



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 12, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 12, 2026, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

Members present: Senators Willis, Bartlett, Charnock, Deeds, Fuller, Helton, Rucker, Tarr, Taylor, Weld, Garcia

Members absent: Senators Azinger, Chapman, Hart, Martin, Maynard, Rose

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.

S. B. 648 - Relating to strategic and critical resources.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Brian Finch, West Virginians for National Security, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

The question being on agreeing to the committee substitute, the same was put, and the committee substitute was agreed to.

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

S. B. 185 - Allowing appointment of more than one chief deputy by sheriff.

Aaron Cobb, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, 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. (See attached oath.)

The question being on agreeing to the committee substitute, the same was put, and the committee substitute was agreed to.

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.



Thomas E. Willis II
Chair



Beverly Douglas
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 12th day of February, 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."

Brian Finch

Print Witness Name

Burly Douglas

Testimony Attested to

By Committee Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T. Willis II'.

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 12th day of February, 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.”

Rosney A. Miller

Print Witness Name

Rosney A. Miller

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