



WRAP-UP

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Future leaders flourish in Legislature's internship programs

by Juli Hatcher

Some of the greatest legislative leaders of the past are honored and remembered each session through the West Virginia Legislature's Internship Programs. These programs provide a great experience for tomorrow's best and brightest future leaders.

The Legislative Internship Programs employ more than 70 full-time college students who meet a number of qualifications, including good academic standing, from West Virginia's public and private colleges and universities. The length of these internships range from a week to an entire year, allowing students to gain a valuable educational experience. These students have the opportunity to work one on one with many state leaders while learning the intricacies of the legislative process.

The newest addition to the legislative internship program is the McManus Fellowship. Lewis McManus had a compelling career in the Legislature as a Delegate and also as Speaker of the House for multiple terms. He was known for his honesty and courtesy. The West Virginia Legislature remembers his accomplishments and honors him with the foundation of this internship program. The McManus Fellowship will be offered each year to one second-year graduate student who is obtaining a master's degree in public administration through West Virginia University or Marshall University. The student serves as an intern for one academic year, including regular session and monthly interim meetings. The internship provides the student with one year's tuition and fees at his or her university.

Walter Rollins served the state for more than 20 years as a member of the Legislature. He was a master of parliamentary procedure and was a man with great attention to detail. He was known to read every piece of legislation word for word that was generated each session. He also was known for his strong personality as a great negotiator and a grandfather figure around the statehouse.



photo: Martin Valent

Students participating in one of the Legislature's many internship programs meet in the cafeteria at the end of the day to reflect upon the experiences encountered while shadowing lawmakers.

The Walter Rollins Scholars Program selects two graduate students to study and work with those officials of the Senate and House of Delegates in the highest positions of leadership. These scholars do independent research within or about the legislative process while assisting leaders with decision making preparations during the session.

Robert W. Burk, Jr. was elected at the age of 26 and served for over 13 years in the West Virginia Legislature. Throughout his career he was known as a gentleman willing to work with anyone on any issue regardless of political party affiliation. He was considerate, respectful and considered a true statesman.

The Robert W. Burk, Jr. Student Intern Program selects up to four graduate students for placement in the offices of committee chairpersons and other legislative leaders in both bodies. Burk interns have an opportunity to observe the making of policy, analyzing policy and conducting research on issues throughout this internship.

Judith A. Herndon, in her 10 years of legislative service, was a leader for tax reform, sunset legislation, and for reduction in the powers of governmental agencies. She was the first female member of the Senate Committee on Rules and was known as a of reason and moderation.

The Herndon Interns, who must hold undergraduate standing while having completed 60 hours in any collegiate major, are selected to fill 10 positions. They also must have completed at least one course in political science or public affairs. Herndons are assigned to assist a sole legislator from the Senate or the House of Delegates and perform various research and bill drafting duties, while developing an understanding of the politics of legislation.



In the Senate

As of 4:00 PM, Wednesday, February 18th, 2004, the 36th day of the 2004 Regular Session, 561 bills have been introduced in and 47 Senate Bills have been passed by the Senate. Of those, the following 12 bills have been passed by this body since February 12th and are currently under consideration in the House of Delegates:

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 71 relates to verifying the legal employment status of state workers. Within the legislative findings of this measure, it is stated that employers have the responsibility to verify the legal status of all employed individuals and report their employment to the appropriate governmental agencies. The purpose of this legislation is to make technical corrections to bring current state law into conformity with federal law.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 125 would permit the solicitation of certain state employees for contributions to campaigns for or against ballot issues in county or local elections. The bill also amends current law by removing the cap on campaign contributions in national elections.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 240 would provide that a governing body with seven or less members would not be required to have a second to any motion presented to the board unless the governing body adopts procedural rules requiring them.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 261 would allow for a supplemental assessment by an assessor of personal property when this property has been removed from the record books.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 271 would require racial profiling data be collected by law-enforcement officers and agencies each time a motorist is stopped for an alleged violation of the law. Among other information, a law-enforcement officer would report the identifying characteristics of the driver; the location and duration of the stop; and, if a warning or citation was issued.

Senate Bill 276 would establish a marriage license discount for applicants who complete approved premarital counseling. This discount would be enacted for those couples completing courses consisting of at least four hours of instruction regarding conflict management, communication skills, financial responsibilities and parenting responsibilities.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 425 would designate English as the official language of West Virginia. Upon passage of this bill, no state agency or political subdivision would be required to provide or prohibited from providing foreign language versions of any written materials.

Senate Bill 479 relates to the licensing of foreign insurers. Under this legislation, a foreign insurer licensed to operate in this state would be permitted to conduct insurance business in West Virginia without securing the certificate of authority from the Secretary of State.

Senate Bill 501 would add the West Virginia State Police, the Teachers' Defined Contribution and the Deputy Sheriff retirement systems to the definition of "retirement plan" pertaining to benefit disqualification because of less than honorable service. In addition, the bill also extends the time frame

Bills Passed by Both Bodies

Of the six bills that have been sent to the Governor, the following two completed legislative action since February 12th:

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 251 will provide requirements and limitations for mandatory nurse overtime in hospitals. The bill will allow nurses to work overtime for the completion of a single patient procedure, or during a natural disaster, an outbreak of disease or under similar emergent circumstances. Nurse anesthetists and any nurse consenting to work additional hours will not be impacted by this legislation. The House amended the bill by specifying that any fines imposed on violating hospitals will be directed to the Health Care Authority.

House Bill 4020 will protect personal information maintained by state agencies within the legislative, executive and judicial branches of state government from inappropriate disclosure. The personal information protected under this legislation includes an individual's home address, social security number, credit/debit card numbers, driver's license identification number, marital status and maiden name.

for a termination of benefits notice from one to two years following a conviction.

Senate Bill 509 would permit the person or persons who owned property sold at a sheriff's sale to receive any surplus from the sale upon filing a proper claim.

Senate Bill 524 relates to the Council for Community and Technical College Education and the PROMISE Scholarship Board of Control. Under this legislation, the process of appointing members to these boards would be brought into conformity with a recent West Virginia Supreme Court ruling.

Senate Bill 526 would make supplemental appropriation of public moneys from an unappropriated surplus balance in the general revenue to the Division of Rehabilitation Services for Fiscal Year 2004.

The West Virginia Legislature's Reference and Information Center

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In the House

As of 4:00 p.m. Feb. 18, 2004, the 36th day of the Regular Legislative Session, 1,154 bills have been introduced in the House of Delegates. Of these, the following 21 bills have passed in the House since Feb. 11 and were sent to the Senate for its consideration.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 2200 would make the destruction of property a felony offense. Under this bill, the penalty for taking, defacing or destroying property would be a misdemeanor and punishable by a fine of no more than \$500 or jail time of no more than one year. Taking, defacing or destroying property worth more than \$2,500 or more would be a felony, with a fine of no more than \$2,500 or jail time of one to 10 years. Taking, defacing or destroying property that designates boundaries would be a misdemeanor with a fine of \$20 to \$200 or one to six months in jail.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 2914 relates to the rehabilitation and liquidation of insurers under the jurisdiction of the West Virginia Insurance Commissioner. This bill would modify current state law relative to liquidation proceedings to create conformity with a recent federal case law.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 4001 would ensure safer schools and empower teachers by automating student suspension and expulsion data. The bill also includes provisions that would refocus school and county improvement plans, revise school performance measures, and specify a salary cap of \$107,250 for the director of the Office of Education Performance Audits. Under this bill, the State Board of Education would establish early detection and intervention programs to assist underachieving schools and school systems.

House Bill 4134 would replace the Secretary of the Department of Commerce, Labor and Environmental Services with the Governor's Chief Technology Officer as a member of the

Employee Suggestion Award Board. The bill also would increase membership in the program by one senator and one delegate.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 4143 would create a West Virginia Center for Nursing to establish a statewide strategic plan addressing the nursing shortage in the state. Starting July 1, 2004, the West Virginia Nursing Shortage Study Commission would be dissolved and its powers and responsibilities would be transferred to the West Virginia Center for Nursing. The center would facilitate the recruitment and retention of nurses.

House Bill 4160 would require anyone working in a health care-related field to report to Adult Protective Services any suspected abuse or neglect of an incapacitated adult or faculty resident. The bill also would require Protective Services to interview the victim within 72 hours of receiving the report.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 4250 would prohibit anonymous complaints against court appointed psychologists or psychiatrists relating to a child custody evaluation. If the complaint relates to a child custody proceeding, the claimant would be responsible for all related fees if the psychologist or psychiatrist is not held liable. If the licensed psychologist or psychiatrist is found liable, then the psychologist or psychiatrist is responsible for fees for the claimant.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 4266 would require some regulatory agencies to study ways to expedite the issuance of licenses, permits and certifications. Agencies which would be included are the Division of Labor, the Office of Miners Health, Safety and Training, the Division of Forestry, the Office of Health Facilities Licensure and Certification within the Department of Health and Human Resources, and the Department of Environmental Pro-

tection, except for the Oil and Gas Inspectors Examining Board.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 4273 would transfer the authority to appoint guardians of minors from the County Commission to the Family Court.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 4282 would authorize crossbow hunting for disabled persons. The bill also would include provisions prohibiting shooting at any wild animal unless it is plainly visible; and, the use of using artificial light to hunt, locate, attract, or trap these animals. Also, the bill would prohibit any person from having a bow and a gun together when hunting in the fields or woods of West Virginia.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 4338 would provide for the issuance of special registration plates promoting education and allow the use of the special fee for the registration plates to fund transportation for school trips.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 4373 would make it a crime to alter a traffic-control device with an infrared or electronic device. Using these devices would be a misdemeanor offense punishable by a fine of no more than \$500 and/or jail time of up to six days.

House Bill 4451 relates to the West Virginia Capital Company Act, and would clarify that the Economic Development Authority and Tax Commissioner would be authorized to require certain examination and compliance actions. This bill would require each capital company to be audited annually.

House Bill 4478 would lengthen the time period that county boards are required to publish a year-end financial statement from 60 days to 90 days. The reports would include the receipts and expenditures during the previous fiscal year; the name of each firm, corporation, and person who received more than \$250 during that year; and, all debts and information regarding the debts.

Locating Bill Status

The Legislature's website has implemented full bill content and bill status. To track legislation electronically, use www.legis.state.wv.us and click on bill status.

For those of you who may know someone who would like to receive a copy of legislation in braille, the Legislature can now accommodate this request. Use the toll-free line to request a copy of a bill at: 1-877-56-LEGIS (1-877-565-3447)

Sunset Legislation

House Bill 4418 would continue the Board of Architects until July 1, 2014.

House Bill 4419 would continue the Board of Landscape Architects until July 1, 2009.

Carl M. Frasure served West Virginia University, the state and the nation for more than four decades. He was a life long teacher and an involved citizen in community, state and national service. Julius W. Singleton was a legislator who always was informed and had a keen knowledge of the legislative process. He was elected Speaker of the House and to this day is recalled as one of the greatest Speakers the state has ever seen. He served the public and the members with patience and loyalty.

The Frasure-Singleton Internship Program provides full-time undergraduate students an opportunity to observe the state legislative process for one week during the fourth and fifth full weeks of the regular session. Fifty students are selected from 31 public and private institutions of higher education around the state. The program provides an overall view of the legislative process, including both committee and floor activity and an opportunity for legislators to educate the participants on the legislative process.

The Legislature's Reference and Information Center provides an internship for four students majoring in the field of journalism at West Virginia University and Marshall University,

the only two accredited journalism schools in the state. The selected participants work with members of both the Senate and the House of Delegates throughout the session and are assigned to cover floor sessions as well as all aspects of the legislative process, including committee meetings, public hearings and press conferences. They also work on the publication of a weekly newsletter, write news releases and respond to media and citizen requests.

The distinguished lawmakers who have been honored through the Legislature's Intern Programs will be remembered for the contribution to not only the institution they served, but also for their service to all citizens of West Virginia.

Through these programs, interns are provided with opportunities that few have had the chance to experience. The students walk away with the unique insight and knowledge of West Virginia's State Legislature and its functions. For more information about these programs please contact the Legislature toll-free at 1-877-56-LEGIS, or visit the Legislature's Website at www.legis.state.wv.us.

House Bill 4479 would continue the Department of Health and Human Resources until July 1, 2005.

House Bill 4480 would continue West Virginia's participation in the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin until July 1, 2010.

Legislative Deadlines

Forty-first Day: February 23, 2004:

Last day to introduce bills in the Senate. This does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills. (Senate Rule 14) Nor does it apply to Senate resolutions or concurrent resolutions.

Forty-fifth Day: February 27, 2004:

Last day to introduce bills in the House of Delegates. This does not apply to originating or supplementary appropriation bills. (House Rule 91a)

The West Virginia Legislature's Reference & Information Center

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