



West Virginia House of Delegates
Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works
Minutes

February 17, 2026

5:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on February 17, 2026, 5:00 P.M., in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

Members present: Delegates Anderson, Bridges, Crouse, Dillon, Eldridge, Fehrenbacher, Green, Hansen, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Howell G., Jordan, Leavitt, Linville, Lucas, Moore, Riley, Sheedy, Street, Ward G., Young, and Zatezalo.

Members absent: Delegate Campbell, Cannon, D, and Parsons.

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 16, 2026, were approved.

MARKUP & PASSAGE:

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

Chairman Anderson recognized committee analyst, Keenan Janicker, for purposes of explaining the resolution. Chairman Anderson called for questions of the committee analyst. With no questions for the committee analyst, the committee analyst stated there was a committee substitute before the committee. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the committee substitute for House Resolution 13 for consideration before the committee. The motion was adopted and the committee substitute would be before the committee for consideration of adoption.

Chairman Anderson recognized the committee analyst for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of the committee analyst. Hearing none, 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 adoption of the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion to adopt the committee substitute. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the motion for the adoption of the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the committee substitute is adopted.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion for the passage of the committee substitute.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the Committee Substitute for House Resolution 13 to be reported 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 the adoption of the motion for the Committee Substitute for House Resolution 13 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it be adopted, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute will be reported as moved.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS:

HOUSE BILL 4537, Requiring municipalities take actions when potential customers apply for water and sewer service.

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 by committee members followed. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

HOUSE BILL 4563, Require EZ Pass transponder be registered to person, not vehicle.

Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Brooks as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Brooks explained the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of Delegate Brooks. Questions by committee members followed. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Chuck Smith, Executive Director, West Virginia Parkways Authority, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

HOUSE BILL 5511, To allow money to be paid to county board of education employees' estates for accrued and unused leave if they pass away before retirement.

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

HOUSE BILL 5525, To create the "Southern West Virginia Clean Water Fund" to be used in water emergencies or to upgrade infrastructure so residences can get clean water.

Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Vance as lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Vance explained the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of Delegate Vance. Questions by the committee members followed. Having each been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Reverend Caitlin Ware, Rising Together for Coalfield Justice, Ms. Honey May, (former Lincoln PSD), and Mr. David Yaussy, West Virginia Manufacturers' Association, each answered questions by the committee members. 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