



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 23, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 23, 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, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Shamblin, Ward, B., and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Heckert, Holstein, Hornby, Kump, and Roop.

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 Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bill 5060 and reports the same back to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

The House Subcommittee on Homeland Security has had under consideration House Bill 5351 and reports the same back, with amendment, to the Standing Committee on the Judiciary.

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

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 Committee Substitute for House Bill 5086 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 5227, Providing for the amount the Secretary of State may charge for a bad check fee**

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 5227 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.

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

**House Bill 5413**, Relating to the Central Abuse Registry

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.

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

Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. Phil Kaso, West Virginia Rational Sex Offender Legislation, provided remarks to the committee. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

**House Bill 4265**, Relating to authorizing the Department of Agriculture to promulgate a legislative rule relating to registration forms and tags for registration, taxation, and control of dogs

Without objection, the bill was advanced to markup and discussion.

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. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Ms. Allie Smith, Assistant Commissioner, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, answered questions from the committee members. 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 4265 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.

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