



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works

### Minutes

March 9, 2026

3:00 P.M.

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Energy and Public Works met on March 9, 2026, 3:00 P.M., in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

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

Members absent: No members absent.

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, March 5, 2026, were approved.

### **MARKUP & PASSAGE:**

#### **COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 648**, Strategic and Critical Resources Act.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 648 for consideration by the committee.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the engrossed committee substitute to 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. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the committee substitute and recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to amend the committee substitute.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to amend the committee substitute. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to amend the committee substitute and the proposed committee amendment would be before the committee for consideration. Chairman Anderson recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the proposed committee amendment. Counsel explained the committee amendment. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel on the proposed committee amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the

proposed committee amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the motion to adopt the proposed committee amendment. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute was amended. 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 Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 648, as amended, to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, 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 for the Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 648 to be reported to the floor, with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 648 would be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended.

**SENATE BILL 686**, Coal Co-tenancy Modernization and Miners Protection Act.

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

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the Senate committee substitute. Counsel explained the Senate committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Questions by the committee members followed. Chairman Anderson called for amendments and recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to amend the committee substitute.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to amend the committee substitute and the proposed committee amendment would be before the committee for consideration. Chairman Anderson recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the proposed committee amendment. Counsel explained the proposed committee amendment. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel on the proposed committee amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the proposed amendment and recognized counsel.

**Proposed Amendment to the Committee Amendment by Delegate Sheedy:**

Counsel stated there was an amendment before the committee presented by Delegate Sheedy. Counsel explained the proposed committee amendment as presented by Delegate Sheedy. Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Sheedy as the amendment sponsor to speak on his proposed amendment. Delegate Sheedy declined to speak on his proposed amendment. Chairman Anderson called for discussion on the proposed amendment as presented by Delegate Sheedy. Discussion by the committee members followed. Counsel answered questions by the committee members on the proposed amendment as presented by Delegate Sheedy. Chairman Anderson recognized Delegate Sheedy as the amendment sponsor to close on his proposed amendment. Delegate Sheedy declined to close on his proposed amendment. Further discussion by the committee members followed. Hearing no further discussion by the committee members, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of Delegate Sheedy's proposed amendment to the committee substitute for the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson declared the motion on the adoption of the proposed amended by

Delegate Sheedy failed and the amendment was rejected. Chairman Anderson called for further amendments. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to adopt the primary committee amendment for the committee substitute for the committee substitute.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to adopt the primary committee amendment for the committee substitute for the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee and declared the primary committee amendment for the committee substitute for the committee substitute 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 the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 686, as amended, 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 the Judiciary. 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 the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 686 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 the Judiciary. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the Committee Substitute for the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 686 would be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended, but that it first be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 691**, Authorizing DOH to provide reimbursement for timely relocation of utilities.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 691 for consideration by the committee.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the committee substitute to be before the committee for consideration.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the committee substitute. Counsel stated there was a committee amendment before the committee. Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the committee amendment for consideration by the committee and the committee amendment would be before the committee for consideration.

Chairman Anderson recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the committee amendment. Counsel explained the committee amendment. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel on the committee amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson called for amendments to the committee amendment. Hearing none, Chairman Anderson put the question before the committee on the adoption of the proposed committee amendment. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the committee substitute amended. 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 Senate Bill 691, as amended, to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, 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 for the Committee Substitute for

Senate Bill 691 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 Senate Bill 691 would be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended.

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 697**, Relating to state road system.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to move the Senate committee substitute for consideration by the committee. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved the Senate committee substitute and the Senate 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. 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 report the bill to the floor.

Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved for the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 697, 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 Senate Bill 697 to be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Anderson declared the motion adopted and the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 697 would be reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass.

**COMMITTEE HEARINGS:**

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 641**, Relating generally to aboveground storage tanks.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Robert Akers, for purposes of explaining the Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 641. Counsel explained the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Questions by the committee members followed. Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Isaac Tincher, Associate General Counsel, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. Jeremy Bandy.

Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Jeremy Bandy, Director, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Ms. Honey May.

Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Ms. Honey May, Chapter Director, Sierra Club, answered questions from the committee members.

Chairman Anderson recognized Vice-Chairman Zatezalo for purposes of making a motion to recess the committee meeting until after the floor session adjourns. Vice-Chairman Zatezalo moved to recess the committee meeting and committee meeting would be recessed.

The committee members reconvened and, with quorum established, the meeting resumed.

Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Jeffrey S. Allen, retired United Methodist Pastor, and Executive Director of Marriages of the West Virginia Conciliate of Churches (and also retired from there), spoke on the bill. With no questions by the committee members of Mr. Allen, Chairman Anderson recognized Scott Mandirola.

Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Scott Mandirola, Technical Advisor, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, answered questions from the committee members.

Delegate Hansen moved to postpone Senate Bill 641 indefinitely. Chairman Anderson put the committee at ease. Upon consulting with House of Delegates Clerk Jeff Pack, Chairman Anderson ruled the motion out of order.

Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Ms. Rachel Coffman, G.A. Contractor, DOW, spoke on the bill. With no questions by the committee members of Ms. Coffman, Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. Charles McKown.

Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Charles I. McKown, II, President, C.I. McKown & Son, Inc., answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. Jeff Isner.

Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Jeff Isner, CEO, Pillar Energy, LLC, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. Todd Grinstead.

Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Todd Grinstead, Executive Director, West Virginia Rural Water Association, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. David Yaussy.

Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. David Yaussy, Counsel, West Virginia Manufacturers' Association, answered questions from the committee members.

Chairman Anderson advanced the Engrossed Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 641 to markup and passage.

**COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR SENATE BILL 420**, West Virginia First Energy Act.

Chairman Anderson recognized committee counsel, Brian Casto, for purposes of explaining the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 420. Counsel explained the committee substitute. Chairman Anderson called for questions of counsel. Questions by the committee members followed. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. John Scalzo, Vice President, Regulatory & Finance, Appalachian Power, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Ms. Charlotte Lane.

Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Ms. Charlotte Lane, Chairman, West Virginia Public Service Commission, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. James Bailey.

Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. James Bailey, Counsel, West Virginia Energy Users Group, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Ms. Abby Reale.

Having been previously placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Ms. Abby Reale, Senior Advisor, First Energy, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Anderson recognized Mr. Jason Bostic.

Having been placed under oath by Chairman Anderson, Mr. Jason Bostic, Executive Vice President, West Virginia Coal Association, answered questions from the committee members.

Chairman Anderson advanced the Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 420 to markup and passage.

On Motion by Vice-Chairman Zatezalo the committee adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

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Bill Anderson  
Committee Chairman

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Mari Humphrey  
Committee Clerk