The meeting was called to order at 10:40 AM by Chairwoman, Rep. Steinberg J. 136.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Abrams M. S13; Anwar S. S03; Lesser M. S09; Somers H. S18

Representatives: Arnone T. 058; Betts W. 078; Borer D. 115; Carpino C. 032; Comey R. 102; 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: Candelora V. 086; Tercyak P. 026

Rep. Steinberg reconvened the meeting at 11:16 AM and asked if there were any comments from committee leadership.

Hearing none, Rep. Steinberg proceeded to Section III of the agenda, Bills to be Considered for JF/JFS Action.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to JF to the Floor item #1:

1. S.B. No. 4 (COMM) An Act Concerning the Accessibility of Prescription Drugs.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill, to which there were none.

Rep. Hennessy made a motion to create a consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any objections to creating a consent calendar, to which there were none.

Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #1 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #1 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #1 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to JFS to the Floor Item #2:


Sen. Lesser made the motion and Sen. Abrams offered the second.

Rep. Petit stated that a potential amendment to this bill had been discussed in screening and most likely in both, the Republican and Democratic caucuses. The amendment would make clear that we would exclude gaskets and other components used in manufacturing where asbestos does not reach the final product or cause any threat to the public. Rep. Petit was prepared to offer an amendment in order to clarify particular language in the current bill. A number of other concerns have arisen regarding the nuances of manufacturing and exposure to asbestos products so there will not be support for this amendment. For this reason he will not offer it at this time. We hope that we can do our due diligence so that the public is protected while not unduly hindering the process of manufacturing in the state.

Rep. Steinberg thanked Rep. Petit for his explanation. He said that the fact that we have not reached closure or clarity on this bill is not a lack of concern and stated that there could always be changes to the bill even after it passes out of committee.

Rep. Betts asked for a roll call vote on the bill not for the purpose of raising a red flag so people are aware that an industry will be negatively impacted by this unless the language is correctly written.

Sen. Somers stated that she shares these concerns. She indicated that she will vote the bill out of committee but will not support it going forward unless there are language changes to protect industrial manufacturing that uses asbestos in their processes. This is a big concern to her as this bill affects many industries.

Sen. Anwar stated that he is a pulmonologist, intensivist and an occupational medicine physician. In these capacities, he has seen many cases where asbestos has caused mesothelioma. Asbestos is a known carcinogenic and cannot be removed from the body. Even at the slightest exposure, one is at risk of developing mesothelioma. As
members of the Public Health Committee, it is important that we take ownership in protecting the public.

Sen. Lesser stated that he aligns his remarks with Dr. Anwar. He noted that this bill already has JFS language that was designed to respond to industry concerns. The vast majority of people are shocked that we still have asbestos in the marketplace. This bill is in response to news that the Trump Administration is proposing new uses of asbestos. The bill is intended to improve public health and is particularly intended to target new uses of this dangerous and deadly product.

Rep. Carpino wanted to remind everyone that members of this committee are present to discuss the health of Connecticut residents and not the on goings of Washington, DC.


Rep. Petit noted a point of information for the public that there are federal regulations that protect people in manufacturing who work with asbestos by wearing appropriate protective clothing. This bill refers to asbestos products that may leave the plant of manufacturing that are protected by current federal statutes.

Rep. Steinberg stated that we understand but perhaps there is still some clarification needed concerning the language of the bill.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a roll call vote on item #2.

Total Voting = 23, Yea = 18, Nay =5, Absent and Not Voting = 2, Abstain =0.

Rep. Steinberg announced that votes would remain open until 4:00 PM.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to JF to the Floor item #3:


Sen. Abrams made the motion and Sen. Anwar offered the second.

Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #3 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #3 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #3 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to JF to the Floor item #4:


Rep. Comey said that she will be voting yes on the bill because it is important to have epinephrine available where there are large numbers of people. This ensures that we
have liability protection for individuals and entities. She added that she would like to see the bill amended on the senate floor.


Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #4 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #4 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #4 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to JF to the Floor item #5:

5. **S.B. No. 919 (RAISED) An Act Removing the Term "Homemaker" in Reference to Home Health Aide Agencies and Services.**


Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #5 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #5 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #5 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to JF to the Floor item #6:

6. **S.B. No. 922 (RAISED) An Act Allowing Students to Apply Sunscreen Prior to Engaging in Outdoor Activities.**


Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #6 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #6 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #6 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to JFS to the Floor item #7:

7. **S.B. No. 923 (RAISED) An Act Allowing Behavior Analysts to Participate in the Professional Assistance Program for Regulated Professionals.**


Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #7 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #7 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #7 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to JFS to the Floor item #8:

Sen. Somers offered the motion and Sen. Anwar offered the second.

Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #8 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #8 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #8 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to **JF to the Floor** item #9:


Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #9 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #9 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #9 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to **JF to the Floor** item #10:


Rep. Petit offered the motion and Sen. Somers offered the second.

Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #10 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #10 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #10 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion to **JFS to the Floor** item #11:

11. **H.B. No. 7196** (RAISED) An Act Concerning the Department of Public Health's Recommendation Regarding Seat Belts


Rep. Hennessy made a motion to place item #11 on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments on the bill or any objections to placing item #11 on the consent calendar, to which there were none.

Item #11 under Section III was placed on the consent calendar.
Rep. Steinberg called for a roll call vote on the consent calendar, which included item numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11 under Section III of the agenda.

Total Voting = 23, Yea = 23, Nay = 0, Absent and Not Voting = 2, Abstain = 0.

Rep. Steinberg proceeded to Section IV on the agenda, Proposed Bill to be Drafted as Committee Bill and asked for a motion to draft as committee bill item #1:


Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any comments, to which there were none.

The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Rep. Steinberg proceeded to Section V on the agenda, Concept Raised February 6, 2019 on which the Committee will take no Action:

- AAC Penalties for the Sale or Delivery of Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems and Vapor Products to Persons under the Age of Twenty-one

Rep. Steinberg explained that the reason the committee will not take any action on this concept is because there is another vehicle that relates to this subject further expanding the laws regarding vaping and tobacco.

Rep. Betts asked for point of clarification regarding to which vehicle Rep. Steinberg was referring.

Rep. Steinberg noted that HB 7200 relates to the same subject as this concept.

Rep. Steinberg proceeded to Section VI of the agenda, Announcement of Time and Date of Next Meetings:

- Public Hearing, Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 2:00 PM in Room 1D of the LOB.

- Committee Meeting, Friday, March 15, 2019 at 10:30 AM in Room 1D of the LOB.

- Public Hearing, Monday, March 18, 2019 at 10:30 AM in Room 1D of the LOB.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Beverley Henry  Valentina Mehmeti
Administrator  Committee Clerk