

Government Administration and Elections Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 28, 2018

1:00 PM in Room 2A of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by Chairman, Rep. Fox D. 148.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Flexer M. S29; Frantz L. S36; McLachlan M. S24; Slossberg G. S14

Representatives: Cummings S. 074; Devlin L. 134; Fox D. 148; France M. 042; Haddad G. 054; Labriola D. 131; Lesser M. 100; McCarthy Vahey C. 133; Miller P. 145; Rebimbas R. 070; Sampson R. 080; Santiago H. 084; Winkler M. 056

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives:

I. CONVENE MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by Chairman, Rep. Fox D. 148.

The meeting was recessed by Rep. Fox at 1:09 PM to be reconvened at the call of the chair.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:40 PM by Rep. Fox.

II. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRS

There were no remarks made by the Chairs.

III. BILLS FOR FINAL ACTION

1. H.B. No. 5526 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING DARK MONEY AND DISCLOSURE.

Rep. Fox asked for a motion to JF H.B. No 5526 to the floor. A motion was made by Sen. Flexer and seconded by Sen. Slossberg.

Sen. McLachlan expressed grave concerns regarding duplicate language found in another bill. He expressed that he will vote no and urges rejection by his colleagues.

Rep. Sampson expressed that the bill discloses too much personal information of donors of political groups and candidates.

Rep. Lesser spoke in support of the bill. He hoped the bill moves forward will a bipartisan support.

Sen. Slossberg echoed the comments of her colleague Rep. Lesser.

Rep. Devlin asked various questions on clarifications on how public unions are affected by the bill.

Rep. Fox answered Rep. Devlin's questions and that he believes unions were included in the bill except dues.

Final Vote Tally: 17 voting, 9 yea, 8 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent not voting.

Motion passed.

2. H.B. No. 5520 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN EXPENDITURES OF CANDIDATE COMMITTEES PARTICIPATING IN THE CITIZENS' ELECTION PROGRAM.

Rep. Fox asked for a motion to JF H.B. No. 5520 to the floor. A motion was made by Sen. McLachlan and seconded by Sen. Frantz.

Rep. Lesser asked for the purpose of this legislation.

Rep. Devlin summarized the bill.

Rep. Lesser expressed that it was his understanding these provisions are already in place.

Rep. Devlin explained the differences in the bill from the previously mentioned. She also expressed that the goal is to prevent public money getting to insiders.

Rep. Lesser suggested that there already exists legislation to combat this issue and will be voting no on this bill.

Rep. Devlin wanted it on the record that the bill was previously supported by 128 of 151 members of the House of Representatives.

Rep. Haddad expressed an issue with the language of the bill and will also be voting no.

Sen. Slossberg also had issues with the language and will be voting no on the bill.

Final Vote Tally: 17 voting, 9 yea, 8 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent not voting.

Motion Passed.

3. S.B. No. 251 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE SET-ASIDE PROGRAM, ADVERTISING FOR STATE SPACE NEEDS, STATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS AND STATE INFORMATION AND TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEMS.

Rep. Fox asked for a motion to JFS S.B. No. 251 to the floor. The motion was made by Sen. McLachlan and seconded by Rep. Haddad.

Final Vote Tally: 17 voting, 17 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent not voting.

Motion Passed.

4. [S.B. No. 411](#) (RAISED) AN ACT EXTENDING THE HOURS OF ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION. (GAE)

Rep. Fox asked for a motion to JFS S.B. No. 411 to the floor. A motion was made by Sen. Flexer and seconded by Sen. Slossberg.

Final Vote Tally: 17 voting, 9 yea, 8 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent not voting.

Motion Passed.

5. [S.B. No. 497](#) (RAISED) AN ACT PROHIBITING INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES BY FOREIGN-INFLUENCED BUSINESS ENTITIES AND LIMITING COVERED TRANSFERS. (GAE)

6. [S.B. No. 500](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGN COMMUNICATIONS. (GAE)

Rep. Fox asked for a motion to JF S.B. No. 500 to the floor. A motion was made by Rep. Frantz and seconded by Rep. Devlin.

Rep. Lesser asked if there was a case open that was the reason for the creation of this bill.

Sen. McLachlan answered yes, a case regarding Rep. Sampson and Sen. Markley.

Rep. Lesser asked if the proposed law by Rep. Sampson was a concession that the law was violated in their case.

Sen. McLachlan answered that it was not a concession and the case is being appealed in a court.

Final Vote Tally: 17 voting, 9 yea, 8 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent not voting.

Motion Passed.

7. S.B. No. 502 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND.

Rep. Fox asked for a motion to JFS S.B. No. 502 to the floor. A motion was made by Rep. Winkler and seconded by Sen. McLachlan.

Rep. Fox acknowledged Sen. McLachlan's hard effort put into the bill.

Rep. Devlin mentioned that she would vote the bill out of Committee for discussion to continue on the floor.

Final Vote Tally: 17 voting, 17 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent not voting.

Motion Passed.

Sen. Flexer thanked the committee staff for all their hard work. She also thanked the representatives from the Office of Legislative Research, the Office of Legislative Commissioner's Office, and the Office of Fiscal Analysis.

Sen. McLachlan echoed Sen. Flexer's sentiment and also thanked the members of the committee for all their hard work. He thanked Rep. Winkler, Rep. Devlin, Sen. Frantz and Sen. Slossberg for their diligent and dedicated work for the committee. He also mentioned that he was looking forward to debating these issues on the Senate floor.

Rep. Devlin echoed the sentiment of the two good Senators before her. She mentioned that the issues out of this committee are diverse and interesting and she was proud that the committee worked in such a bipartisan fashion.

Sen. Flexer thanked Sen. Slossberg for her hard work and over a decade of service to her community as a Senator but also as a member of the GAE committee as she is to retire after her term ends.

Rep. Fox echoed the comments of his colleagues and thanked the members of the committee and its staff for their patience, deliberation, and knowledge on the issues.

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:16 PM.

Sue Tufts

Christian Tynan

Maureen O'Reilly

Committee Clerk

Assistant Committee Clerks