

Energy and Technology Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 11, 2021

10:00 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman, Rep. Arconti D. 109.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Formica P. S20; Haskell W. S26; Lesser M. S09; McCrory D. S02; Needleman N. S33; Winfield G. S10

Representatives: Ackert T. 008; Allie-Brennan R. 002; Arconti D. 109; Arora H. 151; Buckbee B. 067; Cheeseman H. 037; Demicco M. 021; Ferraro C. 117; Foster J. 057; Gilcrest J. 018; Gresko J. 121; Horn M. 064; Kavros DeGraw E. 017; Meskers S. 150; Mushinsky M. 085; Perone C. 137; Petit W. 022; Piscopo J. 076; Steinberg J. 136; Tercyak P. 026

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives:

- Rep Arconti convened the meeting at 10 a.m.
- Opening remarks were made by Sen. Needleman, Sen Formica, Rep Ferraro
- Moving onto Section III of the agenda:
- III. BILLS FOR REVIEW

S.B. No. 950 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPLACEMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITY POLES AND REVISING VEGETATION MANAGEMENT IN UTILITY PROTECTION ZONES. (ET) Proposed Action – JF to the Floor

Rep Arconti makes a motion to JF S.B. 950 to the floor. The motion is moved by Rep Allie-Brennan and seconded by Sen Formica.

Sen Needleman remarks that the bill aims to address the following: 1.) tree trimming on about 20% of circuits, the bill as written is not ok and there will be amendments that will make the tree warden the final arbiter of whether trees come down or not

Rep Ferraro remarks that in his town of West Haven they have always had a tree warden until recently when they ran into financial difficulties due to mismanagement and

as such the tree warden has resigned and not been replaced. The question is, what would happen in towns that do not have a tree warden.

Per Sen Needleman: the appointment of a tree warden is a statutory required position and that it falls to the individual town to appoint one.

Sen Formica remarks that no utility should be required to obtain a permit to prune or remove a tree.

Rep Cheeseman remarks on Section 1, subparagraph B in the bill that she has been contacted by some of the cable providers discussing that if you are on the bottom of the pole you are dependent on those on top because of how electricity travels from top to bottom.

Sen Needleman confirms that more work needs to be done on the double polling

Rep Petit is concerned that there won't be a requirement for permitting and a notice to a transportation commissioner.

Rep Mushinsky wants to be sure before she votes that the issue of PURA being out that there is still a local way to bring issues to officials for removal

Rep Ackert is in support of the bill

The bill passes via roll call vote: Yea 25, Abstain 1

H.B. No. 6524 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE SOLICITATION OF NEW FUEL CELL ELECTRICITY GENERATION PROJECTS. (ET) Proposed Action – JF to the Floor

Rep Arconti makes a motion to JF HB 6524 to the floor. The motion is moved by Rep Gresko and seconded by Rep Allie-Brennan

The bill passes via roll call vote: Yea 25, Abstain 1

H.B. No. 6526 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTRIC SUPPLIERS. (ET) Proposed Action – JFS to the Floor

Rep Arconti makes a motion to JFS HB 6526 to the floor. The motion is moved by Rep Allie-Brennan and seconded by Sen Formica

Rep Buckbee will be voting no on this bill to flag I because of his concerns regarding prohibiting automatic contract renewal.

Rep Arora supports this bill but mirrors Rep Buckbee's concerns about prohibiting automatic contract renewal.

Rep Buckbee reaffirms his concerns about prohibiting automatic contract renewal in that it will create additional costs when/if you have to reestablish business with that customer

Rep Ackert backs Rep Buckbee's stance on the auto renewals but will support the bill at this time.

The bill passes via roll call vote: Yea 24, Nay 2

H.B. No. 6525 (RAISED) AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES. (ET) Proposed Action – JFS to the Floor

Rep Arconti makes a motion to JFS HB 6525 to the floor. The motion is made by Rep Ferraro and seconded by Rep Petit

The bill passes via roll call vote: Yea 26, Nay 0

The votes will remain open until 2pm at which time the committee meeting will adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday March 18th at 10am

Will Ginn
Committee Clerk

Jason Snukis
Assistant Clerk