



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Subcommittee on Public Education

### Minutes for February 12, 2026, 1:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Subcommittee on Public Education met on February 12, 2026, 1:00 PM, in the House Education Committee Room 432-M.

Members present: Delegates Campbell, Bell, Coop-Gonzalez, Ellington, Hamilton, Jennings, Pritt, Stephens.

Members absent: Delegates Miller, Ward, B..

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

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

Due to scheduling conflict for members who were there to speak needing to get to other meetings, the agenda's order was rearranged. The first item on the agenda was the committee hearing of **H. B. 4798**, Requiring teachers to wear a "mobile alert button" for emergency situations, to be known as "Alyssa's Law." Chairman Campbell recognized the sponsor, Delegate Pinson, 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. 5053**, To institute safeguards to verify educational quality for homeschooled students, particularly concerning core subjects and manufactured grades. 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 Roy Ramey II, WV Home Educators Association President, to speak to the bill. Then the Chair recognized Thomas Schmidt, Senior Counsel for the Home School Legal Defense Association, to speak to the bill. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

The next item on the agenda was the committee hearing of **H. B. 4402**, Relating to school protection officers. The Chair recognized the sponsor, Delegate Heckert, to explain the bill. Then the Chair opened the committee for questions to the sponsor. Then the Chair recognized David Gladkosky, Executive Director of WV Professional Educators, to speak to the bill. Then the Chair recognized Rodney Miller, Executive Director of the WV Sheriff's Association, to speak to the bill. The bill was then advanced to markup and discussion.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion 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. Melissa White, Committee Counsel, explained the bill. Following her presentation, the Chair opened the committee for questions to Counsel and then asked if there were any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized Vice-Chairman Stephens for a motion. The Vice-Chair moved **House Bill 4395** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it is first referred to the Standing Committee on Education. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion of **H. B. 4834**, To permit women's wrestling in public high schools as a sanctioned event. Melissa White, Committee Counsel, explained the bill. Following her presentation, the Chair opened the committee for questions to Counsel and then asked if there were any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized Vice-Chairman Stephens for a motion. The Vice-Chair moved **House Bill 4834** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it is first referred to the Standing Committee on Education. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was markup and discussion of **H. B. 4871**, Make available vegetarian meal option for students enrolled in schools, provided that such meals comply with all applicable federal nutritional guidelines. Aaron Kidd, Committee Counsel, explained the bill. Following his presentation, the Chair opened the committee for questions to Counsel and then asked if there were any amendments. Hearing none, the Chair recognized Vice-Chairman Stephens for a motion. The Vice-Chair moved **House Bill 4871** be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it is first referred to the Standing Committee on Education. The motion was adopted.

On Motion of Delegate Stephens the committee adjourned.

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Jeff Campbell

Committee Chair

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Ethan Hatfield

Committee Clerk