



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 18, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 18, 2026, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Azinger, Helton, Martin, Garcia

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. 705 - Creating offense of theft by conversion.

Aaron Cobb, Extern Law Clerk, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

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

S. B. 59 - Clarifying residency requirements for voter registration.

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

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. 558 - Regarding penalties related to school bus safety.

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

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. 905 - Requiring election officials to capture and publish ballot images.

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

With leave of the committee, David P. Cook, General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

Chairman Willis appointed a subcommittee for **S. B. 905** consisting of Senators Rucker, Garcia, Tarr, Charnock, and Deeds.

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 18th 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."

David D. Cook

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name