



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 03, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 03, 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, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., Zatezalo, and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Hillenbrand, Kump.

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 4600 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bill 4053 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bills 4468 and 4893 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 Bills 4179 and 4345 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

House Bill 4522, Banning Foreign backed spending on State Ballot Issues

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.

There being no amendments offered, 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 4522 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 4601, Relating to the Child Abuse and Neglect Investigations Unit

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. Lonnie Faircloth, West Virginia State Trooper, West Virginia Troopers Association, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. There being no amendments offered, Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report House Bill 4601 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Discussion from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion to report the bill. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.

House Bill 4755, Adding Aggravated Vehicular Homicide to the list of qualifying offenses

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.

There being no amendments offered, 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 4755 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 4053, To establish the blue envelope program

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

House Bill 4179, To create felony charge for individuals who assault police officers or police dogs

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. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 4345, Relating to the preservation of missing persons records and evidence

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

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

House Bill 4468, Relating to confidentiality of court files and law-enforcement records

Delegate Mallow in the Chair recognized Delegate Akers as a sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Delegate Mallow called for questions for Delegate Akers regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed.

At this moment, Delegate Mallow ceded the Chair to Delegate Akers.

Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Ms. Leslie Rubin, Journalist, WCHS-TV, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 4600, Require all ballots for primary and general elections be received NOT LATER than the close of the polls on election day.

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Holstein as a sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Holstein regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and remaining under oath, Mr. David Cook, General Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State's Office, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 4893, Increase the penalties for contempt of court in a magistrate court

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

On motion of Delegate Mallow, the committee adjourned.

Delegate JB Akers
Committee Chair

Mr. Daniel Osborne
Senior Clerk