

Environment Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

1:00 PM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM by Chairman, Rep. Borer D. 115.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Cohen C. S12; Haskell W. S26; Kasser A. S36; Kushner J. S24;
Miner C. S30; Slap D. S05

Representatives: Berger-Girvalo A. 111; Betts W. 078; Borer D. 115; Callahan P.
108; Chafee B. 033; Demicco M. 021; Dillon P. 092; Dubitsky D.
047; Fishbein C. 090; Gresko J. 121; Gucker K. 138; Harding S.
107; Harrison C. 069; Hennessy J. 127; Horn M. 064; Michel D.
146; Mushinsky M. 085; O'Dea T. 125; Palm C. 036; Parker J. 101;
Piscopo J. 076; Rebimbas R. 070; Reyes G. 075; Ryan K. 139;
Smith F. 118; Wilson D. 066; Young P. 120

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives:

Rep. Borer called the meeting to order at 1PM.

Rep. Borer opening remarks of the submitting their proposals for bills by last Friday.

Sen. Cohen reminded members is a vote for concept, not necessarily a vote for the proposed item.

Sen. Miner discussed PFAS and moving it forward in the Environment Committee. Concerns about how the public hearings are going to be done with Covid and Zoom.

Sen. Cohen discusses PFAS should go under Environment Committee as many of the items fall under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Other aspects of PFAS will be examined by Committee on Public Health.

Rep. Borer reads the list of Raised bills (below).

Raised Bills:

1. AAC THE SITING AND PERMITTING OF ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS ON FARMS
2. AAC FOOD DIVERSION FROM THE STATE'S SOLID WASTE STREAM
3. AAC PFAS CONTENT IN CERTAIN CONSUMER PACKAGING
4. AAC THE USE OF CERTAIN POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS, SINGLE-USE STRAWS AND PLASTIC PRODUCE BAGS AND THE RELEASE OF HELIUM BALLOONS
5. AAC STORMWATER MANAGEMENT
6. AN ACT CONCERNING THE SITING OF SOLAR FACILITIES ON CERTAIN FARMLANDS AND FORESTS

Rep. Borer requested a motion to Raise Concepts (items 1 to 6 inclusive). Motion by Rep. Wilson, seconded by Rep. Mushinsky.

Rep. Borer requested a voice vote on the Raised Concepts (items 1 through 6).

Rep. Fishbein inquired how votes will work.

Brad Townson – OLR says that camera and voice must be turned on for the vote to be accepted.

Clerk of the Committee, Gaia McDermott answered questions about how the public hearings will work remotely.

Rep. Borer states next meeting and public hearing will be at 10AM on February 10, 2021

Rep. Borer recessed the meeting until and adjourned the meeting at 2:30PM.

Clerk: Gaia McDermott
Administrator

Assistant Clerk: Steve Smith
Committee Clerk