



West Virginia Senate

Committee on Education

Minutes for February 03, 2026, 9:30 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Education met on February 03, 2026, 9:30 AM in Room 451-M.

Members present: Senators Grady, Clements, Azinger, Barnhart, Bartlett, Fuller, Hart, Oliverio, Roberts, Tarr, Taylor, Garcia

Members absent: Senator Deeds

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.

SB176 Increasing non-traditional instruction days for WV teachers was discussed.

Hank Hager, Counsel, explained the bill.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the committee reported the bill to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass but under the original double committee reference that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

SB232 Establishing WV Secondary School Athletic Trainer and Career Technical Education Program Act was discussed.

Hank Hager, Counsel, explained the bill, the purpose of the committee substitute, and responded to questions.

The question being on agreeing to the language of the committee substitute, the same was put and prevailed.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass but under the original double committee reference that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

SB694 Removing county residency requirement for county superintendent of schools was discussed.

Hank Hager, Counsel, explained the bill and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee, Drew McClanahan, Officer, Legislative/Policy, West Virginia Department of Education, addressed the committee and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee and after taking the prescribed oath, Nicole M. Hevener, Superintendent, Pendleton County Schools, addressed the committee and answered questions. (See attached oath.)

Senator Barnhart moved to amend the bill by decreasing the required county superintendent residency distance from the county board office from within two hours to within one hour.

With leave of the committee, Drew McClanahan, Officer, Legislative/Policy, West Virginia Department of Education, addressed the committee and responded to questions.

Hank Hager, Counsel, responded to questions.

Senator Barnhart withdrew his motion to amend the bill.

Senator Hart moved to amend the bill by requiring a county superintendent selected by the West Virginia Department of Education in a takeover situation to move to that respective county.

With leave of the committee, Drew McClanahan, Officer, Legislative/Policy, West Virginia Department of Education, addressed the committee and responded to questions.

With leave of the committee and after taking the prescribed oath, Howard O’Cull, Executive Director, West Virginia School Board Association, addressed the committee and answered questions. (See attached oath.)

The question being on the amendment, a division of the body was demanded. The vote being 3 in favor and 7 opposed, the same was put and rejected.

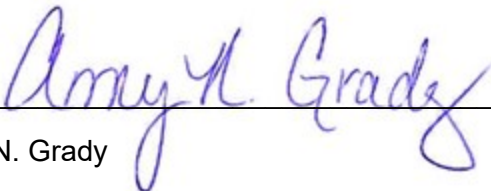
Senator Fuller moved to amend the bill by removing the time restriction. The same was put and adopted.

Hank Hager, Counsel, responded to questions.

The question being on agreeing to the language of the committee substitute as amended, the same was put and adopted.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the committee reported the committee substitute to the full Senate with the recommendation that it do pass.

On motion of Vice-Chair Clements, the committee adjourned.



Amy N. Grady

Chair



Benjamin Mack

Clerk



The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 3rd day of February, 2026, 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."

Nicole M. Hevener

Print Witness Name

Nicole M. Hevener

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy N. Grady

Print Member Name

Amy N. Grady

Sign Member Name



The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 3rd day of July, 2026, in
the Senate Committee on SEL

"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."

Howard M O'

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Amy N. Grady

Print Member Name

Amy N. G.

Sign Member Name