



# West Virginia Senate

## Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 16, 2026, 3:15 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 16, 2026, 3:15 PM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Chapman, Hart, Helton, Martin, 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.

Chairman Willis laid over **S. B. 59**

**S. B. 799** - Requiring receipt of return of service or return receipt be filed with court.

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

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 2, line 22, and page 3, line 25, after the word "court", by inserting ", by the petitioner".

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

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

**S. B. 493** - Relating to open captioning for motion pictures.

Carl Fletcher, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, John Burdette, Chairman, West Virginia Association of the Deaf, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

With leave of the committee, Rachel Coffman, Cinema United, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

Senator Bartlett moved to report the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

The Chair being in doubt, a division of the body was demanded by Chairman Willis.

The vote being 7 in favor and 5 opposed, the bill will be reported.

On Motion of Senator Bartlett the committee adjourned.



Thomas E. Willis II  
Chair



Beverly Douglas  
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 16<sup>th</sup> 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.”

John W. Burdette

Print Witness Name

John W. Burdette

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

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 16<sup>th</sup> 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.”

Rachel Coffman

Print Witness Name

Rachel Coffman

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

Thomas E. Willis II

Sign Member Name