Government Administration and Elections Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 6, 2019

1:30 PM in Room 2D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at  by Chairman, Sen. Flexer M. S29.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Flexer M. S29; Haskell W. S26; Maroney J. S14; Sampson R. S16

Representatives: Blumenthal M. 147; Fox D. 148; France M. 042; Haddad G. 054; Harding S. 107; Labriola D. 131; Mastrofrancesco G. 080; McCarthy Vahey C. 133; Phipps Q. 100; Santiago H. 084; Winkler M. 056

Absent were:

Senators: Perillo J. 113

Representatives: Perillo J. 113

I. CONVENE THE MEETING

Sen. Flexer convened the meeting at 1:35 PM and immediately recessed.
Sen. Flexer reconvened meeting at 1:52 PM.

II. REMARKS BY THE CHAIRS

No remarks by the chairs.

III. BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR FINAL ACTION

1. **S.B. No. 479** (COMM) AN ACT DESIGNATING ELECTION DAY AS A STATE HOLIDAY. (GAE) **(JFS)**
Sen. Flexer made the motion to JFS to the floor. Sen. Maroney seconded. Discussion ensued regarding what kind of cost this might be to the state.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 12 yea, 3 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

**Motion passed.**

2. **S.B. No. 916** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATIONS FOR PREQUALIFICATION BY CONTRACTORS AND SUBSTANTIAL SUBCONTRACTORS. (GAE) (JF)

Sen. Sampson made the motion to offer friendly amendment that would strike Section 1 and substitute language. Rep. France seconded. Sen. Flexer remarked that she supported the motion. Rep. Fox called for a voice vote on the amendment. Amendment passed unanimously.

Rep. France questioned whether this bill had the same prequalification’s as on RFPs. Sen. Flexer said they are different requirements. Rep. France said that he believed they should be the same. Sen. Flexer said that this bill wouldn’t deny a prequalification to any applicant.

Sen. Flexer made the motion to JF to the floor the bill as amended. Sen. Maroney seconded.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 14 yea, 1 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

**Motion as amended passed.**

3. **S.B. No. 917** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD AND REQUIREMENTS FOR PRIVATIZATION CONTRACTS. (GAE) (JFS)

Sen. Flexer made the motion to JFS to the floor. Sen. Maroney seconded.

Rep. France asked what problem is trying to be solved with this bill. Sen. Flexer stated that this bill would add “sunlight” to the process and make it more open. Rep. France said he appreciated the goal, but is concerned about the approach this bill takes. Sen. Flexer said that the State Contracting Board may need more resources. Rep. France asked what the intent was to have the Attorney General approve contracts as outlined in section 6t. Sen. Flexer said that the Attorney General is supposed to be engaged in this process. Sen. Sampson agrees with Rep. France. He said he wants modernization and streamlining but said has heard from state agencies that say this bill doesn’t do that.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 10 yea, 5 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

**Motion passed.**
4. **H.B. No. 5335** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVAL FROM PARTY ENROLLMENT LISTS.  (GAE) (JF)

Sen. Flexer made the motion to JF to the floor. Sen. Maroney seconded.

Rep. France had said that he had some concerns that this process has been subject to abuse in the past and hopes this bill, by making removal for cause, will remedy this that and hoped the committee could support it. Sen. Sampson said he is against the bill.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 14 yea, 1 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

Motion passed.

5. **H.B. No. 5417** (COMM) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE USE OF BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY TO MANAGE ELECTOR INFORMATION.  (GAE) (JFS)

Sen. Flexer made the motion to JFS to the floor. Sen. Maroney seconded.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco had questions about how a task force is set up and whether it would cost any money. Rep. Fox said the members would volunteer their time and thinks a study is warranted.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

Motion passed.

6. **H.B. No. 6876** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE COPYING OF PUBLIC RECORDS BY USING A HAND-HELD SCANNER.  (GAE) (JFS)


Amendment passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Sen. Flexer made the motion to JFS to the floor the bill as amended. Sen. Maroney Seconded.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

Motion as amended passed.

7. **H.B. No. 7085** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONERS’ RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TECHNICAL REVISIONS TO STATUTES CONCERNING GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION AND ELECTIONS.  (GAE) (JF)
Sen. Flexer made the motion to JF to the floor. Sen. Maroney seconded.

No discussion.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 no, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

**Motion passed.**

8. **H.B. No. 7087** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF THE TRIENNIAL AUDIT OF STATE CONTRACTING AGENCIES BY THE STATE CONTRACTING STANDARDS BOARD. (GAE) (JF)

Sen. Flexer made the motion to JF to the floor. Sen. Maroney seconded.

Rep. France asked if the State Contracting Board have enough staffing and ability to comply. Rep. Winkler said that this isn’t really a change, but just makes sure that the reporting gets done.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

**Motion passed.**

9. **H.B. No. 7212** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING PRIMARY PETITIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR STATE LEGISLATIVE OFFICES. (GAE) (JF)

Sen. Flexer made the motion to JF to the floor. Sen. Maroney seconded.

Rep. Labriola asked what is currently being done with single town vs. multi-town districts. Rep. Fox said that this would make the primary petitions for both the same.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

**Motion passed.**

10. **H.J. No. 54** (COMM) RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONNECTICUT-TAIWAN SISTER STATE RELATIONSHIP. (GAE) (JF)

Sen. Flexer made the motion to JF to the floor. Sen. Maroney seconded.

No discussion.

**Final Vote Tally:** 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

**Motion passed.**

IV. PROPOSED BILLS TO VOTE TO DRAFT
1.) Proposed H.B. No. 5817 AN ACT CONCERNING OFFICIAL AND UNOFFICIAL CHECKERS IN POLLING PLACES. (GAE)

2.) Proposed H.B. No. 6047 AN ACT CONCERNING POLLING PLACES THAT SERVE MULTIPLE VOTING DISTRICTS. (GAE)

3.) Proposed H.B. No. 6283 AN ACT CONCERNING THE UTILIZATION OF BUILDINGS OCCUPIED BY EXECUTIVE BRANCH AGENCIES. (GAE)

4.) Proposed H.B. No. 6672 AN ACT CONCERNING THE VOTING AGE FOR ELECTIONS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS. (GAE)

Sen. Flexer made the motion to vote to draft all four and that it be a voice vote. Sen. Maroney seconded.

Sen. Sampson remarked that a vote to draft does not constitute a support of the bill itself, but rather an agreement to have the bill drafted.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Sen. Flexer declared that the votes would be held open until 4:00 PM.