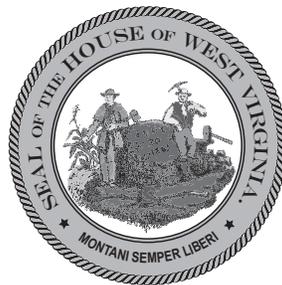


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February 13, 2026
THIRTY-FIRST DAY

Friday, February 13, 2026

THIRTY-FIRST DAY

[DELEGATE ROHRBACH, MR. SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE, IN THE CHAIR]

The House of Delegates was called to order by the Honorable Matthew Rohrbach, Speaker Pro Tempore.

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

The Clerk proceeded to read the Journal of Thursday, February 12, 2026, being the first order of business, when the further reading thereof was dispensed with and the same approved.

Reordering of the Calendar

Pursuant to the action of the Committee on Rules, The Clerk announced that Com. Sub. for H. B. 4003, on Third Reading, Special Calendar, had been transferred to the House Calendar; and S. B. 208 and Com. Sub. for H. B. 5021, on Second Reading, Special Calendar, had been transferred to the House Calendar.

Committee Reports

Delegate Akers, Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration:

H. B. 4709, Relating to changing the process of election litigation,

And,

H. B. 5166, To provide notice to any political committees violating the filing requirements prior to assessing any civil fines and giving the Secretary of State authority to grant additional time for compliance not to exceed an additional 14 days,

And reports the same back with the recommendation that they each do pass.

Delegate Akers, Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on the Judiciary has had under consideration:

H. B. 4568, To prohibit the service of process on county property,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4568 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §51-2A-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; relating to the powers of family court judges; and creating a definition of abuse of process,"

H. B. 4710, Changing the limit on switching parties before filing to run for office from 60 days to 180 days prior to an election,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4710 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §3-5-7 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to elections and certificate of announcements; and changing the time limit on switching parties before filing to run office prior to an election,"

H. B. 5176, Relating to creating the animal abuse database within the West Virginia State Police,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 5176 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §15-2F-1, relating to creating the animal abuse database within the West Virginia State Police; specifying qualifying offenses for inclusion in the database; requiring certain information to be included in the animal abuse database; creating a fee for inclusion in the animal abuse database; providing for disposition of the fees in a special revenue account of the State Police; requiring reporting of certain convictions by prosecuting attorneys; providing procedures for removal from the animal abuse database; and creating certain immunities,"

And,

H. B. 5182, Relating generally to authorizing security personnel employed by the State Treasurer to carry concealed weapons while performing his or her official duties,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 5182 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; by adding thereto a new section, designated §36-8A-8; relating generally to authorizing security personnel employed by the State Treasurer to carry concealed weapons while performing his or her official duties; setting forth requirements for authorization to carry concealed weapons; authorizing the Treasurer to reimburse for the cost of training and requalification; and providing liability protections for security personnel while performing official duties,"

With the recommendation that the committee substitutes each do pass.

Delegate Anderson, Chair of the Committee on Energy and Public Works submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Energy and Public Works has had under consideration:

H. R. 6, Recognizing the importance of sustained economic development to the prosperity of West Virginia,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. R. 6 - "Recognizing the importance of sustained economic development and job creation to the long term prosperity of the State of West Virginia, and the role of reliable energy infrastructure in supporting industrial, commercial, and workforce growth,"

With the recommendation that the committee substitute be adopted, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Rules.

In accordance with the former direction of the Speaker, the resolution (Com. Sub. for H. R. 6) was referred to the Committee on Rules.

Delegate Phillips, Chair of the Committee on Government Organization, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Government Organization has had under consideration:

H. B. 4088, Relating to certified public accountants,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4088 - "A BILL to amend and reenact §30-9-2, §30-9-5, §30-9-7, §30-9-8, §30-9-10, §30-9-11, §30-9-16, and §30-9-26 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to certified public accountants; clarifying and updating definitions; modifying rule-making authority of the Board of Accountancy; updating education, examination, and experience requirements for certification; revising provisions on substantial equivalency practice privileges; and updating unlawful acts and disciplinary provisions applicable to licensees, firms, and substantial equivalency practitioners,"

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Delegate Worrell, Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Resources, submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Health and Human Resources has had under consideration:

H. B. 5379, To require payment by insurers directly to the out-of-network emergency medical services agency and the prompt payment of clean claims,

And reports the same back with the recommendation that it do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on Finance.

In accordance with the former direction of the Speaker, the bill (H. B. 5379) was referred to the Committee on Finance.

Delegate Worrell, Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Resources submitted the following report, which was received:

Your Committee on Health and Human Resources has had under consideration:

H. B. 5086, Relating to peer support services,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 5086 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §30-1-8 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and by adding thereto new sections designated §21-18-1, §21-18-2 and §57-3-11; relating to peer support programs; defining terms; establishing standards for peer support programs; prohibiting licensure discipline; prohibiting boards from requesting certain information; allowing for privileged communications; and providing exemptions,"

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass, but that it first be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

In accordance with the former direction of the Speaker, the bill (Com. Sub. for H. B. 5086) was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

Your Committee on Finance has had under consideration:

H. B. 4009, Relating to the creation of the Portable Benefit Account Act,

And reports back a committee substitute therefor, as follows:

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4009 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new section, designated §11-21-12o; to amend said code by adding there to a new section designated §11-24-6d; and to amend said code by adding thereto a new article, designated §33-64-1, §33-64-2, §33-64-3, §33-64-4, and §33-64-5, all relating to portable benefit accounts; providing a short title; providing definitions; authorizing portable benefit accounts; providing modifications to federal adjusted gross income related to portable benefit accounts for personal income tax and corporate net income tax purposes; and authorizing rulemaking,"

With the recommendation that the committee substitute do pass.

Messages from the Senate

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced the passage by the Senate, and requested the concurrence of the House of Delegates in the passage, of

Com. Sub. for S. B. 478 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-7-13, relating to establishing the Second Amendment Reaffirmation and Protection Act; specifying legislative purpose; limiting the incorporation of invalid or repealed federal law; creating a trigger clause; prohibiting state and local officers from enforcing invalidated or repealed federal firearm restrictions; creating a cause of action; and providing for rules of statutory construction"; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A message from the Senate, by

The Clerk of the Senate, announced the passage by the Senate, and requested the concurrence of the House of Delegates in the passage, of

S. B. 704 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §9A-7-1, §9A-7-2, §9A-7-3, §9A-7-4, and §9A-7-5, relating to creating the Veterans' Empowerment and Trust Safeguard Act; defining terms; prohibiting a person from receiving compensation for assisting another in obtaining veterans' benefits, except as permitted by federal law; prohibiting a person from receiving compensation for referring an individual to another person to assist with obtaining veterans' benefits; prohibiting a person from receiving compensation for services rendered prior to action by the Department of Veterans Affairs; prohibiting a person from guaranteeing an individual is certain to receive specific veterans' benefits; prohibiting a person from receiving excessive or unreasonable fees for assisting another in obtaining veterans' benefits; prohibiting a person from receiving compensation for assisting another in obtaining veterans' benefits without a written fee agreement, to be filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs; prohibiting the provision of medical evidence or expert witness testimony in connection with a veterans' benefits matter where fees are not predetermined; establishing violations of the West Virginia Consumer Credit and Protection Act; and providing for exceptions"; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 Delegates White, Coop-Gonzalez, Dillon, McGeehan, T. Howell, Crouse, Moore, Drennan, Mazzocchi, Green and Kimble:

H. B. 5484 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-2-31, relating to creating the crime of conspiracy to deny a victim of sexual offenses access to medical care; and establishing penalties for violation"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Lewis, Hamilton, Garcia, Hansen and Hornbuckle:

H. B. 5485 - "A Bill to amend §21-5C-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing the state minimum wage"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works.

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

H. B. 5486 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §2-2-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to adding Juneteenth to the list of legal holidays and providing when it should be observed if it falls on a Sunday"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegate Jeffries:

H. B. 5487 - "A Bill to repeal §33-6-31d of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to optional limits of uninsured and underinsured motor vehicle coverage"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Campbell:

H. B. 5488 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-3-27a, relating to crimes against a service animal; establishing the offense of assault upon or injury to a service animal; and creating criminal penalties"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegate Campbell:

H. B. 5489 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §30-42-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to contractor licensing; definitions; and amending the definition of 'contractor' as it deals with the capacity for compensation to do residential work and increasing the amount from \$5,000 to \$10,000"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegate Campbell:

H. B. 5490 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §20-5-20, relating to providing a 20 percent discount for golf green fees at state parks for West Virginia residents on low play days"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Campbell:

H. B. 5491 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §47-11D-5, relating to requiring certain theatres to make showings of certain motion pictures accessible to persons with disabilities; requiring exhibitors of motion pictures who operate theatres in more than one location in this state to provide open captioning during at least two showings per week of each digital motion picture that is produced and offered with open captioning; requiring, when requested, audio description be provided for any digital motion picture that is produced and offered with audio description; requiring theatres to have at least two audio description devices; and providing exceptions"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates G. Howell, Masters, Heckert, G. Ward, Stephens, Linville, Fehrenbacher, Street, Phillips, Parsons and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker):

H. B. 5492 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §5B-2-22, relating to advance purchase agreements for electric substation transformers by the Department of Economic Development to accelerate economic development projects for projects that the that are subject to regulation by the Public Service Commission; listing specifications for eligible transformers; listing requirements for ordering, payment and maintenance; granting rulemaking authority to the Department of Economic Development; addressing debt forgiveness and economic relief; delineating the recovery processes for state funds; and clarifying that the Public Service Commission does not have approval power for these purchases"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

By Delegates Funkhouser, Ellington, Heckert, D. Cannon, Martin, Vance, B Ward, Ridenour, Hornby, Butler and Marple:

H. B. 5493 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §62-12-27 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding a new section, designated §62-12-26a, relating to administration of medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA) to persons convicted of certain sex offenses; authorizing the courts in certain convictions to sentence a defendant to be treated with medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA); authorizing physical castration in certain circumstances at the request of a defendant; requiring certain medical examinations for administration of medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA); creating procedures for administration of medroxyprogesterone acetate (MPA); creating certain medical exceptions; creating a felony offense for certain refusal of treatment after sentencing; requiring a prerelease risk assessment; and creating criminal penalties"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then the Judiciary.

By Delegate Shamblin:

H. B. 5494 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §7-28-1, §7-28-2, §7-28-3, §7-28-4, §7-28-5, §7-28-6, §7-28-7, §7-28-8, and §7-28-9, relating to authorizing county commissions to impose an emergency services fee on

hotel stays; providing legislative findings; defining terms; authorizing imposition of a county emergency services fee; establishing a maximum fee; providing for collection and remittance; including by marketplace facilitators; establishing a special revenue fund; limiting use of proceeds to emergency services; providing enforcement authority; providing for rulemaking; establishing an effective date; and providing for severability"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Stephens, G. Ward, Bell, Ferrell, Pritt, Crouse, Drennan and Dittman:

H. B. 5495 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §18-2L-1, §18-2L-2, §18-2L-3, §18-2L-4, §18-2L-5, §18-2L-6, and §18-2L-7, all relating to creating certain requirements and accountability procedures regarding a student's use of software in a public school; defining terms; requiring the State Board of Education to create a statewide digital privacy agreement; ensuring that all software used in a public school is executed under the statewide digital privacy agreement and academically effective; creating a master list for software used in public schools; creating a list of approved software; providing for the ability to independently verify software as academically effective; enforcing compliance with the requirements of this section through periodic audits; creating a process for a parent to submit a complaint; creating rules to implement the requirements of this section; requiring a County Board of Education and the State Board of Education to execute the statewide digital privacy agreement for all software contracts; verifying certain software is academically effective; requiring a County Board of Education to notify parents of all software a public school uses during the school year; requiring the state board to consult with the Office of the Attorney General; requiring a vendor to execute the statewide digital privacy agreement for all software contracts with a contracting entity; and demonstrating that the vendor's software is academically effective"; to the Committee on Education.

By Delegates Mazzocchi, Kimble and Burkhammer:

H. B. 5496 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section designated §61-8D-11, relating to the new criminal offense of child torture"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Mazzocchi, Burkhammer, Kimble and T. Howell:

H. B. 5497 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-3-101 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing immunity from liability for employees of a child advocacy center for actions taken in participation in the child abuse investigation process or services provided by the child advocacy center"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Mazzocchi, Burkhammer and T. Howell:

H. B. 5498 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §49-4-402 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to multidisciplinary investigative teams; and clarifying the liability of a member of a multidisciplinary team member"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Dittman, Drennan, Pritt, Hall, Ellington, Bell, Moore, Campbell and Toney:

H. B. 5499 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding thereto a new article designated §18-2L-1, §18-2L-2, §18-2L-3, §18-2L-4, §18-2L-5, §18-2L-6, §18-2L-7, §18-2L-8, §18-2L-9, §18-2L-10, §18-2L-10a, §18-2L-10b, §18-2L-10c, §18-2L-10d, §18-2L-11, §18-2L-12, §18-2L-13, and §18-2L-14, all relating to school system fiscal and governance early warning, stabilization, and accountability; proving for the creation of the School System Performance and Accountability Board and the operational Office of School System Performance and Accountability; providing for the separation of roles and core purpose; providing for the goal and Mission of the Office of School System Performance and Accountability; providing for the

responsibilities of the Office of School System Performance and Accountability; and providing for rulemaking"; to the Committee on Education.

By Delegates B Ward, Funkhouser, Horst, Ferrell, Kyle, Heckert and Foggin:

H. B. 5500 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17C-17-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to providing that the penalty provision of this section does not apply to certain open top farm trucks, trailers, and other vehicles hauling hay, straw, silage, and other vegetative, bio-degradable products to other farms needing these products; reducing speed limit for these vehicles; and requiring special permits"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Young and Hamilton:

H. B. 5501 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §30-44-1, §30-44-2, §30-44-3, §30-44-4, §30-44-5, §30-44-6, §30-44-7, §30-44-8, §30-44-9, §30-44-10, §30-44-11, §30-44-12, §30-44-13, §30-44-14, and §30-44-15, relating to create and regulate the certified professional midwife; licensing and regulation; and definitions"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources then Government Organization.

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

H. B. 5502 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16B-17-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1933, as amended, relating to providing a definition of 'race' under the Human Rights Act to allow for regulation of traits historically associated with the individual's race as long as done to preserve work place health and safety"; to the Committee on Government Organization then the Judiciary.

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

H. B. 5503 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §22A-1-10a, relating to providing a \$5,000 salary increase to certain inspectors"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Clark, Lucas, Criss and Browning:

H. B. 5504 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §60-1-5 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §60-8B-1, §60-8B-2, §60-8B-3, §60-8B-4, and §60-8B-5, relating to the manufacture, sale, and distribution of low-proof spirit alcohol products; defining terms; declaring legislative findings, policy, and intent; prescribing manufacture, sales, and distribution requirements for low-proof spirit alcohol products; prescribing taxation amount and methodology for low-proof spirit alcohol products; and granting permissive rulemaking authority"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegate Kyle:

H. B. 5505 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §17D-4-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to increasing minimum liability insurance coverage requirements for motor vehicles"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Ridenour, Hillenbrand, Masters, Martin, Kimble, Jennings, B Ward, Funkhouser, Holstein and Maynor:

H. B. 5506 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §6B-3-7a, relating to prohibiting compensation for lobbying a government officer or employee on behalf of a foreign adversary; providing legislative findings; definitions; prohibition on receiving compensation for lobbying on behalf of a foreign adversary; action for disgorgement; civil penalties; injunctive relief; and pre-suit investigative powers for violation of

prohibition; requirement to self-identify as an agent of a foreign adversary"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Ridenour, Masters, Butler, Brooks, Phillips, Martin, Kimble, Holstein, Jennings, B Ward and Hillenbrand:

H. B. 5507 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §4-16-1, §4-16-2, §4-16-3, §4-16-4, §4-16-5, §4-16-6, §4-16-7, §4-16-8, §4-16-9, §4-16-10, §4-16-11, §4-16-12, §4-16-13 and §4-16-14, relating to establishing a process for the selection and oversight of delegates for a West Virginia Article V convention delegation to an Article V convention for proposing amendments to the United States Constitution"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Ferrell, Brooks and B Ward:

H. B. 5508 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §15-2A-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to placing members of the Division of Protection Services under the state police B retirement system"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Ferrell, Fehrenbacher, Rohrbach and Linville:

H. B. 5509 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §5B-2P-1, §5B-2P-2, §5B-2P-3, §5B-2P-4, §5B-2P-5, §5B-2P-6, §5B-2P-7, §5B-2P-8, §5B-2P-9, §5B-2P-10, §5B-2P-11, §5B-2P-12, and §5B-2P-13, relating to creation of the Mountain Homes Act; setting out a short title; setting out legislative findings; defining terms; authorizing rulemaking; providing an effective date; providing for a sunset date; creating the Mountain Homes Fund; providing for the purposes of the fund; providing for administration of the fund; providing for recordkeeping; requiring reporting to the Joint Committee on Government and Finance and the Governor; setting out required elements for the report; exempting certain materials from the Freedom of Information Act; establishing criteria for eligibility for use of funds; requiring an application for use of funds; setting out elements necessary to be included on the application; providing for exclusions from use of funds; providing for application approval; establishing evaluation standards and criteria; providing for a final agreement; setting out terms of the agreement; allowing for an extension of time; requiring adjacent properties to be subject to additional approval; providing for administration of the act; setting out powers and duties of the Department of Economic Development; and providing for a criminal penalty for a false statement"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

By Delegates Hornby, Clay, Hite, Browning, Ellington, Phillips, Funkhouser and Maynor:

H. B. 5510 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §60-7-2 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to removing the two-acre minimum for private wedding venues"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Toney and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker):

H. B. 5511 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §18A-4-10b, relating to providing an optional lump sum payment of accrued personal leave to full-time employees of a county school board upon the ending of full-time employment due to death"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

By Delegates Lucas, Dean, Clark, Crouse, Worrell, Hall, Fehrenbacher, Brooks and Adkins:

H. B. 5512 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §39-4-2, §39-4-4, §39-4-7, and §39-4-22 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; to amend the code by adding a new section,

designated §39-4-40; and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §30-38C-1, §30-38C-2, §30-38C-3, §30-38C-4, §30-38C-5, §30-38C-6, and §30-38C-7, relating to land records; providing definitions; clarifying the authority of a recorder; establishing recorder liability; creating a property alert notification system; creating criminal and enhanced civil penalties; clarifying the authority of a notarial officer; establishing requirements to obtain an official stamp; and requiring education for notaries"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Anders, Masters and Kimble:

H. B. 5513 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §22-37-1, §22-37-2, §22-37-3, and §22-37-4, relating to protecting the environment and humans from geoengineering experiments; providing definitions; and listing penalties for violations"; to the Committee on Government Organization then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Anders and Kimble:

H. B. 5514 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, by adding a new article, designated §17B-8-1, relating to Real ID Act of 2005, Public Law 1090-13; and providing that West Virginia citizens may not be required to obtain a Real ID Act state-issued operator's license"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hall, Jeffries and Hott:

H. B. 5515 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §23-4-1a, §23-4-1b, §23-4-1c, §23-4-1d, §23-4-1e, §23-4-3, §23-4-4, §23-4-5, §23-4-6, §23-4-6a, §23-4-6d, §23-4-7, §23-4-7a, §23-4-8a, §23-4-8b, §23-4-8c, §23-4-9, §23-4-11, §23-4-12, §23-4-14, §23-4-15, §23-4-15a, §23-4-15b, §23-4-16, §23-4-16a, §23-4-17, §23-4-18, §23-4-20, §23-4-23, §23-4-24, §23-4-25, §23-5-2, §23-5-4, §23-5-7, §23-5-11a, and §23-5-14 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to repeal §23-4-3b, §23-4-3c, and §23-4-22, §23-5-1, §23-5-3, §23-5-5, §23-5-6, §23-5-8, §23-5-9, §23-5-10, §23-5-11, §23-5-12, §23-5-13, and §23-5-16 of said code, relating to modernizing and updating workers' compensation statutes; removing or revising provisions made obsolete by legislation and regulatory revisions in 2005 and 2006; standardizing references to public offices or agencies; updating statutory citations; making spelling and grammatical changes throughout; and modifying the number of Board of Review members from five to at least three but no more than five"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Burkhammer:

H. B. 5516 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §58-5-1 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to requiring abuse and neglect case appeals to be processed within six months"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Brooks, Clay, Pritt, Hott, Vance, Martin and Flanigan:

H. B. 5517 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §51-10-6 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to the Office of Insurance Commissioner maintaining and posting lists of bondsmen; giving detainees access to the list and choice of bondsman; providing rule-making authority; and setting legibility requirements"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Anders:

H. B. 5518 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §3-10A-1, §3-10A-2, §3-10A-3, §3-10A-4, §3-10A-5, §3-10A-6, §3-10A-7, §3-10A-8, §3-10A-9, §3-10A-10, and §3-10A-11, relating to enacting the 'Judicial Accountability and Recall Act,' to allow and delineate processes for recall elections of judicial officers"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegate Anders:

H. B. 5519 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-21-98, relating to creating the 'West Virginia Tax Neutrality Act'; removing gains and losses from a taxpayer's federal adjusted gross income or federal taxable income"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Ridenour, Martin, B Ward, Hillenbrand, Butler, Masters, Kimble, Jennings, Phillips and McGeehan:

H. B. 5520 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §6B-3-2 the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §6D-2-1, to amend the code by adding a new article, designated §15-17-1, §15-17-2, §15-17-3, §15-17-4, §15-17-5, §15-17-6, §15-17-7, §15-17-8, §15-17-9, §15-17-10, §15-17-11, §15-17-12, §15-17-13, §15-17-14, §15-17-15, §15-17-16, §15-17-17, §15-17-18, §15-17-19, and §15-17-20, relating to creating the Foreign Adversary Contracting Prohibition Act, the Foreign Adversary and Terrorist Agent Registration Act and the Transnational Repression Act; providing titles and purposes; providing definitions; clarifying registration; providing exceptions; creating record retention; establishing the duties of the Attorney General; creating penalties; authorizing a portal and website; authorizing rules; defining crimes; requiring reporting; establishing training; clarifying how to register as a lobbyist"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Delegates Hott, Hall, Jeffries and Green:

H. B. 5521 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §33-12B-1, §33-12B-2, and §33-12B-3 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, and to amend the code by adding twelve new sections, designated §33-12B-5a, §33-12B-5b, §33-12B-5c, §33-12B-5d, §33-12B-5e, §33-12B-5f, §33-12B-5g, §33-12B-16, §33-12B-17, §33-12B-18, §33-12B-19, §33-12B-20, and §33-12B-21, relating to public adjusters; defining terms; establishing application, licensure, and examination requirements for public adjusters; establishing standards of conduct for public adjusters; and establishing contract requirements for a public adjuster and insured"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Hamilton:

H. B. 5522 - "A Bill to amend and reenact the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §11-15-9v, relating to creating an annual sales tax holiday for the sales of feminine hygiene products and diapers"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegate Hamilton:

H. B. 5523 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §16-29I-1, relating to establishing minimum requirements for discharge of women in later stages of pregnancy from medical facilities; requiring an examination; and providing that pregnancy related discharge instructions be provided"; to the Committee on Health and Human Resources.

By Delegate D. Cannon:

H. B. 5524 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §16-5V-2, §16-5V-5, §16-5V-6, §16-5V-8, and §16-5V-14a of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended; and to amend said code by adding two new sections, designated §16-5V-6e and §16-5V-6g, relating to the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System; defining terms; updating terms to comply with federal laws; authorizing certain EMS personnel to be members of the Emergency Medical Services Retirement System under certain circumstances; requiring costs of the vote to participate be borne by participating employers in relative proportion to members employed; providing for transfer of assets pertaining to EMS personnel; requiring certain computations to be made by the Consolidated Public

Retirement Board; requiring administrative costs of the Consolidated Public Retirement Board for transfer of assets pertaining to EMS personnel be borne by participating employers in relative proportion to members employed; terminating liability of the Public Employees Retirement System; and providing for purchase of service time through payment"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates Vance, Dean, Bridges, Ellington, Pritt, Browning, Holstein, Green, Toney, Roop and Brooks:

H. B. 5525 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §22-37-1, §22-37-2, §22-37-3, §22-37-4, §22-37-5, §22-37-6, §22-37-7, §22-37-8, and §22-37-9, relating to establishing the Southern West Virginia Clean Fund Act of 2026; providing definitions; adopting enhanced water quality standards for the counties of Boone, Fayette, Greenbrier, Lincoln, Logan, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Raleigh, Summers, Wayne, and Wyoming; updating maximum contaminant levels; implementing advanced water filtration systems ; establishing the West Virginia Clean Water Fund; conducting annual assessments; conducting quarterly testing for contaminants; establishing a state-run website; reporting requirements; monetary penalties; state intervention, including temporary management of noncompliant water systems; reinvestment of funds collected from fines; conducting a survey of lead service lines within all public water systems; removing lead service lines; financial assistance to low-income households for removal of lead pipe replacement; and funding and appropriations"; to the Committee on Energy and Public Works then Finance.

By Delegates Shamblin, Flanigan, Heckert, Browning, Pritt and Stephens:

H. B. 5526 - "A Bill to amend and reenact §11A-3-45 and §11A-3-48 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to clarifying registration and purchaser requirements for tax abandoned land auctions and sales held by the Auditor and providing for rulemaking and business registration requirements for foreign and domestic entities purchasing lands under this section"; to the Committee on Government Organization.

By Delegates Kyle and Hite:

H. B. 5527 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new article, designated §33-64-1, §33-64-2, §33-64-3, §33-64-4, §33-64-5, §33-64-6, and §33-64-7, relating to the authorization of wellness reimbursement plans that are self-insured medical plans or wellness integrated medical plan expense reimbursement plans to be licensed in this state by the Insurance Commissioner and subject to state and federal laws; providing definitions; and providing that Wellness reimbursement programs do not apply to individual or group health plans"; to the Committee on Finance.

By Delegates D. Cannon and Vance:

H. B. 5528 - "A Bill to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section, designated §61-2-31, relating to providing protection of personal residential information of certain public officials; providing for legislative findings; setting forth definitions; providing a restriction on government disclosure; setting forth permitted disclosures; defining obligations of data custodians; and establishing a civil remedy"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Special Calendar

Third Reading

Com. Sub. for S. B. 1, Small Business Growth Act; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 83**), and there were--yeas 87, nays 3, absent and not voting 9, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Anders, Dillon, and Kimble.

Absent and Not Voting: Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker).

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 1) passed.

On motion of Delegate Criss, the title of the bill was amended to read as follows:

Com. Sub. for S. B. 1 -- "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 and §5B-12-7, relating to establishing the WV First Small Business Growth Act; defining terms; creating the WV First Small Business Growth Program to be administered by the Department of Commerce; establishing program procedures and requirements; providing application procedures and requirements; providing for the certification of capital investment authority; establishing insurance premium tax credit; providing tax credit claimant and recapture procedures; prohibiting certain investments; and requiring annual reporting."

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

On this question, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 84**), and there were--yeas 87, nays 3, absent and not voting 9, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Anders, Dillon and Kimble.

Absent and Not Voting: Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker).

So, two thirds of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for S. B. 1) 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.

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4098, To restore the right of a person to sit on a jury has been restored upon expungement of one's record; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 85**), and there were--yeas 87, nays 3, absent and not voting 9, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Martin, Williams and Young.

Absent and Not Voting: Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker).

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (Com. Sub. for H. B. 4098) passed.

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

H. B. 4462, Prohibition on cell-cultured products; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 86**), and there were--yeas 64, nays 25, absent and not voting 10, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Adkins, Akers, Anders, Butler, D. Cannon, J. Cannon, Dean, Flanigan, Fluharty, Garcia, Gearheart, Hamilton, Hansen, Hite, Hornbuckle, Horst, Kimble, Leavitt, Lewis, Petitto, Pushkin, Shamblin, Williams, Worrell and Young.

Absent and Not Voting: Green, Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker).

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4462) passed.

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

H. B. 4561, Clarifying the sheriff's authority to hire within their office; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 87**), and there were--yeas 88, nays none, absent and not voting 11, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: Green, Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, Parsons, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker).

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4561) passed.

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

H. B. 4602, Relating to requiring the Department of Human Services to establish a pilot program to contract for supplemental caseworker aide services for the Bureau for Social Services; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 88**), and there were--yeas 89, nays none, absent and not voting 10, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: Green, Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker).

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4602) passed.

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

On this question, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 89**), and there were--yeas 89, nays none, absent and not voting 10, with the absent and not voting being as follows:

Absent and Not Voting: Green, Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker).

So, two thirds of the members elected to the House of Delegates having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4602) 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.

H. B. 4801, Defining Permissible expenditures for municipalities and counties; on third reading, coming up in regular order, was read a third time.

The question being on the passage of the bill, the yeas and nays were taken (**Roll No. 90**), and there were--yeas 89, nays 1, absent and not voting 9, with the nays and the absent and not voting being as follows:

Nays: Gearheart.

Absent and Not Voting: Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Hanshaw (Mr. Speaker).

So, a majority of the members present having voted in the affirmative, the Speaker declared the bill (H. B. 4801) passed.

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

Second Reading

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4463, Relating to the Board of Sanitarians; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time.

On motion of Delegate Clark, the amendment was adopted.

Delegates Clark and Burkhammer moved to amend the committee substitute on page 4, section §30-17-9, line 3, after the word "Have" by striking the words "a bachelor's" and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"an associate's".

The bill was then ordered to engrossment and third reading.

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4865, Providing for a program allowing election official trainees to be appointed as election officials; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

H. B. 4881, Relating to obtaining title to abandoned or junked motor vehicles abandoned on the property or place of business of an automobile dealer ; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4996, Relating to bail in cases involving terroristic threats to schools or children; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

H. B. 4997, Relating to residency restrictions for persons convicted of terroristic threats; on second reading, coming up in regular order, was read a second time and ordered to engrossment and third reading,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 5096, Relating to removing services from requiring a certificate of need.

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, the bill was advanced to third reading with amendments pending, and the rule was suspended to permit the offering and consideration of amendments on that reading.

First Reading

The following bills on first reading, coming up in regular order, were each read a first time and ordered to second reading:

H. B. 4106, Allowing constitutional carry for 18- to 20-year-olds,

H. B. 4419, Requiring certain non-discretionary procedures be strictly complied with by the West Virginia Parkways Authority before tolls, rents, fees or charges may be increased,

H. B. 4452, To remove Mortmain restrictions on religious organizations,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4464, Relating generally to Underground Facilities Damage prevention,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4471, Approved sewage systems for rental property,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4573, Foster Youth Post-Secondary Transition Awareness Act,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4592, Relating to college campus safety,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4852, Relating to regulation of foods,

H. B. 4976, To add definitions for special plates of Class G Vehicles,

H. B. 4983, Authorizing the Department of Commerce to promulgate a legislative rule relating to certification of a microgrid district or certification as a high impact data center,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4993, Relating to authorizing green flashing warning lights on Division of Highways vehicles, and other equipment at the discretion of the Commissioner of Highways,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4999, Relating to crimes against athletic officials,

And,

Com. Sub. for H. B. 5101, The Joanna Phillips Domestic Violence Prevention Act.

Leaves of Absence

At the request of Delegate McGeehan, and by unanimous consent, leaves of absence for the day were granted Delegates Jeffries, Kump, Maynor, McCormick, Miller, D. Smith, Vance, Zatezalo and Speaker Hanshaw.

Miscellaneous Business

Delegate Parsons announced that he voted "Yea" on Roll. No. 89 and his vote did not register.

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

H. B. 4799: Delegate Flanigan;

H. B. 5419: Delegates Fehrenbacher, Hall, and Moore;

H. B. 4599: Delegate Pushkin;

H. B. 4665: Delegate Lewis;

H. B. 4711: Delegate Young;

And,

H. B. 4842: Delegate Flanigan.

At 12:35 p.m., the House of Delegates adjourned until 11:00 a.m., Monday, February 16, 2026.

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

SPECIAL CALENDAR

Monday, February 16, 2026

34th Day

11:00 A.M.

THIRD READING

- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4463 - Relating to the Board of Sanitarians
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4865 - Providing for a program allowing election official trainees to be appointed as election officials
- H. B. 4881 - Relating to obtaining title to abandoned or junked motor vehicles abandoned on the property or place of business of an automobile dealer
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4996 - Relating to bail in cases involving terroristic threats to schools or children
- H. B. 4997 - Relating to residency restrictions for persons convicted of terroristic threats
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 5096 - Relating to removing services from requiring a certificate of need

SECOND READING

- H. B. 4106 - Allowing constitutional carry for 18- to 20-year-olds
- H. B. 4419 - Requiring certain non-discretionary procedures be strictly complied with by the West Virginia Parkways Authority before tolls, rents, fees or charges may be increased
- H. B. 4452 - To remove Mortmain restrictions on religious organizations
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4464 - Relating generally to Underground Facilities Damage prevention
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4471 - Approved sewage systems for rental property
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4573 - Foster Youth Post-Secondary Transition Awareness Act
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4592 - Relating to college campus safety
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4852 - Relating to regulation of foods
- H. B. 4976 - To add definitions for special plates of Class G Vehicles
- H. B. 4983 - Authorizing the Department of Commerce to promulgate a legislative rule relating to certification of a microgrid district or certification as a high impact data center

- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4993 - Relating to authorizing green flashing warning lights on Division of Highways vehicles, and other equipment at the discretion of the Commissioner of Highways.
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4999 - Relating to crimes against athletic officials
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 5101 - The Joanna Phillips Domestic Violence Prevention Act

FIRST READING

- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4009 - Relating to the creation of the Portable Benefit Account Act
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4088 - Relating to certified public accountants
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4568 - Clarifying abuse of process
- H. B. 4709 - Relating to changing the process of election litigation
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 4710 - Changing the limit on switching parties before filing to run for office from 60 days to 180 days prior to an election.
- H. B. 5166 - To provide notice to any political committees violating the filing requirements prior to assessing any civil fines and giving the Secretary of State authority to grant additional time for compliance not to exceed an additional 14 days.
- H. B. 5176 - Relating to creating the animal abuse database within the West Virginia State Police.
- Com. Sub. for H. B. 5182 - Relating generally to authorizing security personnel employed by the State Treasurer to carry concealed weapons while performing his or her official duties

HOUSE CALENDAR

Monday, February 16, 2026

34th Day

11:00 A.M.

THIRD READING

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4003 - WV First Small Business Growth Act

SECOND READING

S. B. 208 - Exempting certain military records from public release

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4477 - To give the Secretary of State authority to refer allegations of violations of election laws to West Virginia Prosecuting Attorneys Institute.

Com. Sub. for H. B. 5021 - Relating to the limited circumstances in which a registered nurse may administer anesthetics.

FIRST READING

Com. Sub. for S. B. 207 - Clarifying sheriff's compensation for collection of taxes

Com. Sub. for H. B. 4640 - Relating to drugs and adding a provision relating to the scheduling of crystalline polymorph psilocybin approved by the Food and Drug Administration

WEST VIRGINIA HOUSE OF DELEGATES

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2026

HOUSE CONVENES AT 11:00 A.M.

COMMITTEE ON RULES

10:45 A.M. – SPEAKERS CONFERENCE ROOM 218M

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON LEGAL SERVICES

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

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

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COURTS

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

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATION

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

1:45 P.M. – EDUCATION COMMITTEE ROOM 434M

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND PUBLIC WORKS

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

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