



## **West Virginia Senate**

### **Committee on Health and Human Resources**

#### **Minutes for January 15, 2026, 1:00 PM**

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Resources met on January 15, 2026, 1:00 PM in Room 451-M.

Members present: Senators Helton, Deeds, Azinger, Bartlett, Fuller, Grady, Maynard, Rose, Rucker, Takubo, Taylor, Garcia

Members absent: Senators Martin, Queen, Roberts, Willis

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

On motion of Senator Deeds, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Senator Helton recognized Cindy Dellinger, Counsel, Senate Health and Human Resources, who explained Senate Bill 231 and the committee substitute. Counsel answered questions from the Committee.

Senator Fuller requested leave of committee for Dr. Cynthia Persily, Senior Associate Dean for Government Affairs and Healthcare Policy at Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, to address the Committee. Senator Helton administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Dr. Persily answered questions from the Committee.

Senator Garcia requested leave of committee for Dr. Stephen Loyd, MD, Director, WV Office of Drug Control Policy, to address the Committee. Dr. Loyd answered questions from the Committee.

The language of the committee substitute was agreed to. Senator Deeds moved that the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 231 be reported to the full Senate, with recommendation that it do pass, but under the original double committee reference, first be referred to the Committee on Finance. The motion carried.

Senator Helton recognized Cindy Dellinger, Counsel, Senate Health and Human Resources, who explained Senate Bill 42. Counsel answered questions from the Committee.

Senator Garcia requested Senator Takubo to yield. Senator Takubo yielded and answered questions.

Senator Deeds moved that Senate Bill 42 be reported to the full Senate with recommendation that it do pass, but under the original double committee reference, first be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. The motion carried.

On Motion of Senator Deeds the committee adjourned.



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Senator Brian Helton  
Chairman



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John T. Giovengo  
Committee Clerk

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 15<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026, in  
the Senate Committee on Health + Human Resources.

"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."

Cynthia Persily  
Print Witness Name

x Cynthia Persily  
Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Senator Brian Helton  
Print Member Name

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Sign Member Name