



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 25, 2026, 3:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 25, 2026, 3:00 AM 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: Senator 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. 937 - Establishing community-based child welfare system program.

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

With leave of the committee, Carrie Bolm, Chief Executive Officer, National Center on Community-Based Care, 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, Angie Hamilton, Executive Director, Pressley Ridge of West Virginia, 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, Mia Johnson, Chief Executive Officer, Burlington United Methodist Family Services, 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, Jeremiah Samples, lobbyist, 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, Mark Drennan, Vice President, National Youth Advocate Program, Inc., was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

Senator Tarr moved to amend the committee substitute on page 1, line 12 inserting the following dates: bidding process to begin by January 1, 2027, bid contract awarded by July 1, 2027, pilot implemented by January 1, 2028, and the department is required to report progress to the Legislative Oversight Commission on Health Human Resources for the pilot by December 1, 2026; and page 2, line 16, subdivision (3), by striking the number 8 and inserting in lieu thereof the number 9.

Senator Garcia moved to amend the amendment on page 2, by striking subdivision (3) in its entirety resulting in a pilot program only with a firm sunset date and require legislation to implement statewide.

The same was put and rejected.

The vote being on the amendment offered by Senator Tarr. The same was put and adopted.

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the committee substitute striking the provisions from §49-2-1007 and inserting them into §49-2-131.

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

Senator Rose moved to report the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass as amended.

The same was put and Senator Weld demanded a roll call, which demand was sustained.

On the adoption of the motion to report, the yeas were: Azinger, Charnock, Deeds, Fuller, Hart, Helton, Z. Maynard, Rose, Rucker, Tarr, Taylor, Weld and Willis (Chair) - 13

The nays were: Garcia - 1

A majority of all the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Chairman declared the motion to report adopted.

S. B. 459 - Amending Best Interests of Child Protection Act of 2022 to include step-sibling.

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 Rose, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

H. B. 4749 - Relating to adding requirements to the foster child bill of rights.

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

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

On motion of Senator Rose, the committee adopted the title amendment.

S. JR. 9 – Citizenship Requirement to Vote in West Virginia Elections Amendment.

Riley Neal, Intern, explained the resolution, 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 Rose, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it be adopted, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. JR. 11 - Homestead Exemption Increase Amendment.

Aaron Cobb, Extern Law Clerk, explained the resolution, the purpose of the proposed committee substitute, and responded to questions.

Senator Charnock 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 Charnock 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 Rose, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it be adopted, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

On Motion of Senator Rose the committee adjourned.



Thomas E. Willis II
Chair



Beverly Douglas
Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 25th 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."

Carrie Bolm

Print Witness Name

Beverly 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



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 25th 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.”

Angie Hamilton

Print Witness Name

Beverly 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

Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 25th 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.”

Mig Johnson

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

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 25th 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.”

Jeremiah Samples

Print Witness Name

[Handwritten Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Handwritten Signature]

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 25th 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.”

Mark Doenna

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name

ROLL CALL
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Tom Willis, *Chair*

DATE February 25, 2024 TIME 3pm
QUESTION Motion to Report SB 937

NAME	ATTENDANCE		ROLL CALL VOTES	
	PRESENT	ABSENT	YEA	NAY
Azinger	✓		✓	
x Bartlett	✓			
x Chapman	✓			
Charnock	✓		✓	
Deeds	✓		✓	
Fuller	✓		✓	
Garcia	✓			✓
Hart	✓		✓	
Helton	✓		✓	
x Martin				
Z. Maynard	✓		✓	
Rose	✓		✓	
Rucker	✓		✓	
Tarr	✓		✓	
Taylor	✓		✓	
Weld	✓		✓	
Willis	✓		✓	
TOTALS			13	1