MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 31, 2019

10:30 AM in Room 1E of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 AM by Chairman, Sen. Abrams M. S13.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Abrams M. S13; Cohen C. S12; Lesser M. S09; Moore M. S22; Somers H. S18

Representatives: Arnone T. 058; Betts W. 078; Borer D. 115; Candelora V. 086; Cook M. 065; Demicco M. 021; Genga H. 010; Hennessy J. 127; Kennedy K. 119; Klarides-Ditria N. 105; McCarty K. 038; Michel D. 146; Petit W. 022; Ryan K. 139; Scanlon S. 098; Steinberg J. 136; Young P. 120; Zupkus L. 089

Absent were:

Senators: Carpino C. 032; Comey R. 102; Tercyak P. 026

Rep. Betts offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Petit.
Sen. Abrams asked if there was any discussion on the concept to which there was none.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Sen. Abrams asked for a motion on items 1 through 6 under Section IV of the agenda, Proposed Bills to be Considered for Change of Reference Action:

1. **Proposed H.B. No. 5134** An Act Concerning The Testing Of Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products By Schools For Tetrahydrocannabinol: *To Education Committee*
2. **Proposed H.B. No. 5450** An Act Requiring The Use Of Seat Belts In All Positions Of A Vehicle: *To Transportation Committee*
3. **Proposed H.B. No. 5452** An Act Concerning Graduate Funding And The Provision Of Support And Services For Persons With Intellectual Disability: *To Appropriations Committee*
4. **Proposed H.B. No. 5546** An Act Establishing An Internship Program For Adults With Autism And Allowing A Business Tax Credit For Businesses That Utilize Such Program: *To Human Services Committee*
5. **Proposed H.B. No. 5548** An Act Requiring Data Reporting To Ensure Compliance With Federal Law Concerning Parity Of Benefits For Physical And Mental Health Care Services: *To Insurance Committee*
6. **Proposed H.B. No. 5549** An Act Requiring The Provision Of Services To Seniors By Licensed Or Credentialed Professionals: *To Aging Committee*

Sen. Abrams asked if there were any objections to voting for proposed bills 1 through 6 as a block, to which there were none.

Rep. Petit offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Cohen.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Sen. Abrams asked for a motion on items 1 and 2 under Section V of the agenda, Proposed Bills to be Drafted as Committee Bills:

1. **Proposed S.B. No. 47** An Act Prohibiting The Use Or Sale Of Goods Or Building Materials Containing Asbestos
2. **Proposed H.B. No. 5449** An Act Concerning The Donation Of Blood By Minors

Rep. Young made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Cook.
The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Sen. Abrams asked for a motion on item 1 under Section VI of the agenda, Proposed Bill to be Reserved for Subject Matter Public Hearing:

1. **Proposed H.B. No. 5442** An Act Adding Chronic Pain As A Debilitating Medical Condition For The Palliative Use Of Marijuana By A Qualifying Patient

Rep. Cook made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Scanlon.

Sen. Somers noted that while she understands why the Public Health Committee would want to hear this bill, the matter is not within the committee's purview. The Department of Consumer Protection (DCP) has a task force of doctors that determines the indications of use and if there is to be a subject matter public hearing, the committee would need to receive approval from another department.

Rep. Steinberg stated that it is a “delicate” matter for the legislature to take on, as it is conceivably within legislative purview yet would establish a precedent of overruling a physician panel.

Sen. Somers responded that establishing such precedent would undermine the existing system. Due to her reservations, she would be voting no.


Sen. Abrams approved but commented that the matter is within the committee’s purview. For that reason, the bill is deserving of a public hearing.

Rep. Cook asked if it was possible to hold a joint hearing if it is determined that the bill has merit within Public Health and a different committee.

Bill O'Shea of the Legislative Commissioners' Office noted that the decision to hold a joint hearing would be up to the Chairs and Ranking Members, as well as the Chairs of the other committee. He stated that there is precedent, but it would need to be discussed among the legislators.

Sen. Abrams commented that this would be considered in screening and even if the bill is reserved for subject matter public hearing, it can still be referred to another committee.

Sen. Abrams noted that the next committee meeting will be held on Friday, February 1, 2019 at 10:30 AM in room 1D of the LOB. The committee’s first public hearing will be held on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 10:30 AM in room 1D of the LOB.

Rep. Betts asked if it is currently illegal to use asbestos, in regard to S.B. No. 47 An Act Prohibiting The Use Or Sale Of Goods Or Building Materials Containing Asbestos.

Sen. Lesser stated that he did not think it was illegal, though he had seen news reports that stated that federal regulations restricting new uses of asbestos were being relaxed. For that reason, he proposed the legislation to prevent the loss of protection.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Beverley Henry
Administrator

Meagan Schantz
Committee Clerk