

Human Services Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

10:00 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 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. 112A; Stallworth C. 126; Wood T. 141

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives:

Rep. Abercrombie made opening remarks.

Item #1: Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Child Support Enforcement. The motion was made by Sen. Moore and seconded by Rep. Garibay.

Discussion:

Rep. Case asked how this concept impacts S.B. 845. Rep. Abercrombie answered that they are not related. S.B. 845 removes obligors off the public list while this bill focuses on enhancing recoupment of child support, which was a recommendation from a 2014 task force on child support enforcement.

Rep. Abercrombie asked the Clerk to call the roll. The motion passed with 17 voting yea and 3 voting nay.

Item #2: Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Outdated Department Of Social Services Statues. The motion was made by Rep. Case and seconded by Rep. Cook. Rep. Abercrombie asked the Clerk to call the roll. The motion passed with 20 voting yea and 0 voting nay.

Item #3: Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, AAC Medicaid Insurance. The motion was made by Rep. Simmons and seconded by Rep. Hughes.

Discussion:

Rep. Arora asked if any consideration had been given to the overlap in eligibility that would occur between the Husky program and ACA. Rep. Abercrombie answered that this proposal is looking to expand Medicaid, which wouldn't affect the current reimbursement received from the federal government. Rep. Mastrofrancesco asked how many more people would become eligible for the Husky A program with the income eligibility increase. Rep. Abercrombie estimated around 40,000 people. Sen. Berthel commented that due to concerns from his caucus, he will be flagging the bill.

Rep. Abercrombie asked the Clerk to call the roll. The motion passed with 15 voting yea and 5 voting nay.

Item #4: Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning Payment Parity For Health And Human Services Providers. The motion was made by Sen. Moore and seconded by Rep. Hughes.

Discussion:

Rep. Case commented that although he wants to hear more about the proposal, he will be flagging with a no vote due to concerns. Rep. Wood noted that she will also be flagging with a no due to concerns about funding, though she is interested in learning more. Sen. Berthel commented that he will also flag this because of mentioned concerns. Rep. Abercrombie clarified that this proposal not only aims to ensure parity across geographical locations but also parity in payment of services.

Rep. Abercrombie asked the Clerk to call the roll. The motion passed with 14 voting yea and 6 voting nay.

Item #5: Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning The Establishment Of An Essential Caregiver Program And Statewide Visitation Policy For Long-Term Care Facilities. The motion was made by Sen. Moore and seconded by Rep. Santiago.

Discussion:

Rep. Case commented that due to COVID-19 there are many aspects to consider in this bill and so he is willing to move it forward. Rep. Arora commented that his constituents are concerned about the inconsistencies that exist within policies between nursing homes. He is excited to hear this bill and find solutions.

Rep. Abercrombie asked the Clerk to call the roll. The motion passed with 20 voting yea and 0 voting nay.

Item #6: Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Establishing A State Home Health Care/Home Hospice Ombudsman. The motion was made by Rep. Simmons and seconded by Rep. Cook.

Discussion:

Rep. Case commented that although his caucus has concerns, he looks forward to receiving answers in the public hearing.

Rep. Abercrombie asked the Clerk to call the roll. The motion passed with 20 voting yea and 0 voting nay.

Item #7: Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion to raise the concept, An Act Concerning The 2-Gen Initiative. The motion was made by Sen. Moore and seconded by Rep. Hughes.

Discussion:

Rep. Case commented that there were a lot of questions about this bill from his caucus. Sen. Moore explained the purpose of the 2-Gen initiative and said that the language is currently being drafted. Rep. Wood commented that while supportive of the program, she is concerned about the lack of language in the concept. Sen. Moore stated that now more than ever they need to make sure that people living in poverty have the support they need. Rep. Abercrombie added that this bill would cover many aspects of the 2-Gen Initiative, including the Fatherhood Initiative. She also commented that it is not uncommon for concepts to lack language.

Rep. Abercrombie asked the Clerk to call the roll. The motion passed with 14 voting yea and 6 voting nay.

Rep. Abercrombie asked for a motion for a straight change of reference for Proposed H.B. No. 5905, An Act Facilitating The Supply Of Food Available At Smaller Private Food Pantries, to the Environment Committee. The motion was made by Sen. Case and seconded by Rep. Dathan. A voice vote was held, and the motion passed.

Rep. Abercrombie announced that the next Human Services Committee Meeting would be Tuesday, February 23rd at 10AM. She also announced that the Human Services Public Hearing was beginning at 12PM that day. Rep. Abercrombie reminded the committee that votes would remain open until 11:45AM.

Rep. Abercrombie recessed the meeting 10:38AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 AM.

---

Gianna Vollano  
Assistant Clerk

Heather Ferguson-Hull  
Committee Clerk