



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 11, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 11, 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, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., Zatezalo., and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Kump, Mallow.

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 4568 and 5176 and reports the same back, with amendments, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bill 4709 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bills 4710 and 5166 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bills 5025 and 5182 and reports the same back, with amendments, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

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

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. 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 4106 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 4405, Expanding the reasons that an executive director may create, merge, or dissolve a public defender corporation

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. 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 4405 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. 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 4452, To remove Mortmain restrictions on religious organizations

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. 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 4452 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 4999, Relating to crimes against athletic 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. 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 4999 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 4568, To prohibit the service of process on county property

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

House Bill 4709, Relating to changing the process of election litigation

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

House Bill 4710, Changing the limit on switching parties before filing to run for office from 60 days to 180 days prior to an election

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

At this time, Chairman Akers ceded the Chair to Delegate Shamblin

House Bill 4710, Changing the limit on switching parties before filing to run for office from 60 days to 180 days prior to an election

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

At this time, Chairman Shamblin ceded the Chair to Delegate Akers.

House Bill 5025, Allowing the burning of obsolete farm structures

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Hillenbrand as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill.

At this time, Chairman Akers ceded the Chair to Delegate Jennings.

Chairman Jennings 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 Jennings, Mr. Scott Driver, Acting Counsel, West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Jennings advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 5166, To provide notice to any political committees violating the filing requirements prior to assessing any civil fines and giving the Secretary of State authority to grant additional time for compliance not to exceed an additional 14 days

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

House Bill 5182, Relating generally to authorizing security personnel employed by the State Treasurer to carry concealed weapons while performing his or her official duties

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

On motion of Delegate Ward, B., the committee adjourned.

Delegate JB Akers
Committee Chair

Mr. Daniel Osborne
Senior Clerk