

The Connecticut General Assembly

REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE

SENATE

Senator Donald E. Williams, Jr., Co-Chair

Senator John McKinney
Senator Martin M. Looney
Senator Leonard A. Fasano

Sandra Norman-Eady, Project Coordinator



HOUSE

Representative Lawrence F. Cafero, Jr., Co-Chair

Representative Christopher G. Donovan
Representative Sandy H. Nafis
Representative Arthur J. O'Neill

REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011

1:00 PM in Hearing Room 1C

Representative Cafero called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.

The following committee members were present:

Senators: John McKinney, 28; Leonard A. Fasano, 34

Representatives: Lawrence F. Cafero, 142; Christopher G. Donovan, 84; Sandy H. Nafis, 27
Arthur J. O'Neill, 69

Absent:

Senators: Donald E. Williams, Jr., 29; Martin M. Looney, 11

- I. Representative Cafero indicated that Senator Williams would not be attending today's meeting, but they had previously discussed the agenda items. Representative Cafero also said Senator Looney would try to attend.
- II. Approval of the April 8, 2011 Minutes

A motion was made by Representative O'Neill and seconded by Representative Nafis to approve the April 8, 2011 minutes. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

III. Review and Approval of Committee Website

Representative Cafero introduced Sandra Norman-Eady of OLR (the Project Coordinator) who introduced Susan Price of OLR and Cheryl Smith of ITS who described the contents of the website while displaying it.

Susan Price requested permission to post on the website committee meeting minutes once they are approved. She also asked that OLR be allowed to periodically update the website and provide, among other things, CT-N's coverage of the committee's public hearings.

Representative O'Neill asked if there was anything not included on our website that other states include. Susan Price responded that some states, unlike Connecticut, have adopted specific criteria for making redistricting decisions and include it on their website. Other states include press releases containing information comparable to what will be posted on our website under "Meetings and Hearings."

A motion was made by Senator McKinney and seconded by Representative O'Neill to approve the website. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

IV. Establishment of Public Access Terminal and Procedures

Sandra Norman-Eady gave a brief presentation of the proposal for the public access terminal which would be located in the Legislative Library. The terminal would be operational during the library's normal business hours on a "first-come, first-served" basis and would be monitored by the library staff. For security, ITS will change the password each week. All users must sign in with the librarian on duty. Users would have access in two-hour intervals, but reservations for use would not be accepted. Kristin Miller, the committee's Public Information Officer, would be available to answer general redistricting questions. The instructions and policy for use would be on the website.

Senator McKinney asked if the software is available to the public for purchase. Sandra's answer was yes. Senator McKinney also asked if (1) the password is necessary to protect the committee's work product and (2) the weekly change of the password provided sufficient protection. Sandra's response was that the password is necessary to ensure that all terminal users sign-in with the librarian on duty. Paul Alderucci of ITS said that the password is easy to change and that staff would monitor compliance to determine if more frequent changes are required.

Representative Sandy Nafis asked, in the form of motion, if the committee should impose a deadline of August 31, 2011 on all public submissions to the committee. The motion was seconded by Senator Fasano and approved by a voice vote.

A motion was made by Representative Nafis and seconded by Senator Fasano to approve the establishment of the public access terminal and procedures. The motion was seconded by Senator Fasano and approved by a voice vote.

V. Public Hearing Dates

Representative Cafero stated that the caucuses worked together to recommend dates for the committee's five public hearings, one in each Congressional district. The recommended meeting locations are Hartford, New Haven, Norwalk, Norwich and Waterbury. With one exception, they recommended that hearings be held at 7:00 p.m. at the town halls. Two

meetings would be held in Hartford at the Legislative Office Building; one at 2:00 p.m. and the other at 7 p.m. The proposed hearings are June 30 and July 5, 6, 19 and 20, beginning in Norwalk and ending in Hartford. Speaker Donovan asked why Norwalk was selected instead of Bridgeport. Representative Cafero said it was because of its central location in the district and easy access from the highway.

A motion was made by Representative O'Neill and seconded by Representative Nafis to approve the public hearing dates, and times. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

VI. Technical fix for Groton data

Speaker Donovan summarized an error the Census Bureau made and subsequently corrected in Groton's data, with military personnel being recorded in the wrong census blocks. He asked the committee to (1) use the corrected Census population count for two blocks in Groton where errors were made during the 2011 redistricting process and (2) alert the public to the corrected count on the website. Representative Cafero said the committee will make sure that the Groton error is corrected in accordance with the Census Bureau findings. Representative Cafero called for a motion, which was made by Representative O'Neill and seconded by Representative Nafis, that the information will be corrected in our records and files. The motion was approved by a voice vote.

VII. Next Meeting

Representative Cafeo said to keep the end of July or early August open for the next meeting date.

A motion was made by Senator McKinney and seconded by Speaker Donovan for an end of July or early August meeting. The motion was approved.

Representative Cafero adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Sandra Forte'