



## **West Virginia Senate**

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

**Minutes for February 03, 2026, 1:00 PM**

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Resources met on February 03, 2026, 1:00 PM in Room 451-M.

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

Members absent: Senators Martin, 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 173. Counsel answered questions from the committee.

Senator Rose requested leave of committee for Thomas Dinkel, State Captain, Students for Life, to address the committee. Senator Helton administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Mr. Dinkel delivered a presentation to the committee and answered questions.

Senator Rose requested leave of committee for Lori Cascio, Mid-Atlantic Field Manager, Students for Life, to address the committee. Senator Helton administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Ms. Cascio delivered a presentation to the committee and answered questions.

Senator Garcia requested leave of committee for Dr. Nicole Perry Bryce to address the committee. Senator Helton administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Dr. Bryce delivered a presentation to the committee and answered questions.

Senator Takubo proposed a conceptual amendment. Counsel understood the amendment.

Senator Helton announced that due to time constraints, the committee would recess until after the conclusion of the Committee on the Judiciary or the Committee on Finance, whichever ends later.

The committee came back from recess at 6:01pm.


Senator Takubo requested unanimous consent to withdraw his proposed amendment. Without objection, the amendment was withdrawn. Senator Takubo proposed a conceptual amendment. Counsel understood the amendment. By voice vote, the amendment was adopted. Senator Helton instructed Counsel to incorporate the amendment into a committee substitute. The committee substitute was agreed to.

Senator Deeds moved that the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 173 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.

Senator Bartlett demanded a roll call. The demand was sustained.

Having 10 YAYs and 1 NAY, the motion carried.

On Motion of Senator Deeds the committee adjourned.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Helton  
Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John T. Giovengo  
Committee Clerk

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 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."

Nicole Perry Bryce DO

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Brian Helton

Print Member Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Member Name



The Senate of West Virginia

Testimony taken this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 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."

Thomas Dinkel  
Print Witness Name

[Signature]  
Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Brian Helton  
Print Member Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Member Name

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of February, 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."

Lori Cascio

Print Witness Name

[Handwritten Signature]

Testimony Attested to by Committee  
Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Brian Helton

Print Member Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Member Name

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

• Senate JUD adjourned before Senate FIN.  
 • Sen Fin adjourned at 5:20pm

DATE 7/3/26

TIME ~~6:00pm~~ 6:00pm

QUESTION Reporting SB173, Recommendation DO PASS

ATTENDANCE

ROLL CALL

| NAME                         | PRESENT | ABSENT | YEA | NAY |
|------------------------------|---------|--------|-----|-----|
| Senator Azinger              |         |        | ✓   |     |
| Senator Bartlett             |         |        | ✓   |     |
| Senator Garcia               |         | ✓      |     | ✓   |
| Senator Grady                |         | ✓      |     |     |
| Senator Deeds                |         |        | ✓   |     |
| Senator Fuller               |         |        | ✓   |     |
| Senator Martin               |         | ✓      |     |     |
| Senator Maynard              |         | ✓      | ✓   |     |
| Senator Queen                |         | ✓      |     |     |
| Senator Roberts              |         | ✓      |     |     |
| Senator Rose                 |         |        | ✓   |     |
| Senator Rucker               |         |        | ✓   |     |
| Senator Takubo               |         |        | ✓   |     |
| Senator Taylor               |         | ✓      | ✓   |     |
| Senator Willis               |         | ✓      | ✓   |     |
| Mr. Chairman, Senator Helton |         |        | ✓   |     |
| Totals                       |         |        | 10  | 1   |