



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Health and Human Resources

Minutes for January 27, 2026, 4:30 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Health and Human Resources met on January 27, 2026, 4:30 PM, in the House East Wing Committee Room 215-E.

Members present: Delegates Worrell, Hite, Pushkin, Hamilton, Amos, Anders, Burkhammer, Chiarelli, Clark, Drennan, Hall, Heckert, Jeffries, Lewis, Mazzocchi, Miller, Pinson, Rohrbach, Stephens, Vance, Willis.

Members absent: Delegates Dean, Petitto, Smith, Watt.

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Delegate Hite, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

HB 4622- Relating to relating to the Office of the Inspector General (2nd REF FIN)

Chairman Worrell recognized Vice Chair Hite to move HB 4622. Chairman Worrell recognized counsel to explain HB 4622 and stated there was a committee substitute. Vice Chair Hite moved the com sub for HB 4622, counsel explained com sub for HB 4622. Chairman Worrell called for questions of counsel, there were none. Chairman Worrell called for amendments. Delegate Hite offered Amendment #1 as follows:

HB4622 H HHR Hite AM #1

CR 3338

Delegate Hite moves to amend the bill on page 9, line 1, by striking subsection (a) in its entirety and inserting a new subsection (a) to read as follows: "(a) The Office of the Inspector General is continued as a separate and autonomous department. The Office of Inspector General shall be headed by the Inspector General and is comprised of the offices as provided in §5F-2-1a of this code."

Hite amendment was adopted.

Delegate Burkhammer offered amendment #1 as follows:

HB4622 H HHR Burkhammer AM #1
CR 3338

Delegate Burkhammer moved to amend the bill on page 5, line 94, by inserting a new subdivision (6) to read as follows: "(6) Office of Health Facility Licensure and Certification" and renumbering the remaining subdivisions;

And,

On page 5, line 111, by striking subdivision (2) in its entirety, and renumbering the remaining subdivisions.

Delegate Burkhammer amendment #1 was adopted.

Delegate Burkhammer offered amendment #2 as follows:

HB4622 H HHR Burkhammer AM #2
CR 3338

Delegate Burkhammer moved to amend the bill on page 14, line 110, by striking the following: "Qualification, compensation, and personnel practice relating to the employees of the Office of the Inspector General, shall be governed by the classified service."

And,

On page 15, line 153, by inserting the following: "(x) The provisions of §5A-3-1 or § 5A-3-3 do not apply to the Office of the Inspector General or its affiliated agencies.

(y) Notwithstanding any provision of this code or any rule to the contrary, beginning on July 1, 2026, employees of the Office of the Inspector General or its affiliated agencies are exempt from the state grievance procedures as set forth in §6C-2-1 et seq. of this code and from the classified civil service system under §29-6-1 et seq. of this code except that:

(1) Employees the Office of the Inspector General or its affiliated agencies who are currently members of the classified civil service system shall retain their status as long as they remain in their current position; and

(2) Employees of the Office of the Inspector General or its affiliated agencies who currently have recourse to the state grievance procedures shall continue to have access to the state grievance procedures as long as they remain in their current position;

(3) An employee of the Office of the Inspector General or its affiliated agencies that leaves his or her position and remains a state employee shall, at that time, be transferred to the classified exempt service system as defined in §29-6-2(g) of this code and be exempted from the state grievance procedures as set forth in §6C-2-1 et seq. of this code; and

(4) The Inspector General may designate certain employees' status under the classified civil service system and grievance procedures as may be deemed necessary to comply with federal law, federal regulation, or the requirements for receipt of federal funding or assistance.

(5) The provisions of this subsection do not apply to any position appointed by the Governor.

(6) Nothing in this subsection shall exempt the Office of the Inspector General or its affiliated agencies from the provisions of this code prohibiting nepotism, favoritism, discrimination, or unethical practices related to the promotion, transfer, layoff, removal, discipline, and compensation of state employees.”

Delegate Pushkin called for a roll call vote. Clerk called the roll by vote of 15 yeas and 5 nays, Delegate Burkhammer amendment #2 was adopted. (a copy of the roll call is on file with the committee clerk). Vice chair Hite move to accept the language of com sub for HB 4622 and be reported to the floor with the recommendation it do pass as amended but first be referred to the committee on Finance. Motion carried. (HB 4622 2nd reference to FIN is awaiting a waiver)

HB 4640 - Relating to drugs and adding a provision relating to the scheduling of crystalline polymorph psilocybin approved by the Food and Drug Administration

Chairman Worrell recognized Vice chair Hite to move HB 4640. Chairman Worrell recognized counsel to explain HB 4640 and stated there was a com sub at the desk. Vice chair Hite moved com sub for HB 4640, counsel was recognized to explain com sub for HB 4640. Chairman Worrell called for questions of counsel, there being none. Chairman Worrell called for amendments. Delegate Clark offered amendment #1 as follows:

HB4640 H HHR AM #Clark #1

Smith 7897

Delegate Clark moves to amend the committee substitute on page 6, line 101, by adding the following language: “‘7-hydroxymitragynine’ means the naturally occurring or synthetically derived alkaloid of *Mitragyna speciosa*, including any salt, isomer, metabolite, analog, derivative, or synthetic equivalent. ‘Synthetic kratom alkaloid’ means any chemically modified, concentrated, isolated, or artificially enhanced alkaloid derived from *Mitragyna speciosa* that exhibits opioid receptor activity.”

Clark amendment adopted.

Delegate Burkhammer offered amendment as follows:

HB4640 H HHR Burkhammer AM #1

CR 3338

Delegate Burkhammer moved to amend the committee substitute on page 2, line 43, following the words “if a” by inserting the words “organic psilocybin substance or”.

Burkhammer amendment was adopted.

Delegate Pushkin offered an amendment:

HB4640 H HHR PUSHKIN AM #1

AW 3380

Delegate Pushkin moved to amend the committee substitute on page 8, line 140, by striking the line in its entirety.

Pushkin amendment was rejected.

Chairman Worrell called for discussion. Vice chair Hite move to adopt the language com sub for HB 4640 and be reported to the floor with the recommendation it do pass as amended. Motion carried.

Committee Hearing:

HB 4740 - Statutory Commitments in Rural Health Transformation Program

Chairman Worrell recognized Curtis Capehart, Director of Policy, Governor's Office.

Mr. Capehart thoroughly explained the commitments in the Rural Health Transformation Program. Mr. Capehart answered questions of the committee. Chairman Worrell advanced HB 4740 to markup.

HB 4629 - Relating to medical cessation treatment and research

Chairman Worrell recognized Delegate Akers to explain HB4626. Chairman Worrell called for questions; there were no questions. Chairman Worrell recognized and swore in Dan Kimble, WVU, Director of State Relations. Mr. Kimble answered questions of the committee. Chairman Worrell advanced HB 4629 to markup.

HB 4715 - To remove restrictions for supervising physicians for Nurse practitioners or physician assistants in West Virginia

Chairman Worrell recognized Delegate White to explain HB 4715. Delegate White answered several questions of the committee. Chairman Worrell recognized and swore in Dr. Joe Pur D' Homme, representing several groups against HB 4715. Dr. Pu D' Homme answered questions of the committee. Chairman Worrell recognized and swore in Adam Fannin, APRN speaking on behalf of the Board of Nursing. Mr. Fannin answered questions of the committee. After a lengthy discussion Chairman Worrell advanced HB 4715 to markup. On Motion of Delegate Hite the committee adjourned.

Evan Worrell

Committee Chair

Martha White

Administrator