

Public Health Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 16, 2018

11:05 AM in Room 1D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by Chairman, Rep. Steinberg J. 136.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Gerratana T. S06; Kennedy T. S12; Logan G. S17; Markley J. S16;
Somers H. S18

Representatives: Betts W. 078; Borer D. 115; Candelora V. 086; Carpino C. 032;
Cook M. 065; Cummings S. 074; Demicco M. 021; Juleson-Scopino
K. 012; Klarides-Ditria N. 105; McCarty K. 038; Petit W. 022; Ryan
K. 139; Scanlon S. 098; Srinivasan P. 031; Staneski P. 119;
Steinberg J. 136; Winkler M. 056

Absent were:

Senators: Moore M. S22

Representatives: Genga H. 010; Perillo J. 113; Riley E. 046; Tercyak P. 026

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by Chairman, Rep. Steinberg J. 136.

Representative Steinberg opened the floor to committee leadership for remarks.

Representative Srinivasan announced that he is now a fifth-time grandfather, to a baby girl named Lisa.

Rep. Steinberg requested a motion to items 1-17 on the agenda.

1. AAC the Civil, Legal and Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities

2. AA Requiring the Health Information Technology Working Group to Evaluate Issues Concerning Polypharmacy and Medication Reconciliation
3. AAC Health Insurance Coverage for In-Network Health Care Services
4. AAC Allowing Medical Assistants to Administer Vaccines and Nebulizer Treatments
5. AA Prohibiting Involuntary Sterilization of Persons with Disabilities
6. AAC Oral Health Assessments of Children
7. AAC Removal from Play of Student Athletes with Symptoms of Cardiac Arrest
8. AAC the Development of a Facility and Resource Plan for the Intellectually Disabled
9. AA Requiring the Labeling of Flame Retardant Products
10. AAC Burial and Cremation in Cases of Spontaneous Fetal Demise
11. AAC Deceptive Advertising Practices of Crisis Pregnancy Centers
12. AAC Podiatry
13. AAC Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products
14. AAC Tele-Psychiatry
15. AAC Whiting Forensic Division and Connecticut Valley Hospital
16. AAC Data
17. AAC Preventative Treatment of Minors for Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Senator Gerratana offered the motion.

Representative Ryan offered to second the motion.

Sen. Markley requested more information on concept #1 on the agenda: AAC the Civil, Legal and Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Sen. Gerratana noted that this may be the bill where Department of Developmental Services reports to a new entity that has taken over for the old Office of Protection and Advocacy. Federal mandate requires that the arrangement needed to be changed. This legislation is to make certain that both entities are communicating about shared cases.

Rep. McCarty noted that she has similar concepts proposed with the Disability Rights Connecticut, Inc. and Department of Developmental Services to protect persons with disabilities.

Sen. Markley stated that he was satisfied with the explanation.

Sen. Markley expressed concerns with item #11: AAC Deceptive Advertising Practices of Crisis Pregnancy Centers. He added it is unwise to take up such a controversial subject during a short session; since, there is a similar Supreme Court case which is about to be heard next month.

Rep. Steinberg explained that it is the responsibility of legislators to take up controversial subjects, even during short session. He further noted that the committees are in a similar position.

Rep. Winkler requested more information on item #16: AAC Data.

Rep. Steinberg stated that this is a catch-all bill and will relate to all state health care data systems. This concept will collect, manage, and analyze data. He informed the meeting that the Public Health Committee will be arranging an information forum where presentations will be made by the industry. This bill is intended to provide a vehicle for issues that needed to be discussed legislatively.

Rep. Srinivasan requested an explanation on item #12: AAC Podiatry. He stated that item #14, AAC Tele-Psychiatry, is also open-ended.

Rep. Steinberg noted that language will come and that the concept was left broad until the committee agrees upon more specific language.

Rep. Staneski asked that Rep. Steinberg revisit item #14: AAC Data.

Rep. Steinberg noted that item #14 is currently serving as a vessel until more specific language is determined.

Rep. Betts again expressed his concern that many of the concepts are not budget related and noted that he was under the impression that all items proposed during a short session should be related to the budget.

Rep. Steinberg noted that the large amount of proposed legislation that has been submitted to the Public Health Committee are not all budget related. Rep. Steinberg clarified that all three chairs took each piece of proposed legislation under serious consideration and have discretion in these matters.

Rep. Betts noted that the Public Health Committee takes on too many issues at once and there is a reason and rationale to limiting topics to the budget. He stated that he is hesitant to support all these concepts.

Rep. Steinberg agreed that some of the concepts may need to be reviewed when they reach the floor for voting.

Sen. Logan makes a motion to recess for ten minutes.

Rep. Steinberg approved a ten minute recess at 11:19 AM and the committee meeting reconvened at 11:29 AM.

Rep. Srinivasan requested clarification on item #15: AAC Whiting Forensic Division and Connecticut Valley Hospital.

Rep. Steinberg noted that item #15 is to cover what incurred at Connecticut Valley Hospital. Rep. Steinberg then recognized Sen. Somers to further explain the matter.

Sen. Somers noted that the general concepts would be for the Public Health Committee to establish an outside task force to evaluate changes, hold public hearings at Whiting Forensic Division, in order to allow personnel to speak with patients, regulate licensing of the hospital, define what abuse is, define mandated reporters, and review the Governor's executive order. Sen. Somers noted that she would like a public hearing on the concept.

Sen. Gerratana remarked on the many concepts submitted and specifically noted proposed legislation submitted by Rep. Lesser for the in-depth research completed.

Rep. Srinivasan requested more information involving the data forum for item #16.

Rep. Steinberg stated that the data forum will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2018, with a time and room to-be-determined. Presenters will include the State Medical Society and the Office of Health Strategy.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a voice vote on the agenda.

The motion was passed on a voice vote.

Rep. Steinberg recessed the meeting until 3:00 Pm and noted that the next Public Health Committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at 11:00 AM in Room 1D of the LOB.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM.

Beverly Henry
Administrator

Anne Gallagher
Committee Assistant Clerk