

BRYON H. SHORT
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Seventh District



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF DELAWARE
LEGISLATIVE HALL
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

COMMITTEES
Economic Development, Banking,
Insurance & Commerce, Chair
Energy
Housing & Community Affairs
Revenue & Finance
Veterans Affairs

Economic Development Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2010

Chairman Short called the meeting to order at 2:40 p.m. Members present included Representatives Brady, Ramone, Viola, Bennett, and Hocker. Representative D. Short was also present. For a list of guests present, please see attached.

After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Short explained that due to a meeting held earlier that morning, all parties involved with the bill agreed to defer **HB 377, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 24 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO LICENSURE FOR PLUMBING CONTRACTORS AND HEATING, VENTILATION, AIR CONDITIONING, AND REFRIGERATION CONTRACTORS**, until the next committee meeting.

Chairman Short choose to address **SB 209, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 30 OF THE DELAWARE CODE PROVIDING FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX CREDIT ACT**, and recognized Rep. Bennett, the bill's sponsor. Rep. Bennett explained that this bill extends the Historic Preservation Tax Credit Act, which provides incentive for the restoration of historic buildings in Delaware. Additionally, this act has created jobs for Delawareans. The Senate amendment requests that an annual report be submitted that details how the tax credits are being used and creates a reserve of \$2 million for projects receiving credit of no more than \$300,000. Rep. Hocker asked if this bill will need to go to the Appropriations Committee due to the attached fiscal note. Rep. Bennett stated that if the bill passes, it does not need to go through the Appropriations Committee because the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council's (DEFAC) estimation does not change for an existing program; this bill is just an extension of the current tax credit. Rick Geisenberger, the assistant Secretary of State, explained that this bill has no impact on fiscal year 2011 because the current act still has credits to be collected. In order for the credit to be declared, the project needs to have been completed for a year. Rep. Ramone asked if the current budget of \$5 million would remain, to which Rep. Bennett responded yes.

Rep. Brady moved to release the bill from committee; Rep. Hocker seconded the motion. The bill was released from committee on a 4-3-0 vote.

Next, Chairman Short addressed **HB 367, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 18 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO UNFAIR ACTS IN THE BUSINESS OF**

INSURANCE, and recognized Rep. D. Short, the bill's sponsor. Rep. D. Short explained that due to the number of comments received and that the Insurance Commissioner is currently out of town, he would like to delay a vote on this bill. He explained that the bill makes the company who approves medical testing to take on some of the risk of their decision. This increases the clout a consumer will have in an insurance denial. Rep. D. Short stated that there were a few articles in the press that did not support this bill. He recognized the public that had come to Legislative Hall to discuss this bill and asked that the committee table the bill until next week. Chairman Short expressed his appreciation of Rep. D. Short's flexibility. Neither the committee nor the public had any questions regarding the bill.

Rep. Ramone moved to table the bill; Rep. Viola seconded the motion. The bill was respectfully tabled.

Chairman Short then choose to address **SB 216, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 5 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO VARIABLE RATES FOR REVOLVING CREDIT PLANS**, and recognized Robert Glen, the Bank Commissioner, who previously explained the bill to the committee. Mr. Glen stated that this bill is very simple and allows banks to charge less than the maximum rate of interest. Neither the committee nor the public had any questions regarding the bill.

Rep. Hocker moved to release the bill from committee; Rep. Bennett seconded the motion. The bill was released on a 4-3-0 vote.

Chairman Short adjourned the meeting at 2:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jordan L. Fischer