



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

### Minutes

February 24, 2026

3:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on February 24, 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, Kelly, Leavitt, Linville, Lucas, Moore, Parsons, Sheedy, Street, Ward, Young, and Zatezalo.

Members absent: Delegates Campbell, and 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 23, 2026, were approved.

### **MARKUP & 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 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, Brian Casto, 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 5638 be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. 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.

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

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 recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the bill. Counsel explained the bill. 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 5381. The motion was adopted and the committee substitute would be before the committee for consideration.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, 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. With leave of committee and previously having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Nicholas Preservati, Director, Office of Energy, answered questions by the committee members. Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the committee substitute and recognized Delegate Linville.

Proposed Amendment No. 1 by Delegate Linville:

Delegate Linville stated he had two proposed amendments and asked for unanimous consent to explain the two proposed amendments in lieu of having them read. With no objection, Delegate Linville, as sponsor of proposed amendment number 1, explained the amendment. Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of proposed amendment number 1 presented by Delegate Linville. Chairman Anderson declared proposed amendment number 1 adopted and recognized Delegate Linville for the purposes of explaining amendment number 2 presented to the committee.

Proposed Amendment No. 2 by Delegate Linville:

Delegate Linville, as sponsor of proposed amendment number 2, explained the amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the proposed amendment. Discussion by the committee members and questions of counsel followed. Chairman Anderson asked of questions of Delegate Linville as the amendment sponsor. Questions by committee members followed on the proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson asked for further discussion on the proposed amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson asked for further questions of counsel. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of proposed amendment number 2 presented by Delegate Linville. Chairman Anderson declared proposed amendment number 2 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 substitute, as amended.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to adopt the committee substitute, as amended. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the motion to adopt the committee substitute, as amended. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute, as amended, was adopted. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments. 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 for the Committee Substitute for House Bill 5381, as amended, 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 called for further discussion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the motion for the Committee Substitute for House Bill 5381 to be reported to the floor, with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the Committee Substitute for House Bill 5381 would be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended.

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

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the resolution for consideration by the committee. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the resolution and the resolution 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 Resolution 15. The motion was adopted and the committee substitute would be before the committee for consideration.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee analyst, Keenan Janicker, for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. The committee analyst explained the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of the committee analyst on the committee substitute. 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 to adopt the committee substitute.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to adopt the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the motion to adopt the committee substitute. Discussion by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson called for further discussion. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the Committee

Substitute for House Resolution 15. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute was adopted. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments. 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 the Committee Substitute for House Resolution 15 to be reported to the floor, with the recommendation that it do pass, 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 15 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the Committee Substitute for House Resolution 15 would be reported to the floor, with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules.

**COMMITTEE HEARINGS:**

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 104**, Providing certain state mine inspectors with raise.

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 been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Chad Francis, Representative, United Mine Workers of America, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson advanced the bill to markup and passage.

On Motion by Vice-Chairman Zatezalo the committee adjourned.

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Bill Anderson  
Committee Chairman

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Mari Humphrey  
Committee Clerk