



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for February 27, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on February 27, 2026, 9:00 AM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Chapman, Hart, Martin, Rose

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. 590** to the bottom of the agenda.

S. B. 775 - Prohibiting state entities from engaging in activity related to sexual orientation.

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

Chairman Willis removed S. B. 775 from the agenda

S. B. 723 - Clarifying law-enforcement cooperation with bordering states.

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

With leave of the committee, Joey Crawford, Kanawha 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.

Originating Bill #1 – Expanding the crime of indecent exposure.

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

Senator Weld moved to amend the originating bill on page 7, section 9, subsection (a), lines 6-8, by striking the word “undresses” and inserting in lieu thereof “performs any of the acts described in this subsection”; and, striking “when the person knows that the conduct is likely to cause affront or alarm to a person or persons to whom he or she exposes himself or herself”

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

On the adoption of the amendment, the yeas were: Charnock, Deeds, Garcia, and Weld – 4.

The nays were: Azinger, Bartlett, Fuller, Helton, Z. Maynard, Rucker, Tarr, Taylor, and Willis (Mr. Chairman) – 9

A majority of all the members present not having voted in the affirmative, the Chairman declared the amendment rejected.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee agreed to the originating bill.

Senator Bartlett moved to report the originating bill to the full Senate with the recommendation it do pass.

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

On the motion to report the originating bill, the yeas were: Azinger, Bartlett, Charnock, Fuller, Helton, Z. Maynard, Rucker, Tarr, Taylor, and Willis (Mr. Chairman) – 10

The nays were: Deeds, Garcia, and Weld – 3

A majority of all the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Chairman declared the bill will be reported.

S. B. 590 - Making adult cabaret performance criminal offense in certain circumstances.

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

The committee recessed.

The committee reconvened.

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.

On Motion of Senator Bartlett the committee adjourned.



Thomas E. Willis II
Chair



Beverly Douglas
Clerk/Analyst