

Appropriations Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 10, 2021

1:00 PM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 PM 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; Hartley J. S15; 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; Gilchrest J. 018; Gonzalez M. 003; Haddad G. 054; 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; Wilson D. 066; Zawistowski T. 061

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives: Hall C. 059; Walker T. 093

Rep. Walker was absent due to medical reasons.

Sen. Osten called the meeting to order and made welcoming remarks as did Rep. Abercrombie, Rep. France and Sen. Miner. Sen. Osten asked if there was any objection to establishing a consent calendar and saw none.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6111](#) (RAISED) (File No. 19) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM. (KID,APP). The motion was made by Sen. Miner and seconded by Rep. Simms. Rep. France offered the bill for the consent calendar. Without objection it was placed on consent.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6436](#) (RAISED) (File No. 120) AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN CHOICE VOUCHERS PILOT PROGRAM. (HSG,APP)The motion was made by Rep. Dathan and seconded by Rep. Abercrombie. Rep. France said that this bill, like many on the agenda, represented good policy but the funds were not in the budget. He explained that negative votes were based on the fiscal notes and not on the policy proposals. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 33 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten call for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6495](#) (RAISED) (File No. 229) AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITY AND FAIR LENDING. (BA,APP) Rep. Abercrombie made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Nolan. Sen. Miner said that sections of the bills were worthy and laudable and if amendments were feasible at the Committee level the votes would be different. He said that the Committee did not have the same ability to amend with the current pandemic dynamics. He hoped that when the bills returned to the floor there would be changes to resolve the fiscal issues. Sen. Osten told the Committee that the votes would be held open to a time to be determined at the end of the meeting. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 34 voting yea, 15 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6496](#) (RAISED) (File No. 230) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOIL-RELATED INITIATIVES. (ENV,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Rep. France. Rep. France offered the bill for the consent calendar. Without objection the bill was placed on consent.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6483](#) (RAISED) (File No. 267) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM. (VA,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Dathan and seconded by Rep. Abercrombie. Rep. France offered the bill for the consent calendar. Without objection it was placed on consent.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6478](#) (RAISED) (File No. 472) AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION. (LAB,APP) Rep. Porter made the motion and Rep. Nolan seconded it. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 33 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6211](#) (COMM) (File No. 499) AN ACT CONCERNING GENDER AND RACIAL DIVERSITY ON CERTAIN STATE APPOINTIVE BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND COUNCILS AND AN ONLINE SYSTEM FOR CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS WITHIN THE LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT. (GAE,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Dathan. Rep. McCarty said that the bill presented an

important concept but that she questioned the expense of outside consultants. She expressed hope that there would be amendments on the floor to mitigate the unfunded costs. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 34 voting yea, 15 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6577](#) (RAISED) (File No. 505) AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE PROPERTIES REVIEW BOARD. (GAE,APP) Rep. Abercrombie made the motion that was seconded by Rep. Dathan. Rep. Dathan told the Committee that the bill was "living legislation", a work in progress. Sen. Osten explained that the bill called for the State Property Review Board to be moved to the Office of Legislative Management. She said that she would vote to move the bill out of committee but that she would not support the current construction on the floor without amendment. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 34 voting yea, 15 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6647](#) (RAISED) (File No. 551) AN ACT CONCERNING GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS. (PD,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Rep. Currey. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 33 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6666](#) (RAISED) (File No. 539) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH'S RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING VARIOUS REVISIONS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH STATUTES. (PH,APP) Rep. Bolinsky made the motion and Rep. Abercrombie seconded it. Sen. Osten told Rep. Bolinsky that this was an agency bill. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 35 voting yea, 14 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6548](#) (RAISED) (File No. 577) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JURY SELECTION TASK FORCE. (JUD,APP) Rep. Abercrombie made the motion and Rep. Simms seconded it. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 32 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6594](#) (RAISED) (File No. 580) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE PROCESS. (JUD,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Rep. Nolan. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 33 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6667](#) (RAISED) (File No. 599) AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE POLICY AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE. (JUD,APP) Rep. Nolan made the motion and Rep. Porter seconded it. Sen. Osten said that most of the costs were covered in the budget and that discussions were taking place to incorporate the unfunded portion within available appropriations. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 46 voting yea, 3 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 5307](#) (RAISED) (File Nos. 3 and 628) AN ACT CONCERNING PRICE GOUGING. (GL,JUD,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Sims. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 34 voting yea, 15 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 920](#) (RAISED) (File No. 423) AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS. (TRA,APP) Rep. Abercrombie made the motion which was seconded by Sen. Daugherty Abrams. Sen. Lesser told the Committee that the intention was to limit the scope of the bill after it left the Committee. He said that he would support moving the bill on. Rep. Nolan expressed concerns about the sunset provisions in the current bill. Rep. Tercyak said that he was grateful for the assurance that the bill would be changed. Sen. Kushner also called for changes to the bill before final passage. Rep. Turco said he hoped for a better version. Rep. Porter said that she had the same concerns but would vote to move the bill out of committee. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 31 voting yea, 17 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [S.B. No. 956](#) (RAISED) (File No. 516) AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. (HS,APP) Rep. Porter made the motion and Sen. Lesser seconded it. Rep. Dathan said she felt this was an important discussion to have but that she was worried about the large fiscal note that was not included in the budget. Rep. Porter said that it was important to support so many of the front line workers. Rep. Nolan commented that COVID-19 had disproportionately impacted those who have struggled with obtaining healthcare coverage. Sen. Osten told the Committee that the costs would have to come out of the General Fund and could not be assigned to other funding sources. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 33 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 1019](#) (RAISED) (File No. 613) AN ACT CONCERNING THE BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES, ERASURE OF CRIMINAL RECORDS FOR CERTAIN MISDEMEANOR AND FELONY OFFENSES, PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION BASED ON ERASED CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD INFORMATION AND CONCERNING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONNECTICUT SENTENCING COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO MISDEMEANOR SENTENCES. (JUD,APP) Rep. Porter made the motion and Rep. Rosario seconded it. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 35 voting yea, 13 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 3 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 1091](#) (RAISED) (File No. 617) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, REVISING STATUTES CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, CHILD CUSTODY, FAMILY RELATIONS MATTER FILINGS AND BIGOTRY OR BIAS CRIMES AND CREATING A PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL TO INDIGENTS IN RESTRAINING ORDER CASES. (JUD,APP) Rep. Nolan made the motion and Rep. Porter seconded it. Rep. Howard said that he strongly supported the policies put forward by the bill and that he believed that the portions of the bill that drove the fiscal note were not necessary. He said that he would vote to move the bill to the floor. Rep. Wilson said that he felt that the bill had many good points but that he was concerned by the costs. Rep. Ferraro praised the bill and said that he would vote to move it forward. Rep. Bolinsky told the Committee that he agreed with his colleagues but that as a member of the Appropriations Committee he would have to vote no. He said that he was looking forward to an amended version on the floor. A roll call vote was taken. The bill passed with 48 voting yea, 1 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a motion to vote on the Consent Calendar. Sen. Miner made the motion and Rep. McCarty seconded it. The Consent Calendar was as follows:

[Substitute for H.B. No. 6111](#) (RAISED) (File No. 19) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION TRAINING PROGRAM. (KID,APP)

[Substitute for H.B. No. 6496](#) (RAISED) (File No. 230) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOIL-RELATED INITIATIVES. (ENV,APP)

[Substitute for H.B. No. 6483](#) (RAISED) (File No. 267) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN OF MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PURPLE STAR SCHOOL PROGRAM. (VA,APP)

A roll call vote was taken. The Consent Calendar passed with 49 voting yea, 0 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten told the Committee that the meeting would stand in recess until 4:00 PM at which time the votes would close. Rep. France thanked Sen. Osten for the accommodation. Sen. Osten and the Committee thanked assistant clerk Eddie Aledia for his work for the Committee upon the completion of his sessional term.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Susan Keane
Administrator

Elizabeth Gillette
Committee Clerk