



PETER C. SCHWARTZKOPF
MAJORITY LEADER
Fourteenth District

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

COMMITTEES
Ethics, Chair
House Administration, Chair
House Rules, Chair
Gaming & Pari-mutuels
Veterans Affairs

House Administration Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 5, 2010

Chairman Schwartzkopf called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. Members present included Speaker Gilligan and Representatives D. Short and Longhurst. For a list of guests present, please see attached.

After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Schwartzkopf called upon Rep. D. Short to speak on behalf of **HOUSE BILL 361, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 15 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DUTIES OF A CANDIDATE**. Rep D. Short stated that this bill coincides with his other bill relating to reporting for financial disclosure. To clarify what the bill is intended to accomplish, he called Janet Wright, of the Public Integrity Commission, to speak to the committee. Ms. Wright said that this bill will help to have more non-incumbent candidates file their financial statements for public record. She then stated that she has received help from the Department of Elections to help file all of these reports. Rep. D. Short then brought up that this bill will help alleviate many problems associated with financial filling.

Chairman Schwartzkopf asked for a motion. Rep. Longhurst motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Gilligan seconded. HB 361 was released from committee on a 1-3-0 vote.

Next, Chairman Schwartzkopf called upon Rep. Longhurst to introduce **HOUSE BILL 381, AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 15 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO ELECTIONS**. Rep Longhurst stated that this bill allows 16 year olds to register to vote at the DMV when they go to sign up for their drivers license. She brought up that this is a good time for younger individuals to register to vote because they are already excited about their license and that will help fuel their involvement with the political process. She stated that Maryland, Hawaii and Florida have already passed this type of bill.

Chairman Schwartzkopf asked if there were any questions. Speaker Gilligan then asked how this process will work. He asked if the individuals will be put into the system but not activated until they are 18. Elaine Manlove, Commissioner of Elections, answered his question by saying that these individuals will go into the system when they are eligible to vote. Rep. D. Short then asked how the Department of Elections will keep track of the 16 year olds and keep the system consistent if they move. Ms. Manlove then stated that this

is a concern, but there is a system that the DMV uses that will check individuals out before the Department of Elections receives them.

Chairman Schwartzkopf asked if there were any more questions. Seeing none, he asked for a motion. Speaker Gilligan motioned to release the bill; Rep. Longhurst seconded. HB 381 was released from committee on a 0-4-0 vote.

Chairman Schwartzkopf then brought up three bills: **HOUSE BILL 393, AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTER 59, VOLUME 63 OF THE LAWS OF DELAWARE, AS AMENDED, THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH TO GRANT THE TOWN OF DEWEY BEACH THE AUTHORITY TO CHANGE THE DATE OF ANNUAL MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS TO PREVENT CONFLICT WITH JEWISH HOLY DAYS; HOUSE BILL 394, AN ACT TO AMEND VOLUME 65, CHAPTER 295, LAWS OF DELAWARE, ENTITLED CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH, REGARDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF TOWN ORDINANCES, TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM FINANCIAL PENALTY THAT MAY BE IMPOSED TO ELIMINATE IMPRISONMENT AS A POTENTIAL SANCTION, AND TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN TO IMPOSE CIVIL PENALTIES AS WELL AS CRIMINAL PENALTIES;**

AND HOUSE BILL 395, AN ACT TO AMEND VOLUME 65, CHAPTER 295, LAWS OF DELAWARE, AN ACT TO REINCORPORATE THE TOWN OF BETHANY BEACH REGARDING THE REFERENDUM POWER, AND TO ALLOW NATURAL PERSONS HOLDING TITLE TO REAL ESTATE AS TRUSTEE, TO VOTE IN MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS; AND PLACING A LIMIT ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS WHO MAY QUALIFY TO VOTE AS A "NONRESIDENT PROPERTY OWNER" TO A MAXIMUM OF EIGHT PERSONS PER PROPERTY. Chairman Schwartzkopf stated that all three of these bills are town charter bills and that they have passed already, but there was a problem with the wording of the title in the Senate and it had to be re-written.

Chairman Schwartzkopf asked if there were any questions. Seeing none he asked for a motion. Speaker Gilligan motioned to release all three bills; Rep. Longhurst seconded. HB 393, HB 394 and HB 395 were released from committee on a 0-4-0 vote.

Chairman Schwartzkopf adjourned the meeting at 3:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Trevor Felix