

TERESA L. SCHOOLEY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Twenty - Third District



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

COMMITTEES
Education, Chair
Capital Infrastructure
Health & Human Development
Veterans Affairs

Education Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2010

Chair Schooley called the meeting to order at 2:45 pm. Members present were Representatives Barbieri, Oberle, Walls, Jaques, Mulrooney, Manolakos, Briggs-King, Kowalko, Q. Johnson, Blakey, and Kovach. For a list of guests present, please see attached.

Chair Schooley began the meeting by asking Rep. Oberle to introduce his bill, **HOUSE BILL 363, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO INSTRUCTION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON THE HISTORY OF ORGANIZED LABOR IN AMERICA AND THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING PROCESS**. After handing out the Resolution that he wrote in lieu of this bill, Rep. Oberle commented that the collective bargaining process and organized labor are important aspects for the quality of life of this country and should be taught in Delaware classrooms.

Rep Kowalko then commented that the Resolution was a good solution and that it is valuable to teach organized labor to future generations.

Rep. Barbieri then motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Jaques seconded the motion. HB 363 was released from committee on a 0-9-0 vote.

Chair Schooley then asked Rep. Oberle to talk on behalf of his next bill, **HOUSE BILL 401, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLES 12 AND 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO ESCHEATS**. Rep. Oberle commented that this bill provides Universal Breakfast Fund for Delaware students and is an important program because all students should be able to have a nutritious breakfast. He then stated that the bill is controversial, but hopefully the amendment he wrote up for it will help enable this program quickly.

Chair Schooley then asked if the bill was attached to the Bottle Bill. Rep. Oberle then stated that it will not be; this program will be assigned to Appropriations Committee, and that committee will be able to say how much funding will go into this program.

Rep. Kowalko commented that it would not be appropriate to pass this bill unless the escheat money from the Bottle Bill language is taken out of the bill. Rep. Oberle stated that the bill was rushed, and he will make an amendment stating that the program is subject to the Appropriations Committee. Rep. Jaques then asked if there is a fiscal note

with the new amendment. Rep. Oberle stated that there will be no fiscal note required due to the new amendment being completely reliant upon the Appropriations Committee.

Chair Schooley then stated that to implement a total Universal Breakfast Program, it would cost close to \$4.2 million. She then commented that she is looking at several start-up programs; many schools already have these programs and the JFC would determine the starting point of this program.

Rep. Barbieri then commented that he is in favor of the bill and the committee should react to it quickly so that it does not get lost in the mix so when the funds are ready the program can begin right away. Rep. Mulrooney commented that as long as the program is attached to the Bottle Bill, it should stay in the committee. Rep. Oberle followed up by saying that he will take out the language that has to do with the Bottle Bill. He then brought up that he does not want to delay the bill any longer because he does not want the bill to be tied up in other funds. Rep. Jaques then stated that he cannot support this bill with the current language.

Rep. Barbieri commented that this bill should be moved through as fast as possible. He stated that if the committee does not like the new amendment then they can deal with it at a later date.

Rep. Q. Johnson then motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Walls seconded the motion. HB 401 was released from committee on a 0-10-0 vote.

Next, Chair Schooley asked Rep. Q. Johnson to speak on behalf of **HOUSE BILL 283, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING.** Rep. Q. Johnson maintained that this bill is an important piece of legislation for deaf children. He commented that the bill creates a check list for what needs to and will be provided for these children. He stated that he has a 15-year-old deaf son and that he and his wife have a lot of experiences with what needs to be provided for these children. He continued by saying that this legislation was not meant for his family; it is for the families that do not have the information regarding what their children should be having done for them.

Rep. Kowalko commented that he supports this bill and that it is manageable under current funding. Rep. Q. Johnson then brought up how this bill does not ask for anything more than Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) already asks for.

Rep. Oberle then commented that he supports this bill and everything that Rep. Q. Johnson has done for it. He then stated that the bill is landmark legislation and should be released from committee.

Rep. Manolakos commended Rep. Q. Johnson for this bill and said that many parents are not savvy with IDEA education provisions.

Julie Johnson, DSEA member, stated that she had helped put this legislation together. This bill is a collaboration of teamwork from many individuals and is the first step for deaf students in Delaware.

Della Thomas, Director of the Delaware School for the Deaf, then stated that she fully supports this legislation for many reasons. She commented that it should not matter where students are taught; every student should have the same and consistent education throughout the state of Delaware.

Kyle Hodges, State Council for Persons with Disabilities, then commended Rep. Q. Johnson for drafting this legislation.

Rep. Jaques motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Walls seconded the motion. HB 283 was released from committee on an 8-0-0 vote.

Chair Schooley then turned the committee over to Rep. Mulrooney who then called upon her to introduce **HOUSE BILL 396, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EDUCATION**. She commented that this was originally introduced last year. She stated that the bill changes “handicapped child” to a “child with disabilities” and also aligns with existing federal codes and language.

Rep. Mulrooney asked if there were any questions or comments. Seeing none, Rep. Barbieri motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Walls seconded the motion. HB 396 was released from committee on a 0-9-0 vote.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Trevor Felix