**  
**PEYTON (APOLLO) BROWN**



**1. Past Youth in Government Participation**

My freshman year was when I started YLA. I was walking in the halls of my new school and saw some familiar faces from band. Next thing I knew, I was handed a clipboard and asked to join YLA. I didn't know what YLA was, nor did I know if I was interested in it. Despite not having any knowledge on what it was, I decided to give it a shot, and I fell in love with the program. At first, I enjoyed volunteering; being involved in the community has always been something I've taken part in, I later went the fall conferences both in 2024 and 2025. Then, I was introduced to MUN (Model United Nations) and registered for it. I chose the country of Russia and was able to get a resolution passed in committee and on the floor, as of 2026 I will be the country of Belarus and inspire to do the same. Later, Youth in Government rolled around, and I wasn't sure what I would do, so I chose to be a page to observe the legislative process and get to know my way around the capital. I was approached by our current governor, Sarah McBee, asking if I would be interested in running for an officer position, and as of now (my sophomore year) I hold the office of Historian in my delegation and in 2026 Youth in Government Legislation and I will be serving as Senate Chaplain.

**2. Qualification for the Office**

One of my goals of being the President of the Senate is to ensure that everyone is represented equally, getting the same amount of time to speak in favor, opposition, and ask questions. The next goal is to adapt well to changes, if necessary. There's been times in the past Youth in Government that I attended, legislature would be cut short on time, and the senators were limited on questions and speeches. Usually three questions, one speech in favor, and one in opposition. My goal is to keep the flow going and strive to maintain enough time so each bill that makes it to the senate is able to be debated on and, if passed sent to the governor. If possible I'd like to keep the flow of time as it was.

**3. Leadership Style**

Before I detail my leadership style I'd like to define what a leader is to me: a leader is someone who helps when they can, guiding those who they teach to be better citizens or people. Leaders to me are those who uplift their communities and care for their cause greatly. Now to continue over to my preferred style of leadership, I tend to teach. I've always loved to teach, and it's always been one my passions. I've always considered it one of my greater strengths. Another factor of my leadership style is that I am a hands-off leader, I watch those who I'm leading,

especially when it comes to solving an issue. I listen to their ideas and conflicts and provide my input to keep the topic rolling to find a solution. A third factor of my leadership style is communication; the world seems to lack it. I always find it effective when a team can communicate and work accordingly. Especially when it is the utmost important. I believe these qualities can help other delegates to succeed, not only in Youth in Government but, in many other places. Each of my skills provides a stable leadership, and the ability to grow as leaders under my style.

#### **4. School Interest and Activities**

John Marshall offers a lot of CTE programs and extracurriculars, I applied for the Business and Marketing program earlier this year in hopes to have the Business Law and Ethics class. I also have been in several music programs: band, orchestra, and even steel band. I have been involved in each program for years; for example, I've been involved in band for six years. Then I also am involved in two AP classes, European history and seminar. I'm also in robotics as the note-booker and I am also learning how to code C++. In the future I plan on taking A-Push, DC general math, AP Lit, and Environmental Science. I take part in theater as well. I maintain good grades and am extremely dedicated to every program and class I take part in. I hope to go to West Virginia University and study business law and later go into politics. The over all goal is to stay in West Virginia.

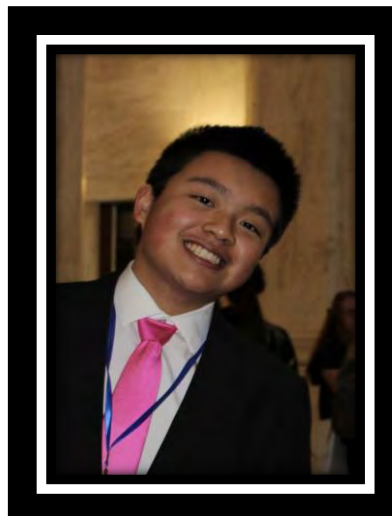
#### **5. Community Interest and Activities**

Outside of school and YLA I attend city council meetings, volunteer for the RISE organization and Moundsville Health Department against teen drug abuse, I also volunteer with Parks and Recs for the city of Glen Dale. Outside of helping my community, I enjoy going to the local library and walking down to the Ohio River by the walking trail. I also like going to the park. Early this year I attended a fundraising dinner for senator candidate Robert Dobbkin and will be volunteering for him.

#### **6. Especially Meaningful Service Experience**

An especially memorable service experience is when I first volunteered for the RISE coalition. I took two of my friends and spoke to the coalition regarding teen drug abuse and the lack of education surrounding it. The meeting was discussing what the coalition could do to teach teens about the dangers of drugs, what they could do to prevent, what we (my classmates and I) were told. We also discussed the furthering of the education on more recreational drugs like nicotine and marijuana instead of more hardcore drugs like heroin and cocaine. The meeting was extremely impactful and help me see how authority figures didn't understand what students were retaining in schools and how those classes and assemblies can be improved. I was also education on how much the police forces in my county were so dedicated to helping teens fight drug abuse.

**CANDIDATE**  
**PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**  
**JOHNNY CHEN**  
**BUCKHANNON-UPSHUR YLA**



**1. Past Youth in Government Participation (Years and Participation)**

This will be my third year participating in both Youth Leadership Association and Youth in Government. This year I will have the pleasure as serving as your Senate Clerk. My journey began in 9<sup>th</sup> grade in the Legislative branch of YG, serving as a Senator. The following year I served in the House of Delegates.

**2. Qualifications for the Office – What do you bring to office**

What do I bring to the office? Well, I bring years of experience serving in a leadership role in many different capacities, ranging from YLA to Student Council. Furthermore, my experiences have taught me the importance of accountability, reliability, responsibility, and integrity. I believe one of my biggest strengths is simply being honest and telling the truth. All of these traits build upon the experience, illustrating my qualifications for office.

**3. Style of Leadership and how it will help other delegates succeed.**

My style of leadership starts with responsibility, respect, and participation. I will work with you and do my best to create an atmosphere where everyone can contribute, belong, be heard, and actively participate. This, of course, comes alongside accountability and honesty—making sure everyone meets the standard while learning and having fun at the same time. My style of leadership will help others succeed by guiding them to become the best version of themselves.

**4. School Interest and Activities**

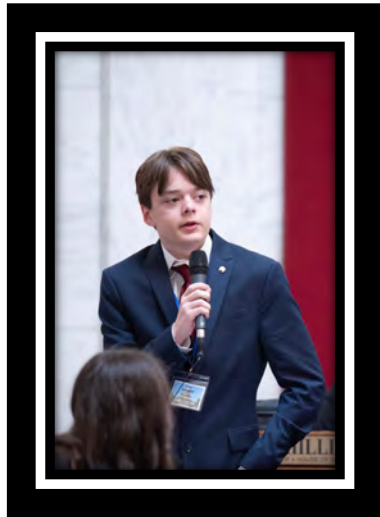
I am currently in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Buckhannon-Upshur High School, and my school interests range from environmental science to social studies. Along with being the secretary in my YLA delegation, I am also serving as the secretary of the Junior Class Student Council, President of my School's Leo Club, a member of the B-UHS football team, and a member of the National FFA Organization. Additionally, I actively compete and challenge myself in the WV Social Studies Fair.

## **5. Community Interests and Activities**

Outside of my normal school activities, I serve as a junior associate on the Strawberry Festival Board of Directors. I help with whatever they need to prepare for the festival, such as painting strawberries and organizing events. Moreover, I help my parents at our family business from time to time.

## **6. An Especially Meaningful Service Experience**

An especially meaningful service experience was my first time volunteering as a counselor at Youth Opportunity Camp at Camp Horseshoe during the summer of 2025. The two weeks I spent there guiding and taking care of these children were some of the best and most eye-opening moments ever. Often, many of these children don't have the best times at home. So therefore, being able to provide them with one of the best summers with games, activities, and meals, while learning so much about myself was incredible. And although there were moments when I was psychologically and physically exhausted, the passion within drove me on, reminding me that growth often comes from discomfort.



**CANDIDATE**  
**SENATE CLERK**  
**LANDON BEAUDRY**  
**BUCKHANNON-UPSHUR**

1. I have participated in Youth in Government for 1 year in the past as a member of the House of Delegates. Along with my experience as a delegate, I am also a committee chair this year and am confident in my speaking and leadership ability. This prior experience makes me the perfect candidate to be your 2027 Youth Senate Clerk.
2. I believe that I have many qualifications to be the Senate Clerk. First, I am a great public speaker. Whether I am speaking on ideas of Fall Conference or voicing my opinion on a bill, I don't shy away from speaking up. I have no problem talking confidently and effectively in front of a large group. Some of my other qualifications include my current position as a committee chair. This experience leading a committee at Youth in Government will give me the knowledge and confidence I need to be an effective Senate Clerk.
3. In terms of my leadership style, I am very traditional. I love not being the loudest voice in the group, but the most insightful. Everyone brings something important to the table and part of being a leader is platforming others within your group and giving them the time to share what they know. When it comes to getting things done, I have no problem there either. I can easily guide and create discussions within a group in order to accomplish a goal, which I think is great skills when leading.

I believe this will help my delegates succeed in a ton of ways. Having someone who is open and confident as a leader is more likely to make you feel confident and willing to join in on conversation. Everyone's voice matters and making sure that people are heard but also want to be heard is such a valuable skill I bring to the table. With the additional confidence I hope to inspire other delegates to be great people in the present, and great leaders in the future.

4. I participate within my school system somewhat actively. First and most obvious I am a member of YLA and have attended leadership camp in the summer and Fall Conference in the fall. Within our YLA delegation I am the treasurer, so I take occasional leadership roles but often more group speaking within the delegation. I am also a former member of my school's esports team where I won a national tournament for Rocket League.

Beyond my extra curricular's, I take part regularly in advanced level courses. I try to challenge myself with what I take, and I believe that shows indicative to not just take the easy route. Leaders should be willing to learn and grow, and, in my opinion, advanced level classes are the effective environment for that.

5. In terms of community interests, I frequently try to participate in service. When my schedule lines up I always try to participate in service projects to better my community. Service is extremely important and it helps get the youth to participate more in their community. I'm proud of the service I can do and the service I will continue to do for the rest of high school and into adulthood.
6. The most meaningful service project to me was actually a very recent project done. My delegation created cards for veterans, and while small the impact is significant. We made sure to write messages within the cards because these Veterans deserve to be recognized for all they have done. Without them our country could look very different and so that's why making cards for them felt very meaningful to me.



**CANDIDATE**  
**SENATE CHAPLAIN**  
**DAPHNE BEAUDRY**  
**BUCKHANNON-UPSHUR**

This is my first year at Youth in Government but have participated in Fall conference and have observed West Virginia Congress. I believe that these experiences will benefit me in a legislative role like chaplain. Even with my lack of current experience, I believe that going to Fall conference and observing West Virginia Congress will benefit me as a chaplain.

1. Qualifications for the office- what do you bring to the office?

The qualifications that I bring to the office of chaplain is that I am able to motivate and inspire others. As a student director in theater, it was my job to both lead the actors but also motivate them to become better actors and try their best. I believe that my experiences as a student director will give me more qualifications to be a chaplain.

2. Style of Leadership and how it will help other delegates succeed?

The way that I would lead as a chaplain is to bring a positive attitude and kindness but still a determination that will inspire others. As a chaplain its important to be positive and be able to motivate others and those are skills that I already use as a leader. My style of leadership will benefit me as a chaplain with a positive attitude and a motivating presence which will benefit others as a chaplain.

3. School Interests and activities.

School activities that I participate in include choir and theater. Choir I do as a class and participate in all of the concerts that we have and other activities that involve us. I have been doing theater since middle school and have been many types of roles within the space from acting to leadership. These are the school activities that I participate in.

4. Community interests and activities.

Activities that I do within our community is help volunteer within the community. I try to participate in every volunteer project that our YLA group does and have also volunteered at a local food pantry for holiday distributions. These are the community activities that I have participated in.

5. An especially meaningful service experience.

A meaningful service experience that I have done was volunteering with a local food pantry for a thanksgiving distribution. It was meaningful because I was able to directly benefit many people in the community that were going through hardship and make a holiday better for them. That is why that volunteer experience was the most meaningful out of all the one's I have done.

**CANDIDATE**  
**CHIEF JUSTICE**  
**CHEYENNE HARVEY**  
**JOHN MARSHALL YLA**



1. The 2026 Youth in Government will be my third YG. As a freshman, I participated in judicial. As a sophomore and junior, I was selected and have participated as an Associate Justice. I also attended Youth and Government Seminars as an 8th grader.
2. Since being appointed as an Associate Justice, I have learned the ins and outs of the judicial program to an extent that I know will lead me to being successful as Chief Justice. My leadership skills, creativity, willingness to work with anyone, and persistence all make me a well-rounded candidate for this position. I find that in any organization or program, taking everyone's ideas into account will lead to the best outcome and experience for all those involved. This is a skill I put into play after being elected as 2026 Youth Leadership Association Model United Nations President of the General Assembly. While in this position, I have found that reaching out to participants, taking everyone's ideas into account, and doing my best to make sure they get put into action is the best approach to being a good leader.
3. My entire life I have been an empath. As a leader, I want to know how those I am leading feel. I want to know everyone's name and make them feel welcome. I want to know what they think could be done better. I want to know all of their incredible ideas. As a leader, I believe the best approach is to be kind, cooperative, and creative in all ideas and solutions. Solutions to problems need to be beneficial to everyone, and for this to happen, everyone's voice needs to be heard.
4. At John Marshall High School, I participate in Orchestra, Band, Theater, YoungLife, and of course, YLA. I am an AP student and take pride in the work I accomplish.
5. I am a member of the Calvary United Methodist Choir and the Calvary United Methodist Youth Group. I participate at our community theater called The Strand and I am a 6-year member of the Wheeling Youth Symphony Orchestra as a violist.
6. The most meaningful service experience I have participated in is a service project I do with my Youth Group every year called the Appalachian Christmas Project. Each Christmas, we pack backpacks full of necessities and gifts to provide to youth in poverty throughout Appalachia. This project humbles and warms my heart as I get to make a difference in someone's Christmas experience in my community. In addition to getting to help others, my mother and I worked so hard shopping for this project for months that it has turned into a bonding family tradition for us.

**CANDIDATE**  
**CHIEF JUSTICE**  
**TRIPP MCMILLION**  
**JAMES MONROE YLA**



1. I have participated in Youth in Government for my entire high school career. In my freshman year, I participated as an attorney and presented a case. My sophomore year, I participated as an associate justice where I presided over many cases. This year, I am once again attending YG as an associate justice.
2. I have held many officer positions at a state and chapter level. As previously mentioned, for the past two years I have been in a state associate justice for YLA. I am also currently serving as a state officer for Educators Rising, a state program for future educators. In that position, I have attended multiple officer meetings where I have had to collaborate with a team of 4 other students to plan and set up our conferences. Also, I have attended, set up, and ran the fall conference in collaboration with them so far this year. I believe that my experiences in these state officer positions have given me the necessary skills to be your next chief justice.
3. As the next chief justice, my focus will be making YG and our conferences as member centered as possible. By this, I mean I will listen to the desires of our delegates and try my best to fulfill them. YLA is a collaboration of students and features some of the best young minds in the state. I will try my best, as a leader, to make it as fun and inclusive as possible. Overall, my main goal as a leader is to listen to the wants of the organization and execute them to the best of my ability.
4. At my school, I am involved in and participate in many things. As previously mentioned, I am a member of my school's YLA and Educators Rising chapters. I am also the junior class vice president. This year, I was inducted into the national technical honor society. As for sports, I play football.
5. As for my community, I am not in any organization at that level. However, I do participate in community service projects through my Educators Rising chapter.
6. A meaningful service experience for me has been the book drives that I've participated in for the past two years through Educators Rising. We collect books and distribute them at school events and parades for Christmas time. This is especially meaningful to me because I am very passionate about literature, especially for young children.



# Certification of Officer Nomination for WV Youth in Government

**Due No Later Than Postmark March 1st**

to close nominations for Governor, Chief Justice, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House (accepted at YG if no one applies by March 1)

## Instructions

1. Delegations conduct a Nomination Election to determine officer nominations.
2. Certify by signature of the Delegation Leader that -
  - Nominees meet the qualifications for the office.
  - Nominees will participate on an intellectual and productive level in the performance of their duties including attendance for the total time at the programs required of West Virginia YG Officers.
  - The nominee(s) have won the nomination of our local Delegation.
  - If elected, I understand to retain the office, they are required to attend Teen Leadership Summit held at Camp Horseshoe in June and Bill/Case Rating in Feb.
3. Have each nominee complete the reverse side (make additional copies as needed).
4. Delegation Leader mail completed Nomination Packet to the YG Office no later than **March 1st postmark**

Please Type or print

Delegation Name \_\_\_\_\_ Delegation Leader \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee Name

Governor \_\_\_\_\_ Closed

Chief Justice \_\_\_\_\_ Closed  
Must be in the Judicial Program to run for Chief Justice.

President of the Senate \_\_\_\_\_ Closed

Speaker of the House \_\_\_\_\_ Closed

House Clerk and Chaplain are open

Clerk (Specify House or Senate) \_\_\_\_\_ Senate Clerk - closed

Chaplain (Specify House or Senate) \_\_\_\_\_ Senate Chaplain - closed

**It is YLA policy that an officer who does not participate in the Leadership Summit at Horseshoe June 14 - 20 will be removed from office since they are not there to perform their duties. The newly-appointed officer would then complete the term of office through the April YG Conference.**





**2027 Officer Nomination Form - WV Youth in Government Each Nominee Completes and Submits this form by 6:00 pm on Thurs. April 23, at WV YG to the Bill Coordinator**

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_ Office Seeking \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Delegation \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_

***Answer these questions (Attach additional sheet)***

1. Past Youth in Government participation (years and position);
2. Qualifications for the office - what do you bring to the office?
3. Style of Leadership and how it will help other delegates succeed;
4. School interests and activities;
5. Community interests and activities;
6. An especially meaningful service experience.

**It is YLA policy that an officer who does not participate in the Leadership Summit at Horseshoe June 14-20 will be removed from office since they are not there to perform their duties. The newly-appointed officer would then complete the term of office through the April YG Conference.**

**I attest that this information is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that if elected I will carry out my responsibilities as outlined in the manual.**

**I have spoken with my parents about the responsibilities, time, commitments, and that if elected my first responsibility is participation in the June 14 - 20, 2026 Leadership Summit at Horseshoe. My parents understand and support me and the responsibilities of office.**

**Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**  
Student Candidate

**This delegate has the qualifications for this office and has my support.**

**Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_**

**Advisor/Delegation Leader**



Application for 2027 WV YLA Youth in Government Governor's Cabinet
Submit no later than May 12th

Applicant's Name: Delegation:
Address: City: State:
Zip Cell Phone Home Phone
Email Year of Graduation
Previous Youth in Government Experience (list years and position):

Explain how your leadership style, experience, commitment, time, and ideas for and about Youth in Government qualify you for this position. Attach an additional sheet with your answers as needed.

If appointed to the Cabinet by the Youth Governor, I will carry out my responsibilities as outlined in the YG manual and Bill Book. I will attend Teen Leadership Summit June 14-20 and bill rating in February to assist the Youth Governor in preparing for YG in April.

Applicant's Signature: Date:

I support this application and understand the responsibilities expected of a Cabinet member.

Parent's Signature: Date:

Advisor's Signature: Date:

Return application to Youth in Government
522 Sandhill Road, Point Pleasant, WV 25550
304-675-5899





Application for 2027 WV YLA Youth in Government Associate Justice
Submit no later than May 12th

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Delegation: \_\_\_\_\_
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_
Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation \_\_\_\_\_
Previous Youth in Government Experience (list years and position): \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how your leadership style, experience, commitment, time, and ideas for and about Youth in Government qualify you for this position. Attach an additional sheet with your answers as needed.

If appointed an Associate Justice by the Chief Justice, I will carry out my responsibilities to the Chief Justice and the YG Judicial program. I will attend Camp Horseshoe June 14 - 20 and case rating in February to assist the Chief Justice in setting the schedule of cases and planning for Youth in Government.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I support this application and understand the responsibilities expected of an Associate Justice.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Return application to Youth in Government, Fiscal Office
522 Sandhill Road, Point Pleasant, WV 25550





Application for 2027 WV YLA Youth in Government Press Editor
Submit no later than May 12th

Applicant's Name: Delegation:
Address: City: State:
Zip Cell Phone Home Phone
Email Year of Graduation
Previous Youth in Government Experience (list years and position):

Explain how your leadership style, experience, commitment, time, and ideas for and about Youth in Government qualify you for this position. Include any experience you have in writing and with a newsletter or other publication. Attach an additional sheet with your answers as needed.

If appointed Press Editor, I will carry out my responsibilities as in the YG manual and Bill Book. I will make every attempt to attend Teen Leadership Summit at Horseshoe June 14-20, 2026.

Applicant's Signature: Date:

I support this application and understand the responsibilities expected of a Cabinet member.

Parent's Signature: Date:

Advisor's Signature: Date:

Return application to Youth in Government,
522 Sandhill Road, Point Pleasant, WV 25550
304-675-5899





2027 WV YLA Youth in Government
Committee Chair or Vice Chair Application
Submit no later than May 12, 2026

Please Type or Print

Delegation Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_
First Middle Last Email Address

Address \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Grad. Yr. \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

My previous Youth in Government Participation (years and position) include: \_\_\_\_\_

I am qualified to be a Committee Chair because: \_\_\_\_\_

I will help the Committee be a successful experience to all members and those who appear before the
Committee by: \_\_\_\_\_

If selected I will make every effort to participate in the June Leadership Summit at Horseshoe June 14 -
20 and the Fall Conference. I will participate in the Bill Rating/Training in Charleston in February.

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

On other side, this application, the Delegation explains why they do or do not support this application for
Committee leadership. The explanation is to be signed by your Advisor.

Return application to West Virginia Youth in Government, Youth Leadership Association,
522 Sandhill Road Point Pleasant, WV 25550
304-675-5899





# LEADERSHIP SUMMIT AT CAMP HORSEHOE

June 14 - 20, 2026

Character • Leadership • Service •  
Entrepreneurship • Philanthropy

YLA -  
Hearts That Give



JOIN US THIS SUMMER AT  
CAMP HORSESHOE  
FOR AN  
UNFORGETTABLE WEEK!

191



## Summit Highlights:

- Expand your network - new friends and contacts
- Create family - community - life long friends
- Discover possibilities - ideas - new skills
- Enjoy these beautiful mountains
- Dive into a new life away from daily distractions
- Enjoy family style good food
- Enhance communication, organizing leadership skills
- Learn how to lead, serve and engage others
- Youth in Government, Model United Nations
- YLA Youth Action Council
- Make your YLA Chapter, YG, UN the best for everyone!

**Horseshoe Leadership Center**  
**3309 Horseshoe Run Road**  
**Parsons, WV 26287**  
**(304)478-2481**  
**[www.ylaleads.org](http://www.ylaleads.org)**

## 🎓 Who Can Attend?

Rising 9th–12th graders ready to learn, lead, and level up their future 🦾👉

## 🔪 Worried About Cost?

Camp week fee is \$375, \$330 if paid by May 15<sup>th</sup>. Fees are well below actual cost. Limited or no money - get sponsored. Go ask Lions, Rotary, Kiwanis, Ruritan, Moose, Eagles, Woman's Club, Church or youth group fundraiser. After camp be a program for your sponsor to thank them and share your camp story. Ask them to sponsor someone next year! 🙌

## 🧠 Level Up Your Leadership

Build real skills: communication, teamwork, organization, and confidence. Lead now. Lead later. 🚀

## 🤝 Make Real Friends

Meet people who listen, support you, and hype you up—for life ❤️

## 🔥 All the Fun

Sports. Music. Campfires. Creek exploring. Variety Show. Outdoor adventures. Non-stop memories 😄🌲

## ❤️ Give Forward

Learn how to make a difference in your school, your community, and the world 🌍

## 🕒 When Are We There?

📍 Arrive: Sunday @ 2 PM

📍 Leave: Saturday @ 9 AM

**Full week = full experience 100**

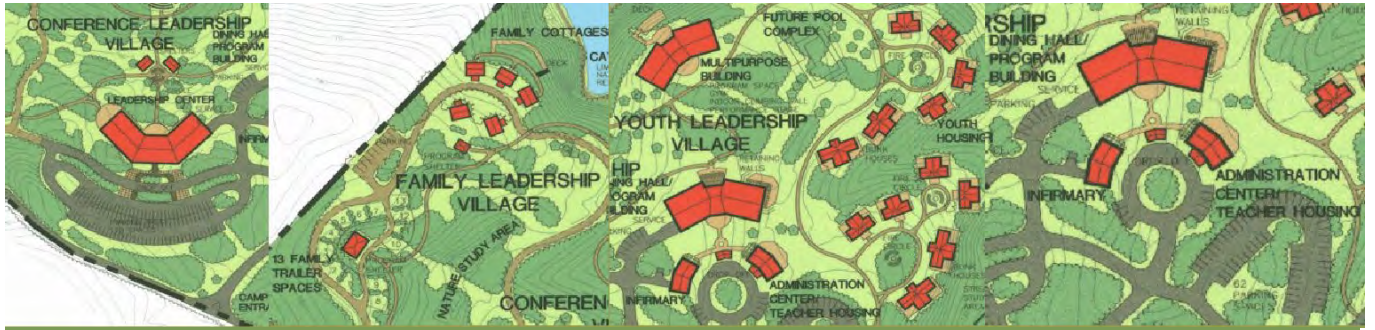


### Prepare for Success

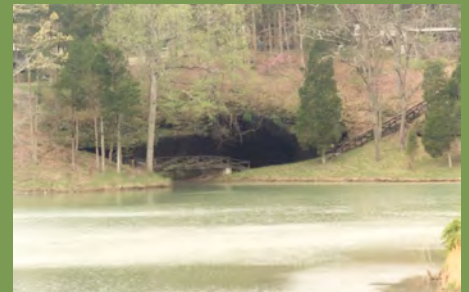
Gather with youth leadership officers, interested teens, and other service-minded people to make a real difference for good. Discover your potential by expanding your mind and developing skills for leadership success. Plus, learn how to lead your student groups with excellence. Invest one week at Horseshoe and you'll gain skills, friendships, adventures, and memories to last a lifetime.

The Ohio-West Virginia Youth Leadership Association is an equal opportunity provider.





**YLA OHIO CAVE LAKE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP**  
**1132 Bell Hollow Road, Latham, Ohio**



**Nature's Classroom**

730 plus acres ~ 42-acre lake ~ Frost Cave ~ 150 species of birds ~ 160 species of trees and shrubs ~ 360 species of blooming plants ~ rare plants including *Sullivantia Sullivantii*



# New YLA merchandise is now available!



**YLA Silicone Bracelets \$1.00**

- Red & Black
- Blue & Black
- Blue & Yellow
- Blue & Red
- Red
- Hot Pink
- Rainbow
- Black
- Green
- Purple

g all your favorite YLA

Programs – YLA, YGS, YG,  
MUN,

Camp Horseshoe, Cave Lake



**Blue & Red Graduation  
Cord**

**\$15.00**



**Camp  
available in:**

- Red, Green,  
Black
- Purple, Maroon,  
Royal Blue

**\$5.00**

**CAMP HORSESHOE or YLA LEADERSHIP LANYARDS**



**Youth  
Leadership  
available in:**

- Purple, Royal  
Blue, Black,  
Green, Red



**Lapel Pin \$5.00**



**YLA Patch \$5.00**

Additional charge if items shipped.

**Service**

**Philanthropy**

**Leadership**

**Entrepreneurship**

**Character**



**YOUTH LEADERSHIP ASSOCIATION**

**YLA Chapters**

**Youth in Government**

**Model United Nations**

**Youth & Government Seminars**

**Cave Lake**

**Camp Horseshoe**