



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 13, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 13, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

Members present: Delegates Fluharty, Hansen, Butler, Ferrell, Flanigan, Funkhouser, Heckert, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Mallow, Kump, Zatezalo.

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

On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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 5197 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bill 5214 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 Bill 5234 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bills 5219 and 5273 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bill 5228 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

House Bill 4638, Relating to registration of voters and voluntary registration of organ donors

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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion

Delegate Mallow 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 4990, Relating to crimes using gift cards

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for House Bill 4990 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 4546, Require biennial reports for limited liability and foreign limited liability companies

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. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 4712, Increasing the criminal penalties for DUI causing death to be known as "Baylea's Law."

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. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. Steve Lewis provided remarks and answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 5197, Relating to Civil Action to Set Aside a Tax Deed

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Shamblin as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Shamblin regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Ms. Taylor Bennett, Abandoned Properties Coalition provided remarks and answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 5219, Relating to defining residence for the purpose of registration and voting in West Virginia

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Funkhouser as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Funkhouser regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection being raised and while remaining under oath by

Chairman Akers, Mr. David Cook, Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State's Office, provided remarks and answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 5228, Relating to clarifying the definition of electioneering

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

House Bill 5273, Relating to campaign financial statements by candidates for municipal office

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