

Insurance and Real Estate Committee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

10:00 AM in Zoom and YouTube Live

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 AM by Chairman, Rep. Wood K. 029.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: Anwar S. S03; Cabrera J. S17; Hwang T. S28; Lesser M. S09;
Maroney J. S14

Representatives: Comey R. 102; Dathan L. 142; Delnicki T. 014; Farrar K. 020;
Luxenberg G. 012; Meskers S. 150; Nuccio T. 053; Pavalock-
D'Amato C. 077; Perillo J. 113; Polletta J. 068; Riley E. 046;
Rochelle K. 104; Wood K. 029

Absent were:

Senators:

Representatives:

Rep. Wood K. 029 convened the meeting at 10:08

Sen. Lesser M. S09 thanked everyone for joining the meeting and commented on how this meeting was convened with short notice but contained important concepts. Sen. Lesser M. S09 remarked that he looked forward to a good discussion and bipartisanship.

Rep. Pavalock-D'Amato C. 077 thanked the committee for their hard work and wanted to remind the committee that they are raising concepts everyone might not agree on but can debate in a public hearing. She stated that by raising these concepts the committee has an opportunity to see the bill and have a conversation.

Sen. Hwang T. S28 concurred with the remarks made by the chair and ranking member. Sen. Hwang apologized the chairs contacting him before the meetings started so he could join the discussion. Sen. Hwang T. S28 reiterated that this meeting was to raise concepts for future public meetings and not to debate the bill.

Rep. Wood K. 029 Reminded the committee members to mute themselves when they aren't talking and to raise their hand with the raise hand option on zoom. Rep. Wood K. 029 urged committee members to show their faces and state their names when responding to a roll call vote.

Rep. Wood K. 029 entertained a motion by Rep. Pavalock-D'Amato C. 077 to and seconded by Rep. Dathan L. 142 to raise concepts 1-4 and 6-19 on the agenda.

Voice vote to raise concepts 1-4 and 6-19.

Motion Passed

Rep. Wood K. 029 entertained a motion by Sen. Lesser M. S09 and seconded by Sen. Anwar S. S03 to raise concept five on the agenda.

Rep Pavalock-D'Amato C. 077 asked for a brief explanation of the bill.

Rep. Wood K. 029 explained that the Hartford Courant is a historic publication in Connecticut and continuously longest-running publication in the country. It is currently being purchased by a private equity firm. This bill discusses whether the committee would like to have this historic publication's headquarters closed.

Rep. Pavalock-D'Amato C. 077 asked how the bill fell under the committees' purview.

Sen. Lesser M. S09 responded that many committees can have overlapping cognizance and that this bill fell under the real estate side of the committees' purview. He stated that the committees' concern was with the real estate footprint and closure of the pressroom.

Rep. Pavalock-D'Amato C. 077 commented that she will vote in the affirmative to learn more through future public hearings on the subject. She thanked Sen. Lesser M. S09 for his clarification and asked members of the committee to share any thoughts on the bill with her as well.

Rep. Nuccio T. 053 was confused as to how the committee had cognizance over a privately-owned publication and wanted to know what the committees' involvement was with the publication.

Rep. Wood K. 029 responded that the committee was looking at the closing of the press office which has been a historic part of Hartford for many years. The bill focuses on the building's historical significance and closure of the publication's office.

Rep. Nuccio T. 053 asked if the committee could influence the closing of the office.

Rep. Wood K. 029 responded that the purpose of this bill would be to explore the committee's role in the closing of the office.

Rep. Nuccio T. 053 stated that she loves history and is in favor of raising the concept.

Sen. Lesser M. S09 thanked the chair for her explanation of the bill. He commented on how since its conception the publication and capital have worked together on its charter.

Sen. Lesser M. S09 stated that one of the tie-ins of this committee is Alden Capital Management's purchase of Tribune Publishing and the transparency of the company moving forward.

Rep. Wood K. 029 thanked Sen. Lesser M. S09 for his comments.

Rep. Wood K. 029 entertained a motion by Rep. Dathan L. 142 and seconded by Sen. Lesser M. S09 to vote on the concept.

The clerk called the vote: 18 Yea, 0 Nay

Motion Passed

Rep. Wood K. 029 stated that future public hearings and committee meeting dates will be forthcoming.

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

Meeting was recessed at 10:24 AM

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Administrator

Asst Clerk Wade Jones
Committee Clerk