



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for January 23, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on January 23, 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, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Kump, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., Zatezalo, and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: None.

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 4138 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 4036 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bill 4382 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 4366 and reports the same back 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 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. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the proposed committee substitute.

Hearing none, Chairman Akers called for discussion on 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 committee substitute was approved. Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report Committee Substitute for House Bill 4415 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.

House Bill 4036, Relating to stricter enforcement for parking in a handicapped designated spot

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

At this moment, Chairman Akers ceded the Chair to Vice-Chairman Maynor.

House Bill 4138, Relating to persons convicted of a crime

Chairman Maynor recognized Delegate Akers as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Maynor called for questions of Delegate Akers regarding the bill. Chairman Maynor advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

At this moment, Chairman Maynor ceded the Chair to Delegate Akers.

House Bill 4366, Relating to military interpersonal violence

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Ridenour as a sponsor 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.

House Bill 4477, To give the Secretary of State authority to refer allegations of violations of election laws to West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute.

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Funkhouser. Delegate Funkhouser asked for unanimous consent to suspend House Rule 83b and allow a non-sponsor to explain the bill. Without objection, Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Funkhouser to explain the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Funkhouser regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed.

With leave of the committee and remaining under oath, Mr. David Cook, Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State's office, answered questions from the committee members.

With leave of the committee and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. Frank Hartman answered questions from the committee members.

Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

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

Delegate JB Akers
Committee Chair

Mr. Daniel Osborne
Senior Clerk