

Senate Committee on Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs

A meeting of the Senate Committee on Senior Citizens & Veterans Affairs was held Wednesday September 15, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in room 100 of the Farnum Building.

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

Members present: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham

Members excused: Senator Garcia

Senator Allen called the meeting to order.

Senator Pappageorge moved for the adoption of the minutes from the meeting held Thursday, June 17, 2010 meeting by unanimous consent. Senator Olshove supported motion. By unanimous consent, the minutes were adopted.

Senator Allen put forth before the committee Senate Bills 1331, 1332, and 1327 (Elder-Friendly Communities).

Fred Schaible, from the Senate Majority Policy Office, testified to explain the legislation and substitutes. Mr. Schaible explained that the two subs (1331 and 1332) before the committee today simplified language in the bills regarding the planning and zoning aspects, while 1327 dealt with Downtown Development Authorities and enabled them to issue loans for elder-friendly projects.

Bill Anderson, representing the Michigan Townships Association, testified that he had concerns with the SB 1331 and 1332, but that the substitutes were better than the originally introduced bills. Mr. Anderson explained that additional elements being added to zoning and planning can expose townships to potential litigation and also increase the cost of planning. Mr. Anderson also stressed that when creating master plans, townships often look to the needs of their whole community, and not all townships have a large elderly population. But Mr. Anderson stressed that the substitutes are better.

Stephanie Winslow, representing the Aging Services of Michigan, supported the bills but did not wish to testify.

Senator Allen asked Mr. Schaible to further explain the differences in the substitutes. Mr. Schaible testified that the new language asks planning commissions to take into consideration elder issues when creating their master plan, but does not mandate inclusion.

Senator Pappageorge moved to adopt the substitute (S-1) to Senate Bill 1331. Senator Olshove supported the motion. By an affirmative vote of the majority of members serving, the substitute was adopted. Voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Olshove moved that Senate Bill 1331 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then pass. Senator Pappageorge supported the motion. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Basham moved that Senate Bill 1331 (S-1) be given immediate effect. Senator Olshove supported the motion.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Basham moved to adopt the substitute (S-1) to Senate Bill 1332. Senator Pappageorge supported the motion. By an affirmative vote of the majority of members serving, the substitute was adopted. Voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Olshove moved that Senate Bill 1332 (S-1) be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then pass. Senator Basham supported the motion. The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Pappageorge moved that Senate Bill 1332 (S-1) be given immediate effect. Senator Olshove supported the motion.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Pappageorge moved that Senate Bill 1327 be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then pass. Senator Olshove supported the motion.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Olshove moved that Senate Bill 1327 be given immediate effect. Senator Basham supported the motion.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Allen placed before the committee House Bill 5850 (Rep. Miller).

Representative Miller testified in support and explanation of HB 5850. Rep. Miller explained that the bill was a recommendation of the federal Department of Defense (DoD) so that no state is in conflict with federal paperwork. The bill would allow the state to recognize the authority of the federal DoD Form 93 regarding the final disposition of a military service member's remains.

Senator Allen stated that he was comfortable moving this bill, and asked committee members if they were comfortable as well. After receiving assurances that fellow committee members were, Senator Allen called for a motion to move the bill.

Senator Pappageorge moved that House Bill 5850 be reported out of committee with the recommendation that the bill then pass. Senator Olshove supported the motion.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

Senator Basham moved that House Bill 5850 be given immediate effect. Senator Olshove supported the motion.

The motion prevailed by an affirmative vote of a majority of the members appointed to and serving on the committee, voting as follows:

Yeas: Senators Allen, Pappageorge, Olshove and Basham (4/5)

Nays: none (0)

Pass: none (0)

Excused: Senator Garcia(1)

There being no further business to discuss, Senator Allen adjourned the meeting at 9:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren K. Michalak
Committee Clerk

Jason Allen
Chairman

Date Approved by Committee