



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 20, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 20, 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, Roop, Shamblin, Ward, B., and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegate 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 5162 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Legal Services has had under consideration House Bill 5227 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

**House Bill 5471**, To provide pay increases to members of the judiciary

Without objection, Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and passage. Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for 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 5471 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion.

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

Chairman Maynor recognized Delegate Akers for purposes of requesting a ruling from the Chair pursuant to House Rule 49 on his eligibility to vote on the motion. Chairman Maynor ruled that Delegate Akers was a member of a class greater than five individuals and therefore would be eligible to vote on the motion.

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

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 4604, Relating to relating abuse and neglect cases**

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 for 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 4604 to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion.

Chairman Akers recognized Delegates Masters and Funkhouser for purposes of seeking a ruling from the Chair pursuant to House Rule 49 on their eligibility to vote on the motion. Chairman Akers ruled that Delegates Masters and Funkhouser were members of a class greater than five individuals and therefore would be eligible to vote 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 4962, Drug-Related Nuisances**

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 4962 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 5067**, Relating to the powers and duties of the director of the Division of Administrative Services

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 5067 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 5162**, Relating to the sales of tax liens

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 remaining under oath, Ms. Taylor Bennett, Abandoned Properties Coalition, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

**Committee Substitute for House Bill 5086**, Relating to peer support services

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.

**House Bill 5227**, Providing for the amount the Secretary of State may charge for a bad check fee

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. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

**House Bill 5554**, To modify the building fund for state parties

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. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

**House Bill 5652**, Relating to the hotel occupancy tax

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

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Delegate JB Akers  
Committee Chair

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Mr. Daniel Osborne  
Senior Clerk