



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for March 09, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on March 09, 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.

H. B. 4169 - Relating to mental health examination requirements.

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.

H. B. 4364 - Relating to concurrent juvenile jurisdiction on military installations.

Lincoln Wolfe, Counsel, explained the bill, the proposed amendment, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee adopted the amendment as described by counsel.

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

H. B. 4366 - Relating to military interpersonal violence.

Maliah McCann-Coles, Intern, explained the bill, the proposed amendment, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee adopted the amendment as described by counsel.

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.

H. B. 4415 - Creating crime of attempting to smuggle contraband into federal correctional institutions within the state.

Riley Neal, Intern, explained the bill, 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.

H. B. 4606 - Relating to the meaning of residence for the purpose of bail.

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

With leave of the committee, Michael Hornby, Delegate, 93rd District, addressed the committee and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, James Robert "J. B." Akers II, House Judiciary Chair, Delegate, 55th District, addressed the committee and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Keith Hoover Administrative Director, Supreme Court of Appeals 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, Kenneth Matthews, West Virginia Economic Justice Associate, American Friends Service Committee, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.) A handout was provided to the members (attached).

Senator Garcia moved to amend the bill on page 2, lines 26-28, by striking the proviso in its entirety.

The same was put and the amendment was rejected.

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

H. B. 4610 - Safeguard the Right-To-Try Cutting-Edge Medicine Act.

Candace Kraus, 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.

H. B. 4552 - Relating to the law-enforcement powers of correctional officers.

Aaron Cobb, Extern Law Clerk, explained the bill and proposed strike and insert amendment, and responded to questions.

Senator Bartlett moved to adopt the strike and insert amendment.

On motion of Senator Weld the committee amended the strike and insert amendment on page 3, line 62, by striking the word “subdivision” and inserting in lieu thereof “subsection”.

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

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

Senator Willis removed **H. B. 4695** and **H. B. 4198** from the agenda.

H. B. 4625 - Relating to quit claim deeds.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill and proposed strike and insert amendment, and responded to questions.

Senator Bartlett moved to adopt the strike and insert amendment.

On motion of Senator Weld, the committee amended the strike and insert amendment on page 1, line 14, by striking the words “multiplied by 1.66” and inserting in lieu thereof “divided by 0.6”.

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

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

H. B. 4755 - Adding Aggravated Vehicular Homicide to the list of qualifying offenses.

Riley Neal, Intern, 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 adopted the title amendment.

H. B. 4842 - Relating to civil remedies for the unauthorized disclosure of intimate images.

J. A. Curia, Counsel, explained the bill, 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.

H. B. 4850 - Providing online training for Executors/Executrix of an Estate.

Candace Kraus, explained the bill, the proposed amendment, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Joe Funkhouser, Delegate, 98th District, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Bartlett, the committee adopted the amendment as described by counsel.

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

The committee recessed.

The committee reconvened.

H. B. 4893 - Increase the penalties for contempt of court in a magistrate court.

Aaron Cobb, Counsel, explained the bill, 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.

H. B. 5684 - Relating to authorizing the Supreme Court of Appeals to create child protection commissioners.

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

Delegate Akers addressed the committee and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Tarr, the committee amended the bill on page 9, by inserting a new subsection (h), which states: "The Administrative Director of the Supreme Court of Appeals will identify measurable outcomes to be improved for the pilot program referenced in this section, and those measures shall include a baseline of pre-implementation costs and, upon annual reporting to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance, shall further include the annual costs and projected annual cost for the pilot program."

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 adjourned.



Thomas E. Willis II

Chair



Beverly Douglas

Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 9th 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."

Keith Hoover

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

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 9th 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.”

Kenneth Matthews

Print Witness Name

K Matthews

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'T E Willis II', written over a horizontal line.

Sign Member Name

County	Jail Days FY 2021	Jail Days FY 2022	Jail Days FY 2023	Jail Days FY 2024	Jail Days FY 2025	Jail Bill FY 2025	Jail Days Used as of Dec. 31, 2025	Projected FY 2026 Jail Days	Projected FY 2026 Jail Bill	Projected Difference From Last Year	Projected % Change 2025 to 2026	Felonies Filed in Mag. Courts CY 2024	PR Bonds Set by Mag. Court in CY 2024	PR bonds of all Felony Filings	Felonies Filed in Circuit Courts CY 2024
Barbour	9,878	11,167	9,215	11,630	14,401	\$821,781.78	9,213	18,426	\$1,292,645	\$470,863	57.3%	102	17	16.7%	83
Berkeley	52,691	58,832	60,957	64,338	66,832	\$3,334,293.16	31,061	62,162	\$3,498,593	\$164,300	4.9%	779	63	8.1%	376
Boone	13,326	11,919	13,452	11,866	15,262	\$843,258.41	9,019	18,038	\$1,181,459	\$338,201	40.1%	143	7	4.9%	74
Braxton	8,108	7,598	5,346	7,086	8,241	\$480,284.40	4,071	8,742	\$500,530	\$40,245	8.7%	103	15	14.6%	49
Brooke	6,093	7,266	6,714	7,324	6,868	\$329,972.66	4,143	8,286	\$445,953	\$115,980	35.1%	171	65	38.0%	70
Cabell	43,814	51,959	50,389	50,851	54,446	\$2,853,132.91	28,408	56,816	\$3,398,391	\$545,258	19.1%	1,063	118	11.1%	356
Calhoun	4,833	3,362	4,498	4,733	3,325	\$169,903.07	1,827	3,654	\$216,537	\$46,634	27.4%	30	0	0.0%	27
Clay	10,963	13,215	10,467	11,989	9,577	\$649,167.43	3,735	7,470	\$501,606	-\$147,562	-22.7%	77	3	3.9%	25
Doddridge	7,155	7,129	6,135	7,769	7,810	\$451,611.66	4,029	8,058	\$552,149	\$100,538	22.3%	86	5	5.8%	54
Fayette	24,277	22,161	20,301	21,778	25,728	\$1,378,617.22	7,112	14,224	\$765,536	-\$613,082	-44.5%	326	9	2.8%	182
Gilmer	3,374	2,265	3,531	4,062	3,997	\$198,863.57	1,719	3,238	\$176,367	-\$22,496	-11.3%	45	1	2.8%	14
Grant	5,965	4,849	4,868	3,335	4,230	\$196,659.66	2,057	4,114	\$221,415	\$24,756	12.6%	49	0	0.0%	33
Greenbrier	10,208	12,642	11,960	12,025	11,749	\$546,675.24	6,774	13,548	\$729,153	\$182,478	33.4%	193	12	6.2%	104
Hampshire	11,789	12,752	9,967	10,262	8,991	\$418,786.70	4,152	8,304	\$446,921	\$28,135	6.7%	111	20	18.0%	84
Hancock	6,228	6,011	9,483	9,771	8,896	\$410,650.01	4,461	8,922	\$480,182	\$69,532	16.9%	158	10	6.3%	55
Hardy	10,193	9,392	7,505	7,802	8,161	\$411,044.66	4,420	8,840	\$533,563	\$122,519	29.8%	98	2	2.0%	71
Harrison	32,480	37,342	37,075	38,141	38,390	\$1,974,280.70	20,785	41,570	\$2,525,639	\$551,358	27.9%	462	19	4.1%	233
Jackson	13,106	13,065	13,864	14,510	12,678	\$643,266.91	7,811	15,622	\$911,146	\$267,880	41.6%	163	3	1.8%	100
Jefferson	14,032	17,311	14,971	15,942	16,626	\$761,768.87	10,204	20,408	\$1,098,359	\$336,590	44.2%	262	20	7.6%	114
Kanawha	61,496	66,446	75,022	71,289	86,016	\$4,136,422.24	45,080	90,160	\$5,093,758	\$917,335	22.2%	1,518	233	15.3%	273
Lewis	11,397	12,496	12,566	10,129	11,835	\$640,468.83	6,586	13,172	\$848,810	\$208,342	32.5%	124	53	42.7%	101
Lincoln	10,191	6,534	8,028	11,405	12,504	\$655,792.74	7,287	14,574	\$918,792	\$262,999	40.1%	137	27	19.7%	69
Logan	29,207	31,176	28,949	30,692	30,518	\$1,770,721.66	15,214	30,428	\$2,046,152	\$275,430	15.6%	421	14	3.3%	290
Marion	45,090	50,484	48,730	47,492	45,853	\$2,713,033.85	20,500	41,000	\$2,666,505	-\$46,528	-1.7%	505	19	3.8%	263
Marshall	12,868	11,281	11,428	11,510	12,083	\$562,626.83	7,305	14,610	\$811,650	\$249,023	44.3%	201	47	23.4%	85
Mason	11,600	9,327	10,672	11,348	11,032	\$533,974.92	4,826	9,652	\$530,235	-\$3,740	-0.7%	185	10	5.4%	23
McDowell	14,528	15,254	13,316	19,971	17,529	\$997,966.78	10,514	21,028	\$1,456,787	\$458,820	46.0%	173	6	3.5%	105
Mercer	31,578	30,490	26,081	27,230	32,113	\$1,598,631.51	21,781	43,562	\$2,765,209	\$1,166,578	73.0%	373	61	16.4%	219
Mineral	8,763	9,964	8,721	7,592	8,414	\$393,870.96	4,583	9,166	\$493,314	\$99,443	25.2%	126	20	15.9%	78
Mingo	24,557	23,996	19,258	23,970	26,005	\$1,550,481.39	11,065	22,170	\$1,507,664	-\$42,818	-2.8%	402	24	6.0%	122
Monongalia	31,938	38,695	49,599	40,990	50,619	\$2,432,888.30	30,150	60,300	\$3,535,207	\$1,102,319	45.3%	599	48	8.0%	377
Monroe	2,866	2,384	3,964	2,334	1,909	\$90,790.75	1,614	3,228	\$173,731	\$82,940	91.4%	34	12	35.3%	38
Morgan	6,342	6,972	7,927	8,363	6,644	\$413,852.56	2,609	5,218	\$280,833	-\$133,020	-32.1%	61	8	13.1%	54
Nicholas	18,156	17,824	19,499	16,961	15,610	\$839,896.62	6,924	13,848	\$808,071	-\$31,826	-3.8%	206	41	19.9%	86
Ohio	15,478	14,563	16,135	16,435	19,832	\$944,804.46	12,616	25,232	\$1,502,628	\$557,823	59.0%	305	61	20.0%	126
Pendleton	2,298	2,150	1,295	1,561	3,450	\$183,831.05	757	1,514	\$81,483	-\$102,348	-55.7%	48	6	12.5%	30
Pleasants	3,761	3,813	6,206	4,406	3,481	\$163,434.10	1,886	3,772	\$210,918	\$47,484	29.1%	56	2	3.6%	32
Pocahontas	3,021	3,028	4,627	3,615	4,281	\$211,596.92	3,056	6,112	\$394,288	\$182,691	86.3%	60	9	15.0%	36
Preston	20,069	17,291	14,848	13,857	12,095	\$582,853.83	5,291	10,582	\$584,055	\$1,201	0.2%	146	6	4.1%	125
Putnam	22,337	20,140	20,040	20,473	21,726	\$1,084,478.27	10,519	21,038	\$1,132,158	\$47,679	4.4%	261	17	6.5%	140
Raleigh	43,080	42,281	28,191	24,612	28,291	\$1,298,974.29	12,834	25,668	\$1,381,452	\$82,477	6.3%	922	37	4.0%	205
Randolph	26,537	31,587	24,996	25,722	23,272	\$1,321,597.49	12,446	24,892	\$1,657,632	\$336,035	25.4%	142	2	1.4%	91
Ritchie	5,567	7,850	7,201	5,989	5,597	\$308,105.58	4,539	8,678	\$594,179	\$286,074	92.8%	65	3	4.6%	35
Roane	7,778	8,291	8,261	9,777	9,860	\$537,131.28	4,805	9,610	\$599,107	\$61,976	11.5%	121	2	1.7%	108
Summers	4,479	4,719	4,989	4,806	5,578	\$253,833.34	2,071	4,142	\$222,922	-\$30,911	-12.2%	65	10	15.4%	24
Taylor	6,580	5,152	7,098	7,093	8,008	\$382,168.95	4,431	8,862	\$505,023	\$122,854	32.1%	80	14	17.5%	67
Tucker	2,524	1,552	1,690	1,454	1,206	\$56,726.98	918	1,836	\$98,814	\$42,087	74.2%	24	6	25.0%	15
Tyler	3,039	4,209	2,920	2,504	2,337	\$105,960.85	1,415	2,830	\$152,311	\$46,350	43.7%	29	8	27.6%	25
Upsher	13,896	16,457	18,543	21,490	17,818	\$960,705.93	12,335	24,670	\$1,691,548	\$730,843	76.1%	187	42	22.5%	111
Wayne	15,504	13,442	14,754	13,599	14,252	\$654,336.98	8,215	16,430	\$887,127	\$232,790	35.6%	261	11	4.2%	154
Webster	5,999	7,835	6,503	6,577	8,249	\$506,705.16	3,328	6,656	\$431,784	-\$74,921	-14.8%	96	2	2.1%	38
Wetzel	7,363	7,936	11,942	9,231	10,116	\$551,197.82	5,398	10,796	\$689,636	\$138,438	25.1%	163	25	15.3%	84
Wirt	472	998	1,053	2,133	2,216	\$102,179.68	3,303	6,606	\$467,842	\$365,663	357.9%	26	1	3.9%	26
Wood	38,544	43,788	38,133	41,003	47,105	\$2,339,823.74	22,635	45,270	\$2,592,976	\$253,152	10.8%	572	5	0.9%	341
Wyoming	14,882	15,327	11,621	9,064	8,170	\$402,743.17	6,486	12,972	\$777,912	\$375,168	93.2%	121	0	0.0%	48
All West Virginia Counties	872,288	917,989	895,295	901,891	953,632	\$49,138,628.63	500,563	1,001,126	\$60,028,656	\$10,890,027	22.2%	13,236	1,281	9.7%	6,148

Sources: West Virginia Department of Homeland Security, DAS; West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals Administrative Office.