



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 18, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 18, 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, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates 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 5406 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bills 5444 and 5454 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 5449 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bills 5401 and 5416 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

House Bill 4603, Relating to the creation of the process of obtaining and adjudicating a pre-adjudicatory alternative disposition

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 Roop, an amendment to the proposed committee substitute was offered.

Without objection, Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Roop for purposes of explaining the amendment in lieu of having it read. Chairman Akers called for questions regarding the amendment.

Questions from the committee members followed. 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 4603 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 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 4656 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 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 4799 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 4842, Relating to civil remedies for the unauthorized disclosure of intimate images

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 4842 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 4850, Providing online training for Executors/Executrix of an Estate

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 4850 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 5341, To create a domestic violence registry

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 5341 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 5401, Relating to voting in West Virginia elections while residing overseas

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

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

House Bill 5406, Relating to driving under the influence

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

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

House Bill 5416, To ensure continuity of title, protection of third parties, and orderly transition from trustee-base governance to corporate governance for churches and religious organizations

Without objection, Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

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

House Bill 5444, Relating to increasing the amount of fees to be paid by parolees for supervision

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

House Bill 5449, Repealing the Addiction Treatment Pilot Program

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

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

House Bill 5454, Relating to the select committee for the West Virginia Fusion Center

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