



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 24, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 24, 2026, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Martin

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. 901 - Creating truancy pre-trial diversion program.

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

With leave of the committee, Katie Franklin, Deputy General Counsel, West Virginia Governors Office, 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 Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute on page 7, subsection (c), line 77, after the word "or" by striking the words "the beginning of August" and inserting in lieu thereof, "in August prior to the beginning of the school year"; and on page 9, subdivision (1), line 121, after the word "school" by inserting ", Board of Education,"

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

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass as amended, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. B. 541 - Requiring circuit courts make certain findings of fact and conclusions of law as it relates to court's order.

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.

Chairman Willis removed **S. B. 523** from the agenda.

H. B. 4022 - CPS Allocation.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the proposed strike and insert and title amendment, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee adopted the strike and insert amendment.

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 Bartlett, the committee adopted the title amendment.

S. JR. 8 – Sheriff's Succession Amendment.

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

With leave of the committee, Rodney A. 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.)

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee reported the joint resolution to the full Senate with the recommendation that it be adopted, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. JR. 21 – Taxpayers' Bill of Rights Amendment.

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

Senator Rucker raised a point of order that the questions Senator Tarr is asking counsel is not germane to the resolution.

Which point of order Chairman Willis ruled was well taken.

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

Senator Bartlett moved that the committee report the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it be adopted but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

The vote being 11 in favor and 5 opposed, the committee substitute 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 24th 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.”

Kane Frick

Print Witness Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kane Frick', 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 24th 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.”

Rooney A. Miller

Print Witness Name

Rooney 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