



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Education

Minutes for February 24, 2026, 1:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on February 24, 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, Pushkin, Shamblin, Stephens, White, Willis.

Members absent: Delegates Chiarelli, Pritt, Vance, Ward, B..

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 of **H. B. 5048**, To ensure virtual instruction for foster students while in temporary placement facilities. 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 5048** 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. 5321**, To guarantee timely educational evaluations and continuity of services for children entering foster care. 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 5321** 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. 5354**, Relating to authorizing legislative rules regarding higher education. 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 5354** 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. 4425**, To repeal the provision allowing for students to transfer from one school to another without losing eligibility. The Chair recognized the co-sponsor, Delegate Stephens, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the co-sponsor. 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. 5163**, Relating to exempting child-care programs operated by a county board of education exclusively for the children of its employees from certain licensing requirements. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Hornby, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. 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. 5537**, Repealing obsolete and outdated sections of the Education code. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Ellington, 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 **Bill Originating to provide that the state board shall prescribe requirements for graduation**. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Toney, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the 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, to speak to the bill. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **Resolution Originating – Firefighter Pilot Program**. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Statler, to explain the resolution. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. The resolution was then advanced to markup and discussion.

The next item on the agenda was committee hearing of **Resolution Originating – County School Districts Consolidation**. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Statler, to explain the resolution. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. Then the Chair recognized Howard O’Cull, Executive Director of the West Virginia School Board Association, to speak to the resolution. The resolution 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