



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Education

Minutes for February 23, 2026, 1:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on February 23, 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, Ellington, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Miller, Parsons, Pritt, Pushkin, Shamblin, Stephens, Ward, B., Willis.

Members absent: Delegates Chiarelli, Vance, White.

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. 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 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 4395** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **H. B. 4587**, Prohibiting public funds from supporting low-earning outcome postsecondary degree programs. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Burkhammer, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. Then the Chair recognized Matt Turner, Executive Vice Chancellor for the Higher Education Policy Commission, to speak to the bill. Then the Chair recognized Curtis Johnson, West Virginia State University Senior Advisor to the President for Government and Legislative Affairs, to speak to the bill. Then the Chair recognized Dale Lee, president of the West Virginia Education Association, to speak to the bill. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **H. B. 5048**, To ensure virtual instruction for foster students while in temporary placement facilities. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Moore, 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. 5321**, To guarantee timely educational evaluations and continuity of services for children entering foster care. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Statler, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. Then the Chair recognized Dale Lee, president of the West Virginia Education Association, to speak to the bill. Then the Chair recognized Drew McClanahan, Legislative and Policy Officer for the WV Department of Education, to speak to the bill. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **H. B. 5354**, Relating to authorizing legislative rules regarding higher education. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Statler, 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.

Joe Statler

Committee Chair

Ethan Hatfield

Committee Clerk