

TASK FORCE ON CADMIUM IN CHILDREN'S JEWELRY

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 23, 2014

2:00 PM in Room 2D of the LOB

I. Convene Meeting

- a. The meeting was convened at 2:06 PM.

II. Remarks by Co-Chair

- a. Rep. Baram provided introductory remarks to the task force and the public regarding the composition of the task force, its intent and goals, as well as his ambitions for its impact on future legislation by the end of the year.
- b. Co-Chair Rep. Diana Urban welcomed members and the public to the first task force meeting. Rep. Urban gave information regarding the etiquette and process of future meetings to the task force members, including asking questions for the record. Rep. Urban thanked the committee staff for their prior involvement in establishing questions for the record as common practice. Rep. Urban noted the necessity of chemistry, toxicology, economics, and other topics that will be covered during the lifetime of this taskforce.

III. Introduction of Members and Staff

- a. Rep Baram listed those current members of the task force. Members provided a brief introduction of themselves and their backgrounds.
- b. Rep. Baram introduced the staff of the General Law Committee: Angel Morales as clerk of committee, Richard Hanratty of the Legislative Commissioner's Office, Duke Chen of the Office of Legislative Research, and Alan Shepherd of the Office of Fiscal Analysis. Rep. Baram then introduced the staff of the Committee on Children: Elizabeth Giannaros as clerk of the committee, Jeremy Sauer of the Legislative Commissioner's Office, Katherine Dwyer and Paul Frisman of the Office of Legislative Research, and Rachel Della Pietra of the Office of Fiscal Analysis. Rep. Urban also indicated assistance from Alessandra Burgett who is a special projects assistant with the Committee on Children. Rep. Baram made note of the need to collect appropriate contact information from non-legislator members, as well as providing the contact information of the staff, who should be contacted regarding any information related to the task force. Rep. Baram identified Angel Morales as the individual to provide information to.

IV. Upcoming Task Force Meetings

- a. Rep. Baram provided the date of the next meeting and the structure of running the meetings between the two co-chairs. For any requested speakers, Rep. Baram indicated that the clerk should be contacted as soon as possible. Rep. Baram provided a background on the types of speakers and what is expected of those speakers that present to the task force. Rep. Baram noted the need to provide documents to the clerks before it is disseminated to the task force body.
- b. Tim Phalen asked for clarification regarding guest speakers. Rep. Baram responded the chairs would meet to discuss a list of speakers that would be valuable to the task force. He encourages every member submit names for review and contact. Rep. Baram noted the need to make decisions quickly and avoid duplicity. Tim Phalen asked if there would be a question and answer section for guest presenters. Rep. Baram responded that there would be an opportunity to have questions and answers to speakers by the task force members.
- c. Rep. Lou Esposito inquired as to time restrictions per speaker. Rep. Urban responded that testifiers who leave before being questioned are sought out via email or other communication method. Rep. Esposito provided additional comments on capping the number of speakers per

meeting to ensure a timely meeting. Rep. Baram responded there will be a limit to the number of invitees to each meeting.

- d. Dr. Ginsberg asked whether webcast or teleconference presentations would be accepted. Rep. Urban noted the co-chairs will explore the options of alternative ways to present.

V. Review of Rules and Procedures

- a. Rep. Baram provided an overview of the rules and procedures for the task force, noting the adoption of the joint-rules adopted by the House and Senate, as well as the use of Mason's Manual. He indicated that one of the legislative rules is that all meetings must start within 15 minutes of the scheduled start time and it will be up to the chairs to ensure the meetings start on time. Rep. Baram noted that ex-officio members would not be voting members on this task force. Rep. Baram stated that there is no quorum requirement for regular meetings, but a simple majority quorum is required for meetings where a vote will take place.

VI. Discussion of Goals and Objectives

- a. Rep. Baram provided a brief review of the goals and objectives this task force has been assigned. Rep. Baram added that any decisions made by this task force are not final, but rather the first step towards establishing legislation that is put into law.

VII. Discussion of Information and Materials Available

- a. Rep. Baram provided a summary to the task force members about how to obtain additional information currently available from relevant committee sites. He reiterated the need for documents provided by members to be given to the clerks to provide to the co-chairs prior to disseminating it to the entire task force. Rep. Baram provided additional commentary about the proper decorum for the task force members to adopt when engaging each other and guest speakers in conversation in order to maintain civil discourse.

VIII. Other Business

- a. Brent Cleaveland provided comments about his anticipated scope for the task force's meetings and guest presentations. Rep. Urban provided additional comments regarding the standards in other states as well as the lack of an enforced standard at the federal level. She stated that there is no clear consensus at this time and it is their task to find out what level will protect children and protect small businesses. Rep. Urban noted this is a complex topic and it is up to the states to decide. Rep. Baram discussed his perspective on the safety issues associated with cadmium exposure, as well as the production and retail sale of children's jewelry as a product.
- b. Dr. Ginsberg noted another topic of discussion for the task force to consider is whether the recommendations will utilize ASTM standards and testing methodology. Rep. Urban responded by providing additional questions to the task force that could be explored as a part of their overall task to determine the best public health policy surrounding cadmium in children's jewelry.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- a. The meeting was adjourned 3:03 PM