



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for February 25, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on February 25, 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, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Ward, B., and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Holstein, Kump, and Shamblin.

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.

House Bill 5319, Camping ban on certain public property

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 5319 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 5351, Relating to modernization of fees generated from emergency communication service users

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 5351 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 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 Funkhouser, and amendment to the proposed committee substitute was offered. Without objection, Delegate Funkhouser withdrew the amendment.

There being no further 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 5401 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 5557, The purpose of this bill is to require advertising materials be submitted with the initial public offering statement

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 5557 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 5660, Updates to obtaining a license to carry deadly weapons statute

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 5660 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 4538, Regarding limited use of equipment to enforce speed limits in Division of Highways work zones

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

House Bill 5060, Relating to Decentralized Unincorporated Nonprofit Associations

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Leavitt as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate Leavitt regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. Aiden Slavin, Andreessen Horowitz, answered questions from the committee members. Without objection and while remaining under oath, Mr. David Cook, Counsel, West Virginia Secretary of State's Office, answered questions from the committee members. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

House Bill 5484, Creating the crime of conspiracy to deny medical treatment to victim of sexual offense

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate White as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Delegate White regarding the bill. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Ms. Mikey Epling provided remarks to the committee. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

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

House Bill 5649, Relating to confidentiality of certain records pertaining to adults and facility residents
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.

On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, the committee adjourned.

Delegate JB Akers
Committee Chair

Mr. Daniel Osborne
Senior Clerk