



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for January 20, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on January 20, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M with Delegate Akers in the Chair.

Members present: Delegates Fluharty, Hansen, Butler, Ferrell, Flanigan, Funkhouser, Heckert, Hillenbrand, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Kump, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., Zatezalo, and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Holstein.

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

On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Chairman Akers recognized the clerk for purposes of receiving subcommittee reports:

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bill 4169 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bill 4044 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bill 4364 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

### **House Bill 4433, Prohibiting Human Smuggling and Trafficking**

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, a committee substitute for the bill was offered.

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the proposed committee substitute for the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the proposed committee substitute. On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, an amendment to the proposed committee substitute for the bill was offered.

Vice-Chairman Maynor asked for unanimous consent to explain the proposed amendment to the committee substitute. Without objection, Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor to explain the proposed amendment. Chairman Akers called for questions regarding the proposed amendment. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion to amend the proposed committee substitute. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was

adopted and Chairman Akers declared the amendment to the proposed committee substitute was approved.

Chairman Akers called for additional amendments to the proposed committee substitute. Hearing none, Chairman Akers called for discussion on the proposed committee substitute. Discussion from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers declared the committee substitute was approved. Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report the Committee Substitute for House Bill 4433 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.

As the next order of business, Chairman Akers recognized Ms. Ann Urling, Inspector General, West Virginia Office of the Inspector General, for purposes of addressing the committee. Having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Inspector General Urling provided remarks to the committee including an overview of the Office of the Inspector General. Chairman Akers called for questions for Inspector General Urling. Questions from the committee members followed.

**House Bill 4169**, Relating to mental health examination requirements

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Masters as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Masters regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

**House Bill 4364**, Relating to concurrent juvenile jurisdiction on military installations

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Ridenour as a cosponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Ridenour regarding the bill. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, the committee adjourned.

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Delegate JB Akers  
Committee Chair

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Mr. Daniel Osborne  
Senior Clerk