

Human Services Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, January 21, 2021

10:00 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 AM by Chairman, Rep. Abercrombie C. 083.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Berthel E. S32; Cabrera J. S17; Lesser M. S09; Moore M. S22

Representatives: Abercrombie C. 083; Arora H. 151; Buckbee B. 067; Butler L. 072; Case J. 063; Cook M. 065; Dathan L. 142; Garibay J. 060; Goupil C. 035; Hughes A. 135; Mastrofrancesco G. 080; Santiago H. 084; Simmons C. 144; Sredzinski J. 112; Stallworth C. 126; Wood T. 141

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives:

Rep. Abercrombie gave opening remarks welcoming all to the first regular meeting of the Human Services Committee. Rep. Abercrombie introduced her Co-Chair, Sen. Moore, and the Ranking Members, Sen. Berthel and Rep. Case, saying they look forward to a productive session.

Rep. Abercrombie requested a consent calendar for the concepts to be raised. Rep. Case agreed to the consent calendar but wanted to be assured all members could be heard on each item placed on the calendar. Rep. Abercrombie agreed.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Requiring Drivers Of Paratransit Vehicles To Be Mandated Reporters Of Suspected Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation Or Abandonment Of Elderly Persons. The motion was made by Rep. Cook and seconded by Sen. Lesser. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Expanding Access To Medical Specialists For Medicaid Beneficiaries In Southeastern Connecticut. The motion was made by Rep. Dathan, and seconded by Rep. Cook. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act To Expand The Diaper Bank To Include Feminine Hygiene Products. The motion was made by Rep. Dathan and seconded by Sen. Moore. Rep. Mastrofrancesco asked if there is a cost associated. Rep. Abercrombie noted that the bill was raised in 2020 and would go to Appropriations. Rep. Mastrofrancesco asked if there was money for hygiene products for the elderly, and Rep. Abercrombie indicated it is program for mothers. Rep. Mastrofrancesco asked for a roll call vote. Rep. Abercrombie asked the Clerk to call the roll. The motion passed with 20 voting yea and 0 voting nay.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Eligibility For The Connecticut Home-Care Program For Persons With Disabilities. The motion was made by Rep. Cook and seconded by Rep. Dathan. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, Act Concerning Medicaid Providers. The motion was made by Rep. Cook and seconded by Sen. Lesser. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Payment Recoveries, Incentives And Suspensions Under Public Assistance Programs. The motion was made by Sen. Moore and seconded by Rep. Cook. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Service Animals. The motion was made by Rep. Cook and seconded by Sen. Moore. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning The Department Of Aging And Disability Services. The motion was made by Sen. Moore and seconded by Rep. Hughes. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Statewide Mental Health Services For Deaf, Deaf-Blind And Hard Of Hearing Persons. The motion was made by Rep. Cook and seconded by Rep. Santiago. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Nursing Home Discharges. The motion was made by Rep. Cook and seconded by Rep. Santiago. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Nursing Homes. The motion was made by Rep. Dathan and seconded by Rep. Cook. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning The Connecticut Home-Care Program For The Elderly. The motion was made by Sen. Lesser and seconded by Rep. Simmons. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Temporary Family Assistance. The motion was made by Rep. Hughes and seconded by Rep. Santiago. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Timely Payments To Personal Care Attendants. The motion was made by Sen. Berthel and seconded by Rep. Santiago. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Telehealth. The motion was made by Rep. Dathan and seconded by Rep. Hughes. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Home Health, Telehealth And Utilization Review. The motion was made by Sen. Moore and seconded by Rep. Simmons. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie noted that the remaining concepts to be raised are DSS proposals.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning A List Of The 100 Most Delinquent Child Support Obligors. The motion was made by Rep. Santiago and seconded by Rep. Cook. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning The Autism Spectrum Disorder Advisory Council. The motion was made by Sen. Berthel and seconded by Rep. Santiago. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Changes To The Husky B Program. The motion was made by Rep. Santiago and seconded by Rep. Cook. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning The State-Wide Health Information Exchange Board Of Directors. The motion was made by Sen. Moore and seconded by Rep. Dathan. Rep. Case asked to move it to the consent calendar. There were no objections.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to approve the consent calendar, consisting of agenda items 1, 2 and 4-20. Sen. Berthel made the motion, which was seconded by Rep. Case. The motion passed with 20 voting yea and 0 voting nay.

Rep. Abercrombie thanked the committee for their hard work and announced the next meeting would be Thursday, February 4, 2021. Rep. Abercrombie noted that a Public Hearing would be held on February 16, 2021 and that the Medicaid 101 Informational Forum would be held on Monday, February 1, 2021. She asked all members to return their contact information sheets to the clerk as soon as possible.

Rep. Abercrombie recessed the meeting at 10:29 AM and said that votes would be held open until 1:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 PM.

Dave Rackliffe
Assistant Clerk

Heather Ferguson-Hull
Committee Clerk