



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for March 02, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on March 02, 2026, 3:00 PM in Room 208-W.

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

Members absent: Senators Hart and 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. 986** first on the agenda.

S. B. 986 - Creating criminal penalties for child torture.

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee received the subcommittee report

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. 481 - Relating to elections.

Carl Fletcher, Counsel, 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. 1071 - Creating Public Defense and Provisioning Act.

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

With leave of the committee, Alex Shay, West Virginia Volunteer State Director, Gun Owners of America, 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, Lonnie Faircloth, President, West Virginia State Troopers Association, 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.

S. B. 963 - Protecting due process in firearm confiscation.

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

With leave of the committee, Gabrielle Mucciola, Monongalia County Prosecutor, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Derin Stidd, Mid-Atlantic Manager, Young Americans for Liberty, 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.

Senator Willis removed **S. B. 1009** from the agenda

Senator Willis moved **S. B. 686** next on the agenda.

S. B. 686 - Coal Co-tenancy Modernization and Miners Protection Act.

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

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

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

S. B. 182 - Relating to annexation by minor boundary adjustment.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, 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.

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 2nd day of March, 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.”

Alex Gray
Print Witness Name

Alex Gray
Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II
Print Member Name

[Signature]
Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 2nd day of March, 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.”

Lanue Faircloth

Print Witness Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lanue Faircloth', 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

Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 2nd day of March, 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.”

Gabrielle Mucciola

Print Witness Name

Burley 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 2nd day of March, 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.”

Darin St. John

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name