Veterans' Affairs Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

11:00 AM in Room 2B of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 11:06 AM by Chairman, Rep. Borer D. 115.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Abrams M. S13; Berthel E. S32; Leone C. S27; Logan G. S17; Maroney J. S14; Osten C. S19

Representatives: Borer D. 115; Boyd P. 050; Camillo F. 151; Ferraro C. 117; Linehan L. 103; Napoli R. 073; Rose K. 118; Vail K. 052; Wood K. 029; Yaccarino D. 087

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives:

Chairwoman Borer opened with a few words about safety procedures in case of emergency.

The Chairwoman then entertained a motion to draft all bills under item III of the agenda. The motion was made by Senator Abrams, seconded by Representative Boyd, and passed via voice vote.

The Committee decided to discuss each bill under item IV of the agenda individual.

Representative Yaccarino asked for clarification regarding S.B. No. 800, specifically the determination of civilian status. Senator Maroney answered by referring to General Evon’s testimony from the public hearing held on February 14th. With no further
questions asked, Chairwoman Borer entertained a motion for final action consideration for S.B. No. 800. The motion was made by Representative Boyd, seconded by Representative Vail, and passed via roll call.

Representative Vail asked for clarification regarding the language of “certain veterans” in S.B. No. 802. Chairwoman Borer replied that the bill referred to disabled veterans. With no further questions asked, Chairwoman Borer entertained a motion for final action consideration for S.B. No. 802. The motion was made by Representative Boyd, seconded by Senator Maroney, and passed via roll call.

Chairwoman Borer, knowing Representative Ferraro’s familiarity with H.B. 7061, requested that he provide a brief overview of the purpose and practical application of the bill, which the Representative did. Chairwoman Borer then noted that the Department of Administrative Services had some reservations, and suggested sitting down with the Department to smooth over any objections before bringing the bill to the floor. Representative Linehan inquired, through the Chairwoman, if PTSD-suffering veterans would be required to self-identify themselves or provide official documentation. Answering through the Chairwoman, Representative Ferraro stated that the diagnosis would have to be made by a qualified healthcare professional, likely from a VA hospital. With no further questions asked, the Chairwoman entertained a motion for final action consideration for H.B. No. 7061. The motion was made by Representative Boyd, seconded by Representative Linehan, and passed via roll call.

Representative Yaccarino inquired as to whether H.B. No. 7063 applied exclusively to state, rather than state and federal, facilities, and asked if the bill had received any pushback. Chairwoman Borer responded that the bill applied to state facilities, and that there had not been any pushback so far. With no further questions asked, Chairwoman Borer entertained a motion for final action consideration for H.B. No. 7063. The motion was made by Representative Boyd, seconded by Senator Osten, and passed via roll call.

With no questions asked, Chairwoman Borer entertained a motion for final action consideration for H.B. No. 7064. The motion as made by Senator Osten, seconded by Representative Vail, and passed via roll call.

At 11:19AM, Chairwoman Borer announced that the committee would recess until 4PM, at which point the meeting was adjourned.

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Benjamin Watson
Administrator
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Asst. Committee Clerk