



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 12, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 12, 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., and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Kump, Zatezalo.

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 Bill 4712 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bill 4990 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

House Bill 5101, The Joanna Phillips Domestic Violence Prevention Act

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 5101 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 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 4568 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 4709, Relating to changing the process of election litigation

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 4709 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 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 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.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, an amendment was offered. Without objection, Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor to explain the amendment in lieu of having it read. Chairman Akers called for questions regarding the amendment. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and the amendment to the proposed committee substitute was approved. Chairman Akers called for additional amendments.

There being no amendments offered, Chairman Akers called for discussion on the proposed committee substitute. Discussion from the committee members followed. 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 4710 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 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 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 5166 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 5176, Relating to creating the animal abuse database within the West Virginia State Police

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 5176 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. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.

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 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 5182 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 4638, Relating to registration of voters and voluntary registration of organ donors

Chairman Akers asked for unanimous consent to suspend House Rule 83b to allow a non-sponsor to explain the bill. Without an objection being raised, House Rule 83b was suspended.

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

Chairman Maynor recognized Delegate Akers for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Maynor called for questions for Delegate Akers regarding the bill.

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

Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Ms. Collen Sullivan, Director of Public Affairs, Center for Organ Recovery and Education, provided remarks and answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 4990, Relating to crimes using gift cards

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Brooks as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Brooks regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection being raised and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Ms. Angela Vance, AARP, provided remarks and answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 4, Relating to crimes against public justice

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Ms. Aubrey Sparks, Legal Director, American Civil Liberties Union of West Virginia, provided remarks and answered questions from the committee members. Without objection, Chairman Akers recognized Senator Oliverio as the lead sponsor of the bill for purposes of addressing the committee.

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Shamblin for purposes of making a motion.

Chairman Shamblin moved for the committee to stand in recess. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and the committee recessed.

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Chairman Akers reconvened the committee.

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