The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman, Rep. Abercrombie C. 083.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Haskell W. S26; Logan G. S17; Maroney J. S14; Moore M. S22

Representatives: Abercrombie C. 083; Case J. 063; Cook M. 065; Dathan L. 142; Green R. 055; Hughes A. 135; Mastrofrancesco G. 080; McGee B. 005; Santiago H. 084; Sredzinski J. 112; Stallworth C. 126; Wilson Pheanious P. 053; Wood T. 141

Absent were:

Senators: Butler L. 072; D'Amelio A. 071

Rep. Abercrombie greeted everyone and asked the Committee leadership for remarks. Rep. Abercrombie said “Thank you” to the new committee members and said that the committee would go right to the concepts.

Item 1. AN ACT CONCERING A STUDY OF MEDICAID-FUNDED PROGRAMS.
So moved by Senator Moore and seconded by Rep. McGee. Rep. Case asked Rep. Abercrombie to tell the committee which items were placeholders. Rep. Abercrombie called off items 1, 2, 3, 5, & 7 and then asked the clerk to call the roll.

Item 2. AN ACT CONCERING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.
So moved by Senator Moore and seconded by Rep. Santiago. Rep. Case mentioned that his no vote was not because of the language of the placeholder. He was
concerned that something totally unrelated could be put into the bill. Rep. Abercrombie explained that it would have to be a Human Services bill and that it would have to follow the title of the bill. She said that everyone would know the language ahead of time. Rep. Case thanked her and said that he will be voting no on placeholders.

Item 3. AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF REHABILITATION SERVICES.

Item 4, AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE SERVICES.

Item 5. AN ACT CONCERNING NURSING HOMES.
So moved by Rep. Cook and seconded by Sen. Moore. Rep. Abercrombie referenced how there is a minimum heat requirement for the winter but that there is no requirement for the summer as a possible nursing home bill.

Item 6. AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE.
So moved by Rep. Cook and seconded by Rep. Hughes. Rep. Abercrombie mentioned that cash assistance can’t be used for diapers but that’s has been adjusted in other states.

Item 7. AN ACT CONCERNING AUTISM.
So moved by Rep. Cook and seconded by Rep. Santiago. Rep. Case wanted to be on record saying that his vote wasn’t against helping people with autism but because there was no language.

Item 8. AN ACT CONCERNING REIMBURSEMENT FOR DOULA SERVICES.
So moved by Rep. Cook and seconded by Rep. Wood. Sen. Moore mentioned looking to reimburse doulas for their services. Rep. Case said that he hadn’t known what a doula was until recently and thanked them for their work.

Item 9. AN ACT CONCERNING INTERPRETERS FOR DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING PERSONS.
So moved by Rep. Cook and seconded by Rep. Wilson Pheanious. Rep. Wilson Pheanious said that interpreter services was an agency in DORS but that there have been recent issues and not enough interpreters. Without this agency, there is no one place for this community to go with issues or complaints.

Item 10. AN ACT CONCERNING NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS.
So moved by Rep. McGee and seconded by Rep. Wood. Rep. Abercrombie said that a contract went out a year ago for a new non-emergency transportation vendor. Rep. Cook said that the legislature has been meeting with Veyo but that more changes are needed.
Item 11. AN ACT CONCERNING A TWO-GENERATIONAL INITIATIVE.
So moved by Rep. Cook and seconded by Rep. McGee. Sen. Moore said that they want to create a family centered approach to poverty issues. She said that this year the committee wants to include parents and education. Rep. Wood said that she is a big supporter of this plan. She said that there are already parents on the committee and wanted to know how many are on it now and how many Sen. Moore would like to see. Sen. Moore replied that there are four parents now and that they would like to see four to six parents with alternates. Rep. Wood said that it sounds like a good modification that she will support.

Rep. Abercrombie said that that was the conclusion of concepts to be raised. She announced that votes would be held open in the committee until the start of the first session. She announced that the next meeting will be on Jan. 29 at 10:30 am in this room.


A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 PM.

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 Kayleigh Royston                Kathy Horsky
_____________________________   ___________________________
 Committee Clerk                 Assistant Clerk