Public Health Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, February 7, 2020

1:00 PM in Room 1D of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 1:08 PM by Chairman, Rep. Steinberg J. 136.

The following committee members were present:

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

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; Michel D. 146; Petit W. 022; Ryan K. 139; Steinberg J. 136; Tercyak P. 026; Zupkus L. 089

Absent were:

Senators: Lesser M. S09

Representatives: Comey R. 102; Scanlon S. 098; Young P. 120

Rep. Steinberg introduced himself and co-chair Sen. Abrams. Each welcomed everyone to the first committee meeting of the session.

Rep. Steinberg asked for comments from the members.

Sen. Somers welcomed all and expressed her hope that the committee would prioritize the work to be done in a short session to accomplish the most productive outcome.

Rep. Petit referred to item #1 under section III of the agenda, AAC Immunizations and indicated that he looks forward to a robust public hearing to yield as much information on this concept to aid in crafting a reasonable bill on this important issue.
Sen. Anwar welcomed everyone and looks forward to working with everyone.

Rep. Steinberg moved to section III of the agenda, Concepts to be Raised. Referring to item #1, AAC Immunizations, Rep Steinberg shared with the committee that a working group addressed this issue and worked to create a strong acceptable position. He also indicated that following the public hearing, the committee will be open to additional information when drafting the final bill.

Rep. Betts pointed out that a topic such as immunizations generates great response and involvement from interested parties during a public hearing and consumes a great deal of time. He suggested that the public hearing include only this subject so as not to penalize other members of the public who could potentially have to wait long periods of time to testify on other bills.

Rep. Carpino suggested that the committee consider limiting the time given to public officials at public hearings to provide more time for the public to testify.

Sen. Somers suggested that public officials testify after the public.


Rep. Steinberg appreciated these suggestions and indicated that they would be considered.

Rep. Steinberg asked if there was a motion to create a consent calendar to vote on Section III of the agenda, Concepts to be Raised.

Rep. Demicco offered the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Ryan.

Rep. Hennessy indicated he had concerns placing item #1. AAC Immunizations on a consent calendar. He wanted to see more safeguards to protect people who cannot afford to homeschool their children.

Rep. Steinberg explained that the goal today is to raise the concept out of committee and open the discussion to all the members and the public though the hearing process.

Sen. Somers indicated that she will support raising the bill but has serious concerns and looks forward to hearing from the experts.

Rep. Betts expressed concerns that certain bills should not be considered during the short session.

Rep. Borer asked if any of the bills on the agenda were to be held.

Rep. Steinberg indicated that items #10. AAC Deceptive Advertising Practices of Limited Services Pregnancy Centers; and # 13. AAC Aid in Dying for Terminally ill Patients will be held.

Following these comments, Sen. Abrams offered the motion to create a consent calendar and it was seconded by Rep. Genga.
It was determined that a previous motion still existed.


Sen. Somers offered a motion to create a consent calendar and the motion was seconded by Rep. Cook.

Items 1-9, items 11&12 and items 14-22 were placed on the consent calendar.

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

The motion passed on a voice vote with Rep. Hennessey voting in the negative.

Rep. Steinberg announced the next committee meeting is Monday, February 10, 2020 at 10:30 AM in room 1D of the LOB.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00PM.

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Beverley Henry                                      Kathleen Panazza

Administrator                                     Committee Clerk