

Energy and Technology Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 14, 2019

10:00 AM in Room 2C of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 AM by Chairman, Rep. Arconti D. 109.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Fonfara J. S01; Formica P. S20; Lesser M. S09; Needleman N. S33

Representatives: Ackert T. 008; Allie-Brennan R. 002; Arconti D. 109; Buckbee B. 067; Cheeseman H. 037; Davis C. 057; de la Cruz J. 041; Demicco M. 021; Elliott J. 088; Ferraro C. 117; Gresko J. 121; Lanoue B. 045; Lopes R. 024; Meskers S. 150; Napoli R. 073; Petit W. 022; Piscopo J. 076; Steinberg J. 136; Tercyak P. 026; Winkler M. 056

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives: Perone C. 137

I. CONVENE MEETING

Chairman Rep. Arconti convened the meeting at 10:12 AM, and then called for an immediate recess in order to allow each party to caucus. The meeting was reconvened at 11:04 AM.

II. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRS

Rep. Ferraro made a remark. Rep. Ferraro thanks the chairs and leadership of the committee for making sure the bills coming out of committee contain input from both sides. Rep. Ferraro stated that a number of people have things they wish to talk about.

Sen. Formica made a remark. Sen. Formica echo's the comments made by Rep. Ferraro.

III. BILLS FOR REVIEW

1. [H.J. No. 57](#) (COMM) RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING SEAVIEW VILLAGE IN BRIDGEPORT AS A MUNICIPAL ENERGY SAVINGS AREA. (ET,ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JF [H.J. No. 57](#) to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion JF [H.J. No. 57](#) to the floor.

The motion passed; 24 yea, 1 absent and not voting.

2. [S.B. No. 875](#) AN ACT EXPANDING CONNECTICUT'S OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PORTFOLIO. (ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JF [S.B. No. 875](#) to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman

Rep. Arconti asked for comments and discussion.

Rep. Ferraro made a comment. Rep. Ferraro stated there are some concerns relating to the bill including the amount of energy procured and the language. Rep. Ferraro would like to see the off-shore wind bills leave committee so there is a bill that is agreed upon and able to be passed.

Rep. Ackert made a comment. Rep. Ackert thanked the committee for the work that they do. Rep. Ackert shared the same concerns as Rep. Ferraro regarding the industry competition dealing with manufacturing and employment in the process of the off-shore wind project. Rep. Ackert commented on the need to create a solar plan. Rep. Ackert stated he will be voting "No" on the bill today; however, he will be supporting off-shore wind as strong as he can.

Rep. Steinberg made a comment. Rep. Steinberg stated he would like to associate his remarks with Rep. Ferraro and Rep. Ackert.

Rep. Piscopo made a comment. Rep. Piscopo commented on his issue with the procurement of energy from offshore wind. Rep. Piscopo commented on the testimony heard on the fishing industry dealing with the fishing lanes and issues within the industry.

Rep. Buckbee made a comment. Rep. Buckbee comments on the language of the bill regarding the growth of business and renewable sources. Rep. Buckbee stated that this is a good step moving forward.

Sen. Formica made a comment. Sen. Formica commented on the leadership of the committee and the work of the Governor for helping create a foothold for the industry in the state. Sen. Formica remarks the project is important for the state economically, in employment terms, and investment for towns on the shore. Sen. Formica voices concerns regarding the renewable portfolio standard. Sen. Formica states that both S.B. 875 & H.B. 7156 will get out where there can be further conversations. Sen. Formica will vote "No" today but is committed to working forward with the members of the committee.

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion JF [S.B. No. 875](#) to the floor.

The motion passed; 17 yea, 6 nea, 1 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

3. [H.B. No. 7156](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM OFFSHORE WIND. (ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JFS [H.B. No. 7156](#) LCO No. 6087 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROCUREMENT OF ENERGY DERIVED FROM OFFSHORE WIND. (ET)

to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman

Rep. Arconti asked for comments and discussion.

Rep. Ferraro made a comment. Rep. Ferraro raised a question on the language changing from 1,000 megawatts to 2,000 megawatts.

Rep. Davis made a comment. Rep. Davis also questioned the language change regarding the number of megawatts. Rep. Davis is concerned with using prevailing wage with the cost to the ratepayer. Rep. Davis states the off-shore wind industry will have great benefits to the state. Rep. Davis will oppose the bill in committee but looks forward to working with the committee members.

Rep. Ackert made a comment. Rep. Ackert commented on line 4 in the language regarding the word “shall” or “may”. Rep. Ackert stated he is concerned about not having control of the technology used in the energy project. Rep. Ackert will support legislation, however, asks that lines 16 through 24 are removed.

Rep. Meskers made a comment. Rep. Meskers supports the bill and has similar concerns as other members on “shall” versus “may” Rep. Meskers has concerns about economic development to build infrastructure.

Rep. Steinberg made a comment. Rep. Steinberg comments that Rep. Ackert made a good point regarding energy projects. Rep. Steinberg suggests working with DEEP and other organizations to secure environmental protections dealing with marine life. Rep. Steinberg suggests considering the environmental benefits and not simply the cost to the ratepayers.

Rep. Winkler made a comment. Rep. Winkler states there should not be a need to use out of state labor for the reason that it is less expensive. Rep. Winkler commented that keeping jobs in Connecticut is important.

Rep. Lanoue made a comment. Rep. Lanoue commented on the opportunity for supply chain manufacturing and assembly as it relates to wind energy industry. Rep. Lanoue shares the same concerns as Rep. Davis and Rep. Ackert, however, is open to eastern Connecticut to be involved with the new innovations in the energy industry. Rep. Lanoue stated that while changes need to be made to the bill he will support the bill in committee, however, Rep. Lanoue stated he will reserve the right to oppose the bill on the House floor.

Rep. Buckbee made a comment. Rep. Buckbee echoes the concerns of Rep. Davis and Rep. Ackert on the subject of bill language. Rep. Buckbee states his concerns with labor language. Rep. Buckbee will be opposing the bill in committee.

Sen. Formica made a comment. Sen. Formica commented on the message that needs to be sent regarding the emerging industry in the country and the transition time when moving energy usage. Sen. Formica commented on the dropping price of renewable energy thanks to improved technology. Sen. Formica commented on labor concerns and his work with union representatives to move the conversation forward. Sen. Formica said that the state fishing

industry needs to be protected. Sen. Formica stated that collaboration with fishing companies allowed lines 31 to 51 to be placed in the bill. Sen. Formica stated that the state needs to send a strong message about the importance of off-shore wind energy. Sen. Formica stated he will support the bill and will work with the committee to present the governor with an effective bill.

Sen. Needleman made a comment. Sen. Needleman thanks the committee for working to solve the energy problems and is proud of the progress. Sen. Needleman stated there are never perfect solutions yet the concerns will be managed. Sen. Needleman commented he agrees with Sen. Formica on the importance of protecting the fishing industry.

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion JFS [H.B. No. 7156](#) LCO No. 6087 to the floor. **The motion passed; 20 yea, 3 nay, 1 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.**

4. [S.B. No. 468](#) (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE INSTALLATION OF CLASS I RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES ON STATE LAND NEAR PUBLIC HIGHWAYS. (ET,ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JF [S.B. No. 468](#) to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman.

Rep. Arconti asked for comments and discussion.

Rep. Ackert made a comment. Rep. Ackert asked questions regarding the assessment of the energy project.

Rep. Davis made a comment. Rep. Davis commented on the solar panels on the Mass Pike and how Connecticut could benefit from a solar system similar to Massachusetts. Rep. Davis mentions a consultation with the Department of Transportation in regards to highway expansion and how areas can be used to put energy systems in place. Rep. Davis stated he will be supporting the bill.

Rep. Buckbee made a comment. Rep. Buckbee shares the same concerns of Rep. Ackert. Rep. Buckbee asks Sen. Needleman if there would be opposition to the change if the bill came back to the legislature before any action is made due to the benefits of reviewing the legislation before putting it directly into law. Sen. Needleman stated there will most likely not be opposition if all the options are considered. Sen. Needleman states that the Massachusetts solar system is a great marketing tool for the state of Massachusetts and states how Connecticut can learn from that idea. Rep. Buckbee stated he will be supporting the bill.

Rep. Demicco made a comment. Rep. Demicco commented that he is in agreement with the other committee members. Rep. Demicco stated a concern with a lack of distinction within the bill in terms of land owned by the Department of Transportation and land that is held by DEEP. Rep. Demicco commented on testimony received in a hearing that discusses land next to or near highways that may be incompatible with the installation of solar panels. Rep. Demicco questioned whether the language can be modified to allow the distinction between DOT and DEEP land so a situation in which solar panels installed on an incompatible location can be prevented. Rep. Demicco stated he will be supporting the bill.

Rep. Piscopo made a comment. Rep. Piscopo commented on the conflicting policies dealing with the environmental impact of installing solar structures.

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF [S.B. No. 468](#) to the floor.
The motion passed; 22 yea, 2 nea, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

5. [S.B. No. 469](#) (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES REGULATORY AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE STANDARDS AND MINIMUM STAFFING AND EQUIPMENT LEVELS FOR ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES. (ET,ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JF [S.B. No. 468](#) to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman.

Rep. Arconti asked for comments and discussion.

No Comments

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF [S.B. No. 469](#) to the floor.
The motion passed; 20 yea, 4 nea, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

6. [S.B. No. 222](#) (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLY AND WASTEWATER UTILITY ASSETS. (ET,ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JF [S.B. No. 222](#) to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman.

Rep. Arconti asked for comments and discussion.

Rep. Demicco made a comment. Rep. Demicco states concerns involving testimony submitted by the Office of Consumer Counsel and PURA regarding "fair value methodology". The apprehension is the rates for utilities being charged to ratepayers. Rep. Demicco commented on testimony submitted by the Connecticut Water Works Association which indicated the collaboration amongst both PURA and the OCC to address the utility rate concerns. Rep. Demicco stated he will support the bill in committee however his vote in support on the House floor would depend on whether the concerns will be addressed.

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF [S.B. No. 222](#) to the floor.
The motion passed; 23 yea, 1 nea, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

7. [H.B. No. 7114](#) (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT OF ELECTRICITY, NATURAL GAS, RENEWABLE ENERGY AND OTHER ENERGY-RELATED PRODUCTS BY NONPROFIT ENERGY BUYING CONSORTIA. (ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JF [H.B. No. 7114](#) to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman.

Rep. Arconti asked for comments and discussion.

Rep. Buckbee made a comment. Rep. Buckbee stated he feels this bill is a smart move to open the door to municipalities gaining more flexibility.

Rep. Buckbee is in support of the bill.

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF [H.B. No. 7114](#) to the floor.
The motion passed; 24 yea, 0 nea, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

8. [S.B. No. 677](#) (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DELIVERY FORMAT OF COMMUNITY ACCESS PROGRAMMING. (ET,ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JF [S.B. No. 677](#) to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman.

Rep. Arconti asked for comments and discussion.

No Comments

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF [S.B. No. 677](#) to the floor.
The motion passed; 24 yea, 0 nea, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

9. [H.B. No. 5381](#) (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD FOR CLASS II RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES. (ET,ET)

Rep. Arconti called for a motion to JF [H.B. No. 5381](#) to the floor.

The motion was made by Rep. Ferraro and seconded by Sen. Needleman.

Rep. Arconti asked for comments and discussion.

No Comments

Rep. Arconti called for a roll call vote on the motion to JF [H.B. No. 5381](#) to the floor. **The motion passed; 24 yea, 0 nea, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.**

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Rep. Arconti stated the votes will be held the votes open until 5:00 PM, at which time the meeting would be adjourned.

Rep. Arconti announced votes will be held open until 5:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Administrator

Ben Lovejoy
Committee Clerk