



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

Minutes

February 16, 2026

5:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on February 16, 2026, 5:00 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 11, 2026, were approved.

MARKUP & PASSAGE:

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. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel and with no questions of counsel, recognized Delegate Hansen. Delegate Hansen requested unanimous consent to return to the hearing phase to request witness testimony. With leave of the committee and having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Scott Mandirola, Technical Advisor, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the committee substitute and recognized Delegate Hillenbrand to move to amend the bill.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Hillenbrand:

Committee counsel explained the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion of the proposed amendment. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson declared the motion for the amendment of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 256 is 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 the committee substitute, as amended.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to report the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 256 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the passage of Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 256. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the committee substitute, with amendment, would be reported as moved.

House Bill 5191, To place rumble strips on all double-yellow lined roads and highways.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the adoption of House Bill 5191. Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. With no questions of counsel, committee counsel stated there was a committee amendment before the committee.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the adoption of the strike-and-insert amendment.

Committee counsel explained the strike-and-insert amendment. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Questions by the committee members followed. Delegate Linville moved and presented a proposed amendment to committee counsel.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Linville:

Committee counsel explained the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the proposed amendment. Delegate Linville spoke on the amendment. With no further discussion before the committee, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the proposed amendment to the amendment. Chairman Anderson declared the motion for the amendment to the committee amendment for House Bill 5191 is adopted and the amendment is amended.

Chairman Anderson called for further amendments and recognized committee counsel for purposes of explaining the proposed amendment moved by Delegate Holstein.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Holstein:

Committee counsel explained the proposed amendment. Chairman called for discussion on the proposed amendment. Delegate Holstein spoke on the amendment. Chairman Anderson called for further 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 to the committee amendment. A roll call was requested and the demand was not sustained. Chairman Anderson declared the motion for the amendment to the committee amendment for House Bill 5191 is adopted and the amendment is amended. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for the purposes of making a motion for the adoption of the strike-and-insert amendment as amended.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to adopt the strike-and-insert committee amendment, as amended. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Discussion by the committee members followed. With no further discussion by the committee members, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved that House Bill 5191, as amended, be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

Delegate Linville asked for unanimous consent that the committee amendment, as amended, be adopted. With no objection, Chairman Anderson called for discussion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of House Bill 5191, as amended, to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and House Bill 5191, as amended, will be reported to the floor but first referred to the Committee on Finance.

House Bill 5398, Relating to dates and deposits for Oil and Gas Well Plugging.

On motion by Vice-Chairman Zatezalo, Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for amendments. 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 5398 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. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion for the passage of House Bill 5398. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the bill would be reported as moved.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS:

House Bill 5492, Relating to advance purchase agreements for electric substation transformers.

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.

On Motion by Vice-Chairman Zatezalo the committee adjourned.

Bill Anderson
Committee Chairman

Mari Humphrey
Committee Clerk