



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 05, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 05, 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, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., Zatezalo, and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegate Kump.

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

On motion of Delegate 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 4801 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bills 4725 reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bill 4962 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

House Bill 4466, Extend the public intoxication of alcohol code to include being under the impairment of narcotics in public

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 4466 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 4695, To double the criminal penalty for anyone found guilty of sexual assault on a minor
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. 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 4695 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 4749, Relating to adding requirements to the foster child bill of rights

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Worrell as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Worrell regarding the bill. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Ms. Katana Curry provided remarks and answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion. Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Hornby for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Hornby asked for unanimous consent to suspend House rule 83b requiring a bill to be heard on two separate days and be taken up for immediate consideration. Without objection, House rule 83b was suspended. Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report House Bill 4749 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. A roll call was demanded and with the demand being sustained, Chairman Akers directed the clerk to call the roll. With there being 24 members voting in the affirmative, zero voting in the negative, and one member absent or not voting, the motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved. Members absent included Delegate Kump.

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

House Bill 4725, Clarifying the disposition of animal subject to animal cruelty treatment

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

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

House Bill 4801, Defining Permissible expenditures for municipalities and counties

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

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 207, Clarifying sheriff's compensation for collection of taxes

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 4962, Drug-Related Nuisances

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