

Government Administration and Elections Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

3:00 PM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM by Chairwoman, Sen. Flexer M. S29.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Flexer M. S29; Haskell W. S26; McCrory D. S02; Sampson R. S16;
Slap D. S05

Representatives: Blumenthal M. 147; Carpino C. 032; Fishbein C. 090; Fox D. 148;
France M. 042; Haddad G. 054; Labriola D. 131; Mastrofrancesco
G. 080; McCarthy Vahey C. 133; Morrin Bello A. 028; Palm C. 036;
Rosario C. 128; Santiago H. 084; Thomas S. 143

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives:

Sen. Flexer convened the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Rep. Fox thanked the ranking members for their help in constructing the committee meeting agenda.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco expressed appreciation for the bipartisan cooperation of committee members.

Sen. Flexer moved to Section III on the agenda, Concepts to be Raised:

1. An Act Concerning the Freedom of Information
2. An Act Concerning the State Properties Review Board
3. An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Auditors of Public Accounts
4. An Act Concerning Operations of the State Treasurer
5. An Act Concerning Campaign Finance Technical Revisions
6. An Act Concerning the Commission for Education Technology
7. An Act Modernizing Real Estate & Construction Management
8. An Act Concerning Responding to COVID-19
9. An Act Concerning Issues Related to COVID-19
10. An Act Concerning a Disparity Study
11. An Act Concerning the Legislative Commissioners' Recommendations for Technical Corrections to the Government Administration and Elections Statutes
12. An Act Concerning Public Private Partnerships and Privatization of State Services at the University of Connecticut Health Center
13. An Act Concerning Quasi Public Agencies
14. An Act Concerning Campaign Finance
15. An Act Concerning Government Administration
16. An Act Concerning Registrars of Voters
17. An Act Concerning Elections
18. An Act Concerning Election Monitors

Sen. Flexer asked for a motion to raise concepts 1 through 18.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco requested that concepts 13, 14, 15 and 17 be excluded from the motion and voted on in a separate voice vote.

Sen. Flexer revised her motion to only raise concepts 1 through 12.

Sen. Haskell made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Fox.

Sen. Sampson emphasized the procedural nature of an affirmative vote in favor of raising any concepts on the agenda. Rather than denoting individual support for the

content of a concept, a vote in favor means that the member is supportive of having a conversation about the issues which would include public comment. Senator Sampson announced his intent to vote in favor of raising the entire agenda.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco asked Sen. Flexer to revise the motion to include concepts 16 and 18.

Sen. Flexer asked Sen. Haskell and Rep. Fox if they would be willing to revise their motion to include concepts 16 and 18.

Sen. Haskell revised his motion and Rep. Fox revised his second.

Sen. Flexer asked LCO whether the revision of the motions is clear.

LCO answered that that the revisions have been made clear.

Sen. Flexer asked members if they had any further comments. Seeing none, she moved to a voice vote on raising concepts 1 through 12, and concepts 16 and 18.

The voice vote passed unanimously.

Sen. Flexer moved to concept 13 listed in Section III of the agenda:

13. An Act Concerning Quasi Public Agencies

Sen. Flexer asked for a motion to raise concept 13.

Rep. Fox made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Thomas.

Sen. Flexer explained that there have been a number of proposals that have come to the committee from the Democratic and Republican parties with regards for the need for further oversight of quasi-public agencies. The intention with this particular concept going forward will be to combine those proposals and have a public hearing on that large issue.

Sen. Flexer opened discussion of concept 13 to members of the committee. Seeing no comments, Sen. Flexer asked members if they would like to add the concept to a consent calendar.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco was supportive of building a consent calendar for the outstanding items.

Sen. Flexer asked for a motion to add item 13 to the consent calendar.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco made the motion and it was seconded by Sen. Slap.

Seeing no objections, Sen. Flexer added item 13 to the consent calendar.

Sen. Flexer moved to item 14 listed in Section III of the agenda:

14. An Act Concerning Campaign Finance

Sen. Flexer noted the intent of the concept is to combine a number of different proposals regarding the Citizens Election Program and the operations of the State Elections Enforcement Commission.

Sen. Flexer asked for a motion to raise item 14.

Rep. Fox made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Thomas.

Sen. Flexer opened discussion of item 14 to members of the committee.

Rep. Fishbein sought clarification from Sen. Flexer regarding the intent of the concept and asked if it served as a placeholder.

Sen. Flexer noted that the concept will be drafted by the committee and will utilize various proposals that have been received. Sen. Flexer stated that there was no intent for the concept to serve as a placeholder.

Rep. Fishbein asked Sen. Flexer if concepts 15 and 17 would be subject to the same scrutiny and committee drafting process as concept 14.

Sen. Flexer confirmed that items 15 and 17 would be drafted by the committee and subject to a public hearing.

Sen. Flexer asked members if they had any further comments.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco made a motion that concept 14 be added to the consent calendar.

Seeing no objections, Sen. Flexer added concept 14 to the consent calendar.

Sen. Flexer moved to concept 15 listed in Section III of the agenda:

15. An Act Concerning Government Administration

Sen. Flexer asked for a motion to raise concept 15.

Rep. Fox made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Thomas

Rep. Mastrofrancesco made a motion to add concept 15 to the consent calendar.

Seeing no objections, Sen. Flexer added concept 15 to the consent calendar.

Sen. Flexer moved to concept 17 listed in Section III of the agenda:

17. An Act Concerning Elections

Sen. Flexer asked for a motion to raise concept 17.

Rep. Fishbein made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Fox.

Rep. Mastrofrancesco made a motion to add concept 17 to the consent calendar.

Seeing no objections, Sen. Flexer added concept 17 to the consent calendar.

Sen. Flexer moved to Section IV of the agenda: Proposed Bills to be Drafted as Committee Bills.

Sen. Flexer asked for a motion to raise proposed bills 1 through 38 to be drafted as committee bills.

1. [Proposed S.B. No. 5](#) An Act Concerning Access to Voter Registration and Absentee Ballots and Safe and Secure Locations to Vote.
2. [Proposed H.B. No. 5011](#) An Act Concerning the Copying of Public Records Under the Freedom of Information Act.
3. [Proposed S.B. No. 138](#) An Act Concerning Presidential Electors.
4. [Proposed H.B. No. 5320](#) An Act Concerning Accessibility to Voting for Individuals with Disabilities.
5. [Proposed S.B. No. 183](#) An Act Concerning Electronic Meetings Under the Freedom of Information Act.
6. [Proposed S.B. No. 296](#) An Act Establishing a Right to Appeal the Decision of a Municipal Ethics Board to the Office of State Ethics.
7. [Proposed S.B. No. 353](#) An Act Concerning Municipal Elections.
8. [Proposed H.B. No. 5651](#) An Act Concerning Absentee Ballots for Certain Detained Individuals.
9. [Proposed H.B. No. 5652](#) An Act Concerning a Study of Equity in the Construction Industry.
10. [Proposed H.B. No. 5654](#) An Act Concerning the Updating of State Forms, Applications and Methods of Identification to Include a Nonbinary Gender Option.
11. [Proposed H.B. No. 5655](#) An Act Concerning Vacancies in Constitutional Executive Branch Offices.
12. [Proposed H.B. No. 5656](#) An Act Designating Pizza as the State Food.
13. [Proposed S.B. No. 640](#) An Act Concerning Social Media Platforms and Campaign Finance.

14. [Proposed S.B. No. 759](#) An Act Concerning Gender Neutrality in the State Constitution.
15. [Proposed S.B. No. 760](#) An Act Prohibiting Publication of An Image or a Video of a Fatal Accident Until a Family or Household Member Has Been Notified.
16. [Proposed S.B. No. 761](#) An Act Permitting the Use of Citizens' Election Program Grant Funds to Offset a Participating Candidate's Child Care Costs.
17. [Proposed H.B. No. 5872](#) An Act Expanding Automatic Voter Registration to Certain State Agencies.
18. [Proposed H.B. No. 5877](#) An Act Concerning the Regional Adoption of Atlantic Standard Time.
19. [Proposed H.B. No. 5879](#) An Act Exempting Constituent Contact Information from Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act.
20. [Proposed H.B. No. 5883](#) An Act Concerning Voting for Municipal Officers and on Local Questions.
21. [Proposed H.B. No. 6203](#) An Act Exempting Certain Records Concerning Native American Cultural Knowledge from Public Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act.
22. [Proposed H.B. No. 6207](#) An Act Concerning Designation of Polling Places.
23. [Proposed H.B. No. 6209](#) An Act Establishing Juneteenth Independence Day as a Legal Holiday.
24. [Proposed H.B. No. 6211](#) An Act Concerning Gender and Racial Diversity on State Boards and Commissions.
25. [Proposed H.B. No. 6212](#) An Act Exempting the Addresses of Family Violence Victims from Disclosure Under the Freedom of Information Act.
26. [Proposed H.B. No. 6327](#) An Act Concerning Approval of Amendments to Total Cost Basis Construction State Contracts.
27. [Proposed S.B. No. 820](#) An Act Concerning a State Voting Rights Act.
28. [Proposed H.B. No. 6325](#) An Act Concerning the Secretary of the State, Absentee Ballots and Election Audits.
29. [Proposed S.B. No. 294](#) An Act Concerning Qualifying Contributions Under the Citizens' Election Program.
30. [Proposed S.B. No. 297](#) An Act Concerning a Legislative Review of State Mandates.
31. [Proposed H.B. No. 6193](#) An Act Subjecting Certain Private Entities That Serve a Governmental Function to the Freedom of Information Act and the Codes of Ethics.
32. [Proposed H.B. No. 6194](#) An Act Concerning the Competitive Bidding and Oversight of Quasi-Public Agency Contracts.
33. [Proposed H.B. No. 5540](#) An Act Concerning the Secretary of the State.
34. [Proposed H.B. No. 5318](#) An Act Restoring Electoral Privileges to Convicted Felons Who Are on Parole.
35. [Proposed S.B. No. 753](#) An Act Concerning the Counting of Incarcerated Persons for Purposes of Determining Legislative Districts.
36. [Proposed H.B. No. 6205](#) An Act Revising Certain Absentee Voting Statutes.
37. [Proposed H.J. No. 50](#) Resolution Commemorating the Twenty-Second Anniversary of the Connecticut-Taiwan Sister-State Relationship.

38. [Proposed S.J. No. 13](#) Resolution Proposing a State Constitutional Amendment to Allow Sixteen-Year-Olds to Preregister to Vote, Regional Voting Centers and Early Voting.

Rep. Fox made the motion and it was seconded by Rep. Blumenthal.

Sen. Flexer opened discussion on drafting proposed bills 1 through 38 as committee bills. Seeing no discussion, Sen. Flexer moved to a voice vote on the motion to draft proposed bills 1 through 38 as committee bills.

The voice vote passed unanimously.

Sen. Flexer moved to a voice vote on the consent calendar to raise concepts 13, 14, 15 and 17 from Section III of the agenda.

The voice vote passed unanimously.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Administrator

Val Mehmeti
Committee Clerk