



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Education

Minutes for February 25, 2026, 4:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Education met on February 25, 2026, 4:00 PM, in the House Education Committee Room 432-M.

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

Members absent: Delegates 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. 4425**, To repeal the provision allowing for students to transfer from one school to another without losing eligibility. Melissa White, Committee Counsel, explained the bill. Following their explanation, the Chair opened the committee for questions to Counsel. Then the Chair asked if there were any amendments, and none were heard. By leave of committee, the Chair then recognized the Sponsor of the bill, Delegate Gearheart, to answer questions from members, and then the Chair also recognized Dale Lee, President of the West Virginia Education Association, to answer questions from members. Following questions, the Chair recognized the Vice-Chair for a motion. The Vice-Chair moved **House Bill 4425** 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. 5089**, Providing for verified mastery of content standards for transcripts when a student enrolls or re-enrolls in a public school in this state. 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 5089** 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. 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 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 5163** 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. 5537**, Repealing obsolete and outdated sections of the Education code. The Vice-Chair moved to consider the proposed committee substitute for the bill. Without any objection to the motion, Melissa White, Committee Analyst, 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 5537** 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 **Bill Originating - Provide that the state board shall prescribe requirements for graduation**. Aaron Kidd, 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 Originating** 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. C. R. Originating on Firefighter Pilot Program**. 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 **H. C. R. Originating on Firefighter Pilot Program** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do be adopted, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion of **H. C. R. Originating on County School Districts Consolidation**. 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 **H. C. R. Originating on County School Districts Consolidation** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do be adopted, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules. The motion was adopted.

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

Joe Statler

Committee Chair

Ethan Hatfield

Committee Clerk