

Appropriations Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 24, 2021

10:00 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 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; 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; 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: Betts W. 078; Hall J. 007; Porter R. 094; Reyes G. 075; Walker T. 093

Sen. Osten welcomed the Committee and called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 356](#) (COMM) (File No. 142) AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ENERGY EFFICIENCY RETROFIT GRANT PROGRAM FOR AFFORDABLE

HOUSING. (HSG,APP) Rep. Abercrombie made the motion and Rep. Nolan seconded it. There being no discussion, the bill passed on a roll call vote with 30 voting yea, 16 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 5 absent and not voting.

Sen. Osten called for a Joint Favorable motion for [Substitute for S.B. No. 1059](#) (RAISED) (File No. 616) AN ACT CONCERNING THE OFFICE OF THE CORRECTION OMBUDS, THE USE OF ISOLATED CONFINEMENT, SECLUSION AND RESTRAINTS, SOCIAL CONTACTS FOR INCARCERATED PERSONS AND TRAINING AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION BENEFITS FOR CORRECTION OFFICERS. (JUD,APP) Sen. Winfield made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Nolan. Sen. Winfield said that this bill was the result of several years work to restrict the Department of Correction's use of solitary confinement in state facilities. Sen. Winfield said that the bill would be amended on the floor to reduce the fiscal note. He cited the addition to the Office of the Corrections Ombuds as one element that was going to be eliminated in the final bill and that inmate phone calls were dealt with in another piece of legislation. Sen. Cicarella expressed concern that, based on his familiarity with the penal system, discontinuing, or substantially reducing, the use of solitary confinement was a misunderstanding of when, how and why solitary confinement is used. As an example, he mentioned the use of segregation for inmates for whom there are suicide concerns. Sen. Cicarella said that he would like to see closer examination and discussion of the existing policies. Sen. Osten also mentioned her work within the Department of Corrections and said that she was in discussions with Sen. Winfield and others about the bill. She said that she would vote to move the bill forward. Sen. Winfield said that this bill would not eliminate solitary confinement but created a more measured response. The bill passed on a roll call vote with 30 voting yea, 15 voting nay, 0 abstaining and 5 absent and not voting.

There being no further business Sen. Osten said that the meeting would stand in recess until the beginning of the House session and that votes would be held open until that time.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

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Susan Keane  
Administrator

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Elizabeth Gillette  
Committee Clerk