

Bipartisan Committee of Review

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, November 6, 2007

1:00 PM IN Room 1A of the LOB

The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. by Chairman, Sen. Looney M. S11.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: DeFronzo D. S06; Guglielmo A. S35; Looney M. S11; Nickerson W. S36; Roraback A. S30; Stillman A. S20

A motion was made by Senator Guglielmo and seconded by Senator Stillman to approve the November 1 committee meeting minutes. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION WITH RECOMMENDATION

Senator Nickerson stated that the committee had assessed the facts the best it could. As a result, the only sanctions that appear available to the committee are censure and expulsion. On this basis, Senator Nickerson made a motion, seconded by Senator Roraback, for the committee to ask the Senate for subpoena power that would allow the committee to gather other documents. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Senator Looney (1) explained how the resolution (LCO 10015) was drafted and redrafted based on submissions from committee members; (2) read the resolution; and (3) made a motion, seconded by Senator Stillman, that line 145 of the resolution reference sections 8 & 9 of the rules the committee adopted. The motion was unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Senator Roraback indicated that the committee's adoption of the resolution would cause the Senate to be called into session to adopt a new resolution. A conversation ensued about whether the committee should limit the subpoena power it was requesting in the resolution. At the end of the conversation, the members decided not to limit the scope of the subpoena power.

Senator Roraback explained what the resolution means (i.e., the committee would first gain subpoena power and later, if the committee voted for expulsion, there would be an opportunity for a hearing before action by the full Senate).

Committee members then discussed whether a vote for the resolution requesting subpoena power was a preliminary vote to expel Senator DeLuca. At the end of that discussion, the members concluded that a vote for the resolution indicated that expulsion is a viable option as a possible sanction. The requested subpoena power would give the committee the tool it needs to gather the information it needs to make a final decision.

At 2:15 p.m. Senator Roraback indicated the committee would take a 10 minute recess. Senator Roraback called the meeting back to order at 2:25 p.m.

Committee members discussed specific provisions in the resolution, including what "failure to comply with subpoena" means and whether additional detail needed to be added. On a unanimous voice vote, committee members added the following three amendments to the resolution:

"After line 55, insert the new findings number 3 and 4 as follows:

(3) In June 2006 James Galante was indicted by the U.S. Attorney for involvement in an alleged racketeering scheme;

(4) On June 10, 2006, Governor Rell proposed to establish a new state authority to regulate trash hauling to keep organized crime and corruption out of the industry;

Re-number the remaining findings

In line 89, after the word "investigation" insert a period and then the following sentence: "The federal authorities agreed to not indict Senator DeLuca for his comments to the FBI agent in September, 2006, for any actions taken to injure or threaten the target of this matter,"

A motion was made by Senator Looney and seconded by Senator Roraback to vote on the resolution as amended and transmit it to the full Senate. The motion was approved by a vote of 6 yeas, 0 nays and 0 absent. (Vote tally sheet attached.)

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made by Senator Roraback and seconded by Senator Guglielmo to have ITS remove from the committee's website the addresses and phone numbers of people who submitted affidavits in support of Senator DeLuca's statements to the committee. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

Senator Roraback discussed the Freedom of Information request the committee received from Attorney Craig Raabe. Senator Looney stated that the committee needed clarification of the request from Attorney Raabe. After the discussion, the committee stated it would seek guidance on how to proceed from the Freedom of Information Commission and staff.

NEXT MEETING

Senator Looney stated the committee would wait for the Senate to convene before scheduling another meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Senator Nickerson and seconded by Senator Guglielmo to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.