



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 26, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 26, 2026, 3:00 PM in Room 2-8-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Azinger, Hart, 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.

Chairman Willis moved **S. B 1037** first on the agenda.

S. B. 1037 - Repealing prohibition on death penalty.

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

With leave of the committee, Ross Mellinger, Jackson County Sheriff, addressed the committee, 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, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

S. B. 1008 - Relating to statute of limitations for asbestos and silica litigation.

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. 715 - Requiring WV state agencies give extra consideration to hiring disabled law-enforcement officers.

Candace Kraus, 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 to include the definition of veteran.

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.

S. B. 1026 - Establishing crime of disturbing lawful meeting.

Aaron Cobb, 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 1, lines 4-6 by striking the final sentence in its entirety.

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.

S. B. 499 - Requiring auto accident toxicology test be performed.

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

With leave of the committee, Melissa A. Buttrick, 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, Davie Buttrick, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

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, but first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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 26th 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."

Melissa D Butterick

Print Witness Name

Melissa D Butterick

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 26th 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."

DAVIE BUTTRICK

Print Witness Name

Davie B

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name