



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 16, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 16, 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, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Cannon, D., Heckert, and 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 Bill 5105 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Courts has had under consideration House Bill 5198 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 5203 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bill 5066 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

House Bill 4546, Require biennial reports for limited liability and foreign limited liability companies

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 4546 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 4712, Increasing the criminal penalties for DUI causing death to be known as "Baylea's Law."

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 4712 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 5197, Relating to Civil Action to Set Aside a Tax Deed

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 5197 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 5228, Relating to clarifying the definition of electioneering

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 5228 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 5273, Relating to campaign financial statements by candidates for municipal office

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 5273 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 5066, Relating to prohibiting the release of addresses and names of employers of persons who make contributions to political elections

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.

House Bill 5198, Relating to crimes against the intellectually disabled

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. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 5105, Relating to financial exploitation of a person in recovery

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.

House Bill 5203, To forbid any municipality from issuing an ID for the purposes of voting in a municipal election

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