The meeting was called to order at 12pm by Chairman, Rep. Walker, T 093.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Daugherty Abrams M. S13; Flexer M. S29; Formica P. S20; Hartley J. S15; Kushner J. S24; Lesser M. S09; Miner C. S30; Osten C. S19; Somers H. S18; Winfield G. S10

Representatives: Abercrombie C. 083; Baker A. 124; Betts W. 078; Bolinsky M. 106; Case J. 063; Currey J. 011; Dathan L. 142; Dauphinais A. 044; Dillon P. 092; DiMassa M. 116; France M. 042; Gibson B. 015; Gilchrest J. 018; Gonzalez M. 003; Haddad G. 054; Hall C. 059; Horn M. 064; Johnson S. 049; Kokoruda N. 101; Lavielle G. 143; Lemar R. 096; Mastrofrancesco G. 080; Nolan A. 039; Pavalock-D’Amato C. 077; Perone C. 137; Petit W. 022; Porter R. 094; Reyes G. 075; Rosario C. 128; Ryan K. 139; Simanski B. 062; Simms T. 140; Tercyak P. 026; Walker T. 093; Wilson D. 066; Winkler M. 056; Zawistowski T. 061; Zupkus L. 089

Absent were:

Senators: Bradley D. S23

Representatives: McCarty K. 038; Rotella K. 043

Note: Rep. McCarty was absent due to illness.

Rep. Walker called the meeting to order at 12pm.

The meeting was recessed, to be reconvened following a caucus.
The meeting was reconvened at 3:11pm by Rep. Walker.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on SB872 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR’S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR GENERAL GOVERNMENT. A motion was made by Sen. Lesser and seconded by Rep. Simms. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 30 voting yay, 18 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker stated the votes would be held open until 5pm.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on SB1119 AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENDITURES FOR THE STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM. A motion was made by Rep. Simms and seconded by Rep. Gibson. Rep. Betts asked a question regarding the amortization and the Office of Fiscal Analysis responded by saying it was a 30 year amortization. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 32 voting yay, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining, and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on SB7403 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET PROCESS. A motion was made by Rep. Simms and seconded by Rep. Horn. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 48 voting yay, 0 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JF on SB1117 AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENDITURES FOR FRINGE BENEFITS. A motion was made by Rep. Ryan and seconded by Rep. Simms. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 48 voting yay, 0 voting nay, 0 abstaining, and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on SB1119 AN ACT CONCERNING EXPENDITURES FOR THE STATE EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM AND THE TEACHERS’ RETIREMENT SYSTEM. A motion was made by Rep. Simms and seconded by Rep. Gibson. Rep. Betts asked a question regarding the staff and administrators and their salaries. The Office of Fiscal Analysis responded by saying the Teachers’ Retirement Board has an authorized position count of 27 individuals and one administrator. Rep. Walker stated this bill calls for a title change and the range of salary can change, but is not mandated by this bill. Rep. Zawistowski asked if this is just a title change, would it have to be evaluated by Department of Administrative Services, and Christina Gellman from the Office of Fiscal Analysis responded by saying “yes”, which is stated in the fiscal note. Rep. Mastrofrancesco asked if this position was collectively bargained. Christina Gellman responded by saying this position is not collectively bargained. Sen. Osten reiterated the position of secretary is not the same as administrative assistant and that the title was akin to the secretary of OPM; further, she stated it is a lateral movement and not a promotion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 32 voting yay, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JF on HB7407 AN ACT CONCERNING MEDICAID EXPENDITURES. A motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Rep. Simms. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 39 voting yay, 9 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.
Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on HB7150 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR’S BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING EDUCATION. A motion was made by Rep. DiMassa and seconded by Rep. Nolan. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 31 voting yay, 17 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on HB7109 AN ACT CONCERNING INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOL PROGRAM FUNDING. A motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Rep. Reyes. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 35 voting yay, 13 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on SB1018 AN ACT CONCERNING THE OPPORTUNITY GAP. A motion was made by Rep. Simms and seconded by Rep. Candelaria. Rep. Abercrombie remarked she would be voting “no” today to “red flag” the bill. Rep. Dathan, Sen. Daugherty Abrams, Rep. Perone, Rep. Nolan, and Rep. Simms stated they would be voting “yes” today but reserve the right to vote no on the floor. Rep. Johnson stated she applauds the idea of this bill, but is not sure it will fit the needs of her district as many students in her districts do not speak English as their first language, and therefore will be voting “no”, but reserves her right to vote “yes” on the floor. Rep. Case and Rep. Walker had an exchange regarding alliance district grants. Rep. Johnson asked how many alliance districts are funded at 100%. The Office of Fiscal Analysis said they would be able to get her that information. Rep. Currey answered a question asked earlier regarding alliance funding, responding the plans need to be approved by the State Department of Education. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 37 voting yay, 11 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.


Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on HB6931 AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC WORKERS. A motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Sen. Winfield. Sen. Miner stated today he would be voting “no”, but reserved his right to vote “yes” on the floor. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 33 voting yay, 15 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for JFS on SB931 AN ACT CONCERNING PAYMENTS TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS. A motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie
and seconded by Sen. Daugherty Abrams. Rep. Lavielle asked for clarification on what the language change does. The Office of Fiscal Analysis and Rep. Abercrombie and Rep. Walker each explained the language change removes the fiscal note. Rep. Zawistowski asked if this language change would preclude the centers from using the increase in funds for benefits instead of salaries. Rep. Walker responded the increase in funds would be only for salaries. Sen. Formica stated he is worried that paying the employees more would be taking money away from the children. Rep. Walker said that paying the child care providers would not be taking money from the children; it would be an increase in funding for a living wage for the child care provider. Sen. Formica stated he will be a “no” today until he gets a better understanding of the bill. Rep. Abercrombie stated that under the Care 4 Kids program the money follows the child, and if there was an increase in funding, it would go to the employees to pay them a living wage. Sen. Formica thanked Rep. Abercrombie and stated he respects her knowledge of this bill. Sen. Somers asked what will happen if this bill passes, and a child care center gets additional funding, but does not pass it on to their employees. Rep. Walker responded that the Education Committee would be able to better answer that question.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco asked if the child care providers are collectively bargained. The Office of Fiscal Analysis responds by saying it depends on the center. Rep. Hall stated she is concerned that the owners of the child care centers can keep the money. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 42 voting yay, 6 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on HB7092 AN ACT EXPANDING THE KATIE BECKETT WAIVER PROGRAM. A motion was made by Sen. Lesser and seconded by Rep. Abercrombie. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 48 voting yay, 0 voting nay, 0 abstaining, and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on HB7102 AN ACT CONCERNING SENIOR CENTERS. A motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Rep. Horn. Sen. Formica and Sen. Osten had an exchange regarding the need for this bill. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 45 voting yay, 3 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JF on HB7267 AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT. A motion was made by Sen. Lesser and seconded by Rep. Ryan. Rep. Simms remarked that he would be voting “yes” though he believes the bill needs work and that he reserves his right to vote “no” on the floor. Rep. Zawistowski and Sen. Lesser had an exchange regarding what the money is for. Sen. Somers and Sen. Lesser had an exchange regarding the money for the study, and where the study would be returned to. Sen. Somers stated that she would be a “no” today. Rep. Hall and Sen. Lesser had an exchange regarding the marketing piece and the funding for the study. Rep. Pavalock-D’Amato and Sen. Lesser had an exchange regarding the funding for the study and where the study will be reported to. Sen. Miner received clarification from the Office of Fiscal Analysis on the claims that attributable are to state employees. Sen. Miner stated he has grave concerns with this bill. Sen. Somers asks for clarification on section 2, regarding the study coming back to the committee. Rep. Kokoruda stated that she agrees with a lot of what Sen. Miner said and remembers when insurance companies and lawmakers stood by each other, and that she is disappointed that this is where we are. Rep. Zawistowski asked why only certain portions of the study would be returned to the legislature, Sen. Lesser stated that those are the only action items and that is why they would need to be returned. Rep. Zawistowski stated she is against this bill. Rep. Hall asked where in the
bill it says the plan will be coming back to the committee. Sen. Lesser responded by saying the intent of that section is to include the plan but if that can be clarified in subsequent amendments it will be. Sen. Miner made a motion to Box the bill. Rep Walker stated that there was already a motion on the floor to JF the bill; therefore, Senator Miner’s motion was ruled out of order. Sen. Miner then made a motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair. Rep. Walker asked the administrator to call the roll on the appeal the ruling of the Chair. There was a roll call vote and the motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair failed. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 29 voting yay, 19 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JF on SB134 AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC OPTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE IN CONNECTICUT. A motion was made by Sen. Formica and seconded by Sen. Somers. Rep. Betts asked how the Chairs and the proponents of the bills would feel about a future amendment offered on the floor. Rep. Walker responded saying as long as it is proposed on the floor she sees no problem. Rep. Lavielle asked if SB134 and HB7267 are the same bill and Sen. Lesser responded saying they are identical bills. Rep. France asked where in the current budget the money for this bill has been set aside, Sen. Lesser responded saying the legislature would have to vote to set aside money. Sen. Formica offered an amendment stating the plans would have to go through both chambers of the legislature and be signed by the Governor. The amendment was seconded by Rep. Betts. Sen. Lesser stated that he would be happy to work with the good senator moving forward, as legislative oversight is important to him as well. Rep. Betts stated that he cannot understand the point of having a legislature if this bill would only go back to the Insurance Committee. Sen. Formica requested a roll call be taken for his proposed amendment. There was a roll call vote and the amendment failed. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 29 voting yay, 19 voting no, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JFS on HB5152 AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY OF MARIJUANA-IMPAIRED DRIVING AND METHODS TO DETECT MARIJUANA-IMPAIRED DRIVING. A motion was made by Rep. Case and seconded by Rep. Lavielle. A roll call vote was taken, and the motioned passed with 46 voting yay, 2 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Rep. Walker entertained a motion for a JF on SB356 AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CONNECTICUT APPRENTICESHIP AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE. A motion was made by Rep. Simms and seconded by Rep. Case. Rep. Haddad stated this bill was very close to a bill coming out of the Education Committee. Sen. Formica urges the committee’s support on this bill. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed with 38 voting yay, 9 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 4 absent and not voting.

The meeting was recessed at 7pm, Rep. Walker stated the votes would be help open until 7:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.