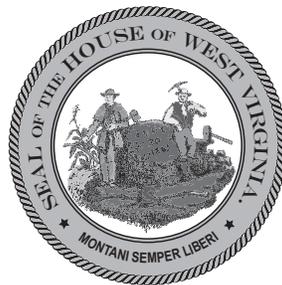


West Virginia Legislature

JOURNAL
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HOUSE of DELEGATES

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January 16, 2026
THIRD DAY

Friday, January 16, 2026

THIRD DAY

[DELEGATE HANSHAW, MR. SPEAKER, IN THE CHAIR]

The House of Delegates was called to order by the Honorable Roger Hanshaw, Speaker.

Prayer was offered and the House was led in recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of Thursday, January 15, 2026, being the first order of business, when the further reading thereof was dispensed with and the same approved.

Resolutions Introduced

A Resolution was introduced and referred as follows:

By Delegate Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker):

H.C.R. 3 – “House Infrastructure Naming Resolution”; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Rules.

Bills Introduced

On motions for leave, bills were introduced and severally referred as follows:

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, further reading of the bills was dispensed with and each bill was considered as formally introduced and referred to the appropriate committees as indicated on the Chamber Automation System.

By Delegate Burkhammer:

H. B. 4397 - “A Bill to amend and reenact §29-22E-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the percentage amount for the privilege of holding a license to operate interactive wagering”; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegate Burkhammer:

H. B. 4398 - “A Bill to amend and reenact §29-22D-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the percentage amount for the privilege of holding a license to operate sports wagering”; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates D. Smith, Crouse, Hillenbrand, Ridenour, Sheedy, Watt, Gearheart, Marple, Pritt and Heckert:

H. B. 4399 - “A Bill to amend and reenact §11-13MM-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to disabled veteran taxpayers; and clarifying the definition of a ‘disabled veteran taxpayer’”; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Riley:

H. B. 4400 - “A Bill to amend and reenact §5A-3-10, §5A-6-2, §11-8-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a two new sections, designated §5A-3-10f and §5A-6-4f, relating generally to procurement by state spending units and local fiscal

bodies of technology and technical infrastructure products and services; modifying process for procurement of technical infrastructure by state spending units; and permitting local fiscal bodies to enter into multi-year technology license service agreements with justification"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Riley, Maynor, McCormick and Heckert:

H. B. 4401 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §21A-1A-28 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; referring to unemployment compensation; and modifying the calculation of the taxable wage base"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Heckert, Foggin and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4402 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §7-14F-1, §7-14F-2, §7-14F-3, §7-14F-4, §7-14F-5, §7-14F-6, §7-14F-7, §7-14F-8, and §7-14F-9, relating to school protection officers; creating authority to hire officers; clarifying the requirements to become an officer; establishing police powers and duties; creating criminal penalties; clarifying jurisdiction; authorizing grants; providing removal procedure; including a severability clause; and providing limitations on liability"; to the Committee on Education then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert, Amos and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4403 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-5AA-1, §16-5AA-2, §16-5AA-3, §16-5AA-4, §16-5AA-5, §16-5AA-6, §16-5AA-7, and §16-5AA-8, relating to homeless shelters; providing legislative findings and title; authorizing rule making authority; providing definitions; establishing uniform oversight, registration, and enforcement standards for all homeless shelters operating in the State of West Virginia; providing an effective date; and creating civil penalties"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert, Hillenbrand, Amos and Foggin:

H. B. 4404 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §8-15-8b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the allowance for volunteer and part-volunteer fire companies and departments to make an expenditure for educational and training supplies and fire prevention promotional materials from \$500 to \$5,000 per year"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Heckert and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4405 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §29-21-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to public defender corporations; expanding the reasons that an executive director may create, merge, or dissolve a public defender corporation, and requiring the executive director to split existing public defender corporations into two separate, and independent public defender corporations, governed by the same board of directors, when the executive director determines that a public defender corporation employs six or more assistant public defenders, inclusive of the public defender"; to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.

By Delegate Heckert:

H. B. 4406 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-2-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to formerly incarcerated individuals' voting rights; and eliminating restrictions to voting rights following an individual's release from incarceration through pardon, probation, parole, or completion of sentence"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert, Hillenbrand and Amos:

H. B. 4407 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-4-605 and §49-4-610 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to limiting the number of improvement periods a parent may have per child or actions in abuse and neglect proceedings"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4408 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-22-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adjusting the percentage of tax retained by the clerk of the county commission for certain purposes; and authorizing the clerk to move funds between accounts with approval of the county commission"; to the Committee on Government Organization then Finance.

By Delegates Heckert, Hillenbrand and Amos:

H. B. 4409 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §62-1D-3a, relating to the enforcement of two-party consent for legislative offices; and creating an expectation of privacy in legislative offices"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4410 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-12-1, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §17C-1-72, relating to defining 'on-track equipment'; and clarifying provisions related to obedience to signal indicating approach of train"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Chiarelli and Browning:

H. B. 4411 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §61-3B-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to trespassing on premises of an institution of higher education"; to the Committee on Education then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Chiarelli and Pinson:

H. B. 4412 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new chapter, designated §49A-1-101, §49A-1-102, §49A-1-103, §49A-1-104, §49A-1-105, §49A-1-106, and §49A-1-107, relating to creating liability for publishers and distributors of sexual material harmful to minors; providing definitions; relating to what constitutes reasonable age verification; providing exceptions to applicability of this article; requiring a commercial entity that provides pornography and other materials defined as being harmful to minors as a substantial portion of the entity's content to verify the age of individuals accessing the material and establishing liability and a cause of action; for the retention of data; imposing liability for publishers and distributors of material harmful to minors who fail to comply with verification requirements; imposing liability for publishers and distributors of material that is obscene or child pornography; and providing that an internet service provider or hosting entity is not liable for hosting or transmitting material harmful to minors to the extent that it is not the creator of the material; providing a five year statute of limitations to these civil actions; relating to certain civil actions allowable by the Attorney General, relating to remedy of civil penalties, relating to how amount of civil penalties are to be based; relating to a five year statute of limitations for civil actions relating for Attorney General civil actions; relating to rule-making authority of the Office of Technology; relating to enforcement of the provisions of this article; and relating to a severability section"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Chiarelli and Browning:

H. B. 4413 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, as amended, by repealing §16-64-1, §16-64-2, §16-64-3, §16-64-4, §16-64-5, §16-64-6, §16-64-7, §16-64-8, §16-64-9, and §16-64-10, and by amending said code by adding a new article, designated §16-64A-1, §16-64A-2, §16-64A-3, and §16-64A-4; and to amend said code relating to syringe exchange services programs; defining terms; making syringe exchange service programs unlawful; setting date for closure of existing programs; permitting harm reduction services to continue to operate provided no syringe services are provided; allowing for an administrative timeframe for referral; requiring the imposition of fees for noncompliance; and permitting injunctive relief"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Chiarelli and Young:

H. B. 4414 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §15-12-2, §15-12-3, §15-12-4, §15-12-5, §15-12-7, §15-12-8, and §15-12-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §15-12-2b; relating to the Sex Offender Registration Act; clarifying registration requirements; removing definitions; and clarifying how those required to register sex offenders, who have no permanent residence, can satisfy their legal obligation"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Green, Jeffries, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Pinson, Funkhouser, Butler, Brooks, Marple, Hott, Browning and Ward:

H. B. 4415 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §61-5-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to federal correctional institutions; adding federal correctional institutions to the list of correctional facilities in which it is a criminal offense to deliver anything unlawfully to a person in custody or confined therein"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegate Hott:

H. B. 4416 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding two new sections, designated §11-8-5a and §11-15-8e, relating to taxation; classifying forestry equipment as Class I property; recognizing forestry as a component of agriculture essential to this state's economy; defining forestry equipment; exempting the sale of forestry equipment from the consumers sales and service tax; and providing for effective dates"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Mallow:

H. B. 4417 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-29 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to general provisions and voting definitions; and changing the definition reference of 'precinct' to 'polling location'; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates McCormick, Riley, Maynor, Kyle, Browning and Criss:

H. B. 4418 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §8-13-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to creating the 'The Tax Efficiency Act of 2026' allowing municipal business and occupation or privilege tax to be paid and managed via the statewide electronic data processing system network"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Gearheart, Canterbury, Brooks, Butler, Pritt and Criss:

H. B. 4419 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-16A-13 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring certain non-discretionary procedures be strictly complied with by the West Virginia Parkways Authority before tolls, rents, fees, or charges may be increased"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Gearheart, Ellington, Hall, Brooks, Pritt, Butler, Campbell, Moore and Criss:

H. B. 4420 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-16A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying the composition of the West Virginia Parkways Authority"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Gearheart, Ellington, Hall, Brooks, Pritt, Stephens, Butler, Moore, Jeffries and Criss:

H. B. 4421 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17-16A-31, relating to providing guidelines for the West Virginia Parkways Authority to cease tolls on the West Virginia Turnpike upon completion of all bond payments"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Gearheart, Ellington, Cooper, Linville, Hott, Pritt, Stephens, Brooks, Roop, Butler and Campbell:

H. B. 4422 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-39 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting students in eighth and ninth grades to attend summer school in order to raise their grades and establish academic eligibility to play sports in the fall"; to the Committee on Education.

By Delegates Gearheart, Hott, Pritt and Roop:

H. B. 4423 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-22-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to outdoor advertising; and removing specific statutory restrictions on outdoor advertisement"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Gearheart, Cooper, Hott, Brooks, Roop, Butler, Campbell, Barnhart and Moore:

H. B. 4424 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §20-2-15 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to wildlife resources; and permitting landowners or lessees of land whose land is damaged by deer or other wildlife to hire a third party to kill the deer or other wildlife by bow and arrow"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Gearheart, Pritt, Stephens, Roop and Campbell:

H. B. 4425 - "A Bill to repeal §18-2-25e of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to athletic eligibility of transfer students"; to the Committee on Education.

By Delegates Gearheart, Ellington, Canterbury, Brooks, Pritt and Campbell:

H. B. 4426 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-16A-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to ensuring that funding to counties named in this section from the State Road Construction Account does not affect any other funding received by those counties from the State Road Fund"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

By Delegates Gearheart, Canterbury, Brooks and Butler:

H. B. 4427 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §12-2-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the forfeiture of unencumbered funds in special revenue accounts and repayment of certain percentages of the special revenue accounts to the General Revenue Fund, if these accounts have been inactive for designated periods; and prohibiting expenditures from these accounts pending the forfeiture of the funds"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Gearheart, Canterbury, Cooper and Butler:

H. B. 4428 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §12-2-2a, relating to requiring a transfer from reappropriated revenue accounts to General Revenue Fund"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Gearheart, Ellington, Cooper, Roop and Butler:

H. B. 4429 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §62-11G-1, §62-11G-2, §62-11G-3, §62-11G-4, §62-11G-5, §62-11G-6, and §62-11G-7, relating to creating a pilot work/incarceration prison; providing a short title; specifying offenders who are eligible to participate; establishing one work/incarceration prison; authorizing the Division of Corrections to propose rules for the operation and reporting of the work/incarceration prison; allowing a reduction in the sentence of an offender sentenced to the work/incarceration prison; providing that a serious violation of the rules result in an additional sentence; specifying a suggested appropriation; allowing the admittance of offenders from other counties; and requiring the evaluation of the work/incarceration prison"; to the Committee on the Judiciary then Finance.

By Delegates Gearheart, Canterbury, Brooks, Pritt and Butler:

H. B. 4430 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-16A-10, §17-16A-21, and §17-16A-25 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to eliminating the authority of the West Virginia Parkways Authority to issue further parkway revenue, parkway revenue refunding, or special obligation bonds after July 1, 2026; and providing that subsequent to that date, no new bonds may be issued"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

By Delegates Gearheart, Ellington, Canterbury, Brooks, Pritt, Butler and Criss:

H. B. 4431 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-16A-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the approval of the Legislature and the Governor before additional bonds may be issued by the Parkways Authority; and requiring tolls to be removed six months following removal of encumbrances for the bonds"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

By Delegates Gearheart, Ellington, Linville, Brooks, Butler and Pritt:

H. B. 4432 - "A Bill to amend and re-enact §37-15-2 and §37-15-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to house trailers, mobile homes, manufactured homes, and modular homes; providing definitions; and establishing certain tenant protections and landlord notice requirements"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Ridenour, Butler, Mallow, Martin, Hillenbrand, Ward, Kimble and Jennings:

H. B. 4433 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §61-14-1, §61-14-2, §61-14-3, §61-14-4, §61-14-5, §61-14-6, §61-14-7, and §61-14-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to human trafficking, adding a definition for 'illegal alien'; general provisions; increasing penalties; creating new crimes; and providing that illegal aliens are not eligible for restitution"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Ridenour, Martin, Ward, Hillenbrand, Kimble, Green, Jennings, Roop, Funkhouser, Kump and Phillips:

H. B. 4434 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §61-5A-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to bribery and corrupt practices; creating criminal penalties; and clarifying when a person is disqualified from holding office"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Ridenour, Butler, Martin, Hillenbrand, Ward, Marple, Kimble, Jennings, Funkhouser, Kump and Phillips:

H. B. 4435 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-4A-28 and §3-6-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the percentage of precincts to be audited during the election canvass and amending the period of time a candidate is allotted to demand a recount following the declaration of results at the conclusion of the election canvass"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegate Bell:

H. B. 4436 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-802 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring all interviews of children for abuse and neglect investigations take place at Child Advocacy Centers"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Sheedy, D. Cannon, McCormick, Adkins, Green, Watt, Vance, Clay, Willis, Jennings and Cooper:

H. B. 4437 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-3-14b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing for one free Gold Star Family license plate to Gold Star parents"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Bell, G. Howell, Willis, Sheedy and Stephens:

H. B. 4438 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18A-2B-1, §18A-2B-2, §18A-2B-3, and §18A-2B-4, relating to pertaining to sexual abuse prevention screening, hiring, and dismissal requirements for all school employees and contractors who work at schools"; to the Committee on Education then the Judiciary.

By Delegate Statler:

H. B. 4439 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16-4C-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the emergency medical services equipment and training fund; creating a special court cost fee on certain criminal convictions dedicated to the fund; and providing that state grants are available from this fund to local emergency medical services providers contingent on a matching contribution"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Statler:

H. B. 4440 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16-9A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting law enforcement to issue a citation when a student enrolled in a public school or public charter school possesses nicotine in those schools"; to the Committee on Education then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Sheedy, Willis and Cooper:

H. B. 4441 - "A Bill to amend and reenact 17E-1-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adding the ability to read and speak the English language as a requirement for obtaining a commercial driver's license in this state"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegate Sheedy:

H. B. 4442 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §5-10-15a, §5-10-21, and §29-6-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to retirement; and creating exemptions for Tier II employees making less than \$75,000 to use annual and sick leave upon retirement and the Rule of 80; and exempting employees making \$75,000 or more from classified coverage"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Sheedy, D. Cannon and Green:

H. B. 4443 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §8-10-2b and §17B-3-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to providing a municipal court clerk the ability to suspend the driver's license if a person has failed to enter into a payment plan or pay towards his or her costs, fines, forfeitures, restitution, or penalties in a certain time period following judgment"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Funkhouser, Brooks, Kimble and Ridenour:

H. B. 4444 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §3-1-53, relating to state delegates; establishing penalties for any delegate who deviates from his or her authority at a convention of states, including recall, fine, criminal penalties, and void of any vote"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Mallow, Horst, Ridenour, Masters, Ferrell, Barnhart, Sheedy, Hite and Watt:

H. B. 4445 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-15-9u of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating sales and service tax exemption for small arms and small arms accessories"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Mallow, Statler, Jennings, Dittman and Ridenour:

H. B. 4446 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by adding a new article, designated §18B-3G-1, §18B-3G-2, and §18B-3G-3, relating to firefighter education; creating a firefighter education pilot program; providing findings and purpose; providing definitions; establishing requirements for the pilot program; and providing a sunset date"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Funkhouser, Ridenour, Horst, Kimble and Masters:

H. B. 4447 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-3-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to absentee ballots; requiring applications for absentee ballots to be available at the office of the county clerk and online at the Secretary of State's official website; permitting first responders to vote by electronic absentee ballot in certain emergency circumstances; defining 'qualified first responder' and providing examples; providing for submittal and acceptance of qualified first responder absentee voting applications; providing for transmittal of ballots to qualified first responders; providing for processing of received electronic absentee ballots cast by qualified first responders; prohibiting an election official from providing an unsolicited application for absentee voting to any voter; prohibiting any person from providing more than 10 unsolicited applications for absentee voting to any voter; creating a misdemeanor penalty upon conviction for such prohibited activity; and providing exceptions"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Pritt, Funkhouser, Coop-Gonzalez, Mazzocchi, Ridenour, Chiarelli, T. Howell, Kimble, Horst and White:

H. B. 4448 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §61-8A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing bona fide schools, public libraries, and museums from the list of exemptions from criminal liability relating to distribution and display to minor of obscene matter"; to the Committee on Education then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Kump, Sheedy, Mallow, Bell, Ellington and Dean:

H. B. 4449 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-1-5, relating to permitting cameras in school classrooms; providing definitions; setting out camera placements; providing for retention of recordings; establishing notice provisions; creating confidentiality; establishing process for requests to review footage;

establishing process for appeals; authorizing school or LEA to accept gifts towards equipment; and authorizing rulemaking"; to the Committee on Education then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Brooks, Statler, Crouse, Chiarelli, Phillips, Heckert and Butler:

H. B. 4450 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-27 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing restrictions of taxpayers to access online curriculum of instructional materials; providing that taxpayers may inspect additional instructional materials adopted by the county boards of education pursuant to including books in a classroom; and removing restrictions of filing a complaint"; to the Committee on Education.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Ridenour, Heckert, Sheedy, Watt, Flanigan, White and Pritt:

H. B. 4451 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §62-16A-1, §62-16A-2, §62-16A-3, §62-16A-4, §62-16A-5, §62-16A-6, §62-16A-7, §62-16A-8, and §62-16A-9, relating to establishing the Veteran Justice Act; allowing conditional opportunity for veterans to avoid a record conviction, reduce a charge to misdemeanor, and obtain probation; providing definitions; establishing criteria for eligibility; creating incentives for participation; establishing training requirements; creating data collection and evaluation procedures; and establishing an effective date"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Chiarelli and Coop-Gonzalez:

H. B. 4452 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §35-1-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing 'Mortmain' restrictions on religious organizations"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Foggin, Shamblin, Heckert, Dean, Clark and Bell:

H. B. 4453 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-4-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the pay of teachers from 35 years of experience to 45 years of experience"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

By Delegates Funkhouser, Horst, Ridenour, Roop, Foggin and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4454 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-6B-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Homestead Property Tax Exemption; and increasing the Homestead Property Tax Exemption from \$20,000 to \$40,000"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Funkhouser, Horst, Ridenour, Roop, Foggin and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4455 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-6B-3 and §11-6B-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §11-8-6e, relating to taxation; providing for a phased-in increase in the homestead exemption; providing change to exemption contingent on passage of constitutional amendment; removing a cap on the property tax books, and repealing limitation on levy rates resulting in property tax increase"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Heckert, Hillenbrand, Flanigan and Hott:

H. B. 4456 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §15-10-3 and §15-10-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to cooperation of law-enforcement agencies; providing definitions; and clarifying the cooperation between law enforcement agencies and personnel of states bordering this state"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert, Foggin, Zatezalo, Anderson, Cooper, Flanigan, McCormick, Hite and Amos:

H. B. 4457 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-35 and §3-2-31 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting voters not affiliated with a major political party to vote the ballot of that political party in a primary election"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert, Chiarelli, Flanigan, Cooper, Hillenbrand and Hott:

H. B. 4458 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-67-1, §16-67-2, §16-67-3, §16-67-4, §16-67-5, §16-67-6, and §16-67-7, all relating to creating the Substance Abuse Intervention Act; providing for a short title; providing for involuntary treatment for a substance use disorder and setting forth the rights of a patient; establishing criteria for involuntary treatment; creating a petition for 60-day and 360-day involuntary treatment and a guarantee for costs; providing for proceedings for involuntary treatment; describing the duties of court, and disposition; setting forth a 72-hour emergency involuntary treatment; describing the failure to attend examination, setting forth a summons, and describing transportation to hospital or psychiatric facility; and providing that this bill shall be known as 'Joel's Law'; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert, Amos, Flanigan, Jennings, Chiarelli, Hillenbrand, Hott, McCormick and Funkhouser:

H. B. 4459 - "A Bill to repeal §19-12F-1, §19-12F-2, §19-12F-3, §19-12F-4, §19-12F-5, §19-12F-6, §19-12F-7, §19-12F-8, §19-12F-9, §19-12F-9a, §19-12F-10, and §19-12F-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend §60-10-1, §60-10-2, and §60A-2-204 of said code, relating to classifying kratom and its components as Schedule I controlled substances"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Horst, Kump, Ridenour, Rohrbach and Funkhouser:

H. B. 4460 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §8-18-22 and §16-13A-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to balancing urban and rural sewage treatment needs; providing exceptions to mandatory connections to public sewer systems for properties with functional onsite wastewater systems; allowing mandatory connections in densely populated areas where septic systems are impractical; providing an exemption for properties where the connection distance exceeds 200 feet; and providing financial assistance options for homeowners on fixed or limited incomes who are required to connect"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, Rohrbach, Linville, Brooks, Sheedy, Crouse, Butler, Shamblin, Cooper, Hall and Funkhouser:

H. B. 4461 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by adding a new section designated §46A-9-1, relating to service provider charges during service outages; providing a legislative purpose; providing definitions; clarifying billing practices of internet or telecommunication providers failing to provide service to customers; creating civil penalties; requiring certain data be provided to the commission and Attorney General; clarifying the rights of the consumer; and creating an exception"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Heckert, Mallow, Clay, Amos, Browning, Hillenbrand, B. Smith, Chiarelli, Stephens and Drennan:

H. B. 4462 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by adding a new section, designated §19-2B-10a; and to amend and reenact §19-39-1 and §19-2B-2, all relating to banning the sale of cell-cultured products for human consumption; removing definitions and

labeling requirements; and correcting numbering"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Clark, Funkhouser, Masters, Horst, Miller, Flanigan, Ridenour, Roop, Pritt and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4463 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §30-17-5, §30-17-8, §30-17-9 and §30-17-12 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to modifying rules related to the Board of Sanitarians; authorizing online training; establishing time limit on certain training; clarifying that a Registered Sanitarian may license individuals fulfilling requirements; and requiring board adopt reciprocity standards by May 1, 2026. "; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Kyle and McCormick:

H. B. 4464 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §24C-1-2, §24C-1-2a, §24C-1-3, and §24C-1-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating generally to Underground Facilities Damage prevention"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Foggin, Shamblin, Dean, Heckert and Bell:

H. B. 4465 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-4-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to making the pay of substitute teachers the same as a full time teacher"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

By Delegates Pritt, Clay and Brooks:

H. B. 4466 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §60-6-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to making it a misdemeanor to being under the impairment of narcotics in public; and providing for criminal penalties and education upon conviction thereof"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Pritt, Crouse, Brooks, Drennan, Coop-Gonzalez, Dittman, Moore, T. Howell, White, Mazzocchi and Kimble:

H. B. 4467 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18A-4-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to permitting pregnant women and mothers of newborn children who are employees of a public school system in this state to utilize the sick leave bank"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

By Delegates Coop-Gonzalez, Akers, Parsons and McGeehan:

H. B. 4468 - "A Bill to repeal §61-8B-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to confidentiality of court files and law-enforcement records"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Sheedy, Mallow, Ferrell, Crouse, Hillenbrand, Green, D. Cannon, Heckert and Bell:

H. B. 4469 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §30-13A-11 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to county surveyors; providing a definition; and requiring county surveyors to be state residents"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Hillenbrand, T. Howell, Kimble, Funkhouser, Moore and D. Cannon:

H. B. 4470 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding two new sections, designated §3-1-32a and §3-4A-27a, relating to requiring election officials to capture and publish ballot images; provide voters with the ability to affix a unique mark on their ballot to identify; and verify their ballot cast in a statewide election in West Virginia"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Green, Hott, Linville, Heckert, Moore, Jeffries, Zatezalo, Martin, Brooks, Hillenbrand and Mallow:

H. B. 4471 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §37-6-30a, relating to landlord and tenant; and requiring approved sewage systems for all rental properties"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Statler, McCormick, Chiarelli and Street:

H. B. 4472 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §33-17-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying that commercial real property insurance policies may be underwritten for less than replacement cost value of the insured property"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Statler, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Ellington, Akers and Toney:

H. B. 4473 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §51-1-14, relating to rulemaking; providing the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeal's power to promulgate rules allowing for the limited practice of law by nonlawyers; and creating a task force to encourage the Supreme Court's use of such power"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hall, Drennan, Shamblin, G. Howell, Heckert, Browning, Amos, Hillenbrand and Campbell:

H. B. 4474 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16-5R-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to extending the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementia Advisory Council sunset date"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Delegates G. Howell, Canterbury, Cooper, Dittman, Burkhammer, Hite, Green, Masters, Ridenour, Ellington and Campbell:

H. B. 4475 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §29-37-1, relating to the creation of the Disaster Recovery Acceleration Act"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Hall, Shamblin and Amos:

H. B. 4476 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §11-29-1, §11-29-2, §11-29-3, §11-29-4, and §11-29-5, relating to taxes; creating the West Virginia for Common Cents Act; providing definitions; establishing transaction calculations; providing exceptions; and authorizing rules"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates G. Howell, Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker), Dittman, McGeehan, Hall, Canterbury, Hite, Masters, Ridenour, Ellington and Toney:

H. B. 4477 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1A-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding a new section, designated §5-3-7, all relating to requiring the Secretary of State to refer potential election fraud to the Attorney General for prosecution instead of a county prosecuting attorney; and providing the attorney general with prosecutorial power over county and municipal elected officials in certain circumstances"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates G. Howell, Ward, Dittman, Heckert, Kyle, Barnhart, Linville, Bell, Brooks, Funkhouser and Ellington:

H. B. 4478 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §55-7-33, relating to limiting liability of racing facilities for certain claims;

defining terms; creating time limits on actions; preempting local regulation; and setting an effective date"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates G. Howell, Canterbury, Cooper, Criss, Ward, Dittman, Hillenbrand, Hott, Campbell, Toney and J. Cannon:

H. B. 4479 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5B-12-1, §5B-12-2, §5B-12-3, §5B-12-4, §5B-12-5, §5B-12-6, §5B-12-7, and §5B-12-8, relating to in-state production of value added forest products; providing a purpose; providing definitions; establishing how tax credits are applied; clarifying eligibility and compliance standards; clarifying rulemaking authority; and creating civil penalties"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates G. Howell, Canterbury, Cooper, Ward, Dittman, Hillenbrand, Hott, Campbell, Toney and J. Cannon:

H. B. 4480 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-4-49 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend the code by adding one new section, designated §17-4-56, relating to the state road system; providing legislative findings; providing definitions; creating standards in determining a change of use of existing entrances; providing exemptions and a grandfather clause; removing permit requirements; clarifying the Division of Highways authority; and authorizing rules"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Akers and Riley:

H. B. 4481 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by adding a new article, designated §24-2J-1, §24-2J-2, §24-2J-3, §24-2J-4, §24-2J-5, and §24-2J-6, all relating to the creation of the Electric Load Forecast Accountability Act; providing for a short title; setting forth definitions; providing oversight for load forecasting; setting forth access to confidential documents; providing for annual reporting; and creating a sunset date"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates McCormick, Kyle, Riley, Akers and Maynor:

H. B. 4482 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-17-4b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to updating the state tax rates relating to e-cigarettes, e-cigarette liquids, vapor products, vaping systems, and components or accessories for such devices and increasing penalties for violations"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Amos, Browning and Heckert:

H. B. 4483 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §30-6-6, §30-6-7, §30-6-9, §30-6-15, §30-6-17, and §30-6-19, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all relating to modernization of funeral service licensure and administration; clarifying definitions and credentials; updating apprenticeship and continuing-education standards; and providing for rulemaking and transitional provisions"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Clark, Funkhouser, Masters, Horst, Flanigan, Ridenour, Roop, Miller, Phillips, Pritt and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 4484 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §7-3-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to county commissions; creating an exclusion; authorizing competitive bidding as an alternative to public auction for private entity sales; and clarifying the authority of the county commission to sell or lease property"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Bell, G. Howell and Stephens:

H. B. 4485 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-4-10f and §18B-7-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to allowing educators in the public school system or in the higher education system to donate leave to employees who use maternity leave; defining maternity leave; and setting forth the process for the leave transfer"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

Miscellaneous Business

Pursuant to House Rule 94b, forms were filed with the Clerk's Office to be added as a cosponsor of the following:

H. B. 4028: Delegate Fehrenbacher;

H. B. 4049: Delegates Clark, Dean, Hillenbrand, Kimble, Mallow, Martin, Masters, Phillips, Ridenour, and Ward;

H. B. 4106: Delegates Brooks, Dean, Holstein, Kimble, Mallow, Martin, Masters, Phillips, Ridenour, and Ward;

H. B. 4129: Delegates Clark, Dean, Hillenbrand, Kimble, Mallow, Martin, Masters, Phillips, Ridenour, and Ward;

H. B. 4152: Brooks, Clay, Crouse, Dittman, Drennan, Ferrell, Holstein, Kyle, Mazzocchi, and White;

H. B. 4153: Brooks, Crouse, Clay, Dittman, Drennan, Ferrell, Holstein, Mazzocchi, Pritt, and White;

H. B. 4154: Delegates Funkhouser and Hillenbrand;

H. B. 4162: Delegates Brooks, Clay, Crouse, Dittman, Drennan, Ferrell, Holstein, Mazzocchi, Pritt, and White;

H. B. 4163: Brooks, Clay, Crouse, Drennan, Ferrell, Foggin, Kimble, Mazzocchi, B. Smith, and White;

H. B. 4164: Brooks, Browning, Clay, Coop-Gonzalez, Ferrell, Foggin, Holstein, Kimble, B. Smith, and White;

H. B. 4176: Delegates Brooks, Burkhammer, Clark, Dean, Kimble, Martin, Masters, Phillips, Ridenour, and Ward

H. B. 4196: Delegate Jeffries;

H. B. 4352: Delegates Kimble and Heckert;

H. B. 4358: Delegates Kimble and Heckert;

H. B. 4390: Delegate Moore;

H. B. 4401: Delegate Fehrenbacher;

H. B. 4404: Delegate Fehrenbacher;

H. B. 4412: Delegate Funkhouser;

H. B. 4418: Delegate Fehrenbacher;

H. B. 4433: Delegates Akers, Kump, and Maynor;

H. B. 4449: Delegate Funkhouser;

H. B. 4459: Delegate Fehrenbacher;

H. B. 4460: Delegate Green;

H. B. 4474: Delegate Fehrenbacher;

And,

H. B. 4481: Delegate Fehrenbacher.

At 11:14 a.m., the House of Delegates adjourned until 11:00 a.m., Monday, January 19, 2026.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
JEFFREY PACK, Clerk
Building 1, Room M-212
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305-0470

SPECIAL CALENDAR

Monday, January 19, 2026

6th Day

11:00 A.M.

No Bills

HOUSE CALENDAR

Monday, January 19, 2026

6th Day

11:00 A.M.

No Bills

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

MONDAY, JANUARY 19, 2026

HOUSE CONVENES AT 11:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

9:00 A.M. – FINANCE COMMITTEE ROOM 460M

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

9:00 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS

9:30 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

10:00 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGAL SERVICES

10:30 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

1:00 P.M. – EAST WING COMMITTEE ROOM 215E

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

2:00 P.M. – EAST WING COMMITTEE ROOM 215E

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

1:30 P.M. – EDUCATION COMMITTEE ROOM 434M

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND PUBLIC WORKS

3:00 P.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

3:30 P.M. – EAST WING COMMITTEE ROOM 215E

HOUSE OF DELEGATES
JEFFREY PACK, Clerk
Building 1, Room M-212
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, WV 25305-0470