

MICHAEL P. MULROONEY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Seventeenth District



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

COMMITTEES
Natural Resources, Chair
Energy, Vice Chair
Labor, Vice Chair
Capital Infrastructure
Education
Revenue & Finance
Veterans Affairs

Natural Resources Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 2, 2010

Chairman Mulrooney called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Members present included Representatives Outten, Atkins, Thornburg, Walls, and Kovach. For a list of guests present, please see attached.

After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Mulrooney chose to address **HB 409, AN ACT TO AMEND CHAPTERS 5 AND 7 OF TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO LICENSES AND REGULATIONS CONCERNING GAME AND FISH** and recognized Rep. Walls, the bill's sponsor. Rep. Walls explained that the bill clarifies that the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and government agencies may use hunting, fishing, and trapping license information (except social security information) for research purposes involving hunting and trapping surveys conducted by department scientists. The bill also establishes that the "safety zone" for hunting deer by bow during established archery seasons will be 50 yards and prohibits the administering of fertility control agents and immunocontraceptives to game birds and game animals except as authorized by a permit issued from the director of the Division of Fish and Wildlife. Neither the committee nor the public had any issues or questions regarding the bill.

Rep. Outten motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Atkins seconded the motion. The bill was released from committee on a 0-7-0 vote.

Next, Chairman Mulrooney chose to address **HB 398 AN ACT TO AMEND THE TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO EXTENSION OF MUSKRAT SEASON** and recognized Rep. Outten as the bill's sponsor. Rep. Outten explained that the bill authorizes DNREC to extend the muskrat open season pursuant to regulations. By regulation the department will be able to consider severe winter weather conditions and the status of the muskrat population being able to sustain additional harvesting before making a decision to extend the season. Neither the committee nor the public had any issues or questions regarding the bill.

Rep. Walls motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Atkins seconded the motion. The bill was released from committee on a 0-7-0 vote.

Lastly, Chairman Mulrooney chose to address **HB 419 AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 9 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO COUNTIES AND TITLE 7 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO DOGS** and recognized himself as the bill's sponsor. Rep. Mulrooney explained that his bill was finishing up what was started last year. He also asked for a motion to suspend any rules that would prohibit the committee working the bill because the bill was put on the committee's agenda late. The bill was originally placed in another committee. Rep. Outten moved to suspend the rules; Rep. Atkins seconded the motion. Rules were suspended.

Patrick Emory, from DNREC, explained that there were a few items missed last year in the transfer from title 7 to title 9 that should have been included in the legislation. One of the items that was added was a dangerous dog piece. There have also been some verbiage changes.

Rep. Walls wanted clarification on the dangerous dog piece. Mr. Emory explained that there is a separate piece of legislation that says if a dog attacks a cat it is considered a dangerous dog.

Rep. Thornburg asked Mr. Emory about lines 98-100. She wanted to know if that was new language. Mr. Emory said that the language was a transfer of what they had used in the past.

Rep. Kovach asked if there were any comments from county government on this bill. Mr. Emory explained that he sent information about the legislation out to Sussex and Kent counties and has not heard much back from them. He also stated that New Castle County knew about the legislation and was fine with it.

Rep. Walls wanted clarification that this piece of legislation is a continuation of what was done last year. Mr. Emory replied in the affirmative.

Hal Goodwin, from Sussex County Council, explained that Sussex County government is not in support of this bill. They feel it is an unfunded mandate. Sussex County Council was under the impression that layers of this legislation would remain in the hands of the state. Mr. Goodwin stated that if this bill is voted through and is given to the county, it will add to their deficit. Mr. Emory clarified that Sussex County council members took a vote and decided not to support or speak out against this legislation.. The council was neutral and not opposed to the bill.

Rep. Walls motioned to release the bill from committee; Rep. Kowalko seconded the motion. The bill did not receive enough votes to be released.

Chairman Mulrooney adjourned the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Morgan DiGravina