

Bill requires magistrates to have degree

HOUSE debates private-eye licensing bill. **Page 2-D.**

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CHARLESTON — A divided Senate passed a bill requiring a magistrate to have a degree and a bill requiring parental consent for a minor to use a tanning booth. Local senators were among the opposition in both votes.

SB 195 calls for anyone wishing to serve as magistrate, effective Jan. 1, 2014, to have at least an associate's degree from an accredited college. Magistrates in office on the effective date must have at least four years experience or a high school education or its equivalent.

It passed 24-9, with Sen. Dave Sypolt, R-Preston, voting no. Sens. Bob Beach, Larry Edgell, Jeff Kessler, Roman Prezioso and Bob Williams voted for it.

It now goes to the House, where Delegate Tony Barill, D-Monongalia and former county magistrate and sheriff, has told *The Dominion*



Post that he opposes it. The House version, HB 2540, is in Judiciary.

The Senate also passed a bill Wednesday changing how magistrates run for office.

Magistrates now run for office in packs, as Senate Judiciary Chairman Corey Palumbo, D-Kanawha, described it. SB 438 mandates that magistrates run in divisions, as circuit judges do.

For instance, in Monongalia County, the four magistrates and any challengers all run at the same time. West Virginia Magistrates Association President Riley Barb previously said this means people who work closely together suddenly become opponents, making for awkward situations.

The bill says magistrates will run countywide and be elected at large, but each seat will be a separate division. Challengers would then select

which incumbent to run against.

The Senate passed it unanimously and it goes to the House. If passed into law, it would take effect for the 2012 elections.

The Senate also passed SB 78. It calls for any minor age 14-17 to present a signed consent form to use a tanning booth. Anyone under 14 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The consent form must contain a warning about the possible health risks associated with tanning, including eye damage or skin cancer.

It passed 30-3, with Beach, D-Monongalia, and Williams, D-Taylor, joining Sypolt to vote no. This bill also goes to the House.

Bills introduced

The following bills were introduced this week:

■ SB 467 prevents teachers from being assigned additional responsibilities during their planning periods. Education Committee Chairman Bob Plymale is lead spon-

sor; Beach and Kessler are among the co-sponsors. Preston Delegate Stan Shaver is among the sponsors of a similar House Bill, HB 3035.

■ SB 439 sets a 90-day waiting period for a purchaser of a manufactured home to file suit after filing a complaint about the homes, its sale or installation. It sets a limit of one year after filing a complaint or two years after discovering a defect, whichever is longer, to file suit. Prezioso, Beach and Sypolt are among the sponsors.

■ SB 447 adds 48 hours in jail to the possible penalties for a parent or guardian responsible for a child's truancy.

■ HB 3048 requires public schools to establish recycling programs; sponsored by Marion Delegates Tim Manchin, Linda Longstreth and Mike Caputo, and Mon Delegate Barbara Evans Fleischauer.

■ HB 3042 is the Department of Environmental Protection's version of Marcellus gas industry regulations.