



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on Education

### Minutes for February 19, 2026, 1:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on February 19, 2026, 1:00 PM, in the House Education Committee Room 432-M.

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

Members absent: Delegates Chiarelli, Ellington, Miller, Pritt, Vance.

A silent 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 markup and discussion for **H. B. 4485**, Allow education employees to donate sick leave to co-workers for maternity leave. The Vice-Chair moved to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. Without any objection to the motion, Morgan Miller, Committee Analyst, explained the committee substitute for the bill. Following their explanation, the Chair opened the meeting to questions for the analyst. The Chair then asked for any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized the Vice-Chair, who moved that Committee Substitute for **House Bill 4485** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion for **H. B. 4798**, Requiring teachers to wear a "mobile alert button" for emergency situations, to be known as "Alyssa's Law." The Vice-Chair moved to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. Without any objection to the motion, Aaron Kidd, Committee Counsel, explained the committee substitute for the bill. Following their explanation, the Chair opened the meeting to questions for counsel. The Chair then asked for any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized the Vice-Chair, who moved that Committee Substitute for **House Bill 4798** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance, for which, however, a waiver has been requested. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion of **H. B. 5110**, Amend section providing for waiver of tuition and fees for older persons auditing certain college classes. Melissa White, Committee Counsel, explained the bill. Following their explanation, the Chair opened the committee for questions to Counsel and then asked if there were any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized the Vice-Chair for a motion. The Vice-Chair moved **House Bill 5110** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion for **H. B. 5412**, Future Ready Education Act. The Vice-Chair moved to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. Without any objection to the motion, Morgan Miller, Committee Analyst, explained the committee substitute for the bill. Following their explanation, the Chair opened the meeting to questions for the analyst. The Chair then asked for any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized the Vice-Chair, who moved that Committee Substitute for **House Bill 5412** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. The motion was adopted

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion for **H. B. 5438**, To modify the foundation allowance to improve instructional programs. The Vice-Chair moved to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. Without any objection to the motion, Morgan Miller, committee analyst, explained the committee substitute for the bill. Following their explanation, the Chair opened the meeting to questions for the analyst. The Chair then asked for any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized the Vice-Chair, who moved that Committee Substitute for **House Bill 5438** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **H. B. 4588**, Relating to participating in the federal tax credit scholarship program. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Burkhammer, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **H. B. 5478**, Establish a statewide pilot program to improve kindergarten readiness. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Hornbuckle, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

With no further business before the committee, on motion of Delegate Toney the committee adjourned.

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Joe Statler

Committee Chair

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Ethan Hatfield

Committee Clerk