



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

Minutes

February 23, 2026

3:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on February 23, 2026, 3:00 P.M., in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

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

Members absent: Delegate Dillon.

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 19, 2026, were approved.

COMMITTEE HEARINGS:

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 15, Strengthening protections for certain natural resource interests affected by carbon capture and underground carbon storage projects.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the bill. Committee counsel explained the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of committee counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Having each been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, each of the following witnesses answered questions from the committee members:

- ▶ Samuel Ameri, Chairperson & Professor, West Virginia University
- ▶ Kashy Aminian, Professor of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering
West Virginia University
- ▶ John T. Litynski, Head of CCUS, EQT Corporation
- ▶ Scott Murray, Manager, Project Development, Tenaska

Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

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

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

MARKUP & PASSAGE:

HOUSE BILL 5651, Microbusiness Support & Simplification Act.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the bill for consideration by the committee. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the bill and the bill was before the committee for consideration.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the bill. Counsel explained the bill. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the bill. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to report the bill to the floor.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved that House Bill 5651 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. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. Chairman Anderson declared the motion was adopted and the bill would be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

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

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the bill for consideration by the committee. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the bill and the bill would be before the committee for consideration.

Chairman Anderson stated there was a committee substitute before the committee and recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the committee substitute for consideration by the committee.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the committee substitute for House Bill 4563. The motion was adopted and the committee substitute would be before the committee for consideration.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. 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 to the committee substitute and recognized Delegate Linville.

Proposed Amendment by Delegate Linville:

Delegate Linville asked for unanimous consent to explain the proposed amendment. With no objection, Delegate Linville, as sponsor of the amendment, explained the amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the proposed amendment. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson called for further discussion on the proposed amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the proposed amendment presented by Delegate Linville. Chairman Anderson was unable to determine the prevailing side from the voice vote and, therefore, requested a division on the proposed amendment. With there being nine (9) Yays, eleven (11) Nays, and five (5) members absent or not voting, the motion on the proposed amendment failed. Chairman Anderson declared the proposed amendment rejected. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to adopt the committee substitute.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to adopt the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute 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 4563 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 House Bill 4563 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the bill would be reported as moved.

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.

The bill was laid over to the next scheduled committee meeting.

On Motion by Vice-Chairman Zatezalo the committee adjourned.

Bill Anderson
Committee Chairman

Mari Humphrey
Committee Clerk