



West Virginia House of Delegates

Standing Committee on the Judiciary

Minutes for March 11, 2026, 9:00 AM

Pursuant to the call of the Chair, the Standing Committee on the Judiciary met on March 11, 2026, at 9:00 AM, in the House Judiciary Committee Room 410-M with Delegate Akers in the Chair.

Members present: Delegates Hansen, Butler, Cannon, Ferrell, Flanigan, Funkhouser, Hillenbrand, Holstein, Hornby, Jennings, Kimble, Mallow, Marple, Masters, Maynor, Phillips, Ridenour, Roop, Ward, B., Chairman Akers.

Members absent: Delegates Fluharty, Heckert, Martin, 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.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 651, Relating to sale of certain properties subject to delinquent tax liens (*lied over*)

Chairman Akers recognized Delegate Mallow for purposes of asking for unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment under consideration. Without objection, the amendment was withdrawn.

Chairman Akers called for questions of 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: Sheriff Robert Eggleton, Putnam County; Ms. Kelli Talbot, Counsel, West Virginia Department of Education; and Ms. Kelly Palmer, West Virginia Tax Deputies Association. Without objection and while remaining under oath, the following individuals provided remarks to and answered questions from the committee members: Ms. Samantha Childers, Chief Tax Deputy, Cabell County; and Mr. Scott Caudill, General Counsel, West Virginia State Auditor's Office. Chairman Akers recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of making a motion.

Vice-Chairman Maynor moved to report Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 651 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 to report the bill. The motion was lost and Chairman Akers declared the bill was rejected.

Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 985, Relating to registration and enforcement of kratom products

Chairman Aker recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of asking for unanimous consent to suspend House Rule 83b and immediately advance the bill to markup and passage. Without objection, Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and passage.

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the bill. Chairman Akers called for questions of counsel. Questions from the committee members followed. Without objection and while remaining under oath, Ms. Amy Minor, West Virginia Department of Agriculture, answered questions from the committee members. 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 985 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 to report the bill. The motion was adopted and Chairman Akers ordered the bill to be reported as moved.*

Senate Bill 793, Relating to courthouse closures on certain days

Chairman Aker recognized Vice-Chairman Maynor for purposes of asking for unanimous consent to suspend House Rule 83b and immediately advance the bill to markup and passage. Without objection, Chairman Akers advanced the bill to markup and passage.

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 793 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 Joint Resolution 9, Citizenship Requirement to Vote in West Virginia Elections Amendment

Chairman Akers recognized counsel for purposes of explaining the resolution. Chairman Akers called for amendments to the resolution. On motion of Vice-Chairman Maynor, an amendment to the resolution 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 Joint Resolution 9 to the floor, with amendment, with the recommendation that it be adopted as amended. Chairman Akers called for

* The two Chairs having conferred, Committee Substitute for Senate Bill 985 was reported to the floor with the recommendation that it do pass and that the second reference of the bill to the Committee on Finance be dispensed with.

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 resolution to be reported as moved.

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

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 Senate Bill 197 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 499, Requiring auto accident toxicology test be performed

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 499 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 575, Relating to refusal review hearings

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 575 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 705, Creating offense of theft by conversion

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 Senate Bill 705 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.

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

Delegate JB Akers

Committee Chair

Mr. Daniel Osborne

Senior Clerk