



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for March 06, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on March 06, 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, and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegate Ward, B..

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.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 473, Creating felony offense of using electronic device to threaten violence

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, an amendment to the bill was offered.

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the proposed amendment. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the proposed amendment.

There being no amendments offered, Chairman Akers called for discussion on the proposed amendment. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers declared the amendment was approved. Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 473 to the floor, with amendment, with the recommendation that it do pass, as amended. 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.

Senate Bill 556, Modifying priority of insurance coverage for drivers of certain vehicles provided by entities

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 Senate Bill 556 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.

Senate Bill 796, Relating to distribution of West Virginia reports

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 Senate Bill 796 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.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 185, Allowing appointment of more than one chief deputy by sheriff

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 459, Ensuring meaningful contact between child and step-siblings

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 558, Relating to school bus safety violations by vehicle operators

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 643, Discontinuing WV Supreme Court of Appeals Public Campaign Financing Program

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 670, Adopting Uniform Protected Series Act

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Senate Bill 794, Relating to appeals of orders or decrees of adoption

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Senate Bill 944, Expanding categories of eligible federal law-enforcement officers authorized to enforce state laws

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Without objection and while remaining under oath, COL Scott Applegate, West Virginia National Guard, provided remarks to and answered questions from the committee. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 947, Providing birth certificate copies to homeless individuals under 18

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 1026, Increasing criminal penalties and fines for disturbing religious worship

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. Eli Baumwell, ACLU of West Virginia, provided remarks to and answered questions from the committee. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

On motion of Delegate Mallow, the committee adjourned.

Delegate JB Akers
Committee Chair

Mr. Daniel Osborne
Senior Clerk