



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Education

Minutes for April 08, 2025, 9:50 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Education met on April 08, 2025, 9:50 AM in Room 451-M.

Members present: Senators Grady, Clements, Azinger, Bartlett, Deeds, Fuller, Morris, Oliverio, Roberts, Tarr, Taylor, Garcia

Members absent: Senators Boley, Hart, Stuart

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The next item on the agenda was **HB2576** - NIL Protection Act.

Chair Grady recognized Hank Hager, Counsel, to explain the bill in lieu of having it read. The bill was explained. Questions from the Committee followed.

Chair Grady recognized Senator Oliverio, who requested Leave of Committee. With Leave of Committee, Chair Grady recognized Wren Baker, Vice President and Director of Athletics, West Virginia University, and Rich Rodriguez, Head Football Coach, West Virginia University, and administered an oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Director Baker and Coach Rodriguez both proceeded to speak on the bill. Questions from the Committee followed. Discussion on the bill followed.

Chair Grady recognized Senator Tarr. Senator Tarr offered an amendment. Discussion from the Committee followed. By voice vote, the amendment was rejected.

Chair Grady recognized Vice-Chair Clements for a motion. Vice-Chair Clements moved that **House Bill 2576** be reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was **HB2595** – Non Profit Athletics Act.

Chair Grady recognized Hank Hager, Counsel, to explain the bill in lieu of having it read. The bill was explained. Discussion from the Committee followed.

Chair Grady recognized Vice-Chair Clements for a motion. Vice-Chair Clements moved that **House Bill 2595** be reported the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was **HB2528** - To permit students in Christian schools at the elementary and middle school level to participate in county level sport tournaments.

Chair Grady recognized Hank Hager, Counsel, to explain the bill in lieu of having it read. The bill was explained.

Chair Grady recognized Vice-Chair Clements for a motion. Vice-Chair Clements moved that **House Bill 2528** be reported the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was **HB2143** - Require elementary school teachers to be certified in the science of reading.

Chair Grady recognized Hank Hager, Counsel, to explain the bill and committee amendment in lieu of having them read. The bill and committee amendment were explained.

Chair Grady recognized Senator Garcia, who requested Leave of Committee. With Leave of Committee, Chair Grady recognized Sonya White, Deputy State Superintendent of Schools. Deputy Superintendent White proceeded to answer questions from the Committee.

Chair Grady recognized Senator Oliverio, who requested Leave of Committee. With Leave of Committee, Chair Grady recognized Jim Brown, Executive Director, West Virginia School Board

Association. Executive Director Brown proceeded to answer questions from the Committee. Discussion on the bill followed.

Chair Grady recognized Vice-Chair Clements for a motion. Vice-Chair Clements moved the amendment as explained by Counsel. By voice vote, the amendment was adopted.

Chair Grady recognized Vice-Chair Clements for a motion. Vice-Chair Clements moved that **House Bill 2143, as amended**, be reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass. Division was called. With 4 Yeas and 5 Nays, and less of a majority voting in the affirmative, the motion was rejected.

The next item on the agenda was **HB3422** - Relating to requiring the State Board of Education to design, test, and deploy an internet-based reporting system to be known as the School Choice Portal.

Chair Grady recognized Hank Hager, Counsel, to explain the bill and committee amendment in lieu of having them read. The bill and committee amendment were explained. Questions from the Committee followed.

Chair Grady recognized Senator Morris, who requested Leave of Committee. With Leave of Committee, Chair Grady recognized Sonya White, Deputy State Superintendent of Schools. Deputy Superintendent White proceeded to answer questions from the Committee.

Chair Grady recognized Vice-Chair Clements for a motion. Vice-Chair Clements moved the amendment as explained by Counsel. Chair Grady recognized Senator Roberts. Senator Roberts offered an amendment to the amendment. Counsel understood the amendment to the amendment. By voice vote, the amendment to the amendment was adopted. By voice vote, the amendment as explained by Counsel was adopted.

Chair Grady recognized Vice-Chair Clements for a motion. Vice-Chair Clements moved that **House Bill 3422, as amended**, be reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass, but under the original the original double committee reference first be referred to **Committee on Finance**. The motion was adopted.

The next item on the agenda was **HCR96** – Urging West Virginia’s members of Congress to ask the President not to cut funding for the Local Food in Schools and Child Care nutrition.

Chair Grady recognized Hank Hager, Counsel, to explain the resolution in lieu of having it read. The resolution was explained. Questions from the Committee followed.

Chair Grady recognized Vice-Chair Clements for a motion. Vice-Chair Clements moved that **House Concurrent Resolution 96** be reported to the full Senate with the recommendation that it be adopted. The motion was adopted.

On motion of Vice Chair Clements, the Committee adjourned.

Amy N. Grady

Chair

Benjamin Mack

Clerk

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 8th day of April, 2025, in
the Senate Committee on Education

"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony I shall give shall be
the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me
God."

Wren Baker

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy N. Grady

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



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"I solemnly swear (or affirm) that the testimony I shall give shall be
the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help me
God."

Rich Rodriguez

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy M. Grady

Print Member Name

[Signature]

Sign Member Name