



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Judiciary

Minutes for March 10, 2026, 3:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Judiciary met on March 10, 2026, 3:00 PM 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: Senators 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. 4198 - E-Verify Safe Harbor Act.

Carl Fletcher, Counsel, explained the bill, and responded to questions.

Senator Tarr moved to table the bill.

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

On the adoption of the motion to table, the yeas were: Charnock, Deeds, Garcia, Z.

Maynard, Tarr, and Weld – 6

The nays were: Azinger, Bartlett, Chapman, Fuller, Hart, Helton, Rose, Rucker, Taylor, and Willis (Mr. Chairman) - 10

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

With leave of the committee, Elias Coop-Gonzalez, Delegate, 67th District, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

The committee recessed.

The committee reconvened.

Chairman Willis appointed a subcommittee for **H. B. 4198** consisting of Senators Rucker, Garcia, Tarr, Weld, Rose, Fuller, and Azinger.

H. B. 4710 - Changing the limit on switching parties before filing to run for office from 60 days to 180 days prior to an election.

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

With leave of the committee, David P. Cook, General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State, was administered the oath prescribed by Senate Rule 28a by Chairman Willis, addressed the committee, and responded to questions. (See attached oath.)

On motion of Senator Garcia the committee amended the bill on page 2, line 38, by striking the word “partisan” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “general”, inserting a new subdivision 7 that states:

“(7) For primary elections, the name of the candidate’s political party, on the date the certificate of announcement is submitted and a statement that the candidate:

(A) Is a member of and affiliated with that political party as evidenced by the candidate’s current registration as a voter affiliated with that party, if any; and

(B) Has not been registered as a voter affiliated with any other political party for a period of 60 days before the date of filing the announcement.”; and renumbering the remaining subdivisions;

And, on line 56, after the number “60” by inserting “days, in the case of primary elections, or 210 days in the case of general election”.

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

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

H. B. 4865 - Providing for a program allowing election official trainees to be appointed as election officials.

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.

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

H. B. 5166 - To provide notice to any political committees violating the filing requirements prior to assessing any civil fines and giving the Secretary of State authority to grant additional time for compliance not to exceed an additional 14 days.

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

With leave of the committee, David P. Cook, General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State, addressed the committee, 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. 5401 - Relating to voting in West Virginia elections while residing overseas.

Candace Kraus, Counsel, explained the bill, the proposed strike and insert and title amendment, and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, David P. Cook, General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State, addressed the committee, 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 4, after line 92, inserting a new subsection (i), and, on page 6, after line 36, inserting a new subsection (b) which states “The amendments to this section enacted during the 2026 regular session of the Legislature are effective January 1, 2027.”

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.

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

H. B. 5366 - Relating to rules governing the practice of law.

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. 5528 - Relating to protection of personal residential information of certain public officials.

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

With leave of the committee, David Cannon, Delegate, 89th District, addressed the committee, and responded to questions

Senator Rose moved to adopt the strike and insert amendment.

On motion of Senator Tarr, the committee amended the strike and insert amendment on page 2, line 25, after the word “publicly” by inserting “and remotely”, and after the word “website”

inserting the word “or” and, striking the words “or record that contains personal residential information”.

On motion of Senator Rucker, the committee amended the strike and insert amendment on page 1, line 4, after the word “official” by inserting “campaign treasurer,”.

The committee adopted the strike and insert amendment as amended.

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

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

H. B. 4996 - Relating to bail in cases involving terroristic threats to schools or children.

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

On motion of Senator Rose, the committee adopted the strike and insert amendment.

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

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

H. B. 4345 - Relating to the preservation of missing persons records and evidence.

Aaron Cobb, Counsel, explained the bill, the proposed strike and insert and title amendment, and responded to questions.

Senator Rose moved to adopt the strike and insert amendment.

On motion of Senator Deeds, the committee amended the strike and insert amendment on page 3, section 10, subsection (a), by striking the word “may” and inserting in lieu thereof the word “shall”.

The committee adopted the strike and insert amendment as amended.

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

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

H. B. 5182 - Relating generally to authorizing security personnel employed by the State Treasurer to carry concealed weapons while performing his or her official duties.

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.

H. B. 4603 - Relating to the creation of the process of obtaining and adjudicating a pre-adjudicatory alternative disposition.

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

With leave of the committee, Adam Burkhammer, Delegate, 64th District, addressed the committee, and responded to questions.

On motion of Senator Rose, the committee adopted the strike and insert amendment.

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

H. B. 5065 - Relating to hotel occupancy tax.

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

On motion of Senator Rose, the committee adopted the strike and insert amendment.

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

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

On Motion of Senator Rose the committee adjourned.



Thomas E. Willis II

Chair



Beverly Douglas

Clerk/Analyst

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 10th 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.”

David P. Cook

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Thomas E. Willis II

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name