

Energy and Technology Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 18, 2021

10:30 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 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; Gilchrest 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:

- Sen Needleman convened the meeting at 10:30 a.m. and began with opening remarks from the co-chairs and ranking members
- Sen Needleman remarks that the committee will not be voting on item #7 of the agenda:
  - **S.B. No. 4 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING DATA PRIVACY, NET NEUTRALITY, CYBER SECURITY AND FAIRNESS IN DATA USAGE IN THE NEW AGE OF A DIGITAL WORKFORCE.**
- Sen Needleman then makes a motion to JFS SB 858

- **S.B. No. 858 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CALL BEFORE YOU DIG PROGRAM VIOLATIONS AND CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS TO GAS PIPELINES PROCESSES.**

- The motion is moved by Sen Formica and seconded by Rep Arconti
- Sen Formica is concerned about double payment and collection of the fines and that there was supposed to be some corrected language regarding this in the bill
- In response: Rep Arconti said he had been in contact with PURA and believes that the language in the bill is sufficient and that there are enough safeguards to prevent a double fine. However, if needed the bill can be amended on the Senate floor
- The bill passed by roll call: 26-0
- Sen Needleman makes a motion to JFS SB 952 to the floor

- **S.B. No. 952 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING CERTAIN SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS.**

- The motion is moved by Rep Arconti and seconded by Rep Kavros-Degraw
- Rep Demicco comments that the substitute language to this bill included striking section 10.
- The bill passed by roll: 24-2
- Sen Needleman makes a motion to JF HB 6523

- **H.B. No. 6523 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING VIRTUAL NET METERING CREDITS FOR MANUFACTURERS IN DISTRESSED MUNICIPALITIES.**

- The motion is made by Rep Gresko and seconded by Rep Petit
- The bill passed by roll: 26-0
- Sen Needleman makes a motion to JF HB 6571 to the floor

- **H.B. No. 6571 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM.**

- The motion is moved by Rep Gresko and seconded by Rep Allie-Brennan
- The bill passed by roll: 26-0
- Sen Needleman makes a motion to JF HB 6572 to the floor

- **H.B. No. 6572 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ENERGY USE BUILDING STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTARY ADOPTION**

- The motion is moved by Rep Allie-Brennan and seconded by Rep Arconti
- Rep Ackert is going to vote no on HB 6572
- Sen Formica is also going to flag HB 6572 as a no vote
- Rep Demicco expresses his concerns about voting for this bill
- Rep Mushinsky is going to vote in favor of the bill
- Rep Foster is going to vote against the bill
- Rep Cheeseman will be voting no
- Rep Meskers will be voting yes
- The bill passed by roll: 16-10
- Sen Needleman makes a motion to JFS SB 993 to the floor

- **S.B. No. 993 (RAISED) AN ACT REMOVING THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR SOLAR PROJECTS AND RECLASSIFYING THE TAX CALCULATION OF SOLAR PROJECTS ON SINGLE PARCELS OF LAND.**

- The motion is made by Sen Formica and seconded by Rep Horn
- Rep Foster will be voting for this bill but wishes to flag it because the energy is not benefiting the communities where they are stationed.
- Rep Demicco raises questions about whether or not the substitute language does away with the tax exemption for some of the smaller arrays. Per Sen Needleman: the substitute language carves out the providers of more than 1 megawatt but less than 7
- The bill passed by roll: 26-0
- Sen Needleman makes a motion to JF HB 6442 to the floor

- **H.B. No. 6442 AN ACT CONCERNING EQUITABLE ACCESS TO BROADBAND**

- The motion is moved by Rep Arconti and seconded by Rep Allie-Brennan
- Sen Formica has many concerns with this bill, namely the expansion of government agencies and is going to flag this bill with a no vote

- Rep Kavros Degraw also has reservations on the make ready portion of the bill but will still be voting yes on the bill
- Rep Cheeseman shares Sen Formica's concerns on the bill and will be a no vote
- Rep Ferraro is a no vote
- Rep Arconti is going to support the bill
- The bill passed by roll: 19-7
- Sen Needleman makes a motion to JFS SB 882 to the floor
  - **S.B. No. 882 AN ACT CONCERNING CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND HOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY. (ET)**
- The motion is moved by Rep Arconti and seconded by Rep Mushinsky
- Sen Formica will be flagging this bill with a no vote because of concerns with the landlord section of the bill
- Rep Mushinsky asks why the main response part was taken out of the bill. Per Sen Needleman gives the reason being that that portion of the bill was extremely expensive and would have really negatively impacted the ratepayers
- Rep Ferraro also has a problem with the landlord portion of the bill and will vote no
- Rep Piscopo will also be voting no on the bill
- Sen McCrory supports the bill but will dig deeper into why businesses that are in the energy efficiency business are not fully utilizing federal funds
- Rep Cheeseman mirrors Sen Formica's concerns about the bill and will also be voting no
- Rep Petit has concerns with the landlord portion of the bill and will flag it with a no vote
- The bill passed by roll: 18-8
- Sen Needleman makes a motion to JFS HB 6527 to the floor
  - **H.B. No. 6527 (RAISED) AN ACT INCREASING THE TOTAL OUTPUT OF CLASS III SOURCES**
- The motion is moved by Rep Ferraro and seconded by Rep Petit
- Rep Buckbees main concern on the bill is the sunset portion and would like to see it reviewed as a possible amendment, but still supports the bill

- Rep Allie-Brennan will be voting no because he feels it doesn't meet the states goal of being 100% carbon free by 2040
- Rep Demicco mirrors Rep Allie-Brennan's concerns and will also be voting no on the bill
- Rep Steinberg also mirrors Rep Allie-Brennan's viewpoints and will be voting no
- Rep Mushinsky will be voting no
- The bill passed by roll: 18-8

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48

The votes were kept open until 2pm

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Will Ginn  
Committee Clerk

Jason Snukis  
Assistant Clerk