



## **West Virginia House of Delegates Standing Committee on Finance**

### **Minutes for February 16, 2026, 9:00 AM**

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on Finance met on February 16, 2026, 9:00 AM in the House Finance committee Room 460 – M

Members present: Delegates Criss, Riley, Hornbuckle, Anderson B., Canterbury, Cooper, Dittman, Ellington, Fehrenbacher, Gearheart, Hall, Hite, Horst, Hott, Howell, Linville, Mazzocchi, Statler, Toney, Worrell, Zatezalo.

Members absent: Delegates Williams, Cannon, Jeffries, Rohrbach.

A silent roll call being taken, the presence of a quorum was established.

On motion of Delegate Riley, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Delegate Riley, announced the following bills are referred to Subcommittees

**H.B.5365, H.B.5463, H.B.6483, H.B.5505, H.B.5515, and H.B.5521** to Banking and Insurance Subcommittee.

**H.B.5464**, moved to Revenue Subcommittee.

### **Bills on Hearing**

**H.B. 4087** – To create a West Virginia-Ireland education alliance.

Delegate Hornby presents the bill.

Questions and answers followed.

**H.B. 4500** – Permitting the Berkley County Commission to levy a special district excise tax for the benefit of the Berkley County Economic Opportunity Development District under certain conditions.

Delegate Hite Presents the bill.

The Director of the Berkley County Development Authority. Jennifer Smith, answers questions on the bill.

**H.B. 4404-** Increase the allowance for volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and allowing fire departments to make an expenditure for educational and training supplies and fire prevention promotional materials.

Delegate Heckert presents the bill.

**H.B. 5168** – To increase funding for EMS first responders.

Delegate Statler presents the bill.

#### Bills on Markup and Passage

On Requests for unanimous consent of Vice Chair Riley, Rules requiring a hearing for HB4765 are suspended.

**H.B. 4765** – Teacher, School Personnel, and State Police pay raise.

Counsel explains the bill.

Questions and answers followed.

Chairman Criss, Introduces Delegate Zatezalo as a member of the Finance Committee, in addition to Appropriations, and Banking and Insurance, Subcommittees

Vice Chair moves HB4765 to floor with the recommendation that it does pass.

Motion adopted.P

On Motion of Delegate Gearheart the committee adjourned.

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Vernon Criss  
Committee Chair

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Garret Pritt  
Committee Clerk