



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on Education

### Minutes for February 20, 2026, 1:15 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on February 20, 2026, 1:15 PM, in the House Education Committee Room 432-M.

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

Members absent: Delegates Campbell, Chiarelli, Jennings, Ward, B., Willis.

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. 4588**, Relating to participating in the federal tax credit scholarship program. 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 4588** 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. 4995**, Require the use of video cameras in certain special education classrooms. The Vice-Chair moved to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. Without any objection to the motion, Melissa White, 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 4995** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Judiciary. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion for **H. B. 5012**, Providing for in-year school personnel movement to meet school needs. 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 5012** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion of **H. B. 5478**, Establish a statewide pilot program to improve kindergarten readiness. Morgan Miller, Committee Analyst, explained the bill. Following their explanation, the Chair opened the committee for questions to the analyst 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 5478** 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. 4395**, All investigations into allegations of child safety violations and child welfare risks continue for all school personnel regardless of whether the accused moved to a different job or school. This pertains to schools and school boards. The Chair recognized the co-sponsor, Delegate Hornby, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the co-sponsor. Then the Chair recognized Drew McClanahan, Legislative and Policy Officer for the WV Department of Education, to speak to the bill. Then the Chair recognized Dale Lee, president of the West Virginia Education Association (WVEA), to speak to the bill. 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