Human Services Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 28, 2019

10:00 AM in Room 1C of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairman, Sen. Moore M. S22.

The following committee members were present:

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

Representatives: Abercrombie C. 083; Butler L. 072; 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: D'Amelio A. 071

Representatives: D'Amelio A. 071

Sen. Moore called the meeting to order at 10:13 am, greeted everyone, and asked for remarks.

III. VOTE TO JF TO THE FLOOR


2. H.B. No. 7092 (RAISED) AN ACT EXPANDING THE KATIE BECKETT WAIVER PROGRAM.
So moved by Rep. Case and seconded by Rep. Santiago. Rep. Case stated that the bill will go to the floor and will likely go to the Appropriations Committee.

3. H.B. No. 7094 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING TEMPORARY FAMILY ASSISTANCE.
So moved by Rep. Santiago and seconded by Sen. Maroney. Rep. Mastrofrancesco stated that she has concerns about the bill. She said that she understands that it’s a cash assistance program and questioned how to appropriately track the dollars being used. Rep. Abercrombie explained that the intent of the program is to boost families that use the diapers and that it’s about a quality of life for the mothers. Rep. Mastrofrancesco said that the bill would be quite costly and that she cannot support it. Rep. Abercrombie said that it is still a work in progress and if it is not voted out of committee, there will not be a vehicle for it. Rep. Mastrofrancesco thanked Rep. Abercrombie and asked how the legislature adopts policies and procedures. Sen. Logan said that he is in favor of the concept because mothers need diapers for their babies but he doesn’t like the way the bill is written. Rep. Hughes asked whether there is an opportunity to amend the bill now. Rep. Wilson-Pheanious said that a mother with a child in diapers already has a deficit. Are we to micro-manage a mother’s ability to parent? What kind of amendment would be suitable for this bill to move forward? Should a mother have to decide between coffee and diapers? Rep. Hughes suggested offering an amendment to reclassify the description of the bill. Attorney Marie Grady said the language could fall under “basic needs.” Sen. Moore said that she rejected an amendment and wanted to move the bill forward the way it was. Rep. Case said that there is no certainty that the dollars will be spent on diapers. Rep. Santiago mentioned the WIC Program and its protocol on vouchers. She said that DSS can work on vouchers in order for the system or a taskforce to implement the program. Rep. Case agreed that diapers are expensive. Rep. Mastrofrancesco asked if TANF covers seniors? A TANF representative replied that TANF is only for people under age 18. Rep. Hughes said that she would like to see diapers reclassified as a basic need. She said that she wants to trust that the dollars will be used for diapers.

Sen. Moore called for a vote. She said that the committee would hold votes open until 4 pm and a public hearing would immediately follow the meeting. She recessed the meeting at 10:49 am

The meeting was formally adjourned at 4:00PM

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Kayleigh Royston                Noemi Hammonds
Committee Clerk                Assistant Clerk