



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

### Minutes

February 11, 2026

3:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on February 11, 2026, 3:00 P.M., in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

Members present: Delegates Anderson, Bridges, 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: Delegate Riley.

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

On motion by Vice-Chairman Zatezalo, the Minutes of the previous meeting, February 10, 2026, were approved.

### **MARKUP & PASSAGE:**

**HOUSE BILL 4419**, Requiring certain non-discretionary procedures be strictly complied with by the West Virginia Parkways Authority before tolls, rents, fees or charges may be increased.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the passage of the bill.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to report House Bill 4419 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the passage of House Bill 4419. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the bill would be reported as moved.

**HOUSE BILL 4426**, Ensure State Road Construction Account funds are in addition to general highways funds provided to the DOT districts.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the passage of the bill.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to report House Bill 4426 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the passage of House Bill 4426. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the bill would be reported as moved.

**HOUSE BILL 4464**, Relating generally to Underground Facilities Damage prevention.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for amendments and recognized Delegate Fehrenbacher.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Riley:

Delegate Fehrenbacher asked for unanimous consent to be co-sponsor to the amendment and to explain the amendment on behalf of Delegate Riley, as sponsor of the amendment. Delegate Fehrenbacher explained the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion of the proposed amendment. Discussion on the proposed amendment by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the adoption of the proposed amendment.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the adoption of the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson declared the motion for the amendment of House Bill 4464 is adopted and the bill is amended. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments to the amended bill and recognized Delegate Cannon.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Cannon:

Delegate Cannon asked for unanimous consent to explain and amend the bill. Delegate Cannon explained the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson called for questions of Delegate Cannon, as sponsor of the proposed amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the proposed amendment presented by Delegate Cannon. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the adoption of the proposed amendment presented by Delegate Cannon.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the adoption of the proposed amendment as presented by Delegate Cannon. Chairman Anderson called for discussion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the proposed amendment presented by Delegate Cannon. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson declared the motion for the further amendment of House Bill 4464 as adopted and the bill is amended. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman

Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the passage of House Bill 4464.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved that House Bill 4464 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended, in the form of a committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the passage of House Bill 4464. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and House Bill 4464 would be reported as moved, with amendment, in the form of a committee substitute.

**HOUSE BILL 4471**, Approved sewage systems for rental property.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. With no questions for counsel, committee counsel stated there was a committee substitute before the committee. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the adoption of the committee substitute for House Bill 4471. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the adoption of the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the committee substitute would be before the committee for consideration of passage.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of committee counsel on the committee substitute. Questions by committee members on the committee substitute followed. With leave of the committee and having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Scott Driver, Acting General Counsel, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the committee substitute and recognized committee counsel.

Proposed Amendment by Delegates Linville:

Committee counsel explained the proposed amendment presented by Delegate Linville. Chairman Anderson called for discussion of the proposed amendment. Discussion on the proposed amendment by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments to the amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the adoption of the proposed amendment.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the adoption of the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the proposed amendment presented by Delegate Linville. Chairman Anderson declared the motion for the amendment of House Bill 4471 is adopted and the committee substitute is amended. Chairman Anderson called for discussion and recognized Delegate Linville. Delegate Linville asked Delegate Crouse to yield. Discussion followed between Delegates Linville and Crouse.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Crouse:

Delegate Crouse asked for unanimous consent to amend the committee substitute. Delegate Crouse explained the proposed amendment and talked on the amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the proposed amendment. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of

the proposed amendment presented by Delegate Crouse. Chairman Anderson declared the motion on the proposed amendment failed.

Chairman Anderson called for further amendments. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for passage of House Bill 4471, in the form of a committee substitute.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved that House Bill 4471 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended, in the form of a committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the passage of Committee Substitute for House Bill 4471. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the Committee Substitute for House Bill 4471, would be reported as moved.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 6**, Recognizing the importance of sustained economic development to the prosperity of West Virginia.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee analyst, Emily Kingery, for purposes of explaining the resolution. Chairman Anderson called for questions of the committee analyst. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the resolution. Committee analyst stated there was a committee substitute before the committee. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the adoption of the committee substitute for House Resolution 6.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the adoption of the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the committee substitute would be before the committee for consideration of passage.

Chairman Anderson recognized the committee analyst for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of the committee analyst on the committee substitute. Questions by committee members on the committee substitute followed. Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the committee substitute. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the passage of the committee substitute.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to report the Committee Substitute for House Resolution 6 to the floor with the recommendation that it be adopted, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the passage of Committee Substitute for House Resolution 6, to be adopted, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the committee substitute, would be reported as moved.

## **COMMITTEE HEARINGS:**

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 256**, Authorizing DEP to promulgate legislative rules.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. Counsel explained the committee substitute, individually explaining each of the rules before the committee.

Committee counsel answered questions from the committee members. Having each been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Ms. Mindy S. Neil, Assistant Director, Division of Water and Waste Management, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, and Mr. Jonathan Rorrer, Acting Deputy Cabinet Secretary, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, each answered questions from the committee members. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. David McMahon, Founder, West Virginia Surface Owners' Rights Organization, spoke before the committee.

Chairman Anderson advanced the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 256 to markup and passage.

**HOUSE BILL 4615**, Relating to public drinking water storage tanks.

Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Dillon as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Dillon explained the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of Delegate Dillon. Questions from the committee members followed. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Todd Grinstead, Executive Director, West Virginia Rural Water Association, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

**HOUSE BILL 4971**, Relating to requiring electric substations near industrial parks for certain high voltage transmission lines.

Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Howell as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Howell explained the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of Delegate Howell. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

**HOUSE BILL 5191**, To place rumble strips on all double-yellow lined roads and highways.

Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Canterbury as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Canterbury explained the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of Delegate Canterbury. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. Nathan Thomas, Deputy State Highway Engineer-Operations, West Virginia Division of Highways. Mr. Thomas did not take an oath prior to responding to questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

**HOUSE RESOLUTION 13**, Proposing approval of United States H.R. 5966, Ohio River Restoration Program Act.

Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Fehrenbacher as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the resolution. Delegate Fehrenbacher explained the resolution. Chairman Anderson called for questions of Delegate Fehrenbacher. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson advanced the resolution to markup and passage.

For this portion of the meeting, for purposes of Chairman Anderson to explain House Bill 5398, the chairman ceded the chair to the vice chairman. Chairman Zatezalo presided for the entire duration of the meeting.

**HOUSE BILL 5398**, Relating to dates and deposits for Oil and Gas Well Plugging.

Chairman Zatezalo recognized Delegate Anderson as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Anderson explained the bill. Chairman Zatezalo called for questions of Delegate Anderson. Hearing none, Chairman Zatezalo advanced the bill to markup and passage.

On Motion by Chairman Zatezalo the committee adjourned.

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Bill Anderson  
Committee Chairman

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Mari Humphrey  
Committee Clerk