



## **West Virginia Senate**

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

#### **Minutes for February 17, 2026, 1:00 PM**

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Senate Committee on Health and Human Resources met on February 17, 2026, 1:00 PM in Room 451-M.

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

Members absent: Senators Azinger, Martin, Rose, Takubo

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 662 and the committee substitute. Counsel answered questions from the committee. The language of the committee substitute was agreed to. Senator Deeds moved that the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 662 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 House Bill 4626. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized Delegate Browning, who addressed the committee and answered questions. Senator Deeds moved that House Bill 4626 be reported to the full Senate with the 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 745 and the committee substitute. Counsel answered questions from the committee. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized Amie Minor-Richard, Deputy Commissioner, WV Department of Agriculture, and administered the oath pursuant to Senate Reule 28a. Ms. Minor-Richard delivered a presentation and answered questions from the committee. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized Andrew Pense, Nutrition Director, Fayette County Public Schools, and administered the oath pursuant to Seante Rule 28a. Mr. Pense delivered a presentation and answered questions from the committee. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized David Andrews, Environmental

Working Group, and administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Mr. Andrews delivered a presentation and answered questions from the committee. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized Quinlan Carroll, Associate Director, Political Mobilization & State Affairs, American Chemistry Council, and administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Mr. Carroll delivered a presentation and answered questions from the committee. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized Lisa Lefferts, Science Consultant at the Center of Science for the Public Interest, and administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Ms. Lefferts delivered a presentation and answered questions from the committee. Senator Helton recognized Nora Latorre, CEO of Eat Real, and administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Ms. Latorre delivered a presentation and answered questions from the committee. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized Scott Faber, Professor at Georgetown University Law Center, and administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Mr. Faber delivered a presentation to the committee. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized Drew McClanahan, Legislative and Policy Officer at the WV Department of Education, and administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Mr. McClanahan answered questions from the committee. With leave of committee, Senator Helton recognized Summer Barrett, representing Environmental Working Group, and administered the oath pursuant to Senate Rule 28a. Ms. Barrett answered questions from the committee. The language of the committee substitute was agreed to. Senator Deeds moved that the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 745 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 announced that Senate Bill 805 would be pulled from the agenda.

Senator Helton recognized Cindy Dellinger, Counsel, Senate Health and Human Resources, who explained Senate Bill 763 and the committee substitute. The language of the committee substitute was agreed to. Senator Deeds moved that the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 763 be reported to the full Senate with recommendation that it do pass. The motion carried.

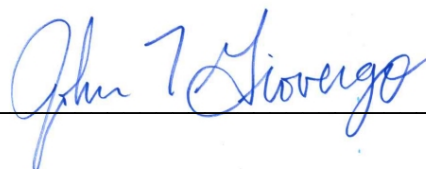
Senator Helton recognized Cindy Dellinger, Counsel, Senate Health and Human Resources, who explained Senate Bill 773. Counsel answered questions from the committee. Senator Deeds moved that Senate Bill 773 be reported to the full Senate with recommendation that it do pass, but under the original double committee reference, first be referred to the Committee on Finance. The motion carried.

On Motion of Senator Deeds the committee adjourned.

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Senator Brian Helton  
Chair

John T. Giovengo  
Committee Clerk

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2016, 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."

Anne Minor Richard

Print Witness Name

x Anne Minor Richard

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Brian Helton

Print Member Name

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

The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, 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."

Andrew Fense

Print Witness Name

X 

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 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, 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."

David Andrews

Print Witness Name

John Wherry

Testimony Attested to by Committee  
Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Brian Holton

Print Member Name

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

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 17<sup>th</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."

Burlan Carroll

Print Witness Name

Alan R. Lionezo

Testimony Attested to by Committee  
Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Brian Helton

Print Member Name

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

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

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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."

Lisa Lefferts

Print Witness Name

[Signature]

Testimony Attested to by Committee  
Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Brian Helton

Print Member Name

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

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, 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."

Nora Latorre

Print Witness Name

John W. Hoover

Testimony Attested to by Committee  
Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Brian Heston

Print Member Name

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

The Senate of West Virginia



Remote/Virtual Testimony

Testimony taken this 17<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2020, 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."

Scott Faber

Print Witness Name

John R. Lovings

Testimony Attested to by Committee  
Clerk

Oath was administered by:

Brian Heston

Print Member Name

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



The Senate of West Virginia



Testimony taken this 17<sup>th</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."

Summer Barnett

Print Witness Name

x S. Barnett

Sign Witness Name

Oath was administered by:

Brian Helton

Print Member Name

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