



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

Minutes

February 18, 2026

3:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on February 18, 2026, 3:00 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, Linville, Lucas, Moore, Riley, Street, Ward G., Young, and Zatezalo.

Members absent: Delegate Campbell, Cannon, D, Leavitt, and Sheedy.

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 17, 2026, were approved.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS:

HOUSE BILL 5210, Comprehensive reform of the state's water infrastructure systems.

Chairman Anderson recognized Katie Franklin, Deputy General Counsel, West Virginia Governor's Office, as the representative of the Governor's office for purposes of explaining the bill sponsored by the Office of the Governor. Ms. Franklin explained the bill. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, the Chairman called for questions of Ms. Franklin. Questions by committee members followed. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

HOUSE BILL 5381, Relating to developing a comprehensive energy development policy and plan for the Office of Energy.

Chairman Anderson recognized Sean Whelan, General Counsel, West Virginia Governor's Office, as the representative of the Governor's office for purposes of explaining the bill sponsored by the Office of the Governor. Mr. Sean Whelan explained the bill. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, the Chairman called for questions of Mr. Whelan. Questions by committee members followed. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Nicholas S. Preservati, Director, Office of Energy, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

MARKUP & PASSAGE:

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

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of the counsel. With no questions of counsel, counsel 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 Bill 4537 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 committee counsel for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Questions by the committee members 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 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 Bill 4537 to be reported 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 the adoption of the motion for the Committee Substitute for House Bill 4537 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute will be reported as moved.

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 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 to move the bill for passage.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for House Bill 5511 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 called for discussion on the motion. Discussion by committee members followed. Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the motion for House Bill 5511 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 the bill will be reported as moved.

On Motion by Vice-Chairman Zatezalo the committee adjourned.

Bill Anderson
Committee Chairman

Mari Humphrey
Committee Clerk