The meeting was called to order at 2:10 PM by Chairman,

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Kushner, J. S24; Osten C. S19; Miner C. S30; Lesser M. S09

Representatives: Fishbein C. 090; Hall J. 007; Polletta J. 068; Porter R. 094; Rutigliano D. 123; Smith R. 108; Vargas E. 006; Wilson Pheanious P. 053; Winkler M. 056

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives: Luxenberg G. 012

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Sen. Kushner who welcomed those in attendance. The emergency procedures were read by Rep. Hall.

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Hall to raise agenda concept #1:

AN ACT CONCERNING COLLATERAL CONSEQUENCES OF A CRIMINAL RECORD

Rep. Fishbein said he served on the Council on the Collateral Consequences of a Criminal Record. They presented their final report, yet there was still no information available to the committee. He asked if the minority input had been included. Rep. Porter said minority input had been included, and the concept may go to housing after it leaves the Labor Committee. Sen. McGee has access to the report, and she will sit down with him to discuss the bill.
Sen. Miner said the biggest disagreement was regarding protections but there was a lot yet to be done. He will support the bill today but needs more information.

A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 12                     Nay: 0

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Vargas to raise agenda concept #2:
AN ACT CONCERNING PREVAILING WAGE/CODIFICATION OF CONTRACT RATES

Rep. Fishbein asked what the bill was actually about. Sen. Kushner said it codified the statute and rates established through collective bargaining. Discussion was held comparing Federal and CT's rates and which would prevail. Rep. Smith said everything should be on the table for all bills/public hearings, yet of the 15 raised, only two were Republican bills. CT's population is approximately 35% registered Republican and their voices would not be represented unless they were included in the next agenda. Debate and dialogue are beneficial.

A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 11                     Nay: 2

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Vargas to raise agenda concept #3:
AN ACT CONCERNING TIPPED CREDIT WORKERS AND INDEXING

Sen. Osten said this bill is a distinct disadvantage to agricultural workers. Rep. Polletta asked why they were revisiting this 2019 bill so soon? Restaurants are the only growing industry in the State and this bill goes back on their word. Sen. Kushner said many people feel this was a wrong move and want the tip credit lowered. Rep. Polletta said since restauranteurs must make up the difference between the less than minimum wage and tips, it worked and abuse was not widespread. He asked if this bill would raise the percentage of the current hourly wage. This bill assaults the entire food industry. Rep. Winkler said the level was too low because not every employee or owner claims everything. Rep. Rutigliano said everyone pays taxes on tips and employees are encouraged to report all wages.

A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 8                       Nay: 5

A motion was made by Sen. Lesser and seconded by Rep. Porter to raise agenda concept # 4:
AN ACT CONCERNING TECHNICAL AND OTHER CHANGES TO DOL

Sen. Miner asked if Goshen was included in the bill. Sen. Kushner said it was not.

A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 13                     Nay: 0

A motion was made by Sen. Lesser and seconded by Rep. Vargas to raise agenda concept #5:
AN ACT CONCERNING FAIR & EQUAL PAY

Rep. Smith asked what was new in this bill since it was passed last year. This showed a lack of trust. Sen. Kushner said it modified comparable work – comparable pay in the current statute.

A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 11                     Nay: 2
A motion was made by Sen. Lesser and seconded by Rep. Hall to raise agenda item #6:  
AN ACT CONCERNING DISCLOSURE OF SALARY RANGE FOR VACANT POSITION  
Rep. Rutligliano asked what the salary range was. Sen Kushner said this would prevent employers from reducing pay for different but equal applicants, specifically where gender was concerned. Penalties would be enforced. The intent is to address discrepancies. Rep. Polletta said this would adversely affect business owners. Resumes affect the rate of pay.  
A roll call vote was taken:  
Yea: 8   Nay: 5

A motion was made by Sen. Lesser and seconded by Rep. Porter to raise agenda items # 7 through 15.  
Sen. Miner said Sen. Witkos asked # 12 to be held and said members should be permitted to ask questions or move changes. Sen. Lesser said the purpose of his motion was to expedite the process. Sen. Miner asked the motion be withdrawn. Sen. Lesser withdrew his motion.

A motion was made by Sen. Porter and seconded by Rep. Winkler to raise agenda item #7:  
AN ACT CONCERNING GREEN NEW DEAL  
Rep. Fishbein asked for a definition of "green jobs". Sen. Kushner said this was a transitioning process to assure environmental justice. Rep. Polletta asked if there would be any fiscal impact. Sen. Kushner said there would, and the bill would provide jobs.  
A roll call vote was taken:  
Yea: 8   Nay: 5

A motion was made by Rep. Vargas and seconded by Sen. Osten to raise agenda item #8:  
AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS’ COMPENSATION FOR FIRST RESPONDER DIVE TEAMS AND CANINE RESCUE PERSONNEL  
Sen. Kushner said the bill was the same as last year's bill.  
A roll call vote was taken:  
Yea: 13   Nay: 0

A motion was made by Rep. Vargas and seconded by Sen. Miner to raise agenda item # 9:  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE INCREASE OF THE STOP WORK ORDER PENALTY  
Sen. Miner said it was the same as last year's bill with variations.  
A roll call vote was taken:  
Yea: 13   Nay: 0

A motion was made by Rep. Vargas and seconded by Rep. Hall to raise agenda item # 10:  
AN ACT CONCERNING PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY AND PENSION OFFSETS  
A roll call vote was taken:  
Yea: 13   Nay: 0

A motion was made by Rep. Vargas and seconded by Rep. Hall to raise agenda item # 11:
AN ACT CONCERNING VOLUNTEERS FOR DISASTER RELIEF
Rep. Polletta asked about emergencies occurring during the vacations of First Responders. Rep. Fishbein said this is a Public Safety bill.
A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 13  Nay: 0

Sen. Kushner said agenda item # 12 would be held.

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Hall to raise agenda item #13:
AN ACT CONCERNING RECLASSIFICATION OF DISPATCHERS AS A "PROTECTIVE SERVICE OCCUPATION", OR "FIRST RESPONDER"
Rep. Polletta asked what a protective service occupation was. Sen. Kushner said it was for PTSD reclassification. Rep. Polletta asked if EMTs are classified as first responders why should the separate items be grouped together. Rep. Fishbein asked what benefits reclassification would do. Could they retire earlier, or would they receive better benefits? LCO did not know at this point because the terms are different, and more research was needed. Sen. Osten said the intent was to recognize dispatchers as hazardous duty employees. Benefits would remain the same. It was a stress issue, not a pay issue. Sen. Miner asked if municipal employees would be included and if this were subject to collective bargaining. Sen. Kushner said these issues would be flushed out through a public hearing.
A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 9  Nay: 4

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Vargas to raise agenda item #14:
AN ACT CONCERNING ETHNIC HAIRSTYLES
Rep. Porter said there were some issues regarding 'crown art', such as dreadlocks, braids etc. Rep. Fishbein asked the intent of the bill and if was already covered under Federal law. Rep. Porter said this was a labor issue since people were not being hired because of their hairstyles. Sen. Kushner said this was a proactive measure, a form of expression and New York had taken similar action. Sen. Smith asked if it covered all races. Rep. Porter said it was not limited to ethnic issues.
A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 10  Nay: 2

A motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Vargas to raise agenda item # 15:
AN ACT CONCERNING FORCED ARBITRATION AGREEMENTS
Rep. Polletta said there was already a law addressing this on the books and asked what the complaints were regarding. Sen. Kushner said low-wage workers were required to sign documents. Rep. Vargas said compliance should not be forced, wage theft was only one issue. Once drawn, concerns could be handled.
A roll call vote was taken:
Yea: 11  Nay: 1

Sen. Kushner announced votes would be open until 6:00 PM in room 3800. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, Feb. 20, at 3:00 PM in room 1-C of the LOB.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sonya Jelks</th>
<th>Marie Knudsen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Committee Clerk</td>
<td>Assistant Clerk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>