



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 10, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 10, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M with Delegate Akers in the Chair.

Members present: Delegates Fluharty, Hansen, 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: Delegates Butler, 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 Courts has had under consideration House Bills 4850 and 4999 and reports the same back, with amendments, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bills 4405, 4452, 4638, and 4546 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bill 4106 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

House Bill 4865, Providing for a program allowing election official trainees to be appointed as election officials

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 4865 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 4881, Relating to obtaining title to abandoned or junked motor vehicles abandoned on the property or place of business of an automobile dealer

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. 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 4881 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 to report the bill. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.

House Bill 4996, Relating to bail in cases involving terroristic threats to schools or children

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 4996 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 4997, Relating to residency restrictions for persons convicted of terroristic threats

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. 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 4997 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 to report the bill. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.

Senate Bill 208, Exempting certain military records from public release

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. 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 Senate Bill 208 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 to report the bill. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.

House Bill 4106, Allowing constitutional carry for 18 to 20 year olds

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Horst as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Horst regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and while remaining under oath, Mr. Art Tom, West Virginia Citizen's Defense League, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 4405, Expanding the reasons that an executive director may create, merge, or dissolve a public defender corporation

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

House Bill 4452, To remove Mortmain restrictions on religious organizations

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Hillenbrand as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Hillenbrand regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Bishop Matthew Cowden, Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 4999, Relating to crimes against athletic officials

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Browing as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Browning 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