



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 27, 2025, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 9:00 AM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room with Delegate Akers in the Chair.

Members present: Delegates Butler, Ferrell, Flanigan, Funkhouser, Hansen, Heckert, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kelly, D., Kimble, Kump, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., Zatezalo, and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Fluharty.

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

On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chairman Akers recognized the clerk for purposes of receiving subcommittee reports:

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bill 2441 and House Bill 2653 and reports back Committee Substitutes therefor to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bill 2683, House Bill 2702, and House Bill 2709 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

House Bill 2360, Clarifying the victims of crimes against law-enforcement officers

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. Hearing none, Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report House Bill 2360 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and the bill will be reported as moved.

House Bill 2434, Relating to establishing the Stop Squatters Act

Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion. Vice-Chairman Maynor moved for the committee to consider the proposed committee substitute in lieu of the introduced version. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and the committee proceeded to consideration of the committee substitute.

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the committee substitute. Hearing none, Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report Committee Substitute for House Bill 2434 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and the committee substitute will be reported as moved.

House Bill 2437, Clarification of penalties for offenses involving Fentanyl

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. Hearing none, Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report House Bill 2437 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and the bill will be reported as moved.

House Bill 2511, Relating to charitable bingo and alcohol sales and consumption while such bingo is taking places

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. Hearing none, Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report House Bill 2511 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and the bill will be reported as moved.

House Bill 2441, To make those who fail drug test ineligible for unemployment

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Street as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of Delegate Street. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

At this moment, Chairman Akers ceded the Chair to Vice-Chairman Maynor.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 2653, Updating the West Virginia Law Institute

Chairman Maynor recognized Delegate Akers as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Maynor called for questions of Delegate Akers. Chairman Maynor advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

At this moment, Chairman Maynor ceded the Chair to Delegate Akers.

House Bill 2683, To prohibit rank choice voting

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Hillenbrand as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of Delegate Hillenbrand. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 2702, Relating to vacancies in offices of state officials

Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor as a cosponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of Vice-Chairman Maynor. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 2709, Permitting a voter with a change of address to vote in his or her new precinct without having to cast a provisional ballot

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Shamblin as a cosponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of Delegate Shamblin. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

On Motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor the committee adjourned.

Delegate JB Akers
Chairman

Mr. Daniel Osborne
Senior Clerk