



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for March 11, 2025, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on Tuesday, March 11, 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, Ridenour, Roop, Ward, B., Zatezalo, and Chairman Akers

Members absent: Delegates Fluharty, Phillips, Shamblin.

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 2035 and reports back a Committee Substitute therefor to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bill 2802 and reports the same back, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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 for the bill. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for consideration of the proposed committee substitute. The motion was adopted and the committee proceeded to consideration of the proposed committee substitute.

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the proposed committee substitute. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the proposed 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 2702 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 to report the committee substitute for the bill. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the committee substitute for the bill to be reported as moved.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 8, Providing additional sites and devices for newborn safe surrender

Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion. Vice-Chairman Maynor moved for the committee to consider the proposed committee amendment to the committee substitute. 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 proceeded to consideration of the proposed committee amendment.

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the proposed committee amendment. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the proposed committee amendment. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion to report the bill. The motion was adopted and the proposed committee amendment was approved. Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 8 to the floor, with amendment, with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion to report the bill. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 487, Removing ineligible voters from active voter rolls

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. 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 Senate Bill 487 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 to report the bill. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.

House Bill 2369, Relating to loss of parental rights after a third petition for a child's removal

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Heckert as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Judge Tom Ewing, Circuit Judge, Fayette County, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for House Bill 2035, Establishing pilot program for Public Guardian Ad Litem Services

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

House Bill 2802, Relating to in-service training credits for law-enforcement officers

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Pinson as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of Delegate Pinson regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 487, Clarifying eligibility requirements to vote in WV elections

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

On Motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, the committee adjourned.

Delegate JB Akers
Committee Chair

Mr. Daniel Osborne
Senior Clerk