



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 19, 2026, 3:00 PM

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

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

Members absent: Senators Azinger, Hart, 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. 669 - Relating to general powers of PSC.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

Senator Rose requested a ruling under the provisions of Senate Rule 43.

Chairman Willis replied that any impact of the Senator would be a member of a class of persons possibly to be affected by the passage of this bill, and refused to excuse Senator Rose from voting

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

S. B. 670 - Adopting Uniform Protected Series Act.

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

Senator Tarr requested a ruling under the provisions of Senate Rule 43.

Chairman Willis replied that any impact of the Senator would be a member of a class of persons possibly to be affected by the passage of this bill, and refused to excuse Senator Tarr from voting

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. 961 - Requiring for every regulation issued at least two be removed.

Aaron Cobb, Extern Law Clerk, 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. 54 - Establishing criminal penalties for abuse or neglect of incapacitated adults.

Candace Kraus, 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. 888 - Creating Judicial Deference Reform Act.

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

With leave of the committee, Jaimie Cavanaugh, Senior State Policy Counsel, Pacific Legal Foundation, 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 reported the bill 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



Testimony taken this 19th 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 P. Cook

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name



The Senate of West Virginia

Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 19th 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.”

Jaimie Cavanaugh

Print Witness Name

Beverly Douglas

Testimony Attested to

By Committee Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

Sign Member Name