



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for January 22, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on January 22, 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, 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 Ferrell, 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 4435 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bill 4477 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 4415 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

**House Bill 4415**, Creating crime of attempting to smuggle contraband into federal correctional institutions within the state

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

**House Bill 4435**, Increasing the percentage of precincts to be audited during the election canvass

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Ridenour as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Ridenour regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed.

With leave of committee and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. David Cook, Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State's office, answered questions from the committee members. With leave of committee and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. Mark Slotnick, County Attorney, Kanawha County, answered questions from the committee members.

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