



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for March 10, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on March 10, 2026, 9:00 AM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M.

Members present: Delegates 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 Fluharty.

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 937, Establishing community-based child welfare system program

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. On motion of Delegate Hansen, an amendment to the amendment was offered.

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Hansen for purposes of explaining the proposed amendment to the amendment. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, the motion to amend the amendment was tabled. Chairman Akers called for further amendments to the amendment.

There being no amendments offered, Chairman Akers called for discussion on the primary 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 937 to the floor, with amendment, with the recommendation that it do pass as amended, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance. 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.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 197, Relating to crime of sexual abuse by parent, guardian, custodian, or person in position of trust to child

Chairman Akers recognized Senator Weld as the lead sponsor for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions for Senator Weld. Questions from the committee members followed. Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and discussion.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 928, Relating to manufacture, sale, and distribution of low-proof spirit alcohol products

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 928 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 put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. A vote by division was requested. With the result of the division being ten ayes, ten nays, and four members absent or not voting, the motion was lost and Chairman Akers declared the bill rejected.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 4, Relating to crimes against public justice

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. On motion of Delegate Hornby, an amendment to the amendment was offered.

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Hornby for purposes of explaining the proposed amendment to the amendment. Chairman Akers called for discussion on the motion. Chairman Akers put the question before the committee on adoption of the motion. The motion was lost and the proposed amendment to the amendment was rejected. Chairman Akers called for further amendments to the amendment.

There being no amendments offered, Chairman Akers called for discussion on the primary amendment. 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 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 4 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 59, Relating to voter eligibility and residency requirements

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 59 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 182, Relating to annexation by minor boundary adjustment

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Senate Bill 182 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 200, Increasing criminal penalties and fines for assault on certain public service workers, law-enforcement officers, and police animals

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 200 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 440, 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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 440 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.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 481, Relating to elections

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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 481 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.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 531, Establishing First Amendment Preservation Act

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 531 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 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 amendments to the bill. On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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. On motion of Delegate Ward, Chairman Akers declared the bill would lie over.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 723, Clarifying law-enforcement cooperation with bordering states

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 723 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 800, Clarifying law-enforcement cooperation with bordering states

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the bill. On motion of Delegate Mallow, 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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 800 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 281, Authorizing Department of Homeland Security to promulgate legislative rules

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Mallow for purposes of asking unanimous consent to suspend House Rule 83b and immediately advance the bill to markup and passage. Without objection, Chairman Akers ordered the bill to markup and passage.

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 Delegate Mallow for purposes of making a motion.

Delegate Mallow moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 281 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.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 499, Requiring auto accident toxicology test be performed

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 575, Relating to refusal review hearings

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.

On motion of Delegate Mallow, the committee adjourned.

Delegate JB Akers
Committee Chair

Mr. Daniel Osborne
Senior Clerk