Public Health Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, March 22, 2019

2:00 PM in Room 1D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM by Chairman, Rep. Steinberg J. 136.

Rep. Steinberg recessed the meeting and reconvened at 2:50 PM.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Anwar S. S03; Daugherty Abrams M. S13; Lesser M. S09

Representatives: Arnone T. 058; Betts W. 078; Borer D. 115; Candelora V. 086; Carpino C. 032; Cook M. 065; Demicco M. 021; Genga H. 010; Hennessy J. 127; Kennedy K. 119; Klarides-Ditria N. 105; McCarty K. 038; Petit W. 022; Ryan K. 139; Scanlon S. 098; Steinberg J. 136; Young P. 120; Zupkus L. 089

Absent were:

Senators: Somers H. S18

Representatives: Comey R. 102; Michel D. 146; Tercyak P. 026

Rep. Steinberg welcomed everyone and asked if there were any comments.

Rep. Steinberg explained that a number of committee members were unable to attend today’s meeting: Rep. Comey had a death in the family; Rep. Terczak is ill; both Rep. Michel and Sen. Somers are out of state.

Rep. Steinberg moved to Section III on the agenda and informed the committee that the following three bills on the agenda will be held:
Item # 6. **H.B. No. 5142** (COMM) An Act Prohibiting Female Genital Mutilation.

Item # 7. **H.B. No. 5145** (COMM) An Act Concerning Regional Behavioral Health Action Organizations.


Rep. Steinberg shared that these bills are works in progress with conversations continuing in regard to some of the unresolved issues.

Rep. Steinberg continued with Section III on the agenda **Bills to be Considered for JF Action** and asked for a motion on Item # 1 **S.B. No. 377** (COMM) An Act Prohibiting The Use Of Noncompete Clauses In Physician Employment Contracts. **Proposed Action:** JF to the Floor.

Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Abrams.

Rep. Steinberg indicated that they have been made aware of some concerns from the hospitals regarding this bill. The intention of the committee is to have further open conversation but it is important to move the bill out of committee.

Sen Anwar indicated that he supports this bill and would like to see it move out of committee, but he hopes that during discussions we keep in mind the importance of the doctor-patient relationship and that this is not compromised for the sake of the larger employing institutions.

Rep. Petit suggested that the committee create a consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there were any objections. Hearing none, a consent calendar was established and the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #2: **S.B. No. 380** (COMM) An Act Concerning Mental Health Care And Wellness Training And Suicide Prevention For Police Officers. **Proposed Action:** JF to the Floor.

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

Rep. Steinberg asked if there is any discussion.

Hearing no objections, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #3. **S.B. No. 921** (RAISED) An Act Concerning The Scope Of Practice Of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. **Proposed Action:** JFS to the Floor.

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

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.

Hearing none, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item # 4: **S.B. No. 967** (RAISED) An Act Concerning The Recommendations Of The Department Of Mental Health And Addiction Services Regarding Emergency Medication. **Proposed Action:** JFS to the Floor.

Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Lesser.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.
Rep. Carpino indicated that she would be supporting this bill but has some concerns that, as we move forward with this bill, we treat both physical and mental health issues on an equal level and that there parity exists.

Rep. Steinberg assured Rep. Carpino that this would be part of the discussion moving forward.

Rep. Steinberg moved the bill to the consent calendar.


Rep. Cook offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Anwar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.

Hearing none, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #8: H.B. No. 6146 (COMM) An Act Concerning The Expansion Of Certification Courses In Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation And Education And Training Courses In The Use Of Automatic External Defibrillators And The Administration Of First Aid. Proposed Action: JFS to the Floor.

Rep. Cook offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Anwar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for any comments.

Hearing none, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.


Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Cook.

Rep. Steinberg pointed out that this bill is not a mandate, but provides an option to technicians if they choose to use it.

Rep Steinberg asked for comments.

Sen. Anwar was pleased that his original concerns regarding the appropriate training for technicians administering this potentially dangerous drug were addressed and he was pleased with the checks provided in the language.

Hearing no other comments, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #10: H.B. No. 6522 (COMM) An Act Concerning Continuing Medical Education In Screening For Inflammatory Breast Cancer And Gastrointestinal Cancers. Proposed Action: JF to the Floor.

Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Cook.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.

Sen. Anwar supports the bill but had some concerns he wanted to make sure would be part of the discussion as the bill moves forward. Since healthcare today is provided by many different clinicians as well as physicians, we need to make sure that all are being required to have the appropriate continuing education, not just physicians. Also, we need to be cognizant of the number of hours that might be required to study certain rare diseases and conditions. This may be unrealistic in terms of the time required and we need to balance this time with a healthcare provider’s workload.
Hearing no other comments, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.


Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Genga.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.

Rep. Steinberg added that he hopes we will be able to enact this bill within existing appropriations.

Hearing none, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #12: **H.B. No. 6540** (COMM) An Act Concerning The Prevention Of The Human Immunodeficiency Virus. **Proposed Action: JF to the Floor.**

Sen. Lesser offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Cook.

Rep. Steinberg asked for motion.

Rep. Betts said that he is going to support this bill because he wants to make sure that minors are safe, but he is struggling with parents being excluded from the discussion and in some cases not being made aware of the situation. Rep. Betts also requested that this bill be a roll call vote.

Rep. McCarty asked for clarification that this bill is prophylactic in nature and with a very narrow scope pertaining only to a specific group of children at risk.

Rep. Steinberg wanted to make it very clear that this bill is intended to protect a very narrow subset of children relatively easy to identify.

Rep. Betts also sought clarification on the term minor. He questioned that if someone is under 18, and this kind of sexual behavior is identified, is DCF notified and the parents as well?

Rep. Steinberg indicated that his understanding is if a child is 12 or under, then DCF would be notified.

Rep. Carpino asked if a child under 12 is identified as at risk and is reported to DCF, what does the Department do?

Sen. Abrams added additional clarification in that healthcare professionals are mandated reporters and in that role would have to report to DCF any suspected abuse regardless of the age. Then it would be up to DCF to take the case from there.

Rep. Carpino still wanted to be clear that if DCF were to become involved and the parents notified, would the investigation be started because the child asked for the medication.

Sen. Abrams explained that DCF would be investigating regardless of the age of the minor if there is suspected abuse or neglect and not because the minor asked for the medication.

Rep. Carpino still wanted to be clear on the role of DCF if the minor was referred. She offered to discuss these issues with DCF and share her findings with the committee.

Rep. Steinberg thanked her for her offer and looks forward to sharing her findings with the committee.
Sen. Anwar said that while we are focusing on the circumstances that may be the reason the minor would be seeking this medication, we must remember our focus is prevention. We need to offer these individuals a way to seek treatment to prevent a potentially life-long illness. If circumstances lead to an investigation, it would be handled appropriately.

Rep. Petit mentioned that we should make sure that the language in the bill corresponds to other statutes that refer to minors.

Rep. Steinberg indicated that there is continuing work on the language to ensure the specific intent of this bill and wanted to make clear that the intent of this bill is prevention.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a roll call vote on the bill.

Total voting 24; Yea = 21; Nay = 0; Abstain = 0; Absent and not voting = 4.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #14: **H.B. No. 7132** (RAISED) An Act Concerning Licensure Of Professional Counselor Associates And Marital And Family Therapist Associates. **Proposed Action: JFS to the Floor.**

Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Young.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.

Hearing none, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #15: **H.B. No. 7197** (RAISED) An Act Concerning Labeling And Restricting The Use Of Flame Retardants. **Proposed Action: JFS to the Floor.**

Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Young.

Rep. Steinberg indicated that the bill has undergone some revision in the language and will have more fine tuning, but he would like to see the bill move forward.

Rep. Petit indicated that there has been significant discussion regarding this bill and there is still some confusion with the specific chemicals involved. Rep. Petit requested a roll call vote on the bill.

Rep. Steinberg agreed that this is still problematic and that in the future we may be taking a more holistic approach to this issue, but for the purposes of this legislation, we are addressing a specific problem that has been brought to our attention.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a roll call vote on the bill.

Total voting 24; Yea = 13; Nay = 8; Abstain = 0; Absent and not voting = 4.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #16: **H.B. No. 7198** (RAISED) An Act Concerning Social Workers. **Proposed Action: JFS to the Floor.**

Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Abrams.

Rep. Steinberg shared that the bill has had some changes to the language and is in a good place to move forward.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.

Hearing none, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #17: **H.B. No. 7200** (RAISED) An Act Prohibiting The Sale Of Cigarettes, Tobacco Products, Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems And Vapor Products To Persons Under Age Twenty-One. **Proposed Action: JFS to the Floor.**
Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Young.

Rep. Steinberg indicated that this is a very strong bill to address a very serious problem. Many people have been working on the wording of this bill to get it right. This hard work is not over. If we send this bill to the floor it will be acted on soon. This is a priority bill intended to address a growing crisis.

Sen. Abrams shared that we realize there a crisis mounting and as the Public Health Committee, we have a responsibility to protect our youth situation. We realize that we may have to make concessions along the way, but we must begin the process to stem the spread of this situation.

Sen. Anwar said that further study is needed regarding certain enticements targeting children. We may be targeting certain businesses, but our children are dying.

Rep. Petit commented on the inconsistency regarding the intent of this bill and the discussion currently taking place in the legislature over the use of marijuana.

Rep. Betts agreed with Rep. Petit and indicated that he will be voting against this bill. He would like to flag this bill because of the marijuana debate and also would like to know how the money for licensure of this product will be used.

Rep. Steinberg said that he does not know how the money is to be used and that this gives him pause as well. But, as this discussion continues, we will seek the answers to these questions.

Rep. Borer shared that there are currently 45 bills in various legislative committees to address the issue of vaping among our youth. She wants to point out that this is a bipartisan issue with significant support which this legislature takes very seriously.

Rep. McCarty mentioned that some school curriculums are including discussions on vaping in hopes of educating children to the consequences associated with vaping and all tobacco products. She also shared that we need to strike a balance between protecting our youth but, still providing certain products available to adults for cessation and medicinal needs.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a roll call vote on the bill.

Total voting = 21; Yea = 20; Nay = 1; Abstain = 0; Absent and not voting = 4.


Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Abrams.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.

Hearing none, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #19: **H.B. No. 7282** (RAISED) An Act Concerning Newborn Screening For Spinal Muscular Atrophy. **Proposed Action: JF to the Floor.**

Rep. Young offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Anwar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.

Hearing none, the bill was placed on the consent calendar.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a motion on Item #20: **H.B. No. 7301** (RAISED) An Act Concerning The Department Of Public Health's Recommendations Regarding Remote
Access To Electronic Medical Records By The Department Of Public Health. **Proposed Action: JF to the Floor.**

Sen. Anwar offered the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Abrams.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments.


Rep Steinberg called for the vote.

Total voting = 21; Yea = 20; Nay = 1; Abstain = 0; Absent and not voting = 4.

Rep. Steinberg asked for a vote on the consent calendar.

The consent calendar for Section III of the agenda passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Rep. Steinberg announced the time and date for the next meetings.

**Public Hearing, Monday, March 25, 2019 at 10:30 AM in Room 1D LOB.**

**Cancelled: Committee Meeting, Wednesday, March 27, 2019 at 10:30 AM.**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Beverley Henry
Administrator

Kathleen Panazza
Committee Clerk