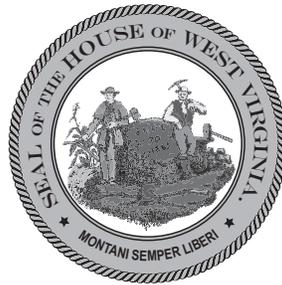


West Virginia Legislature

JOURNAL
of the
HOUSE of DELEGATES

Eighty-Seventh Legislature
Second Regular Session

Held at Charleston
Published by the Clerk of the House



January 19, 2026
SIXTH DAY

Monday, January 19, 2026

SIXTH 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 Friday, January 16, 2026, being the first order of business, when the further reading thereof was dispensed with and the same approved.

Committee Reports

Delegate Criss, Chair of the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

On motion for leave, a bill was introduced (Originating in the Committee on Finance and reported with the recommendation that it do pass) which was read by its title, as follows:

By Delegates McGeehan, Dean, Criss and Riley:

H. B. 4574 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-2-5i; and to amend said code by adding a new section, designated §18-2E-5b, all relating to providing for condition-based emergency funding for financially distressed counties; providing for definitions; setting forth a reserve threshold to be eligible for the fund; providing for conditions; providing for when charges may be proffered against a county officer or member of a board of education; providing for temporary funding supplement during intervention; providing for an effective date; providing a timeline of when funds are to be paid back; providing for a reversion to the general revenue account; establishing the fund; and providing that once the fund is established, the fund shall continue in existence for use by the State Board in the event the Legislature appropriates funds to meet other temporary county board shortfalls of funding."

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, the bill (H. B. 4574) was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time and ordered to second reading.

Upon motion of Delegate McGeehan, the constitutional rule requiring the bill to be fully and distinctly read on three different days be dispensed with and the bill be read a second and third time and put upon its passage.

On the question of dispensing with the constitutional rule requiring the bill to be fully and distinctly read on three different days, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 4**), and there were – yeas 90, nays 4. Absent and not voting 5, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Dillon, Kimble, Kump and Ward.

Absent and Not Voting: J. Cannon, Jordan, B. Smith, D. Smith and Williams.

So, four fifths of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the constitutional rule was dispensed with.

The bill (H. B. 4574) was then read a second time and ordered to third reading.

The bill (H. B. 4574) was then read a third time and put upon its passage.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 5**), and there were – yeas 91, nays 2. Absent and not voting 6, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Anders and Phillips.

Absent and Not Voting: Amos, J. Cannon, Jordan, B. Smith, D. Smith and Williams.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4574) passed.

Delegate McGeehan moved that the bill take effect from its passage.

On this question, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 6**), and there were—yeas 94, nays 0, absent and not voting 5, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: J. Cannon, Jordan, B. Smith, D. Smith and Williams.

So, two thirds of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4574) takes effect from its passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk of the House communicate to the Senate the action of the House of Delegates and request concurrence therein.

Delegate Criss, Chair of the Committee on Finance, submitted the following report, which was received:

On motion for leave, a bill was introduced (Originating in the Committee on Finance and reported with the recommendation that it do pass) which was read by its title, as follows:

By Delegates McGeehan, Dean, Criss and Riley:

H. B. 4575 - "A Bill supplementing and amending the appropriations of public moneys out of the Treasury from the balance of moneys remaining as an unappropriated surplus balance in the State Fund, General Revenue, to the State Board of Education -- State Department of Education, fund 0313, fiscal year 2026, organization 0402, by supplementing and amending the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026."

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, the bill (H. B. 4575) was taken up for immediate consideration, read a first time and ordered to second reading.

Upon motion of Delegate McGeehan, the constitutional rule requiring the bill to be fully and distinctly read on three different days be dispensed with and the bill be read a second and third time and put upon its passage.

On the question of dispensing with the constitutional rule requiring the bill to be fully and distinctly read on three different days, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 7**), and there were – yeas 90, nays 4. Absent and not voting 5, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Anders, Dillon, Kimble and Kump.

Absent and Not Voting: J. Cannon, Jordan, B. Smith, D. Smith and Williams.

So, four fifths of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the constitutional rule was dispensed with.

The bill (H. B. 4575) was then read a second time and ordered to third reading.

The bill (H. B. 4575) was then read a third time and put upon its passage.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 8**), and there were – yeas 92, nays 2. Absent and not voting 5, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Anders and Phillips.

Absent and Not Voting: Amos, J. Cannon, Jordan, B. Smith, D. Smith and Williams.

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4575) passed.

Delegate McGeehan moved that the bill take effect from its passage.

On this question, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 9**), and there were—yeas 94, nays 0, absent and not voting 5, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: J. Cannon, Jordan, B. Smith, D. Smith and Williams.

So, two thirds of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4575) takes effect from its passage.

Ordered, That the Clerk of the House communicate to the Senate the action of the House of Delegates and request concurrence therein.

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 bills introduced 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 Delegates Street, Hillenbrand, Masters, Riley, Toney, Rohrbach, Willis, Holstein, Linville, Hornby and Hott:

H. B. 4026 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §24-2-19 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to expanding the requirements for integrated resource plans utility companies

must file with the Public Service Commission to include comprehensive analyses and descriptions and describe current and potential future uses of advanced transmission technologies that detail economic and technological feasibility, optimization, reliability, and resiliency, and list other technologies designed to increase and optimize efficiency, safety, reliability, resilience, and capacity"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Ridenour, Martin, Butler, Mazzocchi, Hillenbrand, Ward, Holstein, Jennings, Kump, Maynor and Masters:

H. B. 4486 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §21-1B-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prohibiting companies and organizations from knowingly hiring illegal aliens and establishing fines for violations"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

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

H. B. 4487 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11A-1-3 of the Code of West Virginia, as amended, relating to allowing for monthly payments on current real and personal property taxes, with a mechanism to allow for minor charges for those that take advantage of spreading these taxes out over many months"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates G. Howell, Sheedy and Bell:

H. B. 4488 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; by adding a new article, designated §11-14D-1, §11-14D-2, and §11-14D-3, and to repeal §11-14C-1, §11-14C-2, §11-14C-3, §11-14C-4, §11-14C-5, §11-14C-6, §11-14C-6a, §11-14C-7, §11-14C-8, §11-14C-9, §11-14C-9a, §11-14C-10, §11-14C-11, §11-14C-12, §11-14C-13, §11-14C-14, §11-14C-15, §11-14C-16, §11-14C-17, §11-14C-18, §11-14C-19, §11-14C-20, §11-14C-21, §11-14C-22, §11-14C-23, §11-14C-24, §11-14C-25, §11-14C-26, §11-14C-27, §11-14C-28, §11-14C-29, §11-14C-30, §11-14C-31, §11-14C-32, §11-14C-33, §11-14C-34, §11-14C-35, §11-14C-36, §11-14C-37, §11-14C-38, §11-14C-39, §11-14C-40, §11-14C-41, §11-14C-42, §11-14C-43, §11-14C-44, §11-14C-45, §11-14C-46, §11-14C-47, and §11-14C-48 relating to the elimination of the motor fuel excise tax; providing legislative findings in support of the elimination of the motor fuel excise tax; establishing the elimination of the motor fuel excise tax and implementing an equivalent increase in sales tax collected; and providing for an effective date for the article"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates G. Howell, Bell, Jeffries and Street:

H. B. 4489 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16-5-5 and §16-5-29 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §16-5-39, relating to authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue certain vital records in the custody of the State Registrar; to require the Division of Motor Vehicles to adhere to the State Registrar's rules; authorize the Division of Motor Vehicles to collect a fee for issuing vital records and transmit those fees to the State Registrar monthly; and require the Commissioner of the Division of Health and Human Resources and Commissioner of the Division of Motor Vehicles to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to implement a program that allows the Division of Motor Vehicles access to certain vital records to issue to customers"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

By Delegates G. Howell, Sheedy, Jeffries and Willis:

H. B. 4490 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §6C-5-1, §6C-5-2, and §6C-5-3, relating to public employee customer service training; creating legislative findings; requiring customer service training to all employees of the State of West Virginia who interact with the public; and requiring regular course updates"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegate Riley:

H. B. 4491 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §24-2-1s, relating to certification by the Public Service Commission of advanced small modular and micro nuclear reactors; clarifying that the commission has authority and may issue and, as applicable, modify siting certificates and certificates of convenience and necessity for advanced small modular and micro nuclear reactors for the generation of electric power to the extent the authority is not preempted by federal law; and providing for rule making authority over the same to the extent the authority is not preempted by federal law"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Lucas, Crouse, Worrell, Kyle and Shamblin:

H. B. 4492 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §30-40-18 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the maximum amount of broker deposits"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Lucas, Clark, Crouse, Worrell, Kyle and Shamblin:

H. B. 4493 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §30-40A-1, §30-40A-2, and §30-40A-3, relating to creating the West Virginia Abolishment of Wholesaling Act; providing definitions; abolishing and prohibiting wholesaling in West Virginia; providing exception; and providing remedies and civil penalty for unlawful wholesaling"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Butler, Cooper, Masters, Ward, Pinson, Brooks, Dean, Dillon, Ridenour, Jennings and Dittman:

H. B. 4494 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §20-2-42aa, relating to providing an exemption for a non-resident landowner, their spouse and their children from the requirement of purchasing a non-resident hunting license while hunting on their land in this state"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Amos and Heckert:

H. B. 4495 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §8-40-1, relating to providing municipalities with the authority to regulate sober living housing within the cities, and requiring that applications must be submitted and approved by the city prior to the facility commencing its operations"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Flanigan, Brooks, Martin, Willis, Mallow, Butler, Akers, Maynor, Funkhouser, Roop and Hornby:

H. B. 4496 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article designated §46A-9-1, §46A-9-2, §46A-9-3, and §46A-9-4, relating to the disclosure of the use of artificial intelligence; defining terms; setting out disclosure requirements; enforcement; and creating civil penalties"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Amos and Heckert:

H. B. 4497 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18-2-47, relating to requiring tenth grade students to pass a college preparedness exam to qualify for publicly available financial aid for public colleges and universities in this state"; to the Committee on Education.

By Delegates Linville, Clark and Hornby:

H. B. 4498 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §19-13-3, §19-19-1, §19-19-2, §19-19-4, and §19-19-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and creating a new code section designated §19-19-2a; all relating to clarifying the Right to Farm Act relating to residential agricultural

operations, agritourism and the protection of agriculture through urban horticulture and beekeeping"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Funkhouser, Canterbury, Masters, Ridenour, Roop, Street, Hillenbrand, Coop-Gonzalez, Ward, Chiarelli and Flanigan:

H. B. 4499 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §54-2-9a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding two new sections, designated §54-2-9b and §54-2-9c, all relating to eminent domain; legislative findings; providing for enhanced compensation for property owners that is equal to twice the fair market value of the property taken, plus damages to any remaining property; and providing for how the enhanced compensation is determined"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hite, Hornby, Masters, Clark, Horst and Maynor:

H. B. 4500 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §7-22-9 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to county economic opportunity development districts; and to authorize the Berkeley County Commission to levy a special district excise tax for the benefit of the Berkeley County Economic Opportunity Development District"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Clark, Kump, Worrell, Hite, Funkhouser, Browning, Crouse and Horst:

H. B. 4501 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §30-35A-1, §30-35A-2, §30-35A-3, §30-35A-4, §30-35A-5, §30-35A-6, §30-35A-7, §30-35A-8, §30-35A-9, §30-35A-10, §30-35A-11, §30-35A-12, §30-35A-13, and §30-35A-14, relating to joining the Dietitian Licensure Compact Commission by the state of West Virginia; providing for a purpose; providing for definitions; providing requirements for state participation in the compact; requirements to exercise the compact privilege; requirements for a licensee to hold a home state license based on a compact privilege; requiring criminal background check and setting educational and other requirements for a licensed dietitian; authorizing member state to charge fee for granting compact privilege; providing for state participation in the compact; establishing the privilege to practice in member states; providing for change in primary state or residence procedures relating to licensing for active duty military personnel and their spouses; providing for procedures relating to duties, meetings, responsibilities, and adverse actions; establishing the dietitian licensure compact commission; providing for membership, powers and duties of the commission; and providing for an executive committee; providing for a data system available for use among the member states; providing for rulemaking authority of the commission; providing for dispute resolution, and enforcement provisions of the commission among the member states; providing for date of implementation among the member states; providing for applicability of the existing rules at the time a new member state joins the commission; providing for withdrawal of any member states and conditions that must be met until withdrawal is effective; providing for a six-month period before withdrawal is effective; providing for construction and severability of the provisions of the compact; and providing for a binding effect of the laws and rules of the compact among the member states"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Hott, Fehrenbacher, Chiarelli, Zatezalo, Anderson, Jennings, Heckert, Mallow, Green, G. Howell and Willis:

H. B. 4502 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-3-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to license plates; and authorizing the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a special registration plate for autism awareness"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Hott, Fehrenbacher, G. Howell, Martin, Mallow, Heckert and Dittman:

H. B. 4503 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-7-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring operators of vehicles to drive in rightmost portion or lane of roads or highways and exceptions thereto"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hott, Fehrenbacher, Martin, Willis, Mallow, Heckert and Dittman:

H. B. 4504 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §20-2-39, relating to rules for hunting antlered deer"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Hott, Chiarelli, Jennings, Mallow, Riley, Green, Brooks and Dittman:

H. B. 4505 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-5-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring each county school board to employ at least one full time school nurse for each public school"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

By Delegates Hott, Fehrenbacher, Anderson, Zatezalo, Chiarelli, Heckert, Mallow, Green, Willis, Martin and Brooks:

H. B. 4506 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2A-21 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to using accrued leave to acquire additional credited service toward retirement; clarifying that a leave day equals eight hours' leave; and granting members entering retirement system after July 1, 2015, the option to use leave days to acquire additional service for retirement"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Hott, Fehrenbacher, Chiarelli, Zatezalo, Jennings, Heckert, Mallow, Green, G. Howell, Brooks and Martin:

H. B. 4507 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-21-12o, relating to allowing a personal income tax exemption for the salaries of first responders"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Hott, Fehrenbacher, Riley, G. Howell, Mallow, Heckert, Jennings, Green and Dittman:

H. B. 4508 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended by adding a new section, designated §24-2-4i, relating to establishing the Public Utility Stability Act; which sets a process for rate increases for water and sewerage utilities"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates Hansen, Pushkin, Hornbuckle, Fluharty, Williams, Hamilton, Garcia and Lewis:

H. B. 4509 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §5b-2-21b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to restoring local jurisdiction to state political subdivisions over certain electric power facilities"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Brooks, Roop, Pritt, Green and Martin:

H. B. 4510 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16-3-4b of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prevention and control of communicable and other infectious diseases; and eliminating compulsory COVID-19 vaccinations for participation or employment in any organization that receives state dollars"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Delegates Brooks, Roop, Martin, Pritt, Green and Stephens:

H. B. 4511 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section designated §49-2-128a, relating to establishing a drug screening program for adults who apply to serve as foster parents, kinship parents, or caregivers to children in the legal custody of the Department of Human Services"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Brooks, Martin, Pritt and Green:

H. B. 4512 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-802 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to mandating audio recording during child protective services investigations

and interactions during visits"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Brooks, Martin, Pritt and Green:

H. B. 4513 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-21-12 and §20-7-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to taxes and Division of Natural Resource officers; providing a pension benefits exempt from income taxation; and including Division of Natural Resources police, deputy sheriffs, full-time firefighters, and municipal police officers into the class of law-enforcement officers exempted"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Brooks, Pritt, Green and Martin:

H. B. 4514 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §7-14D-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to computation of the final average salary of a member of the West Virginia Deputy Sheriff Retirement Fund based on the average of the highest annual compensation received for covered employment by the member in any three plan years within the member's last 10 years of service"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Ward, Burkhammer, Butler, White, Coop-Gonzalez, Pinson, Kimble, Ridenour, Bell, McGeehan and Jennings:

H. B. 4515 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §35-1-14, relating to disaffiliation from religious denominations; requiring a two-thirds vote of the membership for disaffiliation; establishing classes of property for purposes of disaffiliation; treating each separately deeded parcel of real property as a distinct unit for Class A purposes; providing that a local religious organization of a parent religious denomination or conference may retain ownership of each parcel of real property (Class A) if more than 50 percent of the costs for acquiring and improving that specific parcel were raised locally by or from the organization, subject to reimbursement of investments made by the parent religious denomination or conference; providing for ownership of chattel and personal property (Class B) based on the purchaser; providing for pro rata ownership of intangible property (Class C) based on sources of funds over a two-year lookback period; providing a catch-all provision for classification of property by a court, mediator, or arbitrator; establishing a burden of proof on the parent religious denomination or conference; requiring the parent religious denomination or conference to provide accounting within a specified timeline; providing for severability and application to a disaffiliation entered into or reaffirmed on or after the elective date; and generally relating to property of religious organizations"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegate Kump:

H. B. 4516 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §19-21A-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §19-21A-15, relating to adding a new definition; permitting conservation districts to partially reimburse certain services to septic tanks; creating a process for such reimbursements; and requiring funding for reimbursements"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Brooks, Pritt and Martin:

H. B. 4517 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11-21-97 and §11-24-44 of the Code of West Virginia, as amended, relating to maximizing utility and accessibility of West Virginia's child care tax credit for employers by extending this credit to employer-sponsored daycare facilities accessible to the work site in addition to on-site, fully employer-provided day cares"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then Finance.

By Delegates Brooks, Pritt, Martin and Green:

H. B. 4518 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-16D-15 and §17A-4-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to single fee discount plans; and requiring the Division of

Motor Vehicle to update Parkways Authority when a person who uses the single fee discount plan updates their vehicle information"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Brooks, Pritt, Martin and Green:

H. B. 4519 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §62-1C-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to requiring cash bail for violent or gun-related criminal offenses and providing for consecutive sentencing for crimes committed while on bail for violent or gun-related criminal offenses"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Brooks, Roop, Pritt, Martin and Green:

H. B. 4520 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §20-5-25, relating to parks and recreations; and providing West Virginia residents a 25 percent discount for lodging and services at West Virginia State Parks"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Brooks, Roop, Horst, Pritt, Green and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker):

H. B. 4521 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §15A-3-16 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring the state to reimburse a county for inmate costs when a conviction of an inmate results in credit for time served towards any sentence imposed"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Ridenour, Martin, Butler, Hillenbrand, Ward, Mallow, Jennings, Roop, Kump, Phillips and Masters:

H. B. 4522 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §3-1D-1, §3-1D-2, and §3-1D-3, relating to foreign donations towards elections; providing definitions; creating criminal penalties; requiring certification be provided to Secretary of State; provide records be maintained and published on website; requiring quarterly reports; providing rule-making ability; and establishing enforcement power and a private cause of action"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Ridenour, Ward, Mallow, Marple, Jennings, Funkhouser, Kump, Martin, Masters, Coop-Gonzalez and Mazzocchi:

H. B. 4523 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-5-6a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to primary elections and nominating procedures; and moving the election of Supreme Court justices to the general election rather than the primary election"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Ridenour, Martin, Mallow, Mazzocchi, Ward, Marple, Kimble, Jennings, Roop, Kump and Pinson:

H. B. 4524 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §5A-3-63 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prohibitions on contracting with companies that boycott Israel; clarifying that the section applies to exempt agencies; and setting forth an effective date"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Ridenour, Butler, Mazzocchi, Martin, Ward, Mallow, Marple, Jennings, Funkhouser, Kump and Masters:

H. B. 4525 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-5-6e of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to changing the date for election of judges of the Intermediate Court of Appeals to the same date as the general election"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Brooks, Martin, Pritt, Mallow, Hillenbrand and B. Smith:

H. B. 4526 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §3-1D-1, §3-1D-2, §3-1D-3, and §3-1D-4, all relating to providing the

procedure for election observers during elections in the state; eligibility and qualifications of observers; and requiring the Secretary of State to propose legislative rules"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates G. Howell, Bell, Jeffries, Street and Willis:

H. B. 4527 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17A-1-1 and §17A-3-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding thereto a new article, designated §17A-10A-1, §17A-10A-2, and §17A-10A-3, relating to motor vehicle registration renewal; creating definitions; requiring the Division of Motor Vehicles to establish an automatic renewal system with automatic billing for the renewals of motor vehicle registrations; and establishing procedures to implement the system"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates G. Howell, Sheedy, Bell, Jeffries, Street and Willis:

H. B. 4528 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-4-705 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to strengthening penalties of juveniles accused of assault on a law enforcement officer, reserve deputy, court security officer, or first responder"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates G. Howell, Sheedy, Jeffries and Willis:

H. B. 4529 - "A Bill to amend and re-enact §22-15A-30 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to requiring local governments to provide matching funds for grants from the Reclamation of Abandoned and Dilapidated Properties Program unless demonstrated to be fiscally unable; and requiring that fines assessed by local governments related to abandoned and dilapidated property be committed to the matching of Reclamation of Abandoned and Dilapidated Properties Program grants or to the demolition of condemned properties"; to the Committee on Government Organization then Finance.

By Delegates G. Howell, Jeffries, Street and Willis:

H. B. 4530 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17-3-11; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §17-31-1, §17-31-2, §17-31-3, §17-31-4, and §17-31-5, relating generally to improvements and maintenance of traffic intersections impacted by high-impact retail operations; creating the Special Retail Impact Intersection Improvement Fund as a subaccount of the State Road Fund; authorizing the legislature to transfer certain funds into the subaccount for certain purposes; creating the Retail Impact Intersection Improvement Program; stating legislative findings and purpose of program; providing definitions; requiring Division of Highways county supervisors consult with county commissions to submit project requests to the Division of Highways; setting forth a funding formula; setting forth requirements concerning bidding, vendors, and contracts with private vendors; specifying uses of the Special Retail Impact Intersection Improvement Fund; providing requirements for Commissioner of Highways and districts; requiring rulemaking; and requiring reporting by Division of Highways and Legislative Auditor"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates G. Howell, Sheedy, Bell and Jeffries:

H. B. 4531 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17B-2-16, relating to issuing identification documents to homeless individuals residing at homeless shelters within this state at no cost; stating legislative intent; defining terms; creating a process by which a homeless individual may apply for certain identifying documents to be provided at no cost; requiring the division to issue certain identifying documents to eligible homeless individuals at no cost; and requiring the commissioner to develop forms"; to the Committee on Government Organization then Finance.

By Delegates Burkhammer and Pinson:

H. B. 4532 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17B-2-16, relating to issuing identification documents to homeless individuals residing at homeless shelters within this state at no cost; stating legislative intent; defining terms; creating a process by which a homeless individual may apply for certain identifying documents to be provided at no cost; requiring the division to issue certain identifying documents to eligible homeless individuals at no cost; and requiring the commissioner to develop forms"; to the Committee on Government Organization then Finance.

By Delegate G. Howell:

H. B. 4533 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18B-3D-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to including Potomac State College of West Virginia University as an eligible institution for permanent participation in the 'Learn and Earn Program'; and removing reference to the program being a 'pilot' program"; to the Committee on Education.

By Delegates G. Howell, Mallow, Sheedy, Jeffries, Street and Willis:

H. B. 4534 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §37-16-1, §37-16-2, and §37-16-3, relating to the creation of the West Virginia Title Protection Act; providing for legislative findings; ensuring that rightful property owners retain title to their property free of all encumbrances when fraudulent or wrongful claims are listed against their property, or loans are taken out using fraudulent means; and providing for a mechanism for county clerks to provide notice to rightful landowners when property is transferred or when titles are filed or modified against property"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates G. Howell, Sheedy, Jeffries and Willis:

H. B. 4535 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §46A-2-141, relating to exempting certain assets from collections by creditors"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates G. Howell, Sheedy, Jeffries, Street and Willis:

H. B. 4536 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17B-2-16, relating to issuance of a driver's license; providing a waiver of examination if certain requirements are met; clarifying when full testing is required; and requiring all applicable fees be paid to the Division of Motor Vehicles"; to the Committee on Education.

By Delegates G. Howell, Sheedy, Jeffries and Willis:

H. B. 4537 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §8-19-17, §8-20-16, §16-13-22a, and §16-13A-24 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, relating to municipal corporations and public health; requiring municipalities and public service districts to determine the cost of adding potential customers to water service from the municipality or public service district; requiring municipalities and public service districts to apply through the West Virginia Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council for available funding; requiring municipalities and public service districts to extend service to potential customers who have paid required fees if a grant or grants are awarded to cover the fees for the service extension; and providing for funding and reimbursement of application costs to potential customers"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegates G. Howell and Sheedy:

H. B. 4538 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §17C-6-8a, relating to speed restrictions; limiting the use of speed enforcement equipment in DOH work zones; establishing ownership, operation, signage, evidentiary and application requirements; providing for citation issuance procedures; providing definitions; and requiring sworn statements from law enforcement officers"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates G. Howell and Willis:

H. B. 4539 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §33-16B-5, relating to accident and sickness rates; providing a definition; providing notice of approved rate change; and establishing when rate changes can take effect"; to the Committee on Finance.

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

H. B. 4540 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17B-3-3a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to suspension of licenses for failure to respond or appear in court when charged with a motor vehicle violation; requiring written notice of all fees owed and impending suspension prior to license suspension; and requiring the citation issuing magistrate court or municipal court to forward administrative fee collected to division"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates G. Howell, Jeffries and Willis:

H. B. 4541 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17-2A-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to road or highway abandonment; requiring publication and notice from the Commissioner of Highways of the discontinuance, vacation, abandonment, or closure of any road or highway to members of the Legislature who represent the area in which the road or highway is located"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

By Delegate Burkhammer:

H. B. 4542 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-2-205 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to qualified immunity for employees of a private child welfare agency or provider"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegate Burkhammer:

H. B. 4543 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §61-2-9a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to prohibiting any person convicted of stalking or harassment of a minor from living within 5,000 feet of a school, day care, or similar setting"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Burkhammer and Pinson:

H. B. 4544 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §18-8-4 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new section, designated §18-8A-5, relating to education; and creating a homeless education coordinator in counties designated by the state board as an urban county"; to the Committee on Education then Finance.

By Delegates Burkhammer and Pinson:

H. B. 4545 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §49-2-815, relating to the establishment of a pilot program for the use of mobile devices in child abuse and neglect investigations; setting forth effective date; setting forth requirements for system; setting forth term of pilot program; and requiring reporting"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Delegate Criss:

H. B. 4546 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §31B-2-211, §47-9-10a, and §59-1-2a, of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, related to making certain business reporting requirements and fees to the Secretary of State biennially instead of annually"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegate Hansen:

H. B. 4547 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-1-34 and §3-3-10 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removal of barriers for disabled voters"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Worrell, Flanigan, Pritt, Shamblin, Vance, Dean, Ferrell, Stephens, Bell and Heckert:

H. B. 4548 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §21-1C-4 and §21-1C-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to putting West Virginia first; requiring employers that receive a local labor utilization waiver to hire at the same qualifications and rates provided to WorkForce West Virginia; clarifying West Virginia Jobs Act applicability to all public improvement construction projects including West Virginia Development Authority pilot projects; and requiring that Division of Labor establish a public database of records from employers performing work on public improvement contracts"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Shamblin, Flanigan, Pritt, Dean, Stephens, Heckert, Worrell, Clark, Browning, Willis and Roop:

H. B. 4549 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §5-22-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to public construction contracts; providing definitions; granting political subdivisions the authority to hire the lowest responsible bidder; and providing that political subdivisions may enter into project labor agreements"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Funkhouser, Clark, Pinson, Holstein, Street, Butler, Hornby, J. Cannon, Akers, Gearheart and Drennan:

H. B. 4550 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §54-1-2a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to eminent domain; and requiring the State of West Virginia, or any agency or political subdivision to provide a landowner their appraisal"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

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. 4052: Delegate Holstein;

H. B. 4060: Delegate White;

H. B. 4061: Delegate J. Cannon;

H. B. 4063: Delegate White;

H. B. 4065: Delegate White;

H. B. 4067: Delegates Drennan and Young;

H. B. 4069: Delegates Foggin and White;

H. B. 4070: Delegate White;

H. B. 4071: Delegate White;

H. B. 4072: Delegates Drennan and Young;

H. B. 4073: Delegate White;

H. B. 4074: Delegates Drennan and Young;

H. B. 4075: Delegates T. Howell and White;

H. B. 4077: Delegates Bell, Dillon, Drennan, and Stephens;

H. B. 4078: Delegates Maynor and White;

H. B. 4088: Delegate Roop;

H. B. 4098: Delegates Brooks, Crouse, Dean, Hillenbrand, Kimble, Masters, Mazzocchi, Phillips, Ridenour, and Ward;

H. B. 4122: Delegate White;

H. B. 4145: Delegates Dillon and White;

H. B. 4146: Delegates Dillon and White ;

H. B. 4188: Delegate Drennan;

H. B. 4345: Delegate Holstein;

H. B. 4347: Delegates Drennan, Holstein, T. Howell, and White;

H. B. 4352: Delegate Holstein;

H. B. 4358: Delegate Holstein;

And,

H. B. 4466: Delegate Holstein.

Pursuant to House Rule 94b, a form was filed with the Clerk's Office to be removed as a cosponsor of the following:

H. B. 4145: Delegate Dillon.

Leaves of Absence

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, leaves of absence for the day were granted Delegates J. Cannon, Jordan, B. Smith, D, Smith and Williams.

At 11:59 a.m., the House of Delegates adjourned until 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 20, 2026.

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

SPECIAL CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

7th Day

11:00 A.M.

No Bills

HOUSE CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

7th Day

11:00 A.M.

No Bills

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 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

9:45 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGAL SERVICES

10:15 A.M. – JUDICIARY COMMITTEE ROOM 410M

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, COMMERCE AND TOURISM

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION

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

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

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

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