

SENATE RESOLUTION 30

(By Senators Jeffries, Bartlett, and Grady)

[Introduced February 6, 2026]

1 Designating February 9, 2026, as West Virginia State University Day at the Capitol.

2 Whereas, West Virginia State University is a premier regional research university that is
3 recognized nationally for its quality education, innovative teaching, and experiential learning; and

4 Whereas, The university was founded by the West Virginia Legislature on March 17, 1891,
5 as a public historically black college and university (HBCU) in Institute, West Virginia; and

6 Whereas, It is one of the original universities among the 1890 land-grant colleges and
7 universities established by the second Morrill Act of 1890; and

8 Whereas, Along with academic programs, military education has been an integral part of
9 the curriculum, having graduated more than 900 second lieutenants and 16 major generals and a
10 Congressional Medal of Honor recipient throughout the university's history; and

11 Whereas, In 1927, the university was accredited by the North Central Association making it
12 the first of 17 original schools to be certified by a regional association, becoming the first public
13 college in West Virginia to be accredited by the North Central Association Higher Learning
14 Commission; and

15 Whereas, In 1954, the United States Supreme Court gave its historic decision outlawing
16 school segregation and West Virginia State rapidly transitioned to an integrated institution
17 garnering national attention for substantial enrollment increases after the removal of racial
18 barriers; and

19 Whereas, In 2004, the West Virginia Legislature approved the transition to university
20 status; and

1 Whereas, As a land-grant institution, West Virginia State University’s Extension Service
2 serves all 55 counties of the state; and

3 Whereas, As a regional research institution, West Virginia State University contributes
4 significantly to state economic development efforts in the natural and social sciences, including
5 agricultural, environmental, biomedical, and business and economics research endeavors; and

6 Whereas, West Virginia State University currently has more than 17,000 alumni living in
7 the State of West Virginia, including scholars, celebrities, politicians, business people, athletes,
8 and leaders, who have distinguished themselves across the globe and changed the world, such as
9 the Tuskegee Airmen; NBA legend Earl Lloyd, and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient
10 Katherine Johnson, who inspired the film, “Hidden Figures”; and

11 Whereas, Since its founding, West Virginia State University has always proven to be a
12 community of students, faculty, and staff devoted to helping people excel and gain the education
13 needed to launch successful careers; therefore, be it

14 *Resolved by the Senate:*

15 That the Senate hereby designates February 9, 2026, as West Virginia State University
16 Day at the Capitol; and, be it

17 *Further Resolved,* That the Senate hereby recognizes West Virginia State University for its
18 tremendous contributions to the State of West Virginia; and, be it

19 *Further Resolved,* That the Clerk is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution to
20 Ericke S. Cage, the 13th President of West Virginia State University.