



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

Minutes

February 19, 2026

3:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on February 19, 2026, 3:00 P.M., in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

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

Members absent: Delegate Cannon, D, Green, Jordan, Leavitt, and Ward G.

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 18, 2026, were approved.

MARKUP & PASSAGE:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL 4481, WV Load Forecast Accountability Act.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the bill. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the bill.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of 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 adopt the committee substitute for House Bill 4481.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to adopt the committee substitute for House Bill 4481. The motion was adopted and the committee substitute would be before the committee.

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 put the question before the committee on the

adoption of the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and committee substitute is adopted. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to report the bill to the floor.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the Committee Substitute for House Bill 4481 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. 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 the Committee Substitute for House Bill 4481 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the Committee Substitute for House Bill 4481 would be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass.

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

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the bill. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the bill.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Committee counsel stated there was a committee substitute before the committee. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purpose of making a motion to adopt the committee substitute for House Bill 4971.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to adopt the committee substitute for House Bill 4971. Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel to explain the committee substitute. Committee counsel explained the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel on the committee substitute. Questions by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson called for amendments. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the motion. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute is adopted. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to report the bill to the floor.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the Committee Substitute for House Bill 4971 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the motion for the Committee Substitute for House Bill 4971 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute would be reported as moved.

HOUSE BILL 5492, Relating to advance purchase agreements for electric substation transformers.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the bill. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the bill.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the bill. Committee counsel stated there was a committee amendment before the committee. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to adopt the committee strike-and-insert amendment.

Vice-Chairman moved to adopt the committee strike-and-insert amendment to House Bill 5492. Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel for purposes of explaining the strike-and-insert amendment. Committee counsel explained the strike-and-insert amendment. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel on the strike-and-insert amendment. Questions by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the strike-and-insert amendment and recognized committee counsel.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Dillon:

Committee counsel explained the proposed amendment present by Delegate Dillon. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the proposed amendment. Delegate Dillon, as sponsor of the proposed amendment, moved and spoke on the proposed amendment. Discussion by the committee members followed.

Delegate Dillon asked for unanimous consent to reform the proposed amendment presented by him. With no objection, Chairman Anderson declared the amendment reformed. Questions of committee counsel on the reformed amendment followed. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the reformed amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the reformed amendment to the committee strike-and-insert amendment. Chairman Anderson declared the amendment adopted. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to adopt the committee amendment, as amended.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to adopt the committee amendment, as amended. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee amendment, as amended, was adopted. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to report the bill to the floor.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for House Bill 5492 to be reported to the floor, with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended, 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 the adoption of the motion for House Bill 5492 to be reported to the floor, as amended, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the bill would be reported as moved.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS:

HOUSE BILL 5626, Relating to establishing rates for and recovering costs of by public utilities.

Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Riley as sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Riley explained the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of Delegate Riley. Questions from the committee members followed. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, James Kotcon, Conservation Committee Chair, West Virginia Chapter of Sierra Club, answered questions from the committee members. Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Charlotte Lane, Chairman, West Virginia Public Service Commission, spoke on the bill and answered questions from the committee members. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, James Bailey, Counsel, West Virginia Energy Users' Group spoke on the bill. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Randall Short, Director Regulatory Services, Appalachian Power Company, spoke on the bill and answered questions from the committee members. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Robert Williams, Director, Consumer Advocate Division, Public Service Commission spoke on the bill. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

HOUSE BILL 5651, Microbusiness Support & Simplification Act.

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

HOUSE BILL 5638, Relating to the requirements of the state's cyber security program and responsibilities and authority of the state chief information security officer.

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

HOUSE RESOLUTION 15, Expressing support for I-68 Energy Manufacturing AI Corridor.

The resolution was laid over due to the absence of the sponsor.

On Motion by Vice-Chairman Zatezalo the committee adjourned.

Bill Anderson
Committee Chairman

Mari Humphrey
Committee Clerk