Public Safety and Security Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, March 19, 2019

11:00 AM in Room 1D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at [Click here and type time] by Chairman, Sen. Bradley D. S23.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Bradley D. S23; Cassano S. S04; Champagne D. S35; Hwang T. S28; Osten C. S19; Winfield G. S10

Representatives: Allie-Brennan R. 002; Barry J. 031; Boyd P. 050; Dauphinais A. 044; Fishbein C. 090; Fusco J. 081; Genga H. 010; Gonzalez M. 003; Hall C. 059; Hayes R. 051; Morin R. 028; Orange L. 048; Paolillo A. 097; Serra J. 033; Simmons C. 144; Sredzinski J. 112; Vail K. 052; Verrengia J. 020

Absent were:

Senators: Camillo F. 151

The meeting started at 11am and was immediately recessed.

The meeting was called back to order at 2:05pm

Sen. Bradley made opening remarks, and asked for a moment of silence for recently deceased State Representative Ezequiel Santiago. A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Paolillo for HB 7055 to be JF’d to the floor. Rep. Boyd commented that he has reservations about this bill, believes there is much more to be discussed on this topic. Sen. Hwang stated that the RFP process could impact aid to
Connecticut, and that he will be voting no to flag this for a future conversation. Rep. Fishbein also added that he has reservations on this bill and will be voting no. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Sen. Osten on SB 11. Rep. Vail started by saying that we should honor our commitment to the tribes. Rep. Fishbein added that the RFP process and this bill cannot coexist. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Paolillo and seconded by Sen. Osten on HB 7334. Rep. Boyd mentioned that he believes three people should not control this process. Rep. Vail questioned how much it would cost to run this commission, also voiced concerns with starting a new agency. Sen. Bradley answered his questions. Rep. Fishbein questioned if the enforcement staff would be from DCP. Sen. Bradley answered yes it would. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Paolillo and seconded by Rep. Serra for HB 7331. Rep. Fishbein voiced his concerns with sports betting and this bill specifically. Rep. Vail declared his reservations on the bill, and asked if all in state schools would be excluded. Sen. Bradley responded by saying yes. Sen. Cassano voiced his support for the bill, stating that sports betting is happening, and we should get in on it. Sen. Hwang is concerned that there isn’t enough data and that we should be cautious. Rep. Vail commented that if we’re going to exclude CT colleges we should exclude all colleges. Sen. Champagne explained that being able to use a credit card concerns him. Rep. Boyd commented that sports betting will be here, and it’s our job to regulate it. He also stated that he would be fine with waiting for the executive branches decision on this, once they get more information. Rep. Fishbein stated that just because its going on doesn’t mean we should do it. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Sen. Osten and seconded by Rep. Verrengia for SB 17. Rep. Sredzinski stated that it is an exclusive deal so he will be opposing. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

Sen. Hwang motioned to begin a consent calendar; it was seconded by Sen. Osten.

A motion was made by Rep. Verrengia and seconded by Rep. Paolillo on SB 1015. Sen. Champagne noted that he still does not like the idea of credit cards being used. Sen. Cassano inquired on the use of credit cards in current in-person lottery establishments. Sen. Champagne answered that they can’t use credit cards currently. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Sen. Hwang and seconded by Sen. Osten on HB 7290. Rep. Fishbein commented that he wants to wait to vote on gaming until the study is done. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

Item 9, SB 402 was held.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Simmons on Sb 533. Rep. Sredzinski explained JFS language, that any with one bathroom must be unisex with a table. Rep. Fishbein doesn’t think it’s the place of government to initiate this. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.
A motion was made by Sen. Champagne and second by Rep. Hall to move SB 702 to the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Verrengia and seconded by Rep. Paolillo to move SB 709 to the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Paolillo on SB 789. Rep. Fishbein said that he does not want the legislature to intervene. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Paolillo and seconded by Rep. Orange on SB 870. Rep. Vail questioned who was going to be on the task force, and mentioned how it may go against civil liberties. He then asked if a citizen would be appointment to the task force. Sen. Bradley responded by saying that it is not specifically addressed one way or the other in the bill. Rep. Vail explained he would have voted yes without the task force. Rep. Fishbein was concerned about the civil liberties aspect of this bill as well; he also did not like the substitute language. Sen. Winfield does not like the idea of a task force, said he will amend this bill on the floor to the original language if he has to. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Verrengia on SB 994. Rep. Sredzinski does not believe the testimony that was heard matches the language of the bill. Rep. Boyd questioned whether this was a mandate or not. Sen. Bradley answered that it is not a mandate. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Verrengia and seconded by Rep. Orange on HB 5149. Rep. Boyd said that it looks like we are trying to change the municipality’s charter and that we shouldn’t get involved. Sen. Cassano is afraid this could lead away from what the boards do. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Verrengia and seconded by Rep. Orange to place HB 5152 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Verrengia on HB 5153. Rep. Fishbein wanted to know why a regular citizen would be restricted from buying body armor online. Sen. Osten stated she believes the first responders/fire fighters need this equipment. Rep. Boyd stated that allowing citizens to purchase them could open the door for criminals to purchase them. Rep. Fishbein said that anyone can currently buy body armor in stores now. Sen. Cassano stated he is supporting the bill. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Verrengia and seconded by Rep. Paolillo on HB 5154. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Hall and seconded by Sen. Champagne on HB 5363. Sen. Osten is concerned we will have online registries for every crime. Rep. Vail echoed Sen. Osten’s reservations. Sen. Winfield mentioned it is not good public policy, these lists make things harder for citizens, and do not accomplish the goals were trying to achieve. Rep. Fishbein mentioned how DCF has a list of abusive adults, and would like that list opened to the public before this. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.
A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Verrengia to place HB 5455 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Hall to place HB 5552 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Paolillo to place HB 5658 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Verrengia and seconded by Rep. Orange on HB 6376. Sen. Osten was concerned too many people are becoming peace officers. Sen. Champagne stated that these people do a lot of police work and deserve to be peace officers. Rep. Vail exclaimed that this should have happened a long time ago. Rep. Fishbein motioned for this bill to be moved to consent, the motion failed. Rep. Orange stated that they’re hired as inspectors, and does not want to have another police force. Sen. Cassano stated that inspectors can often be in harm’s way, and he supports the bill. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Morin and seconded by Rep. Orange to place HB 6384 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Morin and seconded by Rep. Orange to place HB 6570 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Morin and seconded by Rep. Orange to place HB 6957 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Paolillo to place HB 6958 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Paolillo on HB 7145. Rep. Boyd questioned if this would affect deductibles, and stated he’s opposing the bill. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Paolillo on HB 7146. Rep. Fishbein does not think anyone should be intimidated and does not like “carve outs”. Sen. Winfield questioned if the police officer is the only one who has to be identifiable, and also stated his extreme opposition to the bill. Rep. Vail questioned about the intent of the crime. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Morin and seconded by Rep. Paolillo on HB 7242. Sen. Osten is concerned that we’re making the education system into prison systems. Sen. Hwang stated that institutions need to do what’s necessary to do what’s safe, and he supports the bill. Sen. Champagne commented that when he went to school they had a police force and he didn’t feel intimidated. Also that the colleges need the right tools to do their jobs. Sen. Cassano said we need protection for students, and that the visual protection is comforting. Sen. Winfield said he will support the bill now, but may change his mind. Rep. Genga echoes Sen. Cassano, Sen. Winfield, and Sen. Hwang’s remarks. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Paolillo and seconded by Rep. Orange on HB 7243. Rep. Vail asked if taxis and delivery services have this same standard, wants uniformity with
all ride companies. Rep. Verrengia stated that the intent of the bill is to get in contact with the drivers of the cars. Rep. Vail said he will vote yes on the bill because he see’s potential. Rep. Verrengia stated he’s confident this issue will be resolved before this bill is necessary. Rep. Fishbein asked what the definition of immediately was. Rep. Vail asked who the $5,000 fine is payable to. Sen. Bradley explained it is the company that I fined and it would be payed to the state. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Rep. Boyd and seconded by Rep. Fishbein to place HB 7291 on the consent calendar.

A motion was made by Rep. Orange and seconded by Rep. Fishbein on HB 7332. Rep. Allie-Brennan voiced his disapproval of the bill. Sen. Winfield is opposed to the bill, stating it’s unnecessary, that we don’t need this bill. Rep. Sredzinski voiced that we’re talking about major offenses in this bill. Rep. Morin stated that this is a real issue in his district; that the crime rate specifically with motor vehicle thefts has raised exponentially. He wants a better solution, for the stakeholders to sit down and address this. Sen. Cassano said that we have juveniles getting 4-5 felonies in short periods of time, this needs to be addressed. Rep. Fishbein stated that a child stealing a car is a very serious thing, and thinks the bill does not go far enough to deter this. Sen. Champagne said how many deaths have to happen before we change something. Rep. Gonzalez said we have to find a way to do this that fair for everyone. Rep. Genga stated that this bill is protecting the juveniles themselves as well as the public. Sen. Bradley explains that there is an attitude among juveniles that juvenile court is not serious, but echoes Sen. Winfield’s remarks that we need to come up with a fair solution. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

Item 35, HB 5922 was held.

A motion was made by Rep. Boyd and seconded by Sen. Osten on SB 1016. Rep. Fishbein said he does not think “Dummy Bills” are necessary. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A motion was made by Sen. Osten and seconded by Rep. Verrengia on HB 7333. The committee voted by roll call vote on this bill.

A roll call vote was taken on the consent calendar.


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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25pm.