



West Virginia House of Delegates

Committee on

Minutes for February 04, 2026, 1:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Committee on met on February 04, 2026, 1:00 PM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

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

Members absent: Delegates Chiarelli, Coop-Gonzalez, Vance, Ward, B..

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

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

The next item on the agenda was **H. B. 4440**, Permitting law enforcement to issue a citation when students are caught with nicotine in schools. Vice-Chairman Toney moved to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. With no objections heard Chairman Statler recognized counsel to explain the Committee Substitute. Following the explanation the floor was opened for questions of counsel. After questions were exhausted Chairman Statler pulled the bill from the agenda.

The next item on the agenda was **H. B. 4446**, Firefighter Pilot Program. The Chair recognized the sponsor Delegate Hillenbrand to explain the bill. Following his explanation Delegate Hillenbrand entertained questions from the committee. Following questions, the Chairman asked if there were any agencies wishing to address the bill. Mr. Robert Bailey from the WV Public Service Training. The Chairman then asked if there were an organizations or members of the public wishing to address the bill. Three members of the public gave testimony to the bill. The bill was moved to the markup and discussion stage.

The next item on the agenda was **H. B. 4573**, Foster Youth Post-Secondary Transition Awareness Act. The Chair recognized the sponsor Delegate Dittman to explain the bill. Following his explanation Delegate Dittman entertained questions from the committee. Following questions, the Chairman asked if there were any agencies wishing to address the bill. Drew McClanahan, Legislative/Policy, WVDE gave testimony. The Chairman then asked if there were an organizations or members of the public wishing to address the bill. Hearing none the bill was moved to the markup and discussion stage.

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

Joe Ellington

Committee Chair

Melinda Ryan Swagger

Committee Clerk