



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Education

Minutes for January 19, 2026, 1:30 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on January 19, 2026, 1:30 PM, in the House Education Committee Room 432-M.

Members present: Delegates Ellington, Statler, Hamilton, Garcia, Barnhart, Bell, Campbell, Chiarelli, Coop-Gonzalez, Crouse, Dittman, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Miller, Pritt, Pushkin, Shamblin, Stephens, Toney, Vance, Ward, B., White, Willis.

Members absent: None.

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Delegate Statler, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The next item on the agenda was Markup and Passage of H. B. 4081, To create the Higher Education Health and Aid Grant. The recognized Committee Counsel Melissa White to explain the bill. Following counsel's explanation, the Chair asked for questions. None being heard the Chair called for amendments. None being offered the Chair recognized Vice Chairman Statler for the purpose of a motion. Vice Chairman Statler moved House Bill 4081 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be reported to the Committee on Finance. Delegate Pushkin called for a roll call and that call was sustained. The clerk called the roll and the motion passed on a vote of 21 to 4. The members voted as follows: Yeas – Delegates Barnhart, Bell, Campbell, Chiarelli, Crouse, Dittman, Garcia, Hamilton, Hornby, Jennings, Mallow, Miller, Pritt, Pushkin, Shamblin, Statler, Stephens, Toney, Vance, Willis, and Ellington; Nays – Delegates Coop-Gonzales, Kimble, Ward and White.

Next bill for Markup and Passage was H. B. 4087, To create a West Virginia-Ireland Education Alliance. The Chair recognized Vice Chairman Statler for the purpose of a motion. Vice Chairman Statler moved to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. With no objection being heard the Chair The recognized Committee Counsel Melissa White to explain the committee substitute. Following counsel's explanation, the Chair asked for questions. None being heard the Chair called for amendments. None being offered the Chair recognized Vice Chairman Statler for the purpose of a motion. Vice Chairman Statler moved House Bill 4087 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be reported to the Committee on Finance. On a voice vote the motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the Committee Hearing for HB4002, Establishing the West Virginia Collaboratory. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Dittman, to explain the bill. Following her explanation the floor was opened for questions of Delegate Dittman. Following questions the Chairman asked if there were any agencies, organizations or members of the public wishing to address the bill. Mr. Tony Stroud, Chief Legal Officer / Vice President for Strategic Initiatives and Corporate Relations, Marshall University was sworn-in and gave testimony in support of the proposed legislation. Next, Curtis Johnson, Senior Advisor to the President for Government Affairs, WVSU was sworn in and spoke in favor of the legislation, Travis Mollohan, Associate Vice President, Government Relations and Collaboration, WVU was sworn in and spoke in favor of the legislation. The final statement of support was made by Kensey Bergdorf-Smith, Executive Director, West Virginia Science and Technology Policy Initiative. The bill was then moved to the markup and discussion stage.

With no further business to come before the committee and on a motion of Delegate Statler the committee adjourned.

Joe Ellington
Committee Chair

Melinda Ryan Swagger
Committee Clerk