



# West Virginia Senate

## Committee on Judiciary

### Minutes for January 19, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on the Judiciary met on January 19, 2026, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

Members present: Senators Willis, Bartlett, Azinger, Chapman, Charnock, Deeds, Fuller, Hart, Maynard, Rose, Rucker, Tarr, Weld, Garcia

Members absent: Senators Helton, Martin, and Taylor

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

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chairman Willis introduced the 2026 Senate Committee on the Judiciary new member and staff.

**S. B. 137** - Modifying parole eligibility for crime of second-degree murder.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Kristina Raynes, Putnam County Prosecuting Attorney, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee agreed to the committee substitute.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

On Motion of Senator Bartlett the committee adjourned.



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Thomas E. Willis II  
Chair



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Beverly Douglas  
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 19<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026, in  
the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

"I swear to tell the truth, nothing but the truth, under penalty of  
false swearing, so help me God."

Kristina Raynes

Print Witness Name

Kristina M Raynes

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T. Willis II', written over a horizontal line.

Sign Member Name