I. Rep. Fox convened meeting at 11:09 AM and immediately recessed to go into caucus.

Meeting reconvened 5:14 PM.

II. 18. **H.B. No. 5110** (COMM) AN ACT APPLYING THE SECURITY EXEMPTION UNDER THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT TO THE CONNECTICUT AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND CONNECTICUT PORT AUTHORITY.

Motion made by Rep. Fox to JF to the floor and seconded by Sen. Haskell.
Rep. Winkler said the executive director of the CT Airport Authority has no reason to delay FOI, and that we need greater transparency in quasi-public agencies.

Rep. France said that the first priority is the physical security of the airport, and FOI is second to that.

**Final vote tally:** 16 voting, 12 yea, 4 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent and not voting.

Rep. Fox pointed out that the votes would be held open for 30 minutes after the close of the meeting.

13. **S.B. No. 269** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING STATE LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES’ CAMPAIGN COMMUNICATIONS.

Sen. Maroney made the motion to JF to the floor, seconded by Rep. France.

No discussion.

**Final vote tally:** 16 voting, 16 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent and not voting.

7. **H.B. No. 7385** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND CHANGES TO AFFIRMATION, AFFIDAVIT AND CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR LARGE STATE CONTRACTS.

Motion was made to JFS to the floor by Sen. Flexer, seconded by Rep. McCarthy Vahey.

Rep. France pointed out that SEEC had objected to some of this bill, lines 304 to 342. Wanted to know if language has been fixed for what they want.

Rep. Fox said yes.

**Final vote tally:** 16 voting, 12 yea, 4 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent and not voting.

9. **H.B. No. 6055** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN UPDATES TO ELECTION ADMINISTRATION LAWS.

Motion was made to JF to the floor by Sen. Flexer, seconded by Rep. McCarthy Vahey.

No discussion.

**Final vote tally:** 16 voting, 12 yea, 4 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent and not voting.

Sen. Flexer moved and Sen. Sampson seconded that the following items be put on the consent calendar: SB1049, HB6059, HB7325, and HB5823.
The clerk took the vote via roll call and the vote was unanimous.

20. **S.B. No. 1108** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY.

Motion was made to JFS to the floor by Sen. Flexer, seconded by Rep. McCarthy Vahey.

Sen. Flexer said the JFS language sets up a task force to study privacy laws.

**Final vote tally:** 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

4. **H.B. No. 5043** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ADOPTION OF ATLANTIC STANDARD TIME.

Motion was made to JFS to the floor by Rep. France and seconded by Sen. Haskell.

Rep. France pointed out that the substitute language brings NY, MA and RI into conformity before we would enact this.

**Final vote tally:** 15 voting, 13 yay, 2 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent and not voting.

15. **H.B. No. 5815** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING POLITICAL ADVERTISING.

Rep. France said the intent is to ensure there’s a disclaimer on photos. He feels that these issues come too late in the campaign to make any difference. Although he appreciates the intent, he doesn’t feel this bill is the appropriate remedy.

**Final vote tally:** 15 voting, 13 yea, 2 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

5. **S.B. No. 1097** (RAISED) AN ACT REQUIRING DISCLOSURE OF PRESIDENTIAL AND GUBERNATORIAL CANDIDATES' FEDERAL TAX RETURNS.

Sen. Sampson stated that he believes he has been having a good relationship with the members of the committee, but he has a small problem with this bill. He believes if there is a real problem about tax returns, then it should apply to all candidates for state and municipal offices. Made a motion to amend the bill to reflect that, seconded by Rep. France.

Sen. Flexer urged rejection to the amendment. The clerk called the roll, the amendment failed.

**Final vote tally:** 15 voting, 11 yea, 4 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.
25. **S.B. No. 641** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING REVIEW OF ELECTION LAWS.

Motion was made to JFS to the floor by Sen. Flexer, seconded by Sen. Maroney.

No discussion.

**Final vote tally: 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.**

12. **H.B. No. 7329** (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING DARK MONEY AND DISCLOSURE OF FOREIGN POLITICAL SPENDING AND OF POLITICAL ADVERTISING ON SOCIAL MEDIA.

Motion was made to JF to the floor by Sen. Flexer, seconded by Rep. Haddad.

Sen. Sampson stated this is a long bill, with 23 sections. Has a concern with section 23 with regards to how campaigns are funded and striking a balance between free speech and the bureaucratic process. He feels that foreign influence is a concern but it’s already addressed in Federal law. He believes the online platform in Section 23 is heavy handed, excessive and hard to track. He points out that the online entity has to provide the information to the state of CT, and that lines 1278 – 1286 outline too low of a spending threshold. In section 14, it establishes a $100,000 aggregate from the national party to the local party. It would limit their influence in local elections. He stated that it’s currently very easy to be involved in the political process, but this bill would chill that. He also has concerns about donor privacy, and that other bills have been concerned about protecting privacy, where this bill doesn’t.

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

6. **H.B. No. 6671** (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING REMOVAL FROM VOTER REGISTRY LISTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES.

Motion was made to JF to the floor by Rep. France and seconded by Sen. Sampson.

Rep. France said the intent of the bill is to get at some issues that arose with automatic registration, and he looks forward to working with the chairs on this issue.

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

16. **H.B. No. 5709** (COMM) AN ACT REQUIRING ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING ABANDONED PROPERTY
Rep. France made the motion to JF to the floor, seconded by Sen. Sampson.

Rep. France said this bill has two parts; the first deals with a greater disclosure of the lists and the second deals with properties that are owed to a town or government entity. He looks forward to working with the chairs on this issue.

Final vote tally: 15 voting, 15 yea, 0 nay, 0 abstain, 0 absent and not voting.

26. S.B. No. 914 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF COORDINATED AND INDEPENDENT POLITICAL SPENDING.

Motion made to JF to the floor by Sen. Flexer and seconded by Sen. Haskell.

Sen. Sampson said this bill draws bright lines between coordinated and individual spending. He believes it gives a state agency too much power and that it’s defined too broadly and in subjective terms. He said political speech needs to be protected.

Rep. France said that one section says that once someone is identified as a coordinated spender, it carries over to the next election cycle, and is an overreach by SEEC.

Final vote tally: 15 voting, 13 yea, 2 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

1. H.B. No. 7160 AN ACT INCREASING VOTER ACCESS.

Motion made to JFS to the floor by Sen. Flexer, seconded by Sen. Maroney.

Sen. Sampson sad this is the worst bill to go through the committee this year. Section 2 makes Election Day a holiday, but it isn’t needed with early voting, and no excuse absentee ballots. He feels the better solution is to allow SOTS to add EDR locations. This bill also gives a process to count inmates of correctional facilities as being counted where they’re incarcerated. He stated that the worst sections of the bill are described as updates to the motor voter act. He believes these sections undermine the voter’s attestation of eligibility. It also has residents of institutes of higher education automatically registered. He believes the system we have in place is adequate for voter registration. He stated that while it’s good to expand opportunities for voting and registration, it only works if there’s integrity.

Final vote tally: 15 voting, 10 yea, 5 nay, 0 abstain, 1 absent and not voting.

1. S.B. No. 878 AN ACT ENHANCING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.

Motion was made to JFS to the floor by Sen. Flexer and seconded by Sen. Maroney.
Sen. Sampson said this would increase the allotment to increase public private partnerships from 5 to 7. He asked if any of these projects had been completed and were they successful?

Sen. Flexer said none at this time.

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

**REMARKS FROM THE CHAIRS:**

Sen. Flexer thanked her co-chair and ranking members of the committee, and especially LCO and OLR for their help. Thanked partisan staff. Thanked clerk and assistant clerks. Thanked members of the committee for their patience and perspectives.

Rep. France echoed the comments of Sen. Flexer. He said they worked hard to find common ground wherever possible.

Rep. Fox echoed both sentiments, and appreciated everyone.

Rep. Fox said the voted would be held open for thirty minutes after the meeting was recessed at 6:45 PM, at which time the meeting will be adjourned.

Nick Rogers
Committee Clerk

Melissa Russell
Assistant Clerk