



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

Minutes

January 29, 2026

3:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on January 29, 2026, 3:00 P.M., in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

Members present: Anderson, Campbell, Cannon D., Crouse, Dillon, Eldridge, Fehrenbacher, Green, Hansen, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Howell G., Jordan, Leavitt, Linville, Lucas, Moore, Parsons, Sheedy, Street, Ward G., Young, and Zatezalo.

Members absent: Bridges and Riley.

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

On motion by Vice Chairman Fehrenbacher, the Minutes of the previous meeting, January 27, 2026, were approved.

MARKUP & PASSAGE:

HOUSE BILL 4696, Authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to deposit funds granted pursuant to federal programs.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of counsel. Hearing none, Chairman Zatezalo called for amendments to the bill. Hearing none, Chairman Zatezalo recognized Vice Chairman Fehrenbacher for purposes of making a motion.

Vice Chairman Fehrenbacher moved that House Bill 4696 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Zatezalo called for discussion. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Zatezalo put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. Chairman Zatezalo declared the motion was adopted and the bill would be reported as moved.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 4, Requesting the Joint Committee on Technology & Infrastructure to establish a Genesis Working Group to coordinate statewide planning for artificial intelligence, high-performance computing, digital infrastructure, and energy-based economic development.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Zatezalo called for amendments to the bill and recognized Delegate Leavitt.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Leavitt:

Delegate Leavitt moved to amend House Concurrent Resolution 4 to change the term “bitcoin” to “cryptocurrency” and explained the motion. Chairman Zatezalo called the committee at ease for the writing of the proposed amendment by Delegate Leavitt. Chairman Zatezalo called the committee to order.

Delegate Leavitt asked for unanimous consent to withdraw the proposed amendment. Chairman Zatezalo put the question before the committee on the withdrawal of the proposed amendment and without an objection being raised, the amendment was withdrawn.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Vice Chairman Fehrenbacher for purposes of making a motion for passage of House Current Resolution 4. Chairman Zatezalo called for discussion on the motion for the passage of the resolution. Discussion by the committee members followed.

Vice Chairman Fehrenbacher moved that House Current Resolution 4 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it be adopted, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules. Chairman Zatezalo called for discussion on the motion. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Zatezalo put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the passage of House Current Resolution 4. Chairman Zatezalo declared the motion was adopted and House Current Resolution 4 would be reported as adopted, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS:

HOUSE BILL 4026, Relating to expanding the requirements for integrated resource plans utility companies must file with the Public Service Commission.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Delegate Street as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Street explained the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of Delegate Street. Questions from the committee members followed. With leave of the committee and each having been placed under oath by Chairman Zatezalo, Mr. Ken Rosenfeld, Officer, Energy, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and Mr. Kelt Wilskon, Senior Manager of State Policy for Advanced Transmission Technologies, Grid Strategies LLC each answered questions from the committee members. Also, with leave of the committee and each having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Ms. Charlotte Lane, Chairman, West Virginia Public Service Commission, and Mr. Sammy Gray, Director, Government Affairs, Appalachian Power, each answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

HOUSE BILL 4461, Establishing limitations on billing practices of Internet or telecommunications providers that fail to provide subscribed customers service for five or more days.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Delegate Hillenbrand as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Hillenbrand explained the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of Delegate Hillenbrand. Questions from the committee members followed. With leave of the committee and each having been placed under oath by Chairman Zatezalo, Mr. Mark Polen, President, West Virginia Telecommunications Association, and Mr. Roger Calhoun, State Volunteer, President, AARP West Virginia, each answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

HOUSE BILL 4835, Adjusting the timing of traffic lights on divided highways.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Delegate Pritt as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Pritt explained the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of Delegate Pritt. Questions from the committee members followed. With leave of the committee and having been placed under oath by Chairman Zatezalo, Mr. Ted Whitmore, Traffic Engineering Director, West Virginia Division of Highways, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

On Motion by Vice Chairman Fehrenbacher the committee adjourned.

Mark Zatezalo
Committee Chairman

Mari Humphrey
Committee Clerk