

Senate Executive Committee Meeting

**Official Minutes
151st General Assembly
First Session**

**Committee Meeting
Wednesday, June 23, 2021
2:30 p.m.
Virtual Zoom Meeting**

Meeting Attendance

Committee Members Present:

Senator David Sokola	David.Sokola@delaware.gov
Senator Bryan Townsend	Bryan.Townsend@delaware.gov
Senator Elizabeth Lockman	Elizabeth.Lockman@delaware.gov
Senator Stephanie Hansen	Stephanie.Hansen@delaware.gov
Senator Gerald Hocker	Gerald.Hocker@delaware.gov
Senator Brian Pettyjohn	Brian.Pettyjohn@delaware.gov

Absent: None

Attendees:

Senator Kyle Gay
Senator Trey Paradee
Abigail LeGrow
Anas Ben Addi
Andrew Peruchi
Billy Harden
Brandon Williams
Brian Emig
Brittani Keily
Cara Gannon
Carolyn Martin-Pettaway
Celeste Bunting
Charles Freel
Claire DeMatteis
Coby Owens
Danielle Joffe Brennan
Darryl Draughn
Deanna Killen
Elga Joffe

Organization:

Delaware Senate
Delaware Senate
Delaware Superior Court
DSHA
DOC
PA

Delaware DOC
Department of Corrections
UD
Delaware State Senate
IRSD

Department of Correction
NAACP

Striving Everyday For Greatness

Emily Cunningham	DOE
Eugene Young	
Everett Anderson	NJAP
Grace Kelley	
Gregory Smith	Delaware Department of Justice
Hannah Rosenson	
J Francis	US SENATE
Jack Flynn	
Jacqueline Mette	
Jamie Johnstone	Department of Finance
Jan Jurden	Superior Court of Delaware
Janet Roberson	CGO
Javier Horstmann	Office of Governor John Carney
Jessica Welch	DSHA
John Cordrey	Office of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commissioner
John Paradee	Baird Mandalas Brockstedt, LLC
Jon Beck	DOC
Jordyn Brock	
Joshua Levy	Levy Law Offices
Kecia Winchester	Probation and Parole
Keri Rapa	
Kimberly Chandler	DE Safety and Homeland Security
Kolawole Akinbayo	Bureau of Prisons/Department of Corrections
Kristi Symchik	
Lauren Shinault	OABCC
Lisa Robinson	Superior Court of Delaware
Lori James	
Luke Mette	Armstrong Teasdale
Lynne Howard	
Mary Davis	NDA
Mary Kate McLaughlin	Barnes & Thornburg
Michelle Michini	
Mimi Rayl	University of Delaware
Monroe Hudson	
Nancy Willing	CLNCC
Natasha Hollingsworth	DOC
Nicholas Brock	
Nicole Young	Franklin & Marshall College
Nigel Walker	
Paul Wallace	Superior Court of Delaware
Rachel Hudson	
Read Scott	
Rebecca Goldsmith	Department of Finance
Robert May	Department of Correction

Ruth Mette	
Scott Ceresini	Delaware Department of Correction
Taylor Hawk	
Thomas Jenkins	Hibu
Tiffany Brock	
Tisa Brock	
Truman Mears	Delaware DOC
Venessa Karpeh	GA
Verity Watson	RWA
Wendy Hudson	DSHS

Staff:

Valerie McCartan	Valerie.McCartan@delaware.gov
Abigail Armstrong	Abigail.Armstrong@delaware.gov

Agenda:

SB 189
HB 224
HJR 4

Senator Sokola convened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and conducted a roll call.

Senator Lockman motioned to accept the previous meeting's minutes of June 16, 2021, and **Senator Hocker** seconded the motion.

The Committee approved the meeting's minutes of June 16, 2021.

The Executive Committee reviewed the gubernatorial nominations for the appointee to the Superior Court, Commissioner for the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission, Commissioner of the Department of Correction, Director of the Delaware State Housing Authority, Appointees of the Justice of the Peace in New Castle County, and the Appointee to the Industrial Accident Board.

I. SB 189 – Sen. Ennis – AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 30 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO PERSONAL INCOME TAX.

Synopsis: This bill increases the amount of the tax credit for active members of volunteer fire, ambulance and rescue service companies and their auxiliaries from \$500 to \$1,000.

Senator Ennis, Sponsor of the legislation, presented on SB 189. This legislation was one of the recommendations from the Fire Service Recruitment and Retention Task Force. The considerable cost of volunteer firefighters are not only monetary, but also physical, psychological, and emotional. The expectations placed on volunteer firefighters are

significant and the service they render is invaluable. This bill raises the current tax credit for active members of volunteer fire, ambulance, and rescue service companies and their auxiliaries from \$500 to \$1,000. The Controller General has not yet completed the fiscal note, so Senator Ennis was unable to provide specifics regarding the bill's financial impact. The volunteer fire service has proven to be a baseline for public safety positions in Delaware. The Wilmington Fire Department started as a volunteer department and is now a paid one. The Director of Delaware Emergency Management Agency is the former Chief of Aetna Hose Hook and Ladder Company in Newark. State fire school graduates, staff, and state fire marshal staff has served as either chief or active officers in their volunteer fire companies. Many of the Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians, and 9-1-1 Dispatchers in Delaware started as volunteer firefighters. Senator Ennis welcomed any questions.

Senator Sokola thanked Senator Ennis for his effort regarding volunteer ambulance and rescue services. He opened to public comment and recognized Rebecca Goldsmith.

Rebecca Goldsmith, Deputy Secretary of Finance, asked that the fiscal impact of the legislation be taken into consideration. The fiscal impact is significant and would affect the overall budget solution for the state. This bill is not included in the Governor's recommended budget, nor in the JFC markup.

SB 189 – Reported out of the Committee: 3 Favorable (Lockman, Hocker, Pettyjohn); 3 on its Merits (Sokola, Townsend, Hansen); 0 Unfavorable

II. HB 224 – Rep. Johnson – AN ACT TO AMEND TITLES 6, 11, 18, 19, AND 25 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DEFINITIONS.

Synopsis: This bill makes the definitions of sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability consistent throughout the Delaware Code and with federal law.

Senator Sokola presented HB 224. This legislation makes the definition of sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability consistent throughout the Delaware Code and with federal law. The bill is almost identical to HB 155 w/ HA 1 but was not enacted because it did not include Title 18 in the bill title. The bill was rewritten and the legislative process started over again.

There were no questions from members of the committee and no public comment.

HB 224 – Reported out of the Committee: 1 Favorable (Lockman); 3 on its Merits (Sokola, Townsend, Hansen); 0 Unfavorable

III. HJR 4 – Rep. Schwartzkopf – DIRECTING THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH AND PUBLISH INTEGRITY REPORTS CONCERNING COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST POLICE OFFICERS IN EACH POLICE AGENCY IN THIS STATE AND TO CREATE AND PUBLISH A LIST OF DECERTIFIED POLICE OFFICERS IN THIS STATE.

Synopsis: This Joint Resolution directs the Criminal Justice Council to establish and by November 2, 2021, publish integrity reports on the number of complaints made against police officers in each police agency in this State for the past 3 years, and at least once a year thereafter, and to create and publish a list of all decertified police officers in this State in the previous 10 years, which shall be updated upon notification of the decertification of any police officer.

Senator Sokola presented on HJR 4. This resolution requires integrity reports from each police agency concerning complaints made against their police officers. Also, it requires a published list of all decertified police officers in Delaware. Publishing complaints by agencies and a list of decertified police officers will make it more easily accessible to the public and provide data for residents to know more about their police agencies.

Senator Lockman was glad to see this legislation. She had many conversations about SB 145 that included discussions on the distribution of anonymized data. Although the legislation does not prescribe desegregation of anonymized data, having some identifier has come up in many conversations. For example, identifiers of gender or race attached to the complaint. She asked if this legislation prohibits identifiers from being attached in reporting or would that have to be something specifically prescribed.

Senator Sokola did not know the answer.

Senator Lockman stated she could follow up with Representative Schwartzkopf.

Senator Sokola stated it was a good question and thanked Senator Lockman for bringing it forward in the Committee hearing.

There was no public comment.

HJR 4 – Reported out of the Committee: 6 on its Merits (Sokola, Townsend, Lockman, Hansen, Hocker, Pettyjohn); 0 Favorable; 0 = Unfavorable

Senator Pettyjohn motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Senator Townsend seconded the motion.

Senator Sokola adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

*Meeting minutes approved on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 on a motion by Sen. Hocker, seconded by Sen. Hansen, and with no objection from members of the committee.

Meeting Minute Preparation

Minutes prepared by Abigail Armstrong and Valerie McCartan, 6/28/2021