



# West Virginia Senate

## Committee on Judiciary

### Minutes for January 20, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on January 20, 2026, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Helton, and Martin

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

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

**S. B. 84** - Prohibiting law enforcement from placing surveillance cameras on private property.

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

With leave of the committee, Darren Thorne, Senator, 15<sup>th</sup> District, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Chuck Horst, Delegate, 95<sup>th</sup> District, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Caleb Knight, Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel, Department of Environmental Protection, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

Chairman Willis laid over **S. B. 84**.

**S. B. 55** - Establishing criminal offense for crimes against public justice workers.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Rodney Miller, Executive Director, West Virginia Sheriffs' Association, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Kendra Boley-Rogers, Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Programs, Department of Human Services, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the bill on page 1, line 10, by striking the number 15 and inserting in lieu thereof the number 20, and adding language that sets a mandatory minimum of 20 years served of a prison sentence before parole eligibility.

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

On Motion of Senator Willis the committee adjourned.



Thomas E. Willis II  
Chair



Beverly Douglas  
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 20 26, 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.”

Caleb Knight

Print Witness Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Caleb Knight', written over a horizontal line.

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Thomas E. Willis II', written over a horizontal line.

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 20 26, 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.”

Rooney A. Miller

Print Witness Name

Rooney A. Miller

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 20<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.”

Kendra Pooley-Peters

Print Witness Name

Kendra A. Pooley-Peters

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' and 'W'.

Sign Member Name