

# SENATE RESOLUTION 52

(By Senators Weld, Hamilton, and Chapman)

[Introduced February 26, 2026]

1 Designating February 27, 2026, as West Liberty University Day at the Legislature.

2           Whereas, West Liberty University was established as West Liberty Academy on March 30,  
3 1837, making it the oldest institution of higher education in the State of West Virginia. Known as  
4 the “Hilltop”, West Liberty University has a rich history of providing students with a comprehensive  
5 education from undergraduate to graduate degrees, strengthening communities and West  
6 Virginia’s workforce; and

7           Whereas, West Liberty University serves more than 2,200 students, offering more than 70  
8 undergraduate majors and graduate programs, and continues to expand access through online,  
9 transfer-friendly, and workforce-aligned programs; and

10           Whereas, West Liberty University is nationally recognized for its social mobility, ranking  
11 among the top regional universities in the south, with 53 percent of its graduates remaining in West  
12 Virginia within one year of their graduation, strengthening the state’s economy and communities;  
13 and

14           Whereas, West Liberty University promotes scientific discovery and environmental  
15 stewardship through initiatives such as the Appalachian Aquatic Conservation Center, a \$2M  
16 facility dedicated to conserving imperiled aquatic species while promoting economic growth and  
17 environmental sustainability in central Appalachia; and

18           Whereas, West Liberty University has made recent investments that include the Hilltop  
19 Center for Biomedical Research, the Psychology and Communication Sciences Laboratory, and  
20 the Gary E. West Aviation Center, which will help address healthcare, aviation, and scientific

1 workforce gaps in West Virginia; and

2           Whereas, West Liberty University enriches West Virginia’s cultural life through music,  
3 theatre, visual arts, communication, and design programs, including partnerships with the West  
4 Virginia Division of Natural Resources and local schools; and

5           Whereas, West Liberty University’s athletic teams, known as the Hilltoppers, are charter  
6 members of the NCAA Division II Mountain East Conference with student-athletes participating in  
7 16 intercollegiate sports; and

8           Whereas, West Liberty University alumni continue to make meaningful contributions in  
9 business, health care, education, science, public service, and the arts, supporting the vitality of the  
10 State of West Virginia; therefore, be it

11           *Resolved by the Senate:*

12           That the Senate hereby designates February 27, 2026, as West Liberty University Day at  
13 the Legislature; and, be it

14           *Further Resolved,* That the Senate recognizes the significant contributions of West Liberty  
15 University to the State of West Virginia and expresses its appreciation to the students, faculty,  
16 staff, alumni, and supporters of West Liberty University for their dedication to excellence,  
17 innovation, and service; and, be it

18           *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to  
19 Dr. Tim Borchers, President of West Liberty University.