



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Education

Minutes for January 27, 2026, 12:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on January 27, 2026, 12:00 AM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

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

Members absent: Delegates Chiarelli, Miller, Ward, B..

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 the markup and discussion of **H. B. 4014**, Workforce Readiness and Opportunity Act. Vice Chairman Statler moved to consider a proposed Committee Substitute. No objections were heard. The Chair 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 4014 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. On a voice vote the motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was the markup and discussion of **H. B. 4656**, Relating to chronic absenteeism. The Chair 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 4656 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. On a voice vote the motion carried.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion of **H. B. 4660**, To move any remaining sixth grade classifications from elementary schools to middle schools. Chairman Ellington let the committee know that work on that bill was still ongoing and it wasn't ready at that time.

Chairman Ellington then addressed the Committee applauding the work of the Committee and made them aware that he would be taking the role of Deputy Speaker of the House and that Vice Chairman Statler would be moving into the Chairman position.

On a motion of Delegate Statler the committee adjourned.

Joe Ellington

Committee Chair

Melinda Ryan Swagger

Committee Clerk