

Minutes



LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

June 6, 2005 Monday 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM

Governor's Commission on Disabilities

John O. Pastore Center (Formerly the Howard Center)

- 41 Cherry Dale Court

Cranston, RI 02920

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Secretary: Bob Cooper

Attendees: Raymond Bandusky; Jeanne Behie; Sharon Brinkworth; Paul Choquette; Scott Greco; Bill Inlow; Arthur Plitt; Gwen Reeve; & Janet Spinelli

Excused: Tim Flynn (Vice Chair); Rosemary Carmody; Regina Connor; Joseph Corrente; Joan D'Agostino; Linda Deschenes; Kate McCarthy-Barnett; Ken Pariseau; & Rev. Gerard Sabourin

Minutes

3:00 PM Call to Order and acceptance of minutes Tim Flynn, Vice Chair.

Discussion: Chair calls the meeting to order at 3:20 PM.

Members and guests introduce themselves

MOTION: To accept the minutes as presented AP/JB passed unanimously

3:05 PM Status of GCD Legislative Package Bob Cooper

Legislative Package Status as of 6/6/2005:

The Commission Position: Supports this bill if its amended

Continued

Thursday, March 10, 2005

05 H-5270 Art. 30 COMPENSATION OF BOARD MEMBERS Rep. Watson

Total of GCD Bills Supports this bill if its amended - Continued: 1

The Commission Position: Supports this bill

Continued

Wednesday, March 09, 2005

05 H-5270 Art. 08 GENERAL PUBLIC ASSISTANCE HARDSHIP CONTINGENCY FUND Rep. Watson

Thursday, March 10, 2005

05 H-5270 Art. 01/05 GCD MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE STATE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2006

Rep. Watson

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

05 H-5270 Art. 04 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF Rep. Watson Similar to H 5370 & S 0062

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

05 S-0801 HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS Sen. Paiva-Weed
Identical H 5734

Thursday, March 31, 2005

05 S-0114 MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ADJUDICATION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES Sen.
Blais Identical to H 5220

Tuesday, April 05, 2005

05 S-0171 HUMAN SERVICES - HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS
ACT Sen. Gibbs

05 S-0238 HUMAN SERVICES - HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS
ACT Sen. Perry Identical to H 5382

05 S-0261 HUMAN SERVICES -- HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS
ACT Sen. Lanzi

05 S-0262 HUMAN SERVICES - LONG-TERM HOME HEALTH CARE Sen. Alves Identical to H
5142

05 S-0413 HUMAN SERVICES -- PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT PROGRAM Sen. Gallo

Wednesday, April 06, 2005

05 H-5142 HUMAN SERVICES -- LONG TERM HOME HEALTH CARE Rep. Gallison Identical to
S 262

Monday, April 11, 2005

05 H-5370 TAXATION - PROPERTY TAX RELIEF Rep. McManus Similar to H 5270 Art. 04, H
5472, & S 0062

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

05 H-5220 MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- ADJUDICATION OF TRAFFIC OFFENSES Rep.
McNamara Identical to S 0114

Thursday, April 28, 2005

05 H-5475 PROPERTY TAX RELIEF Rep. Amaral Similar to S 62, H 5370, & H 5270 Art. 04

Tuesday, May 03, 2005

05 H-5175 HOUSING RESOURCES - NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM Rep. Fox
Identical to S 651, Similar to 5270 Art. 06

Thursday, May 05, 2005

05 S-0651 HOUSING RESOURCES - NEIGHBORHOOD OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM Sen. Felag
Similar to 5270 Art. 06 & H 5175

Tuesday, May 10, 2005

05 H-5382 HUMAN SERVICES - HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED RESIDENTS
ACT Rep. Slater Identical to S 238

Thursday, May 26, 2005

05 H-5734 as Amended HUMAN SERVICES -- HEALTH CARE FOR ELDERLY AND DISABLED
RESIDENTS ACT Rep. Naughton Identical to S 801

Total of GCD Bills Supports this bill - Continued: 18

In Committee

Thursday, January 13, 2005

05 S-0062 TAXATION - PROPERTY TAX RELIEF Sen. Felag Similar to H 5370, H 5475 & H 5270
Art. 04

Tuesday, February 01, 2005

05 H-5270 Art. 06 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM Rep. Watson Similar to H 5175 & S 651

Thursday, April 14, 2005

05 H-6157 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY Rep. Moura Identical to S 844

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

05 S-0844 SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY Sen. McCaffrey Identical to H 6157

Total of GCD Bills Supports this bill - In Committee: 4

The Commission Position: Opposes this bill

Continued

Wednesday, March 09, 2005

05 H-5270 Art. 14 MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FOR CERTAIN DISABLED CHILDREN Rep. Watson

Total of GCD Bills Opposes this bill - Continued: 1

The Commission Position: finds this bill Beneficial

Continued

Tuesday, January 25, 2005

05 H-5068 TOBACCO SALES Rep. Kilmartin Similar to S 0109

Wednesday, March 09, 2005

05 H-5848 LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS Rep. Watson Identical to S 683

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

05 S-0516 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT --
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Sen. Gibbs
Identical to H 5600

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

05 H-5055 HEALTH AND SAFETY Rep. Palumbo

05 H-5715 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT Rep. Diaz Identical to S 0441

05 H-5758 ELECTIONS -- ELECTION OFFENSES Rep. Handy

Tuesday, March 22, 2005

05 S-0058 MILITARY AFFAIRS - VETERANS' HOME Sen. Felag Similar to H 5098

05 S-0654 LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS -- TEMPORARY DISABILITY INSURANCE --
NATIONAL GUARD Sen. Breene Identical to H 6176 & H 5996

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

05 H-5621 HEALTH AND SAFETY - - PUBLIC BEACH SMOKING POLLUTION CONTROL ACT
Rep. Lewiss

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

05 S-0803 EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS Sen. Paiva-Weed Identical to H
5278

Tuesday, April 05, 2005

05 S-0139 HUMAN SERVICES -- ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM CARE IMPROVEMENT
FUND Sen. Connors Identical to H 5300

05 S-0397 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT Sen. Goodwin Identical to H 5299

05 S-0522 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE
ELDERLY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005 Sen. Roberts Identical to H 5332 and New art 2

Thursday, April 07, 2005

05 S-0291 TOWNS AND CITIES -- ZONING ORDINANCES Sen. Levesque

Monday, April 11, 2005

05 H-5098 MILITARY AFFAIRS - VETERANS' HOME Rep. Gallison Similar to S 0058

05 H-5448 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS
Rep. Shanley

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

05 H-5236 BRIDLE AND HIKING TRAILS Rep. Gorham

Tuesday, April 26, 2005

05 H-5385 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE HOUSING FIRST, ENDING
HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE Rep. Slater Identical to S 145 &
H 5793, Similar to H 5289 & S 204

05 H-5600 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT --
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES Rep. Mumford
Identical to S 516

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

05 H-5285 TAXATION -- CIGARETTE TAX Rep. Rice

Thursday, April 28, 2005

05 S-0749 MENTAL HEALTH, RETARDATION, AND HOSPITALS - DIVISION OF MENTAL
HEALTH Sen. Pichardo Identical to H 5482

Tuesday, May 03, 2005

05 H-5226 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD PROGRAM Rep. Lewiss Similar
to H 5383

05 H-5289 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - RHODE ISLAND HOUSING RESOURCES
ACT OF 1998 Rep. Slater Identical to S 0204, Similar to H 5385, H 5793, & S 145

05 H-5793 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE SHELTER TO HOUSING PROGRAM
Rep. Slater Identical to H 5385 & S 145, Similar to H 5289 & S 0204

Wednesday, May 04, 2005

05 H-5182 HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS Rep. Naughton

Thursday, May 05, 2005

05 S-0145 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- THE SHELTER TO HOUSING PROGRAM
Sen. Perry Identical to H 5385 & H 5793, Similar to H 5289 & S 0204

05 S-0204 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - RHODE ISLAND HOUSING RESOURCES
ACT OF 1998 Sen. Pichardo Identical to H 5289,
Similar to H 5385, H 5793, & S 145

Friday, May 13, 2005

05 H-5299 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL
ASSISTANCE Rep. Ginaitt Identical to S 397

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

05 H-6044 PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT
AUTHORITY Rep. Handy

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

05 H-6052 FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT Rep.
Slater Identical to S 0710

Friday, May 20, 2005

05 H-5332 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE
ELDERLY PROTECTION ACT OF 2005 Rep. Sullivan Identical to S 522 and New Art. 2

Tuesday, May 24, 2005

05 S-0683 as Amended LABOR AND LABOR RELATIONS Sen. Breene Identical to H 5848

Thursday, May 26, 2005

- 05 H-5300 HUMAN SERVICES -- ESTABLISHING A LONG-TERM CARE IMPROVEMENT FUND Rep. Slater Identical to S 139
- 05 H-5482 MENTAL HEALTH, RETARDATION, AND HOSPITALS - DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH Rep. Slater Identical to S 749
Thursday, June 02, 2005
- 05 H-5790 PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY Rep. Crowley Similar to S 236

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Beneficial - Continued: 35

In Committee

- Thursday, January 27, 2005
- 05 H-5012 JOINT COMMITTEE ON NAMING STATE CONSTRUCTIONS Rep. Carter
Wednesday, February 02, 2005
- 05 H-5278 EDUCATION - HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS Rep. Savage Identical to S 803
- 05 H-5288 INSURANCE Rep. Slater
Tuesday, February 08, 2005
- 05 H-5372 THE RHODE ISLAND STUDENT INVESTMENT INITIATIVE Rep. Moran
Tuesday, February 15, 2005
- 05 S-0672 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Sen. Roberts
Thursday, February 17, 2005
- 05 H-5735 EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS Rep. Caprio
Wednesday, March 30, 2005
- 05 S-0377 MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO OPPOSE PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY Sen. Goodwin Identical to H 5364
Tuesday, April 05, 2005
- 05 S-0109 CRIMINAL OFFENSES -- CHILDREN Sen. Raptakis Similar to H 5068
Tuesday, April 26, 2005
- 05 S-0815 HUMAN SERVICES -- ALL-INCLUSIVE CARE FOR THE ELDERLY Sen. Alves
Identical to H 5827
Thursday, April 28, 2005
- 05 H-6441 MOTOR AND OTHER VEHICLES -- STOPPING, STANDING AND PARKING RESTRICTIONS Rep. Naughton
Wednesday, May 04, 2005
- 05 H-5364 MEMORIALIZING CONGRESS TO OPPOSE PRIVATIZATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY Rep. Moura Identical to S 377
Wednesday, May 11, 2005
- 05 H-5742 Sub A HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE -- MANDATED HEARING AID COVERAGE Rep. Jacquard
Wednesday, May 25, 2005
- 05 H-5186 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION Rep. Almeida
Thursday, June 02, 2005
- 05 S-0441 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT Sen. Pichardo Identical to H 5715

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Beneficial - In Committee: 14

Recommend Passage

- Thursday, May 26, 2005
- 05 S-0710 Sub A as Amended FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT Sen. Perry Identical to H 6052

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Beneficial - Recommend Passage: 1

Resolution Adopted

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

05 H-5022 CREATING A SPECIAL HOUSE COMMISSION TO UNDERTAKE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE VETERANS HOME IN BRISTOL AND DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR THE OVERALL FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE FACILITY Rep. Carter

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Beneficial - Resolution Adopted: 1

Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

05 H-5827 HUMAN SERVICES -- CARE FOR THE ELDERLY Rep. Costantino Identical to S 815

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Beneficial - Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration: 1

Continued

Tuesday, March 08, 2005

05 H-5544 RELATING TO ASSAULTS Rep. Naughton Identical to S 439

Tuesday, April 05, 2005

05 S-0236 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT - - PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE ELDERLY Sen. Perry Similar to H 5790

Thursday, May 05, 2005

05 S-0619 HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT Sen. Dominick J. Ruggerio Identical to H 5291

Wednesday, May 18, 2005

05 H-5291 HUMAN SERVICES -- PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ACT Rep. Slater Identical to S 619

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Beneficial if amended - Continued: 4

In Committee

Thursday, January 20, 2005

05 S-0122 SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL PLAYGROUND SAFETY Sen. Blais

Wednesday, February 02, 2005

05 S-0183 HEALTH AND SAFETY- STEM CELL RESEARCH Sen. Perry Identical to H 6047

05 S-0202 PUBLIC OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES -- SALARIES AND TRAVELING EXPENSES Sen. Gibbs

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

05 H-5562 INSURANCE COVERAGE -- CANCER EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS Rep. McNamara

Wednesday, March 16, 2005

05 H-6047 HEALTH AND SAFETY- STEM CELL RESEARCH Rep. Ajello Identical to S 183

Wednesday, March 30, 2005

05 S-0439 ASSAULTS Sen. McCaffrey Identical to H 5544

Thursday, June 02, 2005

05 S-0022 DOMESTIC RELATIONS -- CHILD SUPPORT ENFORCEMENT Sen. Bates

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Beneficial if amended - In Committee: 7

Resolution Adopted

Thursday, May 05, 2005

05 H-5729 Sub A CREATING A SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION TO STUDY PROHIBITING THE USE OF THIMEROSAL IN IMMUNIZATIONS

Rep. Jackson

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Beneficial if amended - Resolution Adopted: 1

Continued

Wednesday, March 02, 2005

05 H-5723 PARKING PRIVILEGES Rep. Lewiss

Tuesday, March 15, 2005

05 H-6127 TO APPROVE AND PUBLISH, AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM) Rep. Gorham Identical to H 5243 & S 124, Related to S 0125 & H 5245

Wednesday, March 23, 2005

05 H-5020 HEALTH AND SAFETY Rep. Faria Similar to H 5314

05 H-5243 PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM) Rep. Picard Identical to H 6127 & S 0124, Related to H 5245 & S 0125

05 H-5245 INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM Rep. Picard Identical to S 0125, Related to H 5243, H 6127 & S 0124

05 H-5314 HEALTH AND SAFETY -- PUBLIC HEALTH AND WORKPLACE SAFETY ACT Rep. Laroche Similar to H 5020

Wednesday, April 06, 2005

05 S-0124 APPROVE AND PUBLISH AND SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS A PROPOSITION OF AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE (INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM) Sen. Cote Identical to H 5243 & 6127, Related to S 0125 & H 5245

05 S-0125 INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM Sen. Cote Identical to H 5245, Related to S 0124, H 5243 & H 6127

Wednesday, April 13, 2005

05 S-0841 INSURANCE Sen. Connors Similar to S 0078, H 5233, & H 5763

Thursday, April 14, 2005

05 H-5111 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION Rep. McHugh Similar to H 5112, H 5235

05 H-5112 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION Rep. McHugh Similar to H 5111, H 5235

05 H-5235 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION Rep. Lewiss Similar to H 5111, H 5112

05 H-5763 INSURANCE Rep. Church Similar to S 0078, S 841, & H 5233

05 H-5880 STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT -- LEAD HAZARD MITIGATION Rep. McManus

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Harmful - Continued: 14

In Committee

Thursday, January 13, 2005

05 H-5063 TOWNS AND CITIES Rep. Kilmartin Similar to S 0172

Tuesday, January 18, 2005

05 S-0078 INSURANCE Sen. Blais Similar to S 841, H 5233, & H 5763

Wednesday, February 02, 2005

05 S-0172 STATE EDUCATION -- MANDATES Sen. Blais Similar to H 5063

Thursday, February 17, 2005

05 H-5701 PUBLIC RECORDS -- ACCESS Rep. Dennigan Similar to H 5702

05 H-5702 PUBLIC RECORDS Rep. Dennigan Similar to H 5701
Wednesday, April 06, 2005

05 H-5863 ELECTIONS -- MAIL BALLOTS Rep. Slater
Tuesday, April 26, 2005

05 S-0928 PARKING FACILITIES AND PRIVILEGES Sen. Ciccone

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Harmful - In Committee: 7

Recommend No Passage

Thursday, April 14, 2005

05 H-5233 MANDATED BENEFITS REVIEW ACT Rep. Menard Similar to S 0078, S 841, & H 5763

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Harmful - Recommend No Passage: 1

Recommend Passage

Wednesday, June 01, 2005

05 H-6369 Sub A LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION Rep. Lima

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Harmful - Recommend Passage: 1

Continued

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

05 H-5686 THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION Rep. Dennigan

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Harmful unless amended - Continued: 1

In Committee

Thursday, April 28, 2005

05 S-0588 COURTS - SUPREME COURT JUSTICES Sen. McCaffrey Identical to H 5344
Wednesday, May 04, 2005

05 H-5344 COURTS AND CIVIL PROCEDURE - COURTS - JUSTICES OF SUPREME,
SUPERIOR, AND FAMILY COURTS Rep. Flaherty Identical to
S 588

Thursday, May 12, 2005

05 S-0423 Sub A INSURANCE -- EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES Sen. Cote Identical to H 5228

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Harmful unless amended - In Committee: 3

Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration

Wednesday, May 04, 2005

05 H-5228 Sub A INSURANCE -- EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES Rep. Naughton Identical to S 423

Total of GCD Bills finds this bill Harmful unless amended - Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration: 1

Review bills that have been amended, since the Committee determined impact:

Senate Calendar Recommend Passage

05 S-0710 Sub A as Amended Title: FOOD AND DRUGS -- THE RHODE ISLAND MEDICAL MARIJUANA ACT

Sponsors: Sen. Perry & Sens. Polisena, Damiani, McCaffrey, Sosnowski , Introduced on 2/17/2005

This act would protect patients with debilitating medical conditions, and their physicians and primary caregivers, from arrest and prosecution, criminal and other penalties, and property forfeiture if such patients engage in the medical use of marijuana.

This act would take effect upon passage.

The substitute as amended would: remove the section firing any state or local law enforcement official who knowingly cooperates with federal law enforcement agents; add "chronic pain" as a disease covered by the law; raise the age of the primary caregiver to 21, from 18; references the confidentiality provision of the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPA); and adds a section on "Registered organization", a nonprofit entity registered with the state under this act that acquires, possesses, cultivates, manufactures, delivers, transfers, transports, supplies, or dispenses marijuana, cultivation equipment, related supplies and educational materials, or marijuana seeds to registered qualifying patients and their primary caregivers.

Committee found this bill Beneficial

Senate Calendar Recommend Passage

05 H-6369 Sub A Title: LEAD HAZARD REDUCTION

Sponsors: Rep. Lima & Reps. Moura, San Bento, Kilmartin, and Trillo , Introduced on 4/12/2005

This act would delay the implementation of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act until December 31, 2005.

This act would take effect upon passage. The Substitute would delay the implementation of the Lead Hazard Mitigation Act until October 1, 2005.

Committee found this bill Harmful

3:30 PM Review of New Bills

Tim Flynn

Discussion: Members discussed the following bills, tabled at the last meeting

Committee review requested by Jeanne

Category: Budget

Continued in House Finance Committee

05 H-5484 Title: STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT

Sponsors: Rep. Slater & Reps. McNamara, Diaz, Moura, and Williams

Description: This act would provide certain private community-based organizations with an annual contractual adjustment based upon the average annual percentage prescribed by the CMS Home Health Market Basket Index for the preceding year and require those agencies to provide audit results showing how the index funds were spent.

This act would take effect upon passage.

MOTION: To find beneficial H-5484 Relating to STATE AFFAIRS AND GOVERNMENT JB/PC passed unanimously

Committee review requested by Bob

Category: Health Care Services

In Senate Health and Human Services Committee

05 S-1070 Title: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE -- MANDATED HEARING AID COVERAGE

Sponsors: Sen. Alves & Sens. Roberts, Walaska, Gallo, and Goodwin

Description: This act would provide coverage for hearing aids in Nonprofit Medical Service Corporation health insurance contracts, plans or group policies subject to the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act for children under the age of 18 with hearing aid coverage for one thousand dollars (\$1,000), per ear, every three (3) years.

This act would take effect upon passage.

05 S-1072 Title: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE -- MANDATED HEARING AID COVERAGE

Sponsors: Sen. Alves & Sens. Roberts, Walaska, Gallo, and Goodwin

Description: This act would provide coverage for hearing aids in Nonprofit Hospital Service Corporation health insurance contracts, plans or group policies subject to the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act for children under the age of 18 with hearing aid coverage for one thousand dollars (\$1,000), per ear, every three (3) years.

This act would take effect upon passage.

05 S-1073 Title: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE -- MANDATED HEARING AID COVERAGE

Sponsors: Sen. Alves & Sens. Roberts, Walaska, Gallo, and Goodwin

Description: This act would provide coverage for hearing aids in Health Maintenance Organization health insurance contracts, plans or group policies subject to the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act for children under the age of 18 with hearing aid coverage for one thousand dollars (\$1,000), per ear, every three (3) years.

This act would take effect upon passage.

05 S-1074 Title: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE -- MANDATED HEARING AID COVERAGE

Sponsors: Sen. Alves & Sens. Roberts, Walaska, Gallo, and Goodwin

Description: This act would provide coverage for hearing aids in Accident and Sickness Insurance contracts, plans or group policies subject to the Small Employer Health Insurance Availability Act for children under the age of 18 with hearing aid coverage for one thousand dollars (\$1,000), per ear, every three (3) years.

This act would take effect upon passage.

Committee had at the last meeting found Beneficial, as it was amended

05 H-5742 Sub A Title: HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE -- MANDATED HEARING AID COVERAGE

Sponsors: Rep. Jacquard & Reps. Lewiss, and Schadone , Introduced on 2/17/2005

This act would provide that health insurance coverage will provide for persons who are hard of hearing age of eighteen (18) or older with coverage that provides for twenty percent (20%) of the cost or four hundred dollars (\$400) whichever is smaller, per ear, every three (3) years, in every health insurance contract, plan or policy issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2006.

This act would take effect upon passage. The Substitute replaces the existing law that requires health insurance coverage for children under age 18 with hearing aid coverage for one thousand dollars (\$1,000), per ear, every three (3) years, with coverage, regardless of age for twenty percent (20%) of the cost or four hundred dollars (\$400) whichever is smaller, per ear, every three (3) years, in every health insurance contract, plan or policy issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2006.

MOTION: To find beneficial if amended to match H 5742 Sub A; S 1070, 1072, 1073, & 1074 Relating to HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE -- MANDATED HEARING AID COVERAGE AP/JB passed unanimously

Category: Transportation

Scheduled for hearing and/or consideration Senate Government Oversight Committee 6/6/2005 @ 3:30 PM in Senate Lounge

05 S-1091 Title: SEPARATION OF POWERS

Sponsors: Sen. Connors & Sens. DaPonte, Perry, McCaffrey, Polisena

Description: This act would remove legislators and legislative appointees from the State Crime Laboratory Commission; State Medical Examiners Commission; Health Professional Loan Repayment Board; State Building Code Standards Committee; State Traffic Commission; State Properties Committee; & Rhode Island Public Transit Authority, in accord with the recent amendments to the state constitution. The act would also amend reporting requirements for these boards and commissions. The Governor when appointing members to the RIPTA would consider nominations from the National Federation of the Blind of Rhode Island, the Gray Panthers of Rhode Island, the Sierra Club of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island AFL-CIO, the RIPTA Transportation Advisory Committee & the RI business community.

This act would take effect upon passage.

Committee had at the March meeting found Beneficial

05 H 6044: Title: PUBLIC UTILITIES AND CARRIERS -- RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC TRANSIT AUTHORITY

Sponsors: Rep. Handy & Reps. Slater, and Ajello

This act would add three (3) new members to the RIPTA board and would require the governor to include transit riders, business persons, and environmentalists as board members. One of those seven 7 members shall be a "para-transit" rider.

This act would take effect upon passage.

MOTION: To find beneficial if amended to match H 6044 S 1091 Relating to SEPARATION OF POWERS GR/JB passed, BI abstained.

4:00 PM Planning for July 25th - 29th Public Forums Bob Cooper

Discussion: Members reviewed last year's public forums & discussed plans for this year's forums. It was agreed that the staff will attempt to schedule 6 to 8 public forums in: Northern RI, Providence/Pawtucket/Cranston, Bristol County, Kent County, Newport County, Washington County – north & south west or Kingston during late afternoon or early evening (2 hours)

4:25 PM Other Business Tim Flynn

The next meeting will be devoted to the public forums; it will be at 3 PM on Monday July 11th. Other organizations that may be potential sponsors will also be invited to the meeting.

Adjourned at: 4:30 PM