

Appropriations Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 17, 2021

10:00 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:17 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; 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 C. 059; 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; Simms T. 140; Tercyak P. 026; Turco G. 027; Walker T. 093; Wilson D. 066; Zawistowski T. 061

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives: Hall J. 007; Sanchez E. 024

Se. Osten opened the meeting and called for a recess until 11:00 for caucuses. Sen. Miner said that several meetings were taking place and many members had conflicts. Rep. France asked that the votes be held open to accommodate the members. Sen.

Osten said that the decision to hold the votes open would be made at the end of the meeting.

Sen. Osten reconvened the meeting at 11:07 AM and called for a motion to report the Committee's modifications to the Governor's proposed allocation plan for the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to the Speaker and the President Pro Tempore. Rep. Dathan made the motion and Rep. Abercrombie seconded the motion. Sen. Miner said that there many opportunities for agreement in the recommendations. He said that he would have liked to see more weight given to the Unemployment Trust Fund to help people get back to work in jobs that support small businesses hurt by the pandemic, as opposed to training for new jobs through workforce development. He praised investment in mental health, local health districts, private providers and skilled nursing. Recognizing that the process does not lend itself to amendment, he hoped that supports for municipal ambulance services could be found. Sen. Miner said he was glad that the legislature had inserted themselves into the allocation process and thanked everyone involved in working on the modification plan. Rep. France said that he would have liked to see more emphasis on capital projects that would have lasting impacts. He singled out nursing homes and other senior services. Rep. Bolinsky said that he hoped that within the community investment areas that monies could be found for children's museums that had provided outreach programs during the lockdowns to help them recover. He suggested the allocations designated for tourism, family parks and local community events might be tapped. Rep. Abercrombie "piggy-backed" on Sen. Miner's concerns for ambulance services and said that the allocated 2 million dollars were what the associations had requested. She observed that the people in the ambulance services had stepped up to fill voids in medical transportation needs on top of greatly increased call volumes. Rep. Dillon defended the allocation to the tourism line items, saying that the pandemic showed how interconnected all parts of the Connecticut economy are and that tourism and the arts rippled out through many impacted industries. Rep. Walker thanked Sen. Osten for her support and ranking members for their input and ideas. She said that the focus had been on repairing weaknesses and should be viewed as a part of the puzzle coupled with funds committed in the budget. She said that not everything was accomplished but that they had tried to target areas that would have lasting impacts. Sen. Osten said that the allocation plan should be evaluated in integration with the operating budget and in conjunction with other federal funds, the deficiency bill and the capital budget. A roll vote was taken, and the motion passed with 49 voting yea, 0 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Senate Favorable motion for [S.R. No. 9](#) RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (P-3B BARGAINING UNIT). (APP) Sen. Kushner made the motion and Sen. Daugherty-Abrams seconded it. Sen. Miner said that the number of people affected, and the amount of dollars involved was small, but he was concerned with the policy implied by combining administrators and the people who work under them in the same bargaining unit. Sen. Hartley asked if the funds were in the Reserve for Salary Adjustment account. Sen. Osten said that they were. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 10 voting yea, 3 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 0 absent.

Rep. Walker called for a House Favorable motion for [H.R. No. 13](#) RESOLUTION PROPOSING APPROVAL OF A TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE CONNECTICUT STATE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION (P-3B BARGAINING UNIT). (APP) The motion was made by Rep. Nolan and seconded

by Rep. Tercyak. Rep. France echoed Sen. Miner's comments about the policy implications and said that it was an indication of the State not meeting employee needs. The motion passed on a roll call vote with 23 voting yea, 13 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6431](#) (RAISED) (File No. 159) AN ACT CONCERNING HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES FOR JUSTICE-IMPACTED PERSONS. (HSG,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Sen. Anwar. Sen. Miner asked if there was an anticipated amendment on the floor. Sen. Osten said yes. Rep. France said that there were limits to be proposed. Rep. Howard said that he saw the scope of the bill as redundant with the scope of the Commission on Racial Equity in Public Health approved by the committee earlier this session. Rep. McGee explained how the functions of the Commission and CHRO differed. Rep. Howard said that the Commission would be taking on some of CHRO's responsibilities and thus would not be in need of additional funds. The bill passed on a roll call vote with 32 voting yea, 17 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for H.B. No. 6624](#) (RAISED) (File No. 349) AN ACT CONCERNING LICENSING REQUIREMENTS FOR REAL ESTATE BROKERS. (INS,APP) Rep. Walker made the motion and Rep. Abercrombie seconded it. The bill passed on a roll call vote with 49 voting yea, 0 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 262](#) (RAISED) (File No. 12) AN ACT REQUIRING MANUFACTURERS OF BRAND NAME PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO PROVIDE SAMPLES OF SUCH DRUGS TO MANUFACTURERS OF GENERIC PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. (GL,JUD,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Rep. Walker. Rep. France asked if the costs to the Department of Consumer Protection were in the budget. Sen. Osten said no. Rep. France said that he would be voting no based on the fiscal note. The bill passed on a roll call vote with 33 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [S.B. No. 1011](#) (RAISED) (File No. 295) AN ACT CONCERNING THE USE OF OPIOID ANTAGONISTS AND EPINEPHRINE CARTRIDGE INJECTORS BY POLICE OFFICERS. (PS,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Dathan and seconded by Rep. Tercyak. Rep. Howard told the Committee that the portion of the bill that dealt with epinephrine had raised concerns with the Public Safety Committee. He said that there was an anticipated amendment that would leave the opioid provisions in tact and create a study for the epinephrine portion. He said that this would also greatly reduce the fiscal note. Rep. France said that he would be voting no until changes had been made to the fiscal note. Rep. Ferraro said that whether police officers should be carrying epi pens would be evaluated in the working group. Rep. Wilson said that he would vote to move the bill out of committee but would not support it on the floor without the amendment. The bill passed on a roll call vote with 47 voting yea, 2 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 683](#) (COMM) (File No. 447) AN ACT CONCERNING HOSPITAL BILLING AND COLLECTION EFFORTS BY HOSPITALS AND COLLECTION AGENCIES. (PH,PH,APP) Rep. Walker made the motion that was seconded by Rep. Dathan. Rep. France questioned the "potential significant" revenue loss to the University of Connecticut Health Center cited in the fiscal note. The Office of Financial Analysis indicated that they did not know

the exact impact at this time. The bill passed on a roll call vote with 32 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 1 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 1030](#) (RAISED) (File No. 457) AN ACT CONCERNING LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES. (PH,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Porter and seconded by Rep. Abercrombie. Rep. France asked if there were funds allocated in the budget for the bill Sen. Osten said no. Sen. Daugherty-Abrams said that there were anticipated amendments that would significantly reduce the fiscal note if not eliminate it entirely. Rep. France said that he would be voting no on the bill until that time. Rep. Dathan thanked Sen. Daugherty-Abrams for her work on the bill. She expressed her concerns about the fiscal and stated that she looked forward to the bill being amended to address her concern. Rep. Dathan stated that she would support the bill getting out of committee so it could be worked on further. Sen. Daugherty-Abrams highlighted that the bill was the result of the working group's recommendations. The bill passed on a roll call vote with 37 voting yea, 12 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 893](#) (RAISED) (File No. 360) AN ACT CONCERNING CONSUMER PRIVACY. (GL,JUD,APP) The motion was made by Rep. Abercrombie and seconded by Rep. McGee. Rep. France asked if the costs were covered by the Attorney General's budget. Sen. Osten said yes. The bill passed on a roll call vote with 34 voting yea, 15 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 2 absent and not voting.

At 12:56 PM Sen. Osten told the Committee that the votes would be held open until 2:30 PM.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM.

Susan Keane
Administrator

Elizabeth Gillette
Committee Clerk