



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 17, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 17, 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, Cannon, Ferrell, Flanigan, Funkhouser, Heckert, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Shamblin, Ward, B., and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Kump and Roop.

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

On motion of Vice-Chairwoman 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 5341 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bill 4799 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bill 4842 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

### **House Bill 5506**, Prohibiting Compensation for Lobbying on Behalf of a Foreign Adversary

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. On motion of Delegate Hansen, an amendment to the proposed committee substitute was offered.

Without objection, Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Hansen for purposes of explaining the amendment in lieu of having it read. Chairman Akers called for questions regarding the amendment. Chairman Akers called for discussion on 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 further amendments.

There being no additional 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 5506 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 5105**, Relating to financial exploitation of a person in recovery

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 5105 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 4656**, Relating to chronic absenteeism

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Ellington as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Ellington 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 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 5198 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 5203,** To forbid any municipality from issuing an ID for the purposes of voting in a municipal election

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 5203 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 5214,** Relating to drug testing of parents who have had abuse and/or neglect claims substantiated against them prior to reunification

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 5214 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 4799,** To establish the cold case task force for the State of West Virginia

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

At this moment, Chairman Akers ceded the Chair to Delegate Mallow.

**House Bill 4799**, To establish the cold case task force for the State of West Virginia

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

At this moment, Chairman Mallow ceded the Chair to Delegate Akers.

**House Bill 4850**, Providing online training for Executors/Executrix of an Estate

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.

**House Bill 5341**, To create a domestic violence registry

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

On motion of Delegate Mallow, the committee adjourned.

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Delegate JB Akers  
Committee Chair

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Mr. Daniel Osborne  
Senior Clerk