I. CONVENE MEETING

Chairwoman Rep. Reed convened the committee meeting at 10:05 AM, and then called for a recess until 10:30 AM so members of each party could caucus. The committee meeting was reconvened at 10:40 AM.

II. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRS

There were no opening remarks by the chairs.

III. BILLS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR JF ACTION
1. S.B No. 330 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REGULATION OF VOICE SERVICE PROVIDERS.

Rep. Reed called for a motion to JF S.B. No. 330 to the floor. The motion was made by Sen. Winfield and seconded by Sen. Doyle.

Rep. Ackert pointed out the fact that there were disagreements and differences over this bill between certain individuals, and encouraged those individuals to continue to work together to move the bill forward.

Rep. Gresko referenced concerns his constituents had about this bill’s impact on their landline telephone packages, but offered his support to the bill and his hope that progress will continue to be made on it.

Rep. Reed pointed out that Frontier Communications and PURA are continuing to have conversations about the bill and that the committee would like to move the bill along in order to allow these conversations to continue.

Rep. Reed then called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF S.B. No. 330 to the floor. The motion passed; 20 yea, 5 nay, 0 abstaining.

2. S.B. No. 333 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITIES AND PROVIDERS.

Rep. Reed called for a motion to JF S.B. No. 333 to the floor. The motion was made by Sen. Formica and seconded by Rep. Arconti.

Rep. Reed called for a roll call vote on the motion. It passed; 25 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstaining.

3. S.B. No. 335 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS AND CONSUMER PERSONALLY IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.

Rep. Reed called for a motion to JF S.B. No. 335 to the floor. The motion was made by Sen. Winfield and seconded by Sen. Doyle.

Rep. Arconti voiced his concerns with the bill, believing that while the bill is well intentioned, in its current form it targets the wrong entities and players for regulation. He also pointed out that the bill violates interstate commerce laws and would be preempted by federal statutes.

Rep. Fishbein pointed out that a task force established last year to deal with issues relevant to this bill had not received key appointments, had never issued a report, and in fact had never met. He argued that this task force should investigate issues of consumer privacy and net neutrality before any legislation is passed through the committee.

Sen. Winfield also wondered why the task force never received appointments, and said that he understood the concerns with the bill.

Rep. Reed called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF S.B. No. 335 to the floor. The motion failed; 8 yea, 17 nay, 0 abstaining.

4. S.B. No. 337 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD, A PROCUREMENT PROCESS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A QUALITY STANDARD FOR RENEWABLE GAS AND THE PROCUREMENT OF ELECTRICITY GENERATED FROM A BIOMASS FACILITY.

Rep. Reed called for a motion to JFS S.B. No. 337 to the floor with substitute language LCO # 2751. The motion was made by Sen. Winfield and seconded by Sen. Doyle.

Rep. Reed called for a roll call vote on the motion. It passed; 25 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstaining.

5. H.B. No. 5343 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING FINES ORDERED BY THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY, CIVIL PENALTIES FOR FAILURES TO COMPLY RELATED TO EXCAVATION, DEMOLITION OR DISCHARGE OF EXPLOSIVES AND CERTAIN TIMEFRAMES FOR CALCULATING LOST AND UNACCOUNTED FOR GAS.

Rep. Reed called for a motion to JF H.B. No. 5343 to the floor. The motion was made by Rep. Ackert and seconded by Sen. Winfield.

Rep. Fishbein stated his concern that some of the bill’s language concerning restitutions and penalties may lead to confusion between PURA, Eversource, and private customers.

Rep. Ackert said that he understood the concerns of Rep. Fishbein, specifically about Sec. 2 of the bill, but offered his support to passing the bill out of committee.

Rep. Reed called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF H.B. No. 5343 to the floor. The motion passed; 20 yea, 5 nay, 0 abstaining.

6. H.B. No. 5345 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT.

Rep. Reed called for a motion to JFS H.B. No. 5345 to the floor with substitute language LCO # 2769. The motion was made by Sen. Winfield and seconded by Sen. Doyle.

Rep. Reed called for a roll call vote on the motion. It passed; 24 yea, 1 nay, 0 abstaining.
7. H.B. No. 5348 (RAISED) AN ACT MAKING USEFUL THERMAL ENERGY
GENERATED FROM BIODIESEL A CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCE
AND CREATING A HOMEOWNER-GENERATED USEFUL THERMAL ENERGY
PROGRAM.


Rep. Ackert called for further investigation and study of Thermal Renewable Energy Credit programs and thermal energy technology, but wanted to keep the conversation moving forward by supporting the passage of this bill out of committee. He also raised concerns with potential impacts that this bill may have on energy rates of consumers.

Rep. Gresko and Rep. Demicco were concerned about designating biodiesel as a Class I renewable resource and the precedent it may set for other types of resources trying to achieve Class I designation.

Sen. Formica acknowledged the concerns of his colleagues over renewable energy credits, but offered his support of moving the conversation forward by passing the bill out of committee.

Rep. Cheeseman had misgivings about the Class I designation raising energy costs for rate payers.

Rep. Reed called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF H.B. No. 5348 to the floor. The motion passed; 17 yea, 8 nay, 0 abstaining.

8. H.B. No. 5350 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING SHARED SOLAR FACILITIES AND MUNICIPAL AIRPORTS.

Rep. Reed held the vote on H.B. 5350 until March 27th.

9. H.B. No. 5352 (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING THE STUDY OF THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE STATE.

Rep. Reed called for a motion to JF H.B. No. 5352 to the floor. The motion was made by Sen. Doyle and seconded by Sen. Winfield.

Rep. Fishbein took issue with the fact that this bill could be construed as a placeholder bill, as there is not currently any intent to actually carry out the study called for by the bill. He stated his desire to JF bills of substance out of the committee.

Rep. Reed said she preferred to look at the bill as “Plan B,” but confirmed that it was indeed a placeholder.

Rep. Reed called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF H.B. No. 5352 to the floor. The motion passed; 20 yea, 5 nay, 0 abstaining.
IV. ADJOURNMENT

Rep. Reed recessed the meeting at 11:06 AM, with the vote being held open until 4:00 PM, at which time the meeting was adjourned.

Ethan Ives
Committee Clerk

Spencer Ward
Assistant Clerk