

Date: Mar 10, 2011; Section: Local & State; Page: 2-A

2 city-spawned bills make progress

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The Dominion Post

CHARLESTON — Two bills originating in Morgantown earned thumbs up from legislative committees Wednesday.

House Judiciary passed SB 335, which allows Morgantown to regulate taxi service under the authority of the Public Service Commission.

As it came from the Senate, it allowed any Class I or II city to regulate certain aspects of taxi service: Taxi conditions and inspec-

tions, taxi stand locations, drug testing and the posting of signs with numbers to call to complain.

Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer, D-Monongalia, amended the bill and drummed up support for the change, which limits it to any Class I or II city with a land grant university of 20,000 or more students — namely Morgantown.

It comes to the House floor today for its first reading.

The Senate Judiciary Committee passed HB 3202,

the rental security deposit bill originated by WVU students. It underwent some tweaks in committee.

It requires landlords — within 60 days of termination of tenancy or 45 days from re-renting the unit — to return a security deposit or announce part of it is being withheld to pay for damages and repairs, unpaid utilities and storage of property left behind. If a deposit or notice is undeliverable, the landlord must hold it for six months.