

COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION
MINUTES: January 12, 2009

LEGISLATION

MEMBERS: Chair: Burton; Legislators: Myers, Nonna, Harckham, Abinanti, Rogowsky, Oros, Ryan

IN ATTENDANCE: **CE:** K. Pasquale, L. Schwartz, B. Randolph; **BOL:** S. Bass, K. Delgado, S. Kirkpatrick; **PRESS:** J. Goeff (News 12)

With a quorum present, the Committee on Legislation was called to order at 1:44 p.m.

MINUTES

(Myers, Harckham) Move to approve the Minutes of January 7, 2009. Motion approved 8-0.

JOINT STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Nonna, Jenkins) move to approve the Budget Letter to the State Legislative Leaders as amended by Legislator Oros except for the 4 numbered subjects pending approval by the County Executive's Office.

The committee agreed to adopt the suggested changes by Mr. Oros to the letter except to the four points which mimic the Westchester County Property Tax Relief Act.

Motion approved 9-0.

Mr. Burton asked Mr. Jenkins and Mr. Nonna to work with Mr. Abinanti on The Budget memo regarding language on parental co-pays for Early Intervention Services.

The Committee agreed to add to the Budget Memo under Medicaid Cap "managed growth" before "Medicaid Cap and Family Health Plus Takeover".

The County Executive "Legislative Proposals" were discussed by Karen Pasquale with the committee.

They began by talking about the two year county sales tax extender and the possibility to request making it permanent.

Department of Public Safety First Deputy Police Commissioner Monty Long and Commissioner Belfiore discussed the four proposed legislative items which deal with public safety issues. They include support for The Sex Offender Management and Treatment Act, to add a surcharge for summons issued by the county police, to prohibit those wanted on warrants from renewing their drivers licenses or registrations with the state Department of Motor Vehicles and to add a point on drivers licenses to those who drive while using a cell phone or drive without using a seatbelt.

Jim Ferrara from the County Purchasing Bureau talked about the importance of state legislation which will assist counties and not-for-profits in realizing additional savings by authorizing not-for-profits with county contracts to participate in county purchasing arrangements.

Emergency Services Commissioner Tony Sutton joined the discussion to ask the state to require nuclear plant operators to pay for nuclear preparedness costs. This has passed the State Assembly in previous years. Now we are asking to revise the legislation which will make it less administratively burdensome on the state and include an adjustment for inflation.

Request the Legislature to require New York State to expedite the removal of state prisoners incarcerated in county jails. If after thirty days parole violators have not had their final hearing the state should move them to the nearest state correctional facility so the county will no longer incur any costs for them.

Oppose reinstatement of the commuter tax. Support and maintain a modern E-911 system.

The request for a law which will allow the county to license electrical inspectors and for authorization to conduct electronic bond sales was also in last year's program. These are supported by the Westchester Municipal Officials Association and The County Clerk. The Electrical Inspectors Bill

passed last year but was vetoed by the Governor. Conversations are being held to resolve the technical issues which prevented its approval last year. The Electronic Bond Sales legislation passed in the Senate but not the Assembly last year.

There was a discussion to support legislation which requires financial institutions to have the customer's permission before selling their personal information.

There was conversation about the remaining items submitted by the County and State Legislators. Legislator referral items 13 and 22 will be dropped from consideration for the program. These issues can be addressed by the letters to the state legislators.

Legislator Kaplowitz discussed the issue of smart meters with the committee.

The items now being considered for the final Joint State Legislative Program are the thirteen by the County Executives Office and Legislators proposals to create a new Environmental Bond, require boating safety certificates and establish a smart meters pilot program.

Legislators Myers, Harckham and Nonna will provide staff with written material to include the item supporting the creation of the new Environmental Bond Fund.

(Harckham, Myers) Move to approve sixteen items for the Joint State Legislative Program, which will include thirteen submitted by the County Executive and three by legislators. Motion approved 5-3. (Abinanti, Oros, Rogowsky-Nay)

(Abinanti, Nonna) Move to adjourn. Motion approved 7-0. Committee on Legislation adjourned at 3:52 P.M.

AUDIO RECORDING ON FILE FOR REVIEW UPON REQUEST