

Appropriations Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 15, 2021

10:00 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:52 AM by Chairman, Sen. Osten C. S19.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Anwar S. S03; Cicarella P. S34; Daugherty Abrams M. S13; Flexer M. S29; Kushner J. S24; Lesser M. S09; Lopes R. S06; McCrory D. S02; Miner C. S30; Osten C. S19; Somers H. S18; Winfield G. S10

Representatives: Abercrombie C. 083; Baker A. 124; Betts W. 078; Bolinsky M. 106; Candelaria J. 095; Currey J. 011; Dathan L. 142; Dillon P. 092; DiMassa M. 116; Felipe A. 130; Ferraro C. 117; France M. 042; Gibson B. 015; Gilcrest J. 018; Haddad G. 054; Hall C. 059; Hall J. 007; Harrison C. 069; Hayes R. 051; Howard G. 043; Johnson S. 049; Kennedy K. 119; McCarty K. 038; McGee B. 005; Nolan A. 039; Pavalock-D'Amato C. 077; Porter R. 094; Reyes G. 075; Rosario C. 128; Ryan K. 139; Sanchez E. 024; Simms T. 140; Tercyak P. 026; Turco G. 027; Walker T. 093; Wilson D. 066; Zawistowski T. 061

Absent were:

Senators: Hartley J. S15

Representatives: Gonzalez M. 003

Rep. Gonzalez was absent due to family issues.

Sen. Flexer was unable to vote on H.B. 6423 due to technical issues.

Sen. Osten made opening remarks and noted that the Ranking Members had requested a 45-minute caucus. She stated that any Democrats requesting a caucus should let Rep. Walker and her know. Sen. Osten then recessed the meeting for caucusing and stated that the meeting would be reconvened at 11:50 AM.

Upon reconvening the meeting, Sen. Osten asked if anyone had questions or comments regarding S.R.7 and H.R. 12.

Rep. France asked clarifying questions about the resolutions and was responded to by Sen. Osten.

Sen. Osten asked for a motion for a Senate Favorable on [S.R. No. 7](#) Resolution Proposing Approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the University Of Connecticut Board of Trustees and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers Of America (UAW), Local Union 6950.

The motion was made by Sen. Winfield, seconded by Sen. Kushner.

Sen. Osten asked for a roll call vote. The motion passed, with 12 voting Yea, 0 voting Nay, 0 Abstaining and 1 Absent and Not Voting.

Rep. Walker asked for a motion for a House Favorable on [H.R. No. 12](#) Resolution Proposing Approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement Between the University Of Connecticut Board of Trustees and the International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers Of America (UAW), Local Union 6950.

The motion was made by Rep. Candelaria, seconded by Rep. J. Hall.

Rep. Walker called for a roll call vote. The motion passed, with 34 voting Yea, 3 voting Nay, 0 Abstaining and 1 Absent and Not Voting.

Sen. Osten called for a motion for a Joint Favorable on [Substitute for H.B. No. 6423](#) (RAISED) (File No. 431) AN ACT CONCERNING IMMUNIZATIONS.

The motion was made by Sen. Daugherty-Abrams, seconded by Rep. Abercrombie.

Sen. Osten asked for discussion, but cautioned members that debate was to be limited to the fiscal note and not the policy of the bill. She stated that any questions that needed to be answered by the Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) should be directed through the chairs.

Rep. Betts, Sen. Somers, Rep. France, Rep. Pavalock D'Amato, and Sen. Anwar asked questions that were responded to by Sen. Osten and Neil Ayers from OFA.

Rep. McCarty, Rep. Wilson, Sen. Somers, and Rep. Porter made comments in opposition to the bill.

Sen. Somers proposed an amendment that was ruled out of order by the Chair, as Sen. Osten did not believe that the amendment addressed the fiscal note of the underlying bill.

Rep. France questioned Sen. Osten's ruling.

Sen. Osten stated that any amendments could only deal with the fiscal note and that amendments needed to be submitted in writing to the committee administrator for distribution to the rest of the committee and staff.

Sen. Somers requested time to submit her amendments in writing to the committee administrator. Sen. Osten announced that the committee would stand at ease while Sen. Somers prepared her amendments.

Sen. Somers proposed the following amendment to H.B. 6423:

That HB 6423 be amended to add the following section at the end of the bill (LCO may adjust the language for the purposes of conforming to the bill):

Amend the bill to add a \$350 million fund to cover the cost to educate those students that are unenrolled from elementary or secondary schools in the state as a result of not being vaccinated pursuant to this act.

Sen. Miner seconded the amendment.

Sen. Osten ruled the amendment to be out of order as it was outside the cognizance of the committee.

Sen. Somers appealed the ruling of the chair.

Sen. Somers, Sen. Miner, Rep. Betts, Rep. Pavalock D'Amato, Rep. France, Rep. Bolinsky, Rep. McCarty, and Rep. Ferraro made comments in opposition to the ruling of the chair.

Sen. Cicarella and Rep. Kennedy asked questions and were responded to by Sen. Osten.

Sen. Osten called for a roll call vote on the ruling of the chair and stated that a vote in the affirmative was a vote to uphold the ruling and a vote in the negative was a vote to oppose the ruling.

Roll call vote was taken, with 30 voting Yea, 16 voting Nay, 0 Abstaining and 5 Absent and not voting. The ruling of the Chair was upheld.

Sen. Somers proposed a second amendment to H.B. 6423:

That HB 6423 be amended to add the following section at the end of the bill (LCO may adjust the language for the purposes of conforming to the bill):

Amend the bill to add a \$453,757.00 fund for the cost to vaccinate the students that have claimed a religious exemption and are affected by this act.

Rep. Kennedy seconded the amendment.

Sen. Osten spoke in opposition to the amendment.

Sen. Osten called for a roll call vote on the amendment. The amendment failed, with 16 voting Yea, 30 voting Nay, 0 Abstaining, and 5 Absent and Not Voting.

Rep. Bolinsky made a motion to refer H.B. 6423 to the Education Committee. Sen. Osten told Rep. Bolinsky his motion was not proper under the Joint Rules. Rep. Bolinsky withdrew his motion.

Rep. McCarty commented that she hoped the bill would eventually be referred to the Education Committee.

Rep. France and Sen. Somers stated their intention to vote against the bill.

Sen. Osten called for a roll call vote on H.B. 6423. The motion passed, with 31 voting Yea, 16 voting Nay, 0 Abstaining and 4 Absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten and Rep. Walker gave closing remarks.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 PM.

Susan Keane
Administrator

Christopher Marino
Assistant Clerk