



# West Virginia House of Delegates

## Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for March 08, 2026, 4:00 PM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on March 08, 2026, at 4:00 PM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M with Delegate Akers in the Chair.

Members present: Delegates Fluharty, Hansen, Cannon, Ferrell, Flanigan, Funkhouser, Heckert, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Martin, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Shamblin, and Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Butler and 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 459, Ensuring meaningful contact between child and step-siblings**

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 Senate Bill 459 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 558, Relating to school bus safety violations by vehicle operators**

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. 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 558 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.

**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 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 Senate Bill 643 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 670, Adopting Uniform Protected Series Act**

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 670 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 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 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 794 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 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 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 Senate Bill 944 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 947, Providing birth certificate copies to homeless individuals under 18**

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. 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 947 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.

**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 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. 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 1026 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.

**Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 54, Establishing criminal penalties for abuse or neglect of incapacitated adults**

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and while

remaining under oath, Ms. Angela Vance, AARP, provided remarks to and answered questions from the committee. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

**Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 506**, Permitting certain use of county-owned wireless tower  
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 651**, Relating to sale of certain properties subject to delinquent tax liens

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, the following individuals provided remarks to and answered questions from the committee: Mr. Mark Hunt, State Auditor, West Virginia State Auditor's Office; Ms. Samantha Childers, Chief Tax Deputy, Cabell County; and Mr. Scott Caudill, General Counsel, West Virginia State Auditor's Office. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

**Senate Bill 900**, Including certain correctional facilities as "targeted facility"

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 1008**, Relating to statute of limitations for asbestos and silica litigation

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and having been placed under oath by Chairman Akers, Mr. Brian Prim, Prim Law Firm, provided remarks to and answered questions from the committee. 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